

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – July 1943

**Tuesday July 6, 1943**



### **Austria: Vienna**

Fr Anton Granig (aged 43, arrested for anti-Nazi activities)

Fr Eduard Steinwender OFM (aged 48, arrested for anti-Nazi activities)

### **Germany: Berlin-Charlottenburg**

Franz Jagerstatter OFS (aged 36, husband of Franziska, father of Hildegard, Rosi, Maria, and Louisi, Austrian national, conscientious objector, arrested in the army garrison in [Enns, Austria](#) on [March 1, 1943](#) after refusing to take the Hitler Oath, sent to prison in Linz; transferred to prison in [Berlin-Tegel](#) on [May 4, 1943](#); **UPDATE**: convicted of undermining military morale and sentenced to death)

[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%2fAnton\\_Granig](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%2fAnton_Granig)

[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%2fAngelus\\_Steinwender](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%2fAngelus_Steinwender)

<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](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_J%C3%A4gerst%C3%A4tter)

**Saturday July 10, 1943**



**Czech Republic**

Fr Richard Henkes (aged 43, German citizen, arrested on [April 8, 1943](#) in [Strahovice](#) by the Gestapo on a charge of "sedition of the nation from the pulpit" for his anti-Nazi homilies;  
**UPDATE:** transferred to Dachau concentration camp)

[https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Henke](https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Henke) s - with translation

**Sunday July 11, 1943**

**Over 100 settlements were attacked by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army  
Thousands of Poles and their Ukrainian protectors were killed**



**Poland - now Ukraine: Chrynow**

Fr Jan Kotwicki (aged 45, arrested on [May 9, 1924](#), later hospitalized, sent to [Kharkiv Prison](#) and then to [Butyrka Prison in Moscow](#); released in a [1927](#) prisoner exchange, sent to [Poland](#);  
**UPDATE:** **murdered** by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army along with other Polish and Ukrainian victims)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1046>

**Tuesday July 13, 1943**



**Belarus: Naumowicze**

Marianna Czokalo Biernacka (aged 55, persuaded German soldiers to allow her to take the place of her condemned pregnant daughter-in-law, **shot dead**)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marianna\\_Biernacka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marianna_Biernacka)



**Germany: Stadelheim prison, Munich**

Alexander Schmorell (aged 25, medical student, White Rose resistance leader, arrested [February 24, 1943](#), convicted of treason on [April 19, 1943](#), sentenced to death; **UPDATE:**

**guillotined**, wrote in his last letter to his father and stepmother "Now it shall be none other than this, and by the will of God, today I shall have my earthly life come to a close in order to go into another, which will never end and in which all of us will again meet. Let this future meeting be your comfort and your hope. Unfortunately, this blow will be harder for you than for me, because I go in the certainty, that in my deep conviction, I have served the truth. All of this leaves me with a calm conscience, despite how near the hour of death is. Think of the millions of young men who have lost their lives outside in the fields. Their lot is mine as well. Greet all my dear friends from my heart. Especially, though, Natascha, Erich, Nyanya, Aunt Toni, Maria, Alyonushka, and Andrei. In just a few hours I will be in a better life, by my mother, and I will not forget you; I will ask God to grant you solace and peace. And I will wait for you! One thing, above all, let me leave this on your hearts: Never forget God!!!"

Dr Kurt Huber (aged 49, husband of Clara, father of Brigit and Wolfie, professor of theodicy, White Rose resistance leader, arrested [February 24, 1943](#); convicted of treason on [April 19, 1943](#), 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"; **UPDATE: guillotined**)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander\\_Schmorell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Schmorell)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurt\\_Huber](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurt_Huber)

**Thursday July 15, 1943**



**Poland: Sonnenburg concentration camp**

Fr Denys Chenault OP (aged 44, French citizen, **died**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/France.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/France.htm)



**Germany: Ravensbruck concentration camp**

Leopold Engleitner (aged 37, conscientious objector, arrested [April 4, 1939](#); **UPDATE**: released, weighed 62 lbs, sent to work on a farm as a slave laborer)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopold\\_Engleitner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopold_Engleitner)

**Monday July 19, 1943**



**Poland: Borowikowszczyzna**

Jozef Achilles Puchala (aged 32, **died from torture**)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zef\\_Achilles\\_Pucha%C5%82a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zef_Achilles_Pucha%C5%82a)



