

## Today's Martyrs – March 1941

**Friday March 7, 1941**



### **France: Paris**

Fr Joseph Benedict Stoffels SCJ (aged 46, Luxembourgian citizen, arrested by the Gestapo for aiding refugees, sent to Buchenwald concentration camp)

Fr Nicholas Anthony Wampach SCJ (aged 31, Luxembourgian citizen, arrested by the Gestapo for aiding refugees, sent to Buchenwald concentration camp)

[http://www.scj.org/scj\\_homp/we-scj/martyers\\_wampach\\_stoffel\\_20012001.html#e](http://www.scj.org/scj_homp/we-scj/martyers_wampach_stoffel_20012001.html#e)

**Saturday March 8, 1941**



### **Lithuania: Kretinga**

Fr Antanas Dirvele OFM (aged 40, arrested in 1940 on an illegal border crossing charge after the Soviet invasion; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Pechorlag, Komi ASSR, escaped, fate unknown, the KGB ended its manhunt in 1960)

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

**Sunday March 9, 1941**



### **Lithuania: Vishnyeva**

Fr Julian Cimaszkiewicz (aged 51, arrested in [Moscow, Russia](#) on [June 23, 1927](#) on charges of 'anti-Soviet agitation and teaching religion to under-age children and minors'; sentenced on [November 18, 1927](#) to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to [Solovetsky](#)

[Special Purpose Camp](#); transferred to [Butyrka Prison](#) in Moscow in [1928](#), released in a prisoner exchange, sent to Poland; **UPDATE**: arrested by the Soviets)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1514>

**Saturday March 15, 1941**



**Poland - now Ukraine: Ternopil**

Fr Adam Gromadowski (aged 29, arrested by the Soviets in [Podvolochisk](#) in the [spring of 1940](#) on charges of distributing illegal literature; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Berdychiv Prison)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0876>

**Tuesday March 18, 1941**



**Ukraine: Khiniche, Volodymyr**

Fr Wladyslaw Czyzewski (aged 30, arrested, sent to Lviv Prison, sentenced to death, commuted to 25 years' imprisonment in a camp)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1540>

**Thursday March 20, 1941**



**Germany: Dusseldorf prison**

Fr Franz Loh SCJ (sentenced in absentia in [April 1936](#) to 8 years' imprisonment, his religious community was fined 500,000 marks; arrested in [Luxembourg](#) on [December 10, 1940](#); **UPDATE**: [died from diabetes](#) in the prison infirmary)

[http://www.scj.org/scj\\_homp/we-scj/martyers\\_loh\\_03022001.html#e](http://www.scj.org/scj_homp/we-scj/martyers_loh_03022001.html#e)

**Monday March 24, 1941**



**Ukraine: Kirovsk**

Fr Czeslaw Kaniak (aged 49, sentenced to death on [November 29, 1940](#), had been arrested earlier in [1940](#); **UPDATE**: **shot dead**)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0986>

**March 1941, date unknown**



**Germany**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (aged 35, banned from public speaking in [September 1940](#) by the RSHA under Himmler due to 'subversive activities', ordered to regularly report to the Gestapo; **UPDATE**: banned from publishing after having published a book defending the Jewish roots of Christianity)

**Germany: Gellenbeck**

Fr Gustav Gorsmann (arrested for calling French prisoners "My brethren" and for posting a card at his rectory door which read "Gruss Gott" - "May God greet you" - rather than "Heil Hitler")

**Germany: Ochtrup**

Fr Hermann Scheipers (aged 27, arrested in [October 1940](#) for ministering to Polish slave laborers; **UPDATE**: sent to Dachau concentration camp)

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav\\_G%C3%B6rsmann](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav_G%C3%B6rsmann) - with translation

<https://openlibrary.org/works/OL15361257W/Bonhoeffer>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/06/16/last-priest-survivor-of-nazi-prison-camp-dies-aged-102/>