

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – June 1940

**Saturday June 1, 1940**



### **Poland: Ruda Slaska**

Fr Jan Franciszek Macha (aged 26, interrogated by the Gestapo, released)

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/11/20/hes-either-a-saint-or-an-idiot-the-remarkable-witness-of-fr-jan-franciszek-macha/>  
<http://www.swzygmunt.knc.pl/MARTYROLOGIUM/POLISHRELIGIOUS/vENGLISH/HTMs/POLISHRELIGIOUSmartyr1630.htm>

**Tuesday June 4, 1940**



### **Portugal: Vila de Sao Sebastiao, Terceira, Azores**

Maria Vieira da Silva (aged 13, **killed** while resisting rape)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1940.htm>

**Wednesday June 5, 1940**



### **Germany: Buchenwald concentration camp**

Fr Matthias Spanlang (aged 63, Austrian, arrested on [May 24, 1938](#) for anti-Nazi homilies and newspaper articles; refused a conditional release from Dachau concentration camp in

December 1938, later transferred to Buchenwald; **UPDATE**: moved to the punishment bunker after assisting Fr Otto Neuruer baptize a condemned prisoner, **died after most likely being hung upside down for days**)

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE\\_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fde.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fMatthias\\_Spanlang](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fde.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fMatthias_Spanlang)



### **Germany: Sachsenhausen concentration camp**

Fr Jozef Wojciech Guz (aged 50, arrested by the Soviets in Grodno on March 21, 1940, later escaped, crossed into German occupied Poland and was arrested; transported from Dzialdowo prison in Poland to Sachsenhausen on May 8, 1940; **UPDATE**: **drowned** by a prison guard, had been unable to march with other prisoners due to multiple fractures)

<http://missionimmaculata.com/index.php/mi-saints/blessed-martyrs-of-niepokalanow>

**Thursday June 6, 1940**



### **Czech Republic: Prague**

Fr Josef Beran (aged 51, had published the papal encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* [With Burning Anxiety] which attacked Nazism on or after March 21, 1937; **UPDATE**: arrested by the Gestapo, sent to Theresienstadt and later Dachau concentration camps)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef\\_Beran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_Beran)

**Monday June 10, 1940**

**Invasion of France by Italy**

**Saturday June 15, 1940**

**Invasion of Lithuania by the Soviet Union**

**Sunday June 16, 1940**  
**Invasion of Estonia and Latvia by the Soviet Union**

**Saturday June 22, 1940**  
**Surrender of France to Germany and Italy**

**Sunday June 23, 1940**



**Austria: Vienna**

Hanns Georg Heintschel-Heinegg (aged 21, seminarian, arrested for anti-Nazi activities)

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE\\_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fde.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fHanns\\_Georg\\_Heintschel-Heinegg](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fde.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fHanns_Georg_Heintschel-Heinegg)



**France: Chambon-sur-Lignon**

Pastor Andre Trocme (cousin of Daniel Trocme, said in a homily "Great pagan pressures will be exercised on ourselves and our families, to try to lead us to a passive submission to the totalitarian ideology...The duty of Christians is to oppose violence on their conscience [with] weapons of the spirit. We appeal to all our brothers in Christ that none agree to collaborate with such violence, and in particular, in the coming days, with the violence that will be directed against the English people. Love, forgive, doing good to our opponents, it is the duty. But we must do so without abdication, without servility, without cowardice. We will resist, when our opponents want, require us to submissions contrary to the orders of the Gospel. We do so without fear, as also without pride and without hatred")

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=fr&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Ffr.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2FR%25C3%25A9sistance\\_spirituelle\\_au\\_nazisme\\_en\\_France](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=fr&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Ffr.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2FR%25C3%25A9sistance_spirituelle_au_nazisme_en_France)

**Sunday June 30, 1940**



**Poland - now Ukraine: Ternopil**

Jozef Janus SJ (aged 29, seminarian, arrested by the Soviets)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1719>

**June 1940, date unknown**