

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – June 1941

Tuesday June 3, 1941



Romania - now Ukraine: Izmil

Fr Johannes Hondru (aged 64, arrested by the Soviets on [July 10, 1940](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, fate unknown)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1832>

Sunday June 8, 1941



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Engelmar Unzeitig CMM (aged 30, arrested by the Gestapo in [Glokelburg, Austria](#) on [April 21, 1941](#) for homilies that supported Jews and encouraged parishioners to resist Nazi propaganda; **UPDATE**: sent to Dachau without trial)

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

Friday June 13, 1941



USSR

Fr Stefan Kiwinski (aged 39, Polish citizen, arrested in 1940, sent to a POW camp in [Polonde, outside Wilkowitziai](#); **UPDATE**: transferred to the Kozelsk POW camp in Russia, and later to the Gryazovets POW camp)

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

Saturday June 14, 1941



Lithuania: Kaunas

Prof Pranas Dovydaitis (aged 54, Catholic writer and youth leader, arrested by the Soviets, sent to Starobelsk POW Camp, then Sverdlovsk Prison, then the Gariyskoye sector of Sevrallag labor camp, interrogated)

Lithuania: Vilnius

Fr Stanislaw Czapiewski SJ (aged 30, arrested by the NKVD, later sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Sevrallag labor camp, Sverdlovsk oblast, Russia, at the end of the year was amnestied to join the Polish Armed Forces of the East)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0929>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1525>

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Lithuania2.htm

<http://www.lnm.lt/en/exposition-locations/house-of-signatories/signatories-of-act-of-independence/126.html?task=view>

Sunday June 15, 1941



Ukraine: Starobelsk POW camp

Fr Jan Cibor (aged 43, arrested by the Soviets in [Turka, outside Stryi, Poland](#) on [December 4, 1939](#); transferred to [Starobelsk](#) in 1940; **UPDATE**: transferred to Sevvostoklag labor camp, Magadan oblast)

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



Lithuania: Vilnius

Br Stanislaw Bogucki SM (university student, arrested and sent to a labor camp, **died** later in 1941)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0142>



Poland - now Belarus: Druya

Br Boleslaw Jakimowicz MIC (aged 29, seminarian, arrested by the Soviets, sent to Starobelsk POW camp, later transferred to Kharkiv Prison)

Br Stefan Chojnacki MIC (aged 26, seminarian, arrested by the Soviets, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1567>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1816>

Tuesday June 17, 1941



Croatia: Nasice

Fr Dorde [George] Bogic (aged 30, abducted by three Ustasas, tied to a tree, tortured, maimed, and blinded, **shot dead**)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%90or%C4%91e_Bogi%C4%87



Austria: Landeck, Tyrol

Fr Josef Zotz (aged 39, arrested on **July 3, 1940** for speaking against anti-Semitism in his homilies and for aiding Wehrmacht deserters; **UPDATE**: released from prison)

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%2fJosef_Zotz

Sunday June 22, 1941
Invasion of the Soviet Union by Germany



Poland - now Belarus: Idolta

Fr Stanislaw Eliaz (aged 37, arrested by the Soviets, sent to Berezovtsy prison and later to Minsk prison where he was **killed** prior to the end of June 1941 during the Soviet retreat)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1551>



Belarus: near Uła, outside Witebsk

Fr Franciszek Kuksiewicz (aged 54, **killed** by the retreating Soviet Army in a forest)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1135>



Lithuania: Budavones Forest, Vilkaishkis region

Fr Jonas Petrika (aged 56, **tortured to death** by the retreating Soviet Army)

Fr Justinas Dabrila (aged 36, **tortured to death** by the retreating Soviet Army)

Fr Vatslovas Balsis (aged 35, **tortured to death** by the retreating Soviet Army)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0061>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0904>

http://newsaints.faihw.com/new_martyrs/Lithuania2.htm

<http://vilkaviskis.lcn.lt/apie/asmenybes/xtikejimo/> - with translation

Monday June 23, 1941



Russia: Chusovoy, Perm Krai

Fr Walter Cizek SJ (aged 37. U.S. citizen, arrested, with two other Jesuits had taken advantage of the 1939 Soviet occupation of eastern Poland to volunteer as workers for transfer to Siberia for underground missionary work, charged with anti-Soviet activities and espionage, transferred to Lubyanka Prison in Moscow, beaten and tortured, forced to sign confessions)

