

Today's Martyrs – September 1949

Saturday September 10, 1949



Latvia: Daugavpils

Fr Jozef Gajliewicz (aged 56, arrested on nationalist activities charges)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0805>

Wednesday September 14, 1949



Poland: Montelupich prison, Krakow

Fr Wladyslaw Gurgacz SJ (aged 35, **shot dead** for acting as a chaplain of the Polish Underground
Independency Army)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W%C5%82adys%C5%82aw_Gurgacz

Wednesday September 28, 1949



Kazakhstan

Bishop Nykyta Budka (aged 72, Canadian citizen, arrested in [Lviv, Ukraine](#) on [April 11, 1945](#),
later sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: reportedly **died of a
heart attack**)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nykyta_Budka

September 1949, date unknown



Japan: Nagasaki

Dr Paul Takashi Nagai (aged 41, convert, widower of Marina Nagai Midori, father of Makoto and Kayano, radiologist, diagnosed in [June 1945](#) with leukemia resulting from occupational radiation exposure, given three years to live; on [August 6, 1945](#) recalled his [December 8, 1941](#) presentment of the destruction of Nagasaki, sent his children to the country with his mother in law; survived the [August 9, 1945](#) nuclear attack with a serious head injury, began to die in [September](#); head injury miraculously cured on [October 5, 1945](#) through intercessory prayer; spoke to the people gathered for a [November 23, 1945](#) Mass in front of the ruins of Urakami Cathedral on the subject of Christian sacrifice; bedridden from illness in [1947](#), moved into a hermitage built at Ground Zero called Nyokodo [As Yourself Hall, from “Love your neighbor as yourself”], continued his life of prayer, writing, and contemplation; **UPDATE:** a motion in the Diet to honor him was tabled after Communist and far-left members called him a ‘religious sentimentalist’ and a fraud who used a ghostwriter for profit and was never injured in the nuclear attack, refused to defend himself "They say I haven't written the books, and essentially they are right because all the ideas in my writings are from the Bible or other people...God's grace is the source of any inspiration in my writings", a Diet committee investigated and found the accusations to be untrue)

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



Russia: Moscow

Janina Lesniewska (aged 25-27, arrested on espionage charges)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0441>