

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – March 1944

**Wednesday March 1, 1944**



### **Austria: Vienna**

Jakob Kastelic (aged 47, attorney, husband, arrested on [July 23, 1940](#) for anti-Nazi activities;  
**UPDATE:** sentenced to death for treason)

[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%2fJacob\\_Kastelic](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%2fJacob_Kastelic)

**Friday March 3, 1944**



### **Germany: Berlin**

Josef Muller (aged 45, husband of Maria, father of Christa, attorney, arrested in [Munich](#) on [April 5, 1943](#) by the army for his involvement as a courier between the German ant-Nazi resistance and the Vatican; **UPDATE:** found innocent at trial, rearrested by the army because the SS threatened to arrest him and the military did not want him in SS custody)

[https://openlibrary.org/works/OL17318218W/Church\\_of\\_Spies](https://openlibrary.org/works/OL17318218W/Church_of_Spies)

**Saturday March 4, 1944**



### **Italy: Trieste**

Fr Giuseppe Gabana (aged 39, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1944.htm>

### Monday March 6, 1944



#### **Lithuania: Vilnius**

Adele Dirsyte (aged 34, teacher, former Caritas director, helped hide Jews during the German occupation, arrested for hiding an escapee from the Soviets)

<http://angelorum.lt/en/dievo-tarnai/adele-dirsyte-1909-1955/> - with translation

### Friday March 10, 1944



#### **Netherlands:**

Joop Westerweel (aged 45, husband of Wilhelmina, teacher, arrested after helping Jewish children escape to Spain, tortured)

#### **Netherlands: Hague municipal hospital**

Casper ten Boom (aged 84, father of Elisabeth "Betsie" ten Boom and Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom, arrested by the Gestapo on [February 29, 1944](#) for harboring Jews in his home in [Haarlem, Netherlands](#); **UPDATE: died**, had said during interrogation in Scheveningen prison "It would be an honor to give my life for God's chosen people")

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casper\\_ten\\_Boom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casper_ten_Boom)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joop\\_Westerweel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joop_Westerweel)

### Saturday March 11, 1944



## Italy: Carpi

Odoardo Focheerini (aged 36, husband of Maria Marchesi, father of Olga and six others, newspaper manager; arrested by the Germans for helping Jews escape to Switzerland with false documents)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_Focherini](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Focherini)

[https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odoardo\\_Focherini](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odoardo_Focherini) - with translation

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/blessed-odoardo-focherini-the-father-of-seven-who-saved-100-jewish-lives-68092/>

**Tuesday March 21, 1944**



## Italy: Fossano, Cuneo province

Fr Camille Folliet (smuggled Jews and deserters to Switzerland, arrested on [June 10, 1943](#) in [La Roche-sur-Foron](#) by the OVRA [Italian secret police]; sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on [July 30, 1943](#); **UPDATE**: freed from prison in a prisoner swap)

[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)

**Friday March 24, 1944**



## Poland: Markowa

**Nazis and their collaborators summarily execute an entire family including six children because they had sheltered eight members of two Jewish families, who were also killed**

Jozef Ulma (aged 44, librarian, photographer, fruit grower, bee-keeper, **shot dead**)

Wiktoria Niemczak Ulma (aged 32, homemaker, nine months pregnant, **shot dead**)

Stanislawa Ulma (aged 8, **shot dead**)

Barbara Ulma (aged 7, **shot dead**)

Wladyslaw Ulma (aged 6, **shot dead**)

Franciszek Ulma (aged 4, **shot dead**)

Antoni Ulma (aged 3, **shot dead**)

Maria Ulma (aged 2, **shot dead**)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zef\\_and\\_Wiktoria\\_Ulma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zef_and_Wiktoria_Ulma)

<http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/righteous/ulma.asp>



### **Italy: Fosse Ardeatine, Rome**

Fr Pietro Pappagallo (aged 55, arrested in [Rome](#) on [January 29, 1944](#) by the German SS, had aided Jews and others wanted by the Germans, was seen giving his food to prisoners who had none; **UPDATE: shot dead** along with 334 other prisoners)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pietro\\_Pappagallo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pietro_Pappagallo)

**Saturday March 25, 1944**



### **Poland: Majdanek Concentration Camp**

Fr Omelian Kovich (aged 59, husband, father of six, **died of gangrene in his leg**, had been arrested for baptizing Jews in an attempt to aid their escape)

<http://www.dcdiocese.org/news/commentary/3376-blessed-omelian-kovch>

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1944.htm>

**Sunday March 26, 1944**



### **Italy: Milan**

Fr Paolo Liggeri (aged 32, arrested for assisting Jews and families of imprisoned or missing soldiers, sent in succession to San Vittore Prison, Fossoli and Bolzano concentration

camps, Mauthausen and Gusen concentration camps in Austria, and Dachau concentration camp in Germany)

<https://www.anpi.it/donne-e-uomini/2410/don-paolo-liggeri> - with translation

**Monday March 27, 1944**



**France: Lyon**

Fernand Belot (aged 26, husband of Raymonde Guyon-Belot, published Christian and anti-Nazi literature, with his wife organized a network to help Jews escape to Switzerland, arrested along with his wife, father, and in-laws, tortured)

Raymonde Guyon-Belot (aged 23, wife of Fernand Belot, published Christian and anti-Nazi literature, with her husband organized a network to help Jews escape to Switzerland, arrested along with her husband, family, and father-in-law, tortured)

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=FR\\_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2ffr.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fFernand\\_Belot](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=FR_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2ffr.wikipedia.org%2fwiki%2fFernand_Belot)  
[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=fr&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Ffr.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FRaymonde\\_Guyon-Belot](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=fr&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Ffr.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FRaymonde_Guyon-Belot)

**Tuesday March 28, 1944**



**Austria: Vienna-Wahring**

Fr Heinrich Maier (aged 36, underground resistance leader, arrested, tortured)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Austria.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Austria.htm)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich\\_Maier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Maier)

**March 1944, date unknown**



### Germany: Saarbrucken

Rev Clifford John Cohu (aged 60. husband of Harriet, British citizen, arrested in Guernsey 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; deported to France in [July 1943](#); **UPDATE**: transferred to Preungesheim, kept in solitary confinement without heat, starved, forced to work)

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