

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – March 1943

Monday March 1, 1943



Austria: Enns

Franz Jagerstatter OFS (aged 35, husband of Franziska, father of Hildegard, Rosi, Maria, and Louisi, Austrian national, conscientious objector, arrested in an army garrison after refusing to take the Hitler Oath, sent to prison in Linz)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/the-story-of-a-loving-father-who-was-killed-for-resisting-the-nazis-43001/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_J%C3%A4gerst%C3%A4tter

Tuesday March 2, 1943



Germany: Munich

Lieselotte 'Lilo' Ramdohr (aged 29, widow, White Rose resistance member, arrested, released for lack of evidence, arrest and execution ordered by Heinrich Himmler later in the month, escaped, went into hiding, married, survived the war)

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

Saturday March 6, 1943



Germany: Berlin

Archbishop Johann Konrad Maria Augustin Felix, Graf von Preysing Lichtenegg-Moos (aged 62, **UPDATE:** wrote to Pope Pius XII “There is probably no bitterer trial for us here in Berlin than the new wave of Jewish deportations”)

https://openlibrary.org/works/OL17318218W/Church_of_Spies

Sunday March 7, 1943



Germany: Buchenwald concentration camp

Leopold Engleitner (aged 37, conscientious objector, arrested [April 4, 1939](#); **UPDATE:** transferred to Niederhagen concentration camp)

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

Wednesday March 10, 1943



Japan: Kitano

Fr Julien-Sylvain Bousquet MEP (aged 66, French citizen, arrested on [February 17, 1943](#); **UPDATE:** died in a hospital for the insane)

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

<http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en->

[US&dl=en&lp=FR_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2farchives.mepasie.org%2fnotices%2fnotices-biographiques%2fbousquet-1](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=FR_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2farchives.mepasie.org%2fnotices%2fnotices-biographiques%2fbousquet-1)



Bulgaria: Plovdiv

Metropolitan Kiril aka Konstantin Markov (aged 42, joined Jews who had been arrested for deportation to Germany and told them “I will not allow any of you to leave Plovdiv”, told King Boris that he would start a civil disobedience campaign and that he would

personally lie down on the railroad tracks in front of the deportation trains, the deportation order was rescinded)

<http://db.yadvashem.org/righteous/family.html?language=en&itemId=4067700>

Friday March 12, 1943



Guernsey

Rev Clifford John Cohu (aged 59. husband of Harriet, arrested for disseminating war news [‘anti-German propaganda’] including in his homilies)

Harriet Cohu (wife of Rev Clifford John Cohu)

http://www.theislandwiki.org/?title=Clifford_John_Cohu

Monday March 15, 1943



Germany: Munich

Traute Lafrenz (aged 23, White Rose resistance member, arrested)

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

Tuesday March 16, 1943



Germany: Dachau Concentration Camp

Fr Franz Ohnmacht (arrived in [Dachau](#) on [June 17, 1938](#), underwent medical experimentation; **UPDATE** released)

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

Wednesday March 17, 1943



Papua New Guinea: off Manus

Fifty missionaries of several denominations - mostly Germans - and 12 other civilians were killed aboard the Imperial Japanese Navy destroyer Akikaze

Br Adolf Ganahl SVD (aged 45, Austrian national, **shot dead**)

Br Adolf Schwarz SVD (aged 35, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Agatha Schlesiger SSPS (aged 39, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Agnes Kotter SSPS (aged 36, U.S. citizen, **shot dead**)

Br Albert Wolf SVD (aged 33, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Br Alfred Salois SVD (aged 34, U.S. citizen, **shot dead**)

Fr Andreas Muller SVD (aged 42, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Anna Pohlkötter SSPS (aged 57, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Fr Arthur Manion SVD (aged 41, U.S. citizen, **shot dead**)

Br Bruno Berg SVD (aged 33, Polish citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Cacilia Wagner SSPS (aged 35, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Br Ernst Franken SVD (aged 41, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Fr Franz Winzenhorlein SVD (aged 66, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Fr Gerhard Prinz SVD (aged 34, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Gertrud Rolvering SSPS (aged 39, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Br Heinrich Brockhaus SVD (aged 31, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Br Johann Komar SVD (aged 49, Austrian national, **shot dead**)

Br Johann Kubitza SVD (aged 66, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Johanna Scholten SSPS (aged 37, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Fr Johannes Romanski SVD (aged 31, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Br Josef Bukkems SVD (aged 32, Dutch citizen, **shot dead**)

