

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – unknown month 1940



### China: Shandong province

**Missionaries were abducted in the summer by Communist guerrillas and held for several 'exhausting' weeks**

Fr Paul Heyer SVD

Fr Wilhelm Sermon SVD

<https://bitterwinter.org/missionary-and-martyr-father-friedrich-huttermann/>



### Russia: Arkhangelsk Camp

Fr Jozef Chmurowicz (aged 41, previously arrested in Lviv, Poland, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, **died** at the end of the year)

### Russia: Kozelsk POW camp

Fr Wiktor Judicki (aged 35, military chaplain, captured by the Soviet army in [Grodno](#) in [September 1939](#); **UPDATE**: transferred to the Gryazovets POW camp)

### Russia: Tver

Fr Alexander Dubel (aged 34, military chaplain with the rank of colonel, arrested by the Soviets in [Poland](#) in [September 1939](#), sent to the [Ostashkov POW camp in Russia](#); **UPDATE**: **shot dead** in April or May 1940)

Fr Jozef Kasprzak (aged 54, arrested in [September 1939](#) in [Poland](#), sent to [Ostashkov POW camp in Tver oblast](#); **UPDATE**: **shot dead** in April or May 1940)

Fr Mieczyslaw Janas (aged 30, military chaplain, captured by the Soviets in [Poland](#) in [September 1939](#), sent to the [Ostashkov POW camp in Russia](#); **UPDATE**: **shot dead** in April or May 1940)

### Russia: Ukhtizhemiag labor camp

Fr Otto Ewald (aged 27, arrested by the Soviets in [Poland](#) in [1939](#), charged with espionage, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: arrested on a charge of 'anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda, conducting anti-Soviet gatherings of convicts with

the goal of creating counter-revolutionary formations in the camp, and maintaining contacts with a free worker and convicts of other divisions in the camp', most likely sentenced to death and **shot**)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0934>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1013>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1813>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1560>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1572>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1585>



### **Ukraine: Kharkiv**

Fr Dominik Drabczynski OFM (aged 24, military chaplain with the rank of lieutenant, arrested by the Soviets in **Poland** in **September 1939**, sent to the Starobelsk POW camp in Ukraine; **UPDATE: shot dead** in April or May 1940)

Fr Jozef Czemerajda (aged 37, army chaplain with the rank of major, arrested by the Soviets in **Poland** in **September 1939**, sent to the Starobelsk POW camp in Ukraine; **UPDATE: shot dead** in April or May 1940)

### **Ukraine: Kiev Prison**

Fr Jan Cibor (aged 42, arrested by the Soviets in **Turka, outside Stryi, Poland** on **December 4, 1939**; **UPDATE: transferred to Starobelsk POW camp**)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0930>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1512>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1528>



### **Lithuania**

Fr Czeslaw Kulikowski (aged 33, Polish citizen, arrested, sent to the Kozelsk POW camp in Russia)

Fr Stefan Kiwinski (aged 38, Polish citizen, arrested, sent to a POW camp in Polonde, outside Wilkowishiai)

### **Lithuania: Kretinga**

Fr Antanas Dirvele OFM (aged 39, arrested on an illegal border crossing charge after the Soviet invasion)

Fr Boleslaw Godlewski (aged 33, arrested, sent to the Kozelsk POW camp in Russia, later transferred to Gryazovets POW camp)

## **Lithuania: Vilkaviskis**

Fr Wladyslaw Grzegorski MSF (aged 39, Polish citizen, arrested, sent to Karlag)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0846>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0880>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0923>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1025>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1138>



## **Poland**

Fr Kasper Koniuszewski (arrested in the 1939-1941 timeframe by the Soviets, sentenced to a labor camp)

Fr Ryszard Grabski OFM Cap (aged 30, captured by German border guards while illegally crossing from Soviet held territory, handed over to Soviet border guards, sent to Belostok Prison)

## **Poland: Zabrze**

Fr Nikodim Kozlowski (aged 44, arrested by the Soviets, sent to a prison camp)