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

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1515>



Ukraine

Fr Wladyslaw Bukowinski (aged 37, arrested by the Soviets on [August 22, 1940](#), later sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: “miraculously” spared during the liquidation of his prison during the Soviet army retreat when he was not hit by the bullets, gave absolution to his dying fellow prisoners, returned to Lutsk)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0191>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Father-Bukowiński,-witness-of-faith-despite-persecution-in-concentration-camp-38498.html>



Germany: Freising prison

Fr Korbinian Aigner (aged 56, arrested in [Hohenbercha](#) on [November 22, 1939](#) for a homily on "Thou shalt not kill" in which he said the recent failed assassination of Hitler might have saved a million people, sent to [Freising prison](#); sentenced on [May 7, 1940](#) to seven months' imprisonment; **UPDATE**: sent to [Dachau](#))

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

Tuesday June 24, 1941



Poland: Knyszyn

Fr Edward Jung (aged 29, arrested by the Soviets in the [autumn of 1939](#), soon released;
UPDATE: **killed** during the retreat of the Soviet army)

Poland - now Ukraine: Lutsk Prison

Fr Bronislaw Galicki (aged 57, arrested by the Soviets in [Volodymyr-Volynskyi](#) in the [spring of 1940](#) on 'participation in Polish conspiratorial activity' charges, sentenced to death;
UPDATE: **executed** during the Soviet Army retreat)

Fr Jozef Kazimierz Czurko (aged 33, arrested by the Soviets in [Volodymyr-Volynskyi](#) in the [spring of 1940](#) on 'participation in Polish conspiratorial activity' charges, sentenced to death; **UPDATE:** **shot dead** during the Soviet Army retreat)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0806>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1536>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1586>

Wednesday June 25, 1941



Lithuania: Mezhdureche

Fr Tomasz Kalinski (aged 49, **murdered** by the retreating Soviet Army)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0982>

Thursday June 26, 1941



Ukraine

Fr Anton Roman Balut (aged 42, arrested in [Lviv](#) in [1940](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to death as 'an enemy of the people')

Ukraine: Lviv Prison

Fr Kazimierz Konopka SJ (aged 62, **shot dead** by the retreating Soviet Army)

Ukraine: Kiev

Fr Boleslaw Charczuk (aged 28, previously arrested in Soviet-occupied Poland, sentenced to death as an ‘enemy of the people’ during a period of military activity for having given spiritual guidance to Polish Home Army soldiers and **shot dead**)

Ukraine: Stradch

Fr Nicholas Konrad (aged 67, husband of Antonia, father of four, **shot dead** by Checkists while returning home after visiting a sick parishioner)

Volodymyr Pryjma (aged 34, father of three, church cantor, **shot dead** by Checkists while returning home after visiting a sick parishioner)

Antonia Konrad (widow of Fr Nicholas Konrad, later emigrated to the United States)

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

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1103>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1808>

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-a-grandmothers-dress-the-hidden-story-of-a-ukrainian-priests-martyrdom-26348>



Latvia

Fr Edvard Bekers (aged 57, **shot dead** during the Soviet Army retreat)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0098>



Lithuania: Panevezys

Medical school faculty and staff **shot dead by the Soviets**

Stasys Maciulis (aged 48, married, **killed**)

Juozas Zemgulys (aged 51, married, **killed**)

Antanas Gudonis (aged 29, married, **killed**)

Zinaida-Emilija Seiliunaitė-Kaneviciene (aged 48, married, **killed**)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Lithuania2.htm

https://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antanas_Gudonis - with translation



Poland

Fr Jozef Kowalski (aged 30, arrested by the Gestapo in [Krakow](#) on [May 23, 1941](#) and tortured;
UPDATE: sent to [Auschwitz](#))

