

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – September 1944

Saturday September 2, 1944



Italy: Nocchi, Camaiore, Lucca

German SS soldiers raid a Carthusian monastery holding over 100 Jews and other refugees, 12 monks arrested

Br Antoine-Henri-Adrien Clerc O.Cart (aged 74, Swiss citizen, arrested)

Fr Antonio Alberto Luigi Costa O.Cart (aged 46, arrested, tortured)

Br Augustin Sztrilich O.Cart (Hungarian citizen, not arrested)

Br Bruno D'Amico O.Cart (aged 60, arrested)

Br Emil Rosbach O.Cart (aged 73, German citizen, arrested)

Fr Franz Johann Egger O.Cart (aged 39, Swiss citizen, arrested)

Br Giorgio Maritano O.Cart (aged 51, arrested)

Fr Henri-Joseph-Marie Compagnon O.Cart (aged 70, French citizen, arrested)

Fr Martin Binz O.Cart (aged 64, Prior, Swiss citizen, arrested)

Br Michele Maurizio Nota O.Cart (aged 56, arrested)

Fr Pedro Pablo Lapuente Salinas O.Cart (aged 69, Spanish citizen, arrested)

Br Rafael Cantero Gan O.Cart (aged 47, Spanish citizen, arrested)

Bishop Salvador Montes de Oca O.Cart (aged 48, Venezuelan citizen, arrested)

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

http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=it&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Fit.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FStrage_di_Farneta

Tuesday September 4, 1944



Netherlands: Vught concentration camp

Fr Alfred Jozef Marie Verhaegen (aged 37, **shot dead**)

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

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%2fSlachtoffers_Kamp_Vught

Thursday September 7, 1944



Philippines: off Sindangan Point, Liloy, Zamboanga, Mindanao

Fr Joseph Verbis LaFleur (aged 32, U.S. Army Air Force chaplain, POW, **killed** when the Japanese 'hell ship' Shinyo Maru carrying over 750 POWs was torpedoed by the USS Paddle and sank while Japanese guards shot survivors)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindangan,_Zamboanga_del_Norte#Shin.27y.C5.8D_Maru_incident

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



Italy: Bolzano

Josef Mayr-Nusser (aged 34, husband of Hildegard, father of Alberto aged 2, Italian citizen, drafted into the German SS, sent to Prussia in Germany for training)

Two of the monks who were arrested on [September 2, 1944](#) for sheltering Jews and other refugees were executed by the German SS

Fr Martin Binz O.Cart (aged 64, Prior, Swiss citizen, **shot dead**)

Bishop Salvador Montes de Oca O.Cart (aged 48, Venezuelan citizen, **shot dead**)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_Mayr-Nusser

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

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/this-layman-who-refuted-nazism-was-declared-a-martyr-by-pope-francis-86987/>

http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=it&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Fit.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FStrage_di_Farneta

Friday September 8, 1944



Germany: Berlin

Elisabeth Adelheid Hildegard von Thadden (aged 54, school headmistress, convicted of treason on July 1, 1944; **UPDATE:** **guillotined**)

Germany: Torgau

Fr Carl Lampert (aged 50, arrested in Innsbruck, Austria on August 25, 1940 and sent to Dachau for publishing an obituary on the death of Fr Otto Neuruer; sent to Sachsenhausen on September 1, 1940; sent to Dachau on December 15, 1940; freed on August 1, 1941; arrested in Stettin on February 4, 1943, tortured; sent to Torgau on January 14, 1944; **UPDATE:** sentenced to death)

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

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

Saturday September 9, 1944

Communist coup d'état in Bulgaria



France: Abri Sadi-Carnot, Brest, Finistere

Jean Colle (aged 23, **killed**)

Fr Robert Ricard SJ (aged 61, **killed**)

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

Sunday September 10, 1944



Italy: Nocchi, Camaiore, Lucca

The remaining 10 monks who were arrested on [September 2, 1944](#) for sheltering Jews and other refugees were executed by the German SS, a total of 159 prisoners were killed

Br Antoine-Henri-Adrien Clerc O.Cart (aged 74, Swiss citizen, **shot dead**)

Fr Antonio Alberto Luigi Costa O.Cart (aged 46, tortured, **shot dead**)

Br Bruno D'Amico O.Cart (aged 60, **shot dead**)

Br Emil Rosbach O.Cart (aged 73, German citizen, **shot dead**)

Fr Franz Johann Egger O.Cart (aged 39, Swiss citizen, **shot dead**)

Br Giorgio Maritano O.Cart (aged 51, **shot dead**)

