

Today's Martyrs – July 1945

Thursday July 5, 1945



Lithuania: Vilnius

Fr Roch Kowalczyk (aged 32, arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1049>

Monday July 9, 1945



Ukraine: Ladyzhyn

Fr Miron Korduba (aged 51, arrested, charged with 'working as a priest during the German occupation...and blessing the graves of bandits')

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1106>

Thursday July 12, 1945



Czech Republic: Prague

Fr Alexander Deibner (aged 46, Russian citizen, taken from [Prague](#) to [Berlin](#) in 1943, forced to work as a translator, left [Berlin](#) in 1945; **UPDATE**: captured by the Soviets, arrested and sent to Butyrka Prison, Moscow)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0913>

Friday July 13, 1945



Ukraine: Odessa

Fr Pietro Leoni SJ (aged 36, Italian citizen, arrested on [April 29, 1945](#); **UPDATE**: transferred to Lefortovo Prison in Moscow)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1837>

Thursday July 19, 1945



Russia: Moscow

Fr Pietro Leoni SJ (aged 36, Italian citizen, arrested on [April 29, 1945](#) in [Odessa, Ukraine](#); transferred to [Lefortovo Prison in Moscow](#) on [July 13, 1945](#); **UPDATE**: under interrogation said “Inasmuch as I am a religious Catholic, I was and I remain an opponent of Marxism and the political system now existing in the USSR – a system which, according to my convictions, is no different from fascism. I find that there is neither democracy nor freedom of the people in the USSR. The Bolsheviks who are now in power have turned the Russian people into their slaves, using their labor for their own interests”)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1837>

Friday July 20, 1945



Czechoslovakia: Zdonov, Teplice nad Metují, Nachod

Fr Celestin Baier (aged 68, **killed**)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Czech2.htm

Thursday July 26, 1945



Ukraine: Lviv

Fr Volodymyr Figol (aged 33, arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0961>

Monday July 30, 1945



Belarus: Grodno

Fr Vikenty Borsuk (aged 47, arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0157>

July 1945, date unknown



Papua New Guinea: Rakunai

Peter To Rot (husband of Paula Ia Varpit, father of three, arrested by the Japanese in late 1943 for continuing to hold Christian services, **UPDATE**: beaten and **given a lethal injection**)

Paula Ia Varpit (widow of Peter To Ro, mother of three)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_To_Rot



Japan: Nagasaki

Dr Paul Takashi Nagai (aged 37, convert, husband of Marina Nagai Midori, father of Makoto aged 10 and Kayano aged 3, radiologist, diagnosed in **June 1945** with leukemia resulting

from occupational radiation exposure, given three years to live; **UPDATE:** called to army headquarters with other Christians and berated as potential traitors, told that if the U.S. were to invade they all would have to turn themselves in for possible detention)

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL25893117M/A_Song_for_Nagasaki