

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – April 1943

Friday April 2, 1943



Bulgaria: Sofia

Metropolitan Stefan aka Stoyan Popgueorguiev (successfully confronted King Boris concerning the pending deportation of 8,000 Jews to Germany in early [March 1943](#), had threatened to open churches and monasteries to shelter Jews if the order was not rescinded;

UPDATE: called a synod which again condemned the laws “restricting and persecuting the Jewish minority in our country...Our people...cannot tolerate injustice, cruelty, and violence against anybody”)

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

Monday April 5, 1943



Germany: Berlin

Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer (aged 37, fiancé of Maria von Wedemeyer, co-founder of the Confessing Church, **UPDATE:** arrested)

Maria von Wedemeyer (fiancée of Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer for three months)

Germany: Munich

Josef Muller (aged 45, husband of Maria, father of Christa, attorney, arrested by the Gestapo in [Munich on February 9, 1934](#), interrogated by Heinrich Himmler, refused an offer to join the SS, said "I am philosophically opposed to you. I am a practicing Catholic, and my brother is a Catholic priest. Where could I find the possibility of a compromise there?", released by Himmler due to grudging respect after he told Himmler that he had advised the previous Barvarian government to arrest and shoot Himmler during the March 9,

1933 Nazi takeover of Bavaria; **UPDATE**: arrested by the army for his involvement as a courier between the German anti-Nazi resistance and the Vatican)

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

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

Thursday April 8, 1943



Czech Republic: Strahovice

Fr Richard Henkes (aged 43, German citizen, arrested by the Gestapo on a charge of "sedition of the nation from the pulpit" for his anti-Nazi homilies)

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Henkes - with translation

Friday April 9, 1943



Guernsey

Rev Clifford John Cohu (aged 59, husband of Harriet, arrested on [March 12, 1943](#) for disseminating war news ['anti-German propaganda'] including in his homilies;

UPDATE: convicted, sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment)

Harriet Cohu (wife of Rev Clifford John Cohu)

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

Monday April 12, 1943



Germany: Berlin

Liane Berkowitz (aged 19, arrested on [September 26, 1942](#) for anti-Nazi activities; **UPDATE:** gave birth to Irina Berkowitz)

Irina Berkowitz (born in prison)

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

Tuesday April 13, 1943



Germany: Hattingen, Ennepe-Ruhr-Kreis

Fr Hubertus Antonius Maria Mol (aged 29, Dutch citizen, arrested on [October 7, 1942](#) in [Halsteren, the Netherlands](#) for aiding people in hiding and banned youth groups, **UPDATE:** **shot dead**)

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

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=NL_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fnl.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fHubertus_mol)

[US&dl=en&lp=NL_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fnl.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fHubertus_mol](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=NL_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fnl.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fHubertus_mol)

Friday April 16, 1943



Germany: Zossen, Berlin

Sgt Francois de Beaulieu (radio operator, court martialed for having copied and disseminated Pope Pius XII's 1942 Christmas radio message, spared the death penalty, sentenced to prison for spreading a "subversive and demoralizing document" and for being "sympathetic toward Jews")

<https://zenit.org/articles/for-berlin-pius-xii-was-a-subversive/>

Monday April 19, 1943



Poland - now Ukraine: Zagaitys village, Kremenets district, Ternopil province

Eleven monks were killed by the German SS in reprisal for guerrilla activity

Hieromonk Nilus Gritsyuk (**shot dead**)

Hieromonk Millisen (**shot dead**)

Hieromonk Innocent (**shot dead**)

Hieromonk Sabbatius (**shot dead**)

Hieromonk Geronty (**shot dead**)

Hierodeacon Sophrony (**shot dead**)

Monk Dositheus (**shot dead**)

Monk Vincent (**shot dead**)

Monk Benjamin (**shot dead**)

Monk Cornelius (**shot dead**)

Monk Nikolai (**shot dead**)

Monk Pachomius (escaped)

<https://orthochristian.com/129209.html>



Germany: Munich

Alexander Schmorell (aged 25, medical student, White Rose resistance leader, arrested on [February 24, 1943](#) after a failed attempt to flee to Switzerland; **UPDATE**: convicted of treason, sentenced to death)

Dr Kurt Huber (aged 49, husband of Clara, father of Brigit and Wolfie, professor of theodicy, White Rose resistance leader, arrested on [February 27, 1943](#); **UPDATE**: convicted of treason, sentenced to death, had said to the court “My actions and aims will be justified by the inexorable course of history. On that I rely with rocklike confidence. I have acted as I had to act, prompted by a voice that came from within”)

Traute Lafrenz (aged 23, White Rose resistance member, arrested on [March 15, 1943](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 1 year imprisonment, re-arrested upon release, survived the war)

Willi Graf (aged 22, medical student, White Rose resistance leader, arrested on [February 18, 1943](#); **UPDATE**: convicted of treason, sentenced to death)

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

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

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

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26078489M/A_Noble_Treason - pages 265 - 271

April 1943, date unknown



Germany: Niederhagen concentration camp

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

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