

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – March 1937

Thursday March 4, 1937



Spain: Montcada, Barcelona

Br Pedro Ruiz Ortega SF (aged 25, **killed**)

Br Pere Roca Toscas SF (aged 20, **killed**)

Spain: Sant Salvador de Tolo, Lleida

Francesc Xavier Cunill Bastus (aged 33, **killed**)

Fr Ramon Balcells Maso (aged 54, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faiweb.com/martyrs/MSPC34.htm>

<http://newsaints.faiweb.com/martyrs/MSPC57.htm>

Sunday March 7, 1937



Spain: Alcoy, Alicante

Fr Miguel Torro San Salvador OFM (aged 49, **killed**)

Spain: Sierra Nevada, Granada

Fr Manuel Vilchez Montalvo (aged 47, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faiweb.com/martyrs/MSPC38.htm>

<http://newsaints.faiweb.com/martyrs/MSPC44.htm>

Saturday March 13, 1937



Spain: Almansa, Albacete

Pascual Ortiz Hernandez (aged 43, husband, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC64.htm>

Tuesday March 16, 1937



Spain: Blanca, Murcia

Maria Purificacion Gomez Valiente de Molina (aged 54, widow, **killed**)

Spain: Montcada, Barcelona

Fr Agusti Mas Folch CO (aged 70, **killed**)

Fr Eudald Canturri Baro (aged 28, **killed**)

Fr Joan Torrents Figueras CMF (aged 63, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC25.htm>

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC57.htm>

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC58.htm>

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC59.htm>

Wednesday March 17, 1937



Russia: Crimea

Eduard Feist (aged 30, collective farm cashier, home in [Ashaga-Dzhamin, Taurida province](#) raided on [March 28, 1936](#), liturgical items used in clandestine Masses found; arrested on [March 29, 1936](#); released on his own recognizance on [June 4, 1936](#); indicted on [June 19, 1936](#), charges not proved; **UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, fate unknown)

Ivan Gegelman (aged 46, collective farm bookkeeper and cabinet maker, arrested on [March 28, 1936](#), found with a cross in his home, charged as “organizer of listening to German fascist propaganda on the collective farm radio in Dzhaychi; subscribed to the German newspaper Kolnische Zeitung and distributed it among the collective farm workers”; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, fate unknown)

Matthew Feist (aged 52, collective farm worker, arrested on [April 13, 1936](#); charged on [April 27, 1936](#); **UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment in a labor camp followed by 3 years' internal exile, fate unknown)

Fr Matvey Gudaitis (aged 64, arrested on [December 26, 1935](#), described as 'emaciated' due to poverty; indicted on [July 28, 1936](#), refused to sign the indictment; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, fate unknown)

Russia: Simferopol

Aleksander Antonovich Godzeliikh (aged 33, metalworker-machinist, arrested on [April 23, 1936](#); released on his own recognizance on [May 29, 1936](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 1 year 6 months' loss of freedom, fate unknown)

Anton Josifovich Godzeliikh (aged 50, church guard, arrested on [March 29, 1936](#); released on his own recognizance on [June 4, 1936](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, fate unknown)

Russia: Simferopol Prison, Crimea

Filippina Faut (aged 57, collective farm worker in [Dzhankoye](#), arrested in [1930](#) in the anti-kulak campaign, released; arrested on [April 6, 1935](#); charged on [June 19, 1936](#); **UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment in a labor camp followed by 3 years' internal exile)

Magdalena Frison (aged 40, niece of Bishop Alexander Frison, worked as his housekeeper and courier to Moscow, arrested on [October 26, 1935](#) on counter-revolutionary charges; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Sevvostoklag)

Peter Gekk (aged 41, collective farm worker, arrested on [April 15, 1936](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, fate unknown)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0254>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0260>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0261>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0275>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0321>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0822>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0823>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0847>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0848>



Spain: Barcelona

Fr Josep Mestre Escoda (aged 38, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faihwweb.com/martyrs/MSPC10.htm>

Friday March 19, 1937



Vatican City

Pope Pius XI aka Ambrogio Damiano Achille Ratti (aged 79, **UPDATE:** issued the encyclical *Divini Redemptoris* [*Of the Divine Redeemer*] which called Communism "a doctrine full of error and sophistry, contrary to revelation and reason alike" that had become a "criminal and terror-ridden conspiracy" in Mexico, the Soviet Union, and Spain, also criticized the Western media for a "conspiracy of silence" regarding Communist oppression)

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

https://openlibrary.org/works/OL17363352W/The_God_of_the_Gulag_Volume_One - page 171



Spain: Barcelona

Br Jaume Trilla Lastra FSC (aged 28, **killed**)

Fr Jose Vilas Trillo (aged 36, **killed**)

Fr Lluís Balcells Castello (aged 50, **killed**)

Spain: Castillonroy, Huesca

Br Alberto Linares de la Pinta FSC (aged 23, **killed**)

