

Today's Martyrs – October 1963

Saturday October 5, 1963



Czechoslovakia

Bishop John Vojtassak (aged 73, placed under house arrest in [Spisske Podhradie](#) on [June 3, 1950](#) after opposing the government takeover of religious schools; transferred to [Prague](#) on [November 16, 1950](#); sentenced in [Bratislava](#) on [January 15, 1951](#) to 24 years imprisonment on treason and espionage charges; **UPDATE**: released in an amnesty, not allowed to return to Slovakia)

https://sk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ján_Vojtaššák - with translation

Saturday October 12, 1963



Russia: Abakan, Krasnoyarsk Krai

Fr Walter Ciszek SJ (aged 59. U.S. citizen, arrested in [Chusovoy, Perm Krai](#) on [June 23, 1941](#), with two other Jesuits had taken advantage of the 1939 Soviet occupation of eastern Poland to volunteer as workers for transfer to Siberia for underground missionary work, charged with anti-Soviet activities and espionage, transferred to [Lubyanka Prison in Moscow](#), beaten and tortured, forced to sign confessions,; indicted on [August 26, 1942](#); sentenced on [September 23, 1942](#) to 15 years' imprisonment at hard labor, kept at [Butyrka Prison](#), 'broken', signed incriminating statements; exiled in [1945](#) to the [Urals](#), worked as a dump truck driver, engaged in underground missionary work; arrested in [1946](#) for his underground missionary work, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to [Norillag labor camp near Dudinka, Taymyr Dolgano-Nenets Autonomous Okrug](#); transferred to [Norilsk, Krasnoyarsk Krai](#) in [February 1947](#), worked in a brick factory; released from camp on [June 12, 1956](#), banished to [Krasnoyarsk](#), secretly established mission parishes, transferred to [Abakan](#) after the missions were discovered by the KGB, worked as an auto mechanic; **UPDATE**: released, left for the United States)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1515>

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

October 1963, date unknown