

Today's Martyrs – March 1974

Friday March 1, 1974



Lithuania: Kaunas

Fr Pranas Raciunas (libeled by the Kaunas Truth newspaper when it printed false allegations that he had spied for the Vatican, and the American, British, and Chinese governments)

http://www.lkbkronika.lt/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=473&Itemid=364

Sunday March 3, 1974



Lithuania: Kaunas

Virginijus Ivanovas (detained on [May 20, 1973](#), interrogated as to his participation in a religious procession to the Hill of Crosses, kept silent, threatened with expulsion from music school, later expelled; **UPDATE**: detained and brought to KGB headquarters, interrogated concerning who he had told the details of his previous KGB interrogations)

http://www.lkbkronika.lt/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=474&Itemid=365

Thursday March 7, 1974



Lithuania: Svedasai, Utena district

Fr Petras Rauda (aged 80, **died of natural causes**, denied a Sunday funeral to deter mourners, taxis and state farm trucks prohibited from being driven to the funeral)

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Friday March 15, 1974



Lithuania: Siauliai

Employees of the Workshop for the Blind were forced to attend an atheistic lecture

Sileikis (said "I heard from the speaker today, that the atheists are the friends of the believers. I am a believer and I have taught my children to believe. The atheists of Siauliai have guaranteed several times during their meetings, that my children shall not have access to higher education. Where is the friendship in that?")

Jurevicius (said he saw no friendship from atheists and cited the May 1973 persecution of Zenonas Mistautas and Virginijus Ivanovas over the Hill of Crosses incident, and added that religious material was almost unobtainable)

Lithuania: Siliale

Fr Valancius (summoned to the district executive committee)

Fr Antanas Seskevicius (summoned to the district executive committee, threatened with imprisonment, replied "I am ready to go and die in a Communist prison")

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Wednesday March 20, 1974



Lithuania: Adutiskis

Fr B Laurinavicius (summoned to district headquarters, charged with an 'administrative offence' for hosting a Lenten retreat on March 15-17, 1974)

Lithuania: Kaunas

Brone Kazelaite (home searched by police, strip searched, 400 unbound prayer books seized)

Fr Sigitas Tamkevicius SJ (apartment searched, religious writings seized)

Fr Vladas Pigolis (apartment searched by police, religious images damaged, savings seized)

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Friday March 29, 1974



Lithuania: Utena

Fr J Njurka (summoned to the district executive committee to explain why he had given Last Rites to a dying patient in the hospital on the previous day)

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March 1974, date unknown