Spain: Tarragona

Fr Ramon Guiu Sabate (aged 66, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faihwweb.com/martyrs/MSPC10.htm>

<http://newsaints.faihwweb.com/martyrs/MSPC22.htm>

<http://newsaints.faihwweb.com/martyrs/MSPC52.htm>

Sunday March 21, 1937

Palm Sunday – Western Calendar



Germany

The Papal encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* [*With Burning Anxiety*], which attacked the philosophical underpinnings of the Nazi regime, was read in all Catholic churches in the country after having been secretly printed. The encyclical stated, among other things "Whoever exalts race, or the people, or the State, or a particular form of State, or the depositories of power...whoever raises these notions above their standard value and divinizes them to an idolatrous level, distorts and perverts an order of the world planned and created by God; he is far from the true faith in God and from the concept of life which that faith upholds", printed copies were seized by the Gestapo

Pope Pius XI aka Ambrogio Damiano Achille Ratti (aged 79, **UPDATE:** issued the encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge*)

Cardinal Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli (aged 61, Vatican Secretary of State, future Pope Pius XII, **UPDATE:** advocated and worked for the publication of the encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge*, according to some accounts was the author of the "Whoever exalts race.." passage)

Cardinal Michael von Faulhaber (aged 68, Archbishop of Munich, had written the first draft of the encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge*)

Cardinal Adolf Bertram (aged 78, Archbishop of Breslau, co-authored the encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge*)

Cardinal Karl Joseph Schulte (aged 66, Archbishop of Cologne, co-authored the encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge*)

Archbishop Johann Konrad Maria Augustin Felix, Graf von Preysing Lichtenegg-Moos (aged 57, Archbishop of Berlin, co-authored the encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge*)

Bishop Clemens August Graf von Galen (aged 59, Bishop of Munster, delivered a homily in [Xanten](#) on [February 19, 1936](#) concerning martyrdom, contrasted events under the Roman empire with those under the Nazi regime and called on German Christians to emulate the martyrs of the past; **UPDATE:** co-authored the encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge*)

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



Czech Republic: Prague

Fr Josef Beran (aged 48, published the papal encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* [With Burning Anxiety])

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

Tuesday March 23, 1937



Spain: Barcelona

Benet Jane i Jane (aged 21, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC51.htm>

Friday March 26, 1937

Good Friday – Western Calendar



Spain: Montcada, Barcelona

Br Constantí March Battles SJ (aged 60, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC01.htm>

Saturday March 27, 1937



Germany: Munster

Dr Bernhard Lucas (printing business seized by the government in retaliation for the secret printing of the Papal encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* [With Burning Anxiety])

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26246325M/The_Lion_of_Munster

Tuesday March 30, 1937



Spain: Villafranca del Cid, Castellon

Carlota Tena Fabregat (aged 44, married, **killed**)

Teodora Celades Garcia (aged 61, married, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC43.htm>

March 1937, date unknown



Russia: Belbaltlag labor camp

Fr Mikolaj Kaczor-Kaczorowski (arrested in **Ukraine** on **April 3, 1935**; sentenced in **October 1935** to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, later developed paralysis; **UPDATE**: known to be still in camp, fate thereafter unknown)

Russia: Mtsensk, Oryol oblast

Fr Stanislaw Kasprzykowski (aged 54, arrested in **Chernivtsi, Ukraine** on **January 28, 1930**, transferred to **Kiev Prison**; sentenced on **May 12, 1930** to 7 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; transferred on **May 26, 1930** to solitary confinement in **Yaroslavl Prison, Russia**; transferred to **Solovetsky Special Purpose Camp** in **October 1934**; released in **September 1936**, settled in **Mtsensk**; **UPDATE**: arrested, convicted, fate unknown)

Russia: Solovetsky Special Purpose Camp

Fr Augustine Baumtrog (aged 54, arrested in **Saratov** on **August 13, 1929**; sentenced in **Moscow** on **April 20, 1930** to death as the leader of a counter-revolutionary and fascist group, commuted to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: **died**)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0088>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1002>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1014>



Belarus: Ulla

Fr Stanislaw Cybulewicz (aged 75, wrote a letter on [November 18, 1936](#) which stated he wanted to move to Lithuania, at the end of 1936 was arrested in Ulla; **UPDATE**: released, forbidden to leave)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1518>

**Germany: Brakel**

Bishop Peter Legge (aged 55, brother of Fr Theodor Legge, arrested on currency violations in [Meissen](#) on [October 9, 1935](#); convicted in [Berlin](#) on [November 23, 1935](#), fined 100,000 Reichmarks, prohibited from performing his ministry; **UPDATE**: allowed to return to his ministry at the end of the month)

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petrus_Legge - with translation

**Spain: Madrid**

Fr Pio Conde y Conde SDB (aged 50, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC15.htm>