

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – August 1942

Saturday August 1, 1942



Russia: Moscow

Berta Lesheminant-Blanch (aged 61, French citizen, French teacher, sentenced to 5 years' internal exile to Kazakhstan on anti-Soviet charges, released early due to medical reasons, returned to Moscow)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0440>



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Gerhard Hirschfelder (arrested in 1941 for criticizing the Nazis for turning the youth away from Christ; **UPDATE: died from starvation and illness**)

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

Sunday August 2, 1942



Netherlands

Hundreds of Christians of Jewish descent continued to be arrested in retribution for a church statement condemning Nazi racism, including five siblings of the Loeb family

Netherlands: Koningsoord Abbey, Berkel-Enschot village, Tilburg, North Brabant province

Mother Hedwigis OSCO aka Lina Loeb (arrested)

Mother Maria Theresia OSCO aka Door Loeb (arrested)

Mother Veronika OSCO aka Wies Loeb (not arrested because she was bedridden with tuberculosis, later arrested and held for eight or ten days but released for health reasons, died in the convent in August 1944)

Netherlands: Koningshoeven Abbey, Berkel-Enschot village, Tilburg, North Brabant province

Fr George OSCO aka George Loeb (arrested)

Br Linus OSCO aka Robert Loeb (arrested)

Fr Nivardus OSCO aka Ernst Loeb (arrested)

Netherlands: Lutterade

Sr Luise Lowenfels (aged 27, arrested in retribution for a church statement condemning Nazi racism)

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

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbaye_Notre-Dame_de_Koningsoord - with translation

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1942.htm>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20090326003531/http://www.ocso.org/HTM/net/stlob-e2.htm>

Wednesday August 5, 1942



New Guinea: Kurumbo village

Lucian Tapiedi (aged 21, missionary and evangelist, **killed with an axe** by a tribesman while escaping with ten others from the Japanese invaders)

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

http://web.archive.org/web/20070219072000/http://www.abmission.org/special/martyrs/PNG_martyrs.html



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Jean Bernard (aged 33, Luxembourgian citizen, arrested by the Gestapo on **January 6, 1941**, sent to Dachau; released for nine days in **February 1942**, returned to Dachau; **UPDATE:** released)

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

Saturday August 8, 1942



New Guinea: near Bramble Bay

Two missionaries killed along with 90 others when a Japanese aircraft bombed the coastal ship Mumutu

Fr Henry Mathews (aged 66, husband, **killed**)

Leslie Gariadi (young missionary and evangelist, **killed**)

http://web.archive.org/web/20070219072000/http://www.abmission.org/special/martyrs/PNG_martyrs.html

Sunday August 9, 1942



Poland: Auschwitz concentration camp

Sr Edith Stein (aged 50, convert, sister of Rosa Stein; arrested on [July 26, 1942](#) in [Echt, Netherlands](#) in retribution for a church statement condemning Nazi racism; **UPDATE: gassed**)

Br Linus OSCO aka Robert Loeb (arrested on [August 2, 1942](#) in [Berkel-Enschot village, Tilburg, North Brabant province, Netherlands](#); **UPDATE: gassed**)

Sr Luise Lowenfels (aged 27, arrested on [August 2, 1942](#) in [Lutterade, Netherlands](#) in retribution for a church statement condemning Nazi racism; **UPDATE: gassed**)

Mother Hedwigis OSCO aka Lina Loeb (arrested on [August 2, 1942](#) in [Berkel-Enschot village, Tilburg, North Brabant province, Netherlands](#); **UPDATE: gassed**)

Mother Maria Theresia OSCO aka Door Loeb (arrested on [August 2, 1942](#) in [Berkel-Enschot village, Tilburg, North Brabant province, Netherlands](#); **UPDATE: gassed**)

Rosa Stein (convert, sister of Edith Stein; arrested on [July 26, 1942](#) in [Echt, Netherlands](#) in retribution for a church statement condemning Nazi racism; **UPDATE: gassed**)

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

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koningshoeven_Abbey
https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbaye_Notre-Dame_de_Koningsoord - with translation
<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1942.htm>
<https://web.archive.org/web/20090326003531/http://www.ocso.org/HTM/net/stlob-e2.htm>

Monday August 10, 1942



USSR

Fr Jan Kapusta SDB (aged 48, arrested in [Dzyatlava, Poland \[now Belarus\]](#) in 1940, sent to a prison camp; amnestied as a Polish citizen in [February 1942](#); **UPDATE**: arrested as the Polish Armed Forces of the East was exiting the USSR into Iran)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0989>



Austria: Hartheim euthanasia center, Alkoven, Eferding

Fr Bernhard Heinzmann (aged 38, arrested [January 6, 1941](#) after publicly condemning "Hitler's idolatry" and "racial delusions"; transferred to Dachau Concentration Camp in [November 1941](#); **UPDATE**: [gassed](#))