**Italy: San Lorenzo, Rome**

Pope Pius XII aka Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli (aged 67, **UPDATE:** left the Vatican and drove into an Allied bombing raid in an attempt to fulfill his threat to Allied leaders that if Rome were bombed he would put himself in danger as a human shield for the purpose of stopping the bombing, comforted thousands of citizens, returned to the Vatican with blood on his clothes)

Fr Giovanni Battista Enrico Antonio Maria Montini (aged 45, rode with Pope Pius XII in his automobile, assisted him with comforting the civilian victims of the bombing, later was elected Pope Paul VI)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26491053M/The\\_Godmother](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26491053M/The_Godmother) - pages 71-73

**Thursday July 22, 1943**



**Germany: Plotzensee prison, Berlin**

Theodor Hespers (aged 39, fled Germany in **April 1933** to publish anti-Nazi Christian literature in the Netherlands, became a Dutch citizen; arrested by the Gestapo in **Antwerp** on **February 10, 1942**, tortured; **UPDATE:** sentenced to death)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Netherlands.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Netherlands.htm)  
[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%2fTheodor\\_Hespers](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%2fTheodor_Hespers)

**Saturday July 24, 1943**



**Philippines: Paete**

Fr Francis Douglas SSC (aged 33, New Zealand citizen, detained by Japanese soldiers, tortured in an attempt to extract suspected guerrillas confessions)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis\\_Douglas\\_\(priest\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Douglas_(priest))

**Tuesday July 27, 1943**



**Philippines: Paete**

Fr Francis Douglas SSC (aged 33, New Zealand citizen, detained by Japanese soldiers on [July 24, 1943](#), tortured in an attempt to extract suspected guerrillas confessions; **UPDATE**: taken into the jungle on a Japanese truck, disappeared, **presumed dead**)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis\\_Douglas\\_\(priest\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Douglas_(priest))

**Friday July 30, 1943**



**Italy: Cuneo province**

Fr Camille Folliet (smuggled Jews and deserters to Switzerland, arrested on [June 10, 1943](#) in [La Roche-sur-Foron, France](#) by the OVRA [Italian secret police]; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years imprisonment)

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=fr&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Ffr.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FCamille\\_Folliet](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=fr&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Ffr.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FCamille_Folliet)

**Saturday July 31, 1943**



**Poland - now Belarus: Nowogrodek**

**Eleven nuns arrested by the Gestapo without provocation**

Sr Adela Mardosewicz CSFN (aged 54)

Sr Anna Kokołowicz CSFN (aged 50)

Sr Eleonora Aniela Jozwik CSFN (aged 48)

Sr Eugenia Mackiewicz CSFN (aged 39)

Sr Helena Cierpka CSFN (aged 43)

Sr Jadwiga Karolina Zak CSFN (aged 50)

Sr Jozefa Chrobot CSFN (aged 47)

Sr Julia Rapiej CSFN (aged 42)

Sr Leokadia Matuszewska CSFN (aged 37)

Sr Paulina Borowik CSFN (aged 37)

Sr Weronika Narmontowicz CSFN (aged 26)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blessed\\_Martyrs\\_of\\_Nowogr%C3%B3dek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blessed_Martyrs_of_Nowogr%C3%B3dek)

**July 1943, date unknown**



**Ukraine**

Fr Jozef Aleksandrowicz (aged 74, arrested by the Bolsheviks in [Slavety](#) in 1919; released from [Novospassky prison, Moscow](#) in 1924, sent to Poland in a prisoner exchange; **UPDATE:** **murdered** during the Divine Liturgy on [July 5 or 11, 1943](#) by members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0016>



## Germany

Hans Wolfel (aged 42, Austrian jurist, arrested for saying that the war was lost and that Hitler was the biggest liar of all time)

[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%2fHans\\_W%25C3%25B6lfel](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%2fHans_W%25C3%25B6lfel)



## 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; convicted on [April 9, 1943](#), sentenced to 18 months’ imprisonment; **UPDATE**: deported to France)

[http://www.theislandwiki.org/?title=Clifford\\_John\\_Cohu](http://www.theislandwiki.org/?title=Clifford_John_Cohu)