

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – May 1943

Tuesday May 4, 1943



Austria: Linz

Franz Jagerstatter OFS (aged 35, husband of Franziska, father of Hildegard, Rosi, Maria, and Louisi, Austrian national, conscientious objector, arrested in the army garrison in [Enns](#) on [March 1, 1943](#) after refusing to take the Hitler Oath, sent to prison in Linz; **UPDATE:** transferred to prison in [Berlin-Tegel, Germany](#))

<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

Wednesday May 5, 1943



Germany: Dresden

Friar Grzegorz Boleslaw Frackowiak (aged 31, Polish citizen, **guillotined**)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grzegorz_Boles%C5%82aw_Fr%C4%85ckowiak

Monday May 24, 1943



Bulgaria: Sofia

Metropolitan Stefan aka Stoyan Poppueorguiev (called a synod on [April 2, 1943](#) which again condemned the laws “restricting and persecuting the Jewish minority in our country...Our people...cannot tolerate injustice, cruelty, and violence against anybody”; **UPDATE**: met with King Boris immediately after receiving disturbing news from local Jewish leaders, when the King waived he wrote a note which read “My heart is broken! I have a presentiment that we will be punished severely for what we have done to the Jews because our acts are disrespectful of God and harmful to the nation...”, after leaving the King went to the cathedral and preached a homily against the persecution of the Jews)

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

Thursday May 27, 1943



Bulgaria: Sofia

Metropolitan Stefan aka Stoyan Poppueorguiev (met with King Boris on [May 24, 1943](#) immediately after receiving disturbing news from local Jewish leaders, when the King waived he wrote a note which read “My heart is broken! I have a presentiment that we will be punished severely for what we have done to the Jews because our acts are disrespectful of God and harmful to the nation...”, after leaving the King went to the cathedral and preached a homily against the persecution of the Jews; **UPDATE**: wrote a circular letter in which he openly defied the government order to stop issuing baptismal certificates to Jews, stating ”The decision of the Government contradicts the laws and principles of our Church, and makes us betray God”)

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

Friday May 28, 1943



Bulgaria: Sofia

Metropolitan Stefan aka Stoyan Poppueorguiev (wrote a circular letter on [May 27, 1943](#) in which he openly defied the government order to stop issuing baptismal certificates to Jews, stating ”The decision of the Government contradicts the laws and principles of our Church, and makes us betray God”; **UPDATE**: offices raided by police in retaliation for

his letter of the previous day, 490 applications for baptismal certificates from Jews seized, including 104 for children)

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

Saturday May 29, 1943



Germany: Wolfenbuttel, Lower Saxony

Fr Georges Duret (aged 55, French citizen, **died**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1943.htm>

May 1943, date unknown



China: Yantai

Witness Lee aka Li Changshou (arrested by the Japanese Imperial Army for suspicions due to his missionary activities, interrogated for one month, flogged and subjected to water torture, contracted tuberculosis)

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