Fr Steven Abt (aged 43, Polish citizen, arrested [August 1941](#), sent to Posen concentration camp, released [September 1941](#); arrested [October 6, 1941](#), sent to Posen; transferred to Dachau on [October 30, 1941](#); **UPDATE**: [gassed](#))

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%2fBernhard_Heinzmann

<http://www.swzygmunt.knc.pl/MARTYROLOGIUM/POLISHRELIGIOUS/vENGLISH/HTMs/POLISHRELIGIOUSmartyr0003.htm>

Tuesday August 11, 1942



Russia: Sevrallag labor camp, Sverdlovsk oblast

Prof Pranas Dovydaitis (aged 55, Lithuanian national, arrested by the Soviets in [Kaunas, Lithuania](#) on [June 14, 1941](#); **UPDATE**: indicted on anti-Soviet activity, which he denied)

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



Germany: Berlin

Helmuth Gunther Guddat Hubener (aged 17, arrested for anti-Nazi activities on [February 5, 1942](#); excommunicated from his church on [February 15, 1942](#); **UPDATE**: convicted of treason, sentenced to death)

Karl-Heinz Schnibbe (aged 17, convicted of treason, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment)

Rudolf 'Rudi' Wobbe (aged 16, convicted of treason, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helmuth_H%C3%BCbener

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl-Heinz_Schnibbe

Wednesday August 12, 1942



Austria: Hartheim euthanasia center, Alkoven, Eferding

Fr Otto Schuster (aged 44, **gassed**)

Fr Nicolas Wampach SCJ (aged 32, arrested by the Gestapo in [Paris, France](#) on [March 7, 1941](#) for aiding refugees, sent to [Buchenwald concentration camp](#); transferred to Dachau concentration camp on [September 21, 1941](#); **UPDATE**: **gassed**)

Germany: Dachau Concentration Camp

Fr Josef Bechtel (aged 64, arrested in [Niedermendig](#) in [February 1941](#) for supporting a priest who refused to support cohabitation outside marriage; **UPDATE**: **died**)

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

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

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26360161M/The_Priest_Barracks

http://www.scj.org/scj_homp/we-scj/martyers_wampach_stoffel_20012001.html#e

Thursday August 13, 1942



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Pastor Paul Richter (aged 48, husband of Johanna, suspended from his parish in [Wilsdruff](#) for six months in [March 1934](#) for his anti-Nazi views, salary reduced by half; fined 200 Reichmarks in [March 1939](#); arrested in [Sachsdorf](#) on [November 10, 1941](#); transferred to [Dachau](#) in [March 1942](#); **UPDATE:** [died of cardiac arrest](#))

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Richter_\(Pfarrer\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Richter_(Pfarrer)) - with translation

Friday August 14, 1942



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Boleslaw Prabucki (aged 38, Polish citizen, brother of Fr Alojzy Prabucki and Fr Pawel Prabucki, arrested by the Germans in [Mokre, Poland](#) in the [autumn of 1939](#), sent to [Sachsenhausen](#); transferred to [Dachau](#) on [December 14, 1940](#); **UPDATE:** transferred to Hartheim Euthanasia Center)

Fr Pawel Prabucki (aged 49, Polish citizen, brother of Fr Alojzy Prabucki and Fr Boleslaw Prabucki, arrested by the Germans in [Gostkowo, Poland](#) in the [autumn of 1939](#), sent to [Sachsenhausen](#); transferred to [Dachau](#) on [December 14, 1940](#); **UPDATE:** blessed his brother Boleslaw before Boleslaw's transfer to Hartheim Euthanasia Center, said that they both would soon join their parents and brother Alojzy in heaven)

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26360161M/The_Priest_Barracks

Saturday August 15, 1942



New Guinea: Popondotta

Mavis Parkinson (Australian citizen, teacher, missionary, [killed](#) by Japanese soldiers)

May Hayman (Australian citizen, nurse, missionary, engaged to Fr Vivian Redlich, **killed** by Japanese soldiers)

http://web.archive.org/web/20070219072000/http://www.abmission.org/special/martyrs/PNG_martyrs.html

PCФCP

Russia: Moscow

Archimandrite Fabian Abrantowicz, MIC (aged 57, detained by Soviet border guards on **October 22, 1939**; tortured in **Lviv** prison, indicted for espionage on **November 13, 1939**;

UPDATE: charged with "fighting against the revolutionary movement and making an illegal border crossing")

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0002>

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

Thursday August 20, 1942



Germany: Brandenburg

Fr Franz Reinisch SAC (arrested on **April 15, 1942** when he refused to swear allegiance to Adolph Hitler; **UPDATE:** sentenced to death)