## **Poland - now Belarus: Baranovichi**

Fr Wacław Krawczyk (aged 36, arrested, sent to Sevrallag in Russia)

## **Poland - now Belarus: Dzyatlava**

Fr Jan Kapusta SDB (aged 46, arrested by the Soviets, sent to a prison camp)

## **Poland - now Belarus: Grodno**

Fr Jan Chrabaszcz (aged 34, arrested by the Soviets, sentenced to a prison camp)

## **Poland - now Belarus: Katyn forest**

Fr Antoni Aleksandrowicz (aged 47, arrested by the Soviets in [Baranovicji, Poland \[now Belarus\]](#) in [September 1939](#); **UPDATE: killed in April or May in the Katyn forest massacre** by the NKVD)

Fr Edward Choma (aged 50, military chaplain with the rank of major, arrested by the Soviets in [September 1939](#) and sent to the POW camp in [Kozelsk, Russia](#); **UPDATE: shot dead in the Katyn forest** in either April or May 1940)

Fr Mikołaj Cichowicz (aged 43, military chaplain, arrested by the Soviets in [September 1939](#), sent to the [Kozelsk POW camp in Russia](#); **UPDATE: shot dead in the Katyn forest** in April or May 1940)

Fr Nikolay Ilkov (aged 50, military chaplain, captured by the Soviets in [1939](#), sent to [Kozelsk POW camp](#); **UPDATE: shot dead in the Katyn Forest massacre**)

Fr Stanislaw Kontek (aged 36, military chaplain, arrested by the Soviets in [Poland](#) in [September 1939](#), sent to [Kozelsk POW camp](#); **UPDATE: shot dead in the Katyn Forest massacre** in April or May 1940)

**Poland - now Belarus: Ptich**

Fr Wincent Jach (aged 43, arrested)

**Poland - now Lithuania: Vilnius**

Fr Aleksander Holowacz (aged 29, Polish citizen, arrested, sent to a camp)

Fr Leon Kaczkowski (aged 34, arrested, sentenced to a labor camp, later [ca. 1941-42] amnestied as a Polish citizen, joined the Polish Armed Forces of the East as a chaplain, and exited the USSR via Iran when transferred to British command)

**Poland - now Ukraine: Kolomyia**

Fr Kazimierz Kozlowski SJ (aged 38, arrested by the Soviets)

**Poland - now Ukraine: Ludvikovits, near Dolyna**

Fr Wincenty Dziwok (aged 48, arrested, sentenced to a prison camp, fate unknown)

**Poland - now Ukraine: Lviv**

Fr Anton Roman Balut (aged 41, arrested)

Fr Wlodzimierz Cienski (aged 43, arrested by the NKVD, attempts to turn him into a collaborator failed, sentenced to death)

**Poland - now Ukraine: Podvolochisk**

Fr Adam Gromadowski (aged 28, arrested by the Soviets in the spring on charges of distributing illegal literature)

**Poland - now Ukraine: Ternopil**

Fr Wladyslaw Lanocha OP (arrested by the Soviets)

**Poland - now Ukraine: Volodymyr-Volynsky**

Father Bronislaw Galicki (aged 56, arrested by the Soviets in the spring of 1940 on “participation in Polish conspiratorial activity” charges, sentenced to death)

Fr Jozef Kazimierz Czurko (aged 33, arrested in the spring of 1940 for 'participation in Polish conspiratorial activity', sentenced to death)

Fr Stanislaw Kobylecki (aged 38, arrested by the Soviets)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0015>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0063>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0315>

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<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1702>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1819>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1822>



### **Czech Republic**

Fr Stepan Trochta SDB (aged 35, arrested by the Gestapo, released for lack of evidence)

[https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%A0t%C4%9Bp%C3%A1n\\_Trochta](https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%A0t%C4%9Bp%C3%A1n_Trochta) - with translation



### **Austria: Sankt Radegund**

Fr Karobath (“exiled” from the village for an anti-Nazi homily)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL8374983M/In\\_Solitary\\_Witness](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL8374983M/In_Solitary_Witness) - pg 11