Poland - now Belarus: Vileyka

Fr Julian Cimaszkiewicz (aged 51, arrested by the Soviets in [Vishnyeva, Lithuania](#) on [March 9, 1941](#); **UPDATE:** [tortured to death](#) by the retreating Soviet Army)

Poland - now Ukraine: Drohobych

Fr Severian Baranyk OSBM (aged 52, arrested by the NKVD, tortured, [killed](#) during the Soviet Army retreat)

Fr Yakym Senkivsky OSBM (aged 44, arrested)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zef_Kowalski_\(priest\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zef_Kowalski_(priest))

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

http://www.stnicholaschurch.ca/content_pages/osbm/art_osbm.martyrs.006.htm

Friday June 27, 1941



Estonia: Tallin

Bishop Eduard Gottlieb Profittlich SJ (aged 50, arrested by the NKVD, transferred to prison in [Kirov, Russia](#))

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

Saturday June 28, 1941



Ukraine

Fr Anton Roman Balut (aged 42, arrested in [Lviv](#) in [1940](#); sentenced to death as ‘an enemy of the people’ on [June 26, 1941](#); **UPDATE:** [shot dead](#))

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

Sunday June 29, 1941



Poland - now Ukraine: Drohobych

Fr Yakym Senkivsky OSBM (aged 44, arrested on [June 26, 1941](#); **UPDATE**: killed)

Poland - now Ukraine: Kolomyia

Fr Wacław Kolodejczyk SJ (aged 31, arrested by the retreating Soviet army, sent to Sevrallag)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1042>

http://www.stnicholaschurch.ca/content_pages/osbm/art_osbm.martyrs.006.htm

June 1941, date unknown



USSR

Fr Wincent Jach (aged 44, arrested in [Ptich, Belarus](#) in 1940; **UPDATE**: shot with other prisoners during the retreat of the Soviet Army, thrown onto a pile of corpses, survived, fate thereafter unknown)

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



Ukraine: Antonovka, outside Zvenyhorodka

Fr Leon Chudy (aged 35, arrested by the retreating Soviet Army while traveling to visit the sick, **shot dead**)

Ukraine: Berdychiv Prison

Fr Adam Gromadowski (aged 29, arrested by the Soviets in [Podvolochisk](#) in the [spring of 1940](#) on charges of distributing illegal literature; sentenced in [Ternopil](#) on [March 15, 1941](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: 'miraculously' escaped execution when the prison was liquidated during the Soviet Army retreat)

Ukraine: Kiev

Fr Wiktor Kwapinski (aged 57, arrested earlier in 1941 in Lviv, survived the mass shootings in Kiev Prison following the German invasion, returned to Lviv and resumed his ministry)

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

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1071>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1826>



Lithuania: Moletai

Fr Matas Layauskas (aged 59, **shot dead** by the retreating Soviet army near the end of the month, body thrown in a swamp)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1088>



Poland - now Belarus: Druja

Fr Eugeniusz Kulesza MIC (aged 50, **killed** by the retreating Soviet Army at the end of the month)

Poland - now Ukraine: Lutsk

Fr Stanislaw Kobylecki (aged 39, arrested by the Soviets in Volodymyr-Volynsky in 1940; **UPDATE**: escaped from prison during the execution of prisoners by the Soviet Army)

Poland - now Ukraine: Ternopil

Fr Wladyslaw Lanocha OP (arrested by the Soviets in 1940; **UPDATE**: sent to a camp, fate unknown)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1038>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1081>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1137>



Austria

Fr Friedrich Karas (aged 45, Austrian, arrested)

Germany: Dusseldorf-Derendorf prison

Martin Gauger (aged 35, attorney, resigned from the judicial service in Monchengladbach on August 25, 1934 to avoid the loyalty oath to Adolph Hitler; swam the Rhine river into the

Netherlands on May 9, 1940 to escape military service, Germany invaded the Netherlands the following day; arrested in the Netherlands on May 19, 1940, attempted to escape but was shot, returned to Germany; **UPDATE**: transferred to Buchenwald)

<http://en.evangelischer-widerstand.de/html/view.php?type=biografie&id=10&l=en>

<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%2fFriedrich_Karas](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%2fFriedrich_Karas)