Fr Henri-Joseph-Marie Compagnon O.Cart (aged 70, French citizen, **shot dead**)

Br Michele Maurizio Nota O.Cart (aged 56, **shot dead**)

Fr Pedro Pablo Lapuente Salinas O.Cart (aged 69, Spanish citizen, **shot dead**)

Br Rafael Cantero Gan O.Cart (aged 47, Spanish citizen, **shot dead**)

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

http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?from=it&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Fit.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FStrage_di_Farneta

Monday September 11, 1944



Bulgaria: Byala Slatina

Fr Ivan Ninov Valkov (husband, arrested, tortured “in a very cruel manner”)

<http://prosopography1944->

[1989.bg/victims/index/page:257/sort:Victim.profession/direction:desc#/
1989](http://1989.bg/victims/index/page:257/sort:Victim.profession/direction:desc#/)



Poland: Sztutowo aka Stutthof, Nowy Dwor Gdanski

Br Gratian Spacil OH (aged 42, Czech national, **died**)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Czech1.htm



Germany: Brandenburg an der Havel

Fr Alois Grimm SJ (aged 57, Austrian, arrested in [October 1943](#) for religious instructions he had given to SS officers, both of whom testified against him; sentenced to death [on August 12, 1944](#), later wrote "The hour has come, I am going home into eternity. In a few hours, I will stand in front of my Judge, my Redeemer and my Father. It is God's will, to be done everywhere. Don't mourn over me, I am returning home, you have to wait. I give my life for the kingdom of God, which knows no end, for the Society of Jesus, for the youth and religion of our home land"; **UPDATE: hanged**)

Fr Joseph Muller (aged 50, **guillotined**, had been convicted of telling a joke: "A soldier on his deathbed asked to see the people for whom he was laying down his life. A portrait of Adolf Hitler was laid on his one side, a portrait of Hermann Goring on the other. He gasped 'Now I can die like Jesus Christ, between two criminals'", had refused to say who had told him the joke)

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

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_M%C3%BCller_\(priest\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_M%C3%BCller_(priest))

Wednesday September 13, 1944



Italy: Fiume

Giovanni Palatucci (aged 35, police official, arrested by the Germans for attempting to collaborate with the Allies, sent to [Dachau](#), had saved Jews)

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



Germany: Dachau Concentration Camp

Yolande Beekman (aged 33, British citizen, Special Operations agent, denied access to a priest prior to her execution, **shot dead** along with 3 other female British agents)

Germany: Straflager Zoschen detention facility, Freyburg

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](#); transferred to Preungesheim in [March 1944](#), kept in solitary confinement without heat, starved, forced to work; **UPDATE**: arrived, beaten)

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

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

Friday September 15, 1944



Serbia

Serbian bishops sent to Dachau concentration camp

Patriarch Gavriilo V aka Gavriilo Dozic

Bishop Nikolaj Velimirovic

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

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikolaj_Velimirovi%C4%87

Sunday September 17, 1944



Bulgaria: near Makresh village, Valcheshki Dol area

Archmandrite Paladij (**executed without trial** by Communists, had been tortured “with great cruelty”)

[http://prosopography1944-](http://prosopography1944-1989.bg/victims/index/page:257/sort:Victim.profession/direction:desc#/)

[1989.bg/victims/index/page:257/sort:Victim.profession/direction:desc#/
/](http://prosopography1944-1989.bg/victims/index/page:257/sort:Victim.profession/direction:desc#/)



Germany: Schwichteler

Fr Laurentius Siemer OP (aged 56, escaped arrest by the Gestapo for his involvement in plot to overthrow the Nazi regime, went into hiding, survived the war)

Fr Otmar Decker OP (assisted the escape of Fr Laurentius Siemer, detained by the Gestapo)

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

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

Monday September 18, 1944



Palau: Babeldaob

Fr Bernardo de la Espriella Mosquera SJ (aged 54, Colombian citizen, expelled from Yap in July 1944 by Japanese authorities; **UPDATE**: shot dead by Japanese soldiers)

Fr Elías Fernandez Gonzalez SJ (aged 63, Spanish citizen, shot dead by Japanese soldiers)

Br Emilio Del Villar Blazquez SJ (aged 51, Spanish citizen, shot dead by Japanese soldiers)

Br Francisco Hernandez Escudero SJ (aged 56, Spanish citizen, expelled from Yap in July 1944 by Japanese authorities; **UPDATE**: shot dead by Japanese soldiers)

Fr Luis Blanco Suarez SJ (aged 58, Spanish citizen, expelled from Yap in July 1944 by Japanese authorities; **UPDATE**: shot dead by Japanese soldiers)