Germany: Dachau Concentration Camp

Fr Joseph Georg Simon Hafner OCDS (aged 41, banned in **1938** from teaching religious education in **Oberschwarzach** due to his anti-Nazi views; arrested in **August 1941** for asking a Nazi on his deathbed to acknowledge that his second civil marriage was invalid; sent to **Dachau** on **December 12, 1941**; **UPDATE:** **died from abuse and malnutrition**)

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

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georg_H%C3%A4fner

Friday August 21, 1942



Germany: Brandenburg

Fr Franz Reinisch SAC (arrested on [April 15, 1942](#) when he refused to swear allegiance to Adolph Hitler; sentenced to death on [August 20, 1942](#); **UPDATE:** [beheaded](#))

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

Sunday August 23, 1942



PCFCP

Russia: Kotlas, Arkhangelsk oblast

Fr Ryszard Grabski OFM Cap (aged 32, captured by German border guards in [occupied Poland](#) while illegally crossing from Soviet held territory in [1940](#), handed over to Soviet border guards; sent to [Kotlas, Arkhangelsk oblast, Russia](#) in [May 1941](#); **UPDATE:** [arrested](#))

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

Wednesday August 26, 1942



PCFCP

Russia: Moscow

Fr Walter Cizek SJ (aged 38. U.S. citizen, arrested in [Chusovoy, Perm Krai](#) on [June 23, 1941](#), 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; **UPDATE:** [indicted](#))

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

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



Austria: Hartheim euthanasia center, Alkhoven, Eferding

Werner Sylten (aged 49, theologian, first wife had committed suicide in 1935 due to the growing pressure against those of partial Jewish ancestry, [gassed](#))

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%2fWerner_Syten

Saturday August 29, 1942



Russia: Ust-Sysolsk, Komi ASSR

Joseph Eberle Jr (aged 25, son of Joseph Eberle, sent with his mother into internal exile after the 1930 arrest of his father in [Krasny Kut, Saratov oblast](#), worked as a metalworker; arrested on [December 24, 1941](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to death, later **shot dead**, exact date unknown)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1543>



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Dominik Jedrzejewski (aged 66, Polish citizen, arrested on [August 26, 1940](#); sent to [Dachau](#) on [December 14, 1940](#); **UPDATE**: **died from debilitating work** after refusing to renounce the priesthood)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominik_J%C4%99drzejewski

Sunday August 30, 1942



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Pawel Prabucki (aged 49, Polish citizen, brother of Fr Alojzy Prabucki and Fr Boleslaw Prabucki, arrested by the Germans in [Gostkowo, Poland](#) in the [autumn of 1939](#), sent to [Sachsenhausen](#); transferred to [Dachau](#) on [December 14, 1940](#); blessed his brother Boleslaw before Boleslaw's [August 14, 1942](#) transfer to Hartheim Euthanasia Center, said that they both would soon join their parents and brother Alojzy in heaven; **UPDATE**: **died**)

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26360161M/The_Priest_Barracks



France: Lyons

Cardinal Pierre Marie Gerlier (aged 62, pressured to return 106 Jewish children to the authorities, refused)

France: Toulouse

Archbishop Jules-Geraud Saliege (aged 72, had a pastoral letter read in every parish in his diocese which condemned the deportation of the Jews "The Jews are real men and women. Not everything is permitted against these men and women, against these fathers and mothers. They are part of the human species. They are our brothers like so many others. A Christian should not forget this")

https://righteous.yadvashem.org/?searchType=righteous_only&language=en&itemId=4042843&ind=NaN

http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Jules-G%C3%A9raud_Sali%C3%A8ge

August 1942, date unknown



New Guinea: Buna

Missionaries killed by Japanese soldiers between August 12 and 14, 1942

Fr Henry Holland (Australian citizen, **killed**)

John Duffill (Australian citizen, missionary, **killed**)

Lilla Lashmar (Australian citizen, teacher, **killed**)

Margery Brenchley (Australian citizen, nurse, **killed**)

Fr Vivian Redlich (British citizen, engaged to May Hayman, **killed**)

http://web.archive.org/web/20070219072000/http://www.abmission.org/special/martyrs/PNG_martyrs.html



Poland – now Ukraine: Lviv

Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky OSBM (aged 76, brother of Archimandrite Klymentiy Sheptytsky, arrested by invading Russian troops in [Lviv](#) in [September 1914](#), sent to Russia; freed in [March 1918](#), returned to Lviv; sent a letter to Heinrich Himmler in [February 1942](#) condemning the murder of Jews, threatened with death in response, began the organized sheltering of hundreds of Jews including 15 in his own residence;
UPDATE: in late August 1942 sent a report to Pope Pius XII stating that the German regime was “almost diabolical”)

<http://www.infoukes.com/religion/sheptytsky/>