Bishop Josef Lorks SVD (aged 66, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Br Josef Matyl SVD (aged 43, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Katharina Joeris SSPS (aged 66, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Katharina Surkamp SSPS (aged 29, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Sr Katharina Zimmer SSPS (aged 41, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Br Leo Warnke SVD (aged 37, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Sr Margaretha Stijger SSPS (aged 47, Dutch citizen, **shot dead**)
Sr Maria Barbara Fusenig SSPS (aged 37, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Sr Maria Giele SSPS (aged 54, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Sr Maria Henkel SSPS (aged 39, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Sr Maria Magdalena Grosse Kintrup SSPS (aged 53, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Sr Maria Margaretha Hanfeld SSPS (aged 63, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Sr Maria Vedder SSPS (aged 61, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Br Otto Budde SVD (aged 38, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Br Paul Posmik SVD (aged 37, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Sr Paulina Engelbrecht SSPS (aged 39, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Sr Veronika Linden SSPS (aged 37, German citizen, **shot dead**)
Fr Wilhelm Wachter SVD (aged 36, German citizen, **shot dead**)

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_L%25C3%25B6rks
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Papua_New_Guinea1.htm



Lithuania: Vilnius

Fr Alphonse Lipniunas (aged 37, arrested by the Gestapo)

<http://www.lipniunas.com/biografija> - with translation

Friday March 19, 1943



France: Rennes

Marcel Callo (aged 21, printer, fiancé of Marguerite Derniaux, conscripted into forced labor, told by Marguerite that he would die a martyr, replied “I could never deserve such an honor”, sent to Zella-Mehlis, Thuringia, Germany)

<https://catholicsaintsguy.wordpress.com/tag/mauthausen/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcel_Callo

Saturday March 20, 1943



Turkmenistan

Fr Franciszek Janocha OFM (aged 31, arrested in [Lviv](#) by the Soviets in [July 1940](#), sentenced to death, commuted to imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to [Unzhlag](#); amnestied as a Polish citizen on [September 2, 1941](#); appointed chaplain of the Polish Armed Forces of the East on [March 1, 1942](#) in [Chok-Pak, Kazakhstan](#); **UPDATE**: arrested on anti-Soviet and espionage charges)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1715>

Tuesday March 23, 1943



Greece: Athens

Archbishop Damaskinos Papandreou (aged 52, issued a letter to the collaborationist Prime Minister which protested the arrest and deportation of Jews: “The Greek people were rightfully surprised and deeply grieved to learn that the German Occupation Authorities have already started to put into effect a program of gradual deportation of the Greek Jewish community of Salonika to places beyond our national borders, and that the first groups of deportees are already on their way to Poland....In our national consciousness, all the children of Mother Greece are an inseparable unity: they are equal members of the national body irrespective of religion or dogmatic difference...Our Holy Religion does not recognize superior or inferior qualities based on race or religion, as it is stated: ‘There is neither Jew nor Greek’ and thus condemns any attempt to discriminate or create racial or religious differences. Our common fate, both in days of glory and in periods of national misfortune, forged inseparable bonds between all Greek citizens, without exemption, irrespective of race...”, when threatened with death by firing squad in

retaliation by SS General Jurgen Stroop he replied "According to the traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church, our prelates are hanged, not shot. Please respect our traditions!" [a reference to the 1821 lynching of his predecessor Gregory V by a Turkish mob], ordered all clergy to aid the hiding of Jews)

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

<http://myocn.net/72nd-anniversary-of-archbishop-damaskinos-letter-of-protest-against-holocaust/>

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/greekbishop.html>

<http://todayismartyrs.org/pdf/Documents/1943-03-23%20Letter%20from%20Archbishop%20Damaskinos.pdf>

Tuesday March 30, 1943



Austria: Vienna

Sr Helena Kafka (aged 48, arrested on [February 18, 1942](#) for hanging crucifixes in a new hospital wing in [Vienna](#) in defiance of the Nazis; convicted of treason and sentenced to death on [October 29, 1942](#); **UPDATE**: **guillotined** after refusing to leave her religious order)

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

Wednesday March 31, 1943



Poland: Majdanek concentration camp

Br Piotr Troca FSC (aged 59, **died**)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Poland1.htm

March 1943, date unknown



China: Shandong province

Fr Johann van Schie SVD (Dutch citizen, missionary, interned by the Japanese)

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



Bulgaria: Sofia

Metropolitan Stefan aka Stoyan Pogueorguiev (survived the [April 16, 1925](#) communist bombing of St Nedelya Church, which killed 150 and injured 500; **UPDATE:** successfully confronted King Boris concerning the pending deportation of 8,000 Jews to Germany, threatened to open churches and monasteries to shelter Jews if the order was not rescinded)

<http://db.yadvashem.org/righteous/family.html?language=en&itemId=4067700>



Poland: Auschwitz Concentration Camp

Sr Maria Cecilia Autsch OSST.Ter (aged 43, Austrian national, arrested in [Motz, Austria](#) on [August 12, 1940](#) after saying Hitler was a calamity for Europe; transferred to [Ravensbruck concentration camp, Germany](#) on [August 31, 1940](#), became known for her support of other prisoners despite frequent beatings; arrived at [Auschwitz](#) on [March 26, 1942](#); **UPDATE:** transferred to the Birkenau extermination sub-camp)

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