Fr Marino de la Hoz del Canto SJ (aged 58, Spanish citizen, shot dead by Japanese soldiers)

http://newsaints.faiithweb.com/new_martyrs/Micronesia.htm

<http://micsem.org/pubs/articles/religion/frames/jesmartfr.htm>



Germany: Brandenburg an der Havel

Fr Johann Steinmayr SJ (aged 53, Austrian, died)

http://newsaints.faiithweb.com/new_martyrs/Austria.htm

Wednesday September 20, 1944



Poland: Zakopane

Helena Wanda Blazusiakowna (aged 18, wrote "Oh Mamma do not cry—Immaculate Queen of Heaven support me always" on the wall of her Gestapo cell, survived)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony_No._3_\(G%C3%B3recki\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony_No._3_(G%C3%B3recki))



Germany: Gronau, Borken

Fr Regnerus Aloysius de Hosson (aged 32, Dutch citizen, **died**)

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



Netherlands: Groningen

Fr Johannes Gijsbertus Bocker (aged 34, **died**)

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

Tuesday September 26, 1944



Germany: Berlin

Josef Muller (aged 46, 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; found innocent at trial in **Berlin** on **March 3, 1944**, rearrested by the army because the SS threatened to arrest him and the military did not want him in SS custody; **UPDATE**: transferred to SS custody)

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

Friday September 29, 1944



Italy: Marzabotto, Monte Sole area

Fr Ubaldo Marchiono (aged 26, **shot dead** by the German SS during Mass, fell onto the altar, parishioners in the church were then attacked with grenades, mother and sister also killed)

Italy: San Giovanni di Sotto, Bologna

Sr Maria Norina Fiori OSF (aged 21, **killed** by the German SS along with members of her First Communion class)

https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubaldo_Marchioni - with translation

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

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Italy.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=IT_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.lezionidireligione.it%2fjoomla3%2findex.php%3foption%3dcom_content%26view%3darticle%26id%3d279%3a3-i-parroci-e-i-religiosi%26catid%3d79%26Itemid%3d207%26limitstart%3d6)

[US&dl=en&lp=IT_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.lezionidireligione.it%2fjoomla3%2findex.php%3foption%3dcom_content%26view%3darticle%26id%3d279%3a3-i-parroci-e-i-religiosi%26catid%3d79%26Itemid%3d207%26limitstart%3d6](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=IT_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.lezionidireligione.it%2fjoomla3%2findex.php%3foption%3dcom_content%26view%3darticle%26id%3d279%3a3-i-parroci-e-i-religiosi%26catid%3d79%26Itemid%3d207%26limitstart%3d6)

Saturday September 30, 1944



Bulgaria: Kran

Fr Stefan Tenev Marinov (husband, **murdered** by Communists in front of his home)

[http://prosopography1944-](http://prosopography1944-1989.bg/victims/index/page:257/sort:Victim.profession/direction:desc#/)

[1989.bg/victims/index/page:257/sort:Victim.profession/direction:desc#/
http://prosopography1944-](http://prosopography1944-1989.bg/victims/index/page:257/sort:Victim.profession/direction:desc#/)

[http://prosopography1944-](http://prosopography1944-1989.bg/files/documents/4b63126711efeRakopisotRadkaTenevaPopostefanovaotnosnoStefanTenevMarinovRakopis.pdf)

[1989.bg/files/documents/4b63126711efeRakopisotRadkaTenevaPopostefanovaotnosnoStefanTenevMarinovRakopis.pdf](http://prosopography1944-1989.bg/files/documents/4b63126711efeRakopisotRadkaTenevaPopostefanovaotnosnoStefanTenevMarinovRakopis.pdf)

September 1944, date unknown



Bulgaria: Panagyurishte

Fr Luka Yurukov (husband, summoned to the police department for a 'brief inquiry' in late September 1944, taken to Plovdiv and interrogated for a week)

<http://prosopography1944-1989.bg/victims/index/page:257/sort:Victim.profession/direction:desc#/>



Poland: Warsaw

Possible summary executions during the Warsaw Uprising

Sr Anna Apolonia Motz DC (aged 69, **died**)

Sr Aurelia Pomierny DC (aged 66, **died**)

Sr Helena Jezierska DC (aged 58, **died**)

Sr Jozefa Ogrodowicz DC (aged 57, **died**)

Sr Maria Florentyna Wilman DC (aged 61, **died**)

Sr Maria Nadolska DC (aged 64, **died**)

Sr Zofia Dziewanowska DC (aged 65, **died**)

Sr Zofia Kowalczyk DC (aged 77, **died**)

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