

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – December 1944

Friday December 1, 1944



Lithuania: Vilnius

Fr Wladyslaw Kisel (aged 50, arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1023>



Italy

Gedeone Corra (aged 24, brother of Flavio Corra, arrested together by fascists near [Salizzole, Italy](#) on [November 22, 1944](#); **UPDATE**: transferred to German SS control)

Flavio Corra (aged 27, brother of Gedeone Corra; **UPDATE**: transferred to German SS control)

<https://cacina.wordpress.com/2014/04/07/carry-the-gospel-with-you-1899/>
<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1945.htm>

Saturday December 2, 1944



Indonesia: Muntok concentration camp

Fr Franciscus Johannes Hofstad SCJ (aged 40, Dutch citizen, **died**)

<https://oorlogsgravenstichting.nl/persoon/65092/franciscus-johannes-hofstad> - with translation

Tuesday December 5, 1944



Indonesia: Muntok concentration camp

Br Theodurus van der Werf SCJ (aged 46, Dutch citizen, **died**)

<https://oorlogsgravenstichting.nl/persoon/169491/theodorus-van-der-werf> - with translation



Austria: Vienna

Hanns Georg Heintschel-Heinegg (aged 25, seminarian, arrested on **June 23, 1940** for anti-Nazi activities; **UPDATE: guillotined**)

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%2fHanns_Georg_Heintschel-Heinegg

Friday December 8, 1944



Germany: Dachau Concentration Camp

Fr Josef Neunzig (arrived at **Dachau** on **October 18, 1941**; **UPDATE:** released, later returned in civilian clothes with food for inmates)

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pfarrerblock_\(KZ_Dachau\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pfarrerblock_(KZ_Dachau)) - with translation
https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26360161M/The_Priest_Barracks

Saturday December 9, 1944





Slovakia: Ruzomberok

Frantisek Munk (aged 49, husband of Gizela Kohnove Munk, father of Tomas Dezider Munk and Juraj Munk, arrested by the Gestapo due to his Jewish ancestry)

Gizela Kohnove Munk (wife of Frantisek Munk, mother of Tomas Dezider Munk and Juraj Munk, arrested by the Gestapo due to her Jewish ancestry, **presumed dead** after deportation to Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp)

Juraj Munk (son of Frantisek and Gizela Kohnove Munk, brother of Tomas Dezider Monk, arrested by the Gestapo due to his Jewish ancestry, **presumed dead** after deportation to Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp)

Tomas Dezider Munk SJ (aged 21, son of Frantisek and Gizela Kohnove Munk, brother of Juraj Monk, novice, arrested by the Gestapo due to his Jewish ancestry)

<http://jezuiti.sk/blog/dejiny/2010/tomas-munk-a-jeho-historia-v-procese-blahorecenia/> - with translation

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1945.htm>

Saturday December 16, 1944



Germany: Ravensbruck concentration camp

Elisabeth "Betsie" ten Boom (aged 59, daughter of Casper ten Boom, sister of Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom; arrested by the Gestapo on [February 29, 1944](#) for harboring Jews in her home in [Haarlem, Netherlands](#); **UPDATE: died**, said to her sister before her death "...must tell people what we have learned here. There is no pit so deep that He is not deeper still. They will listen to us, Corrie, because we have been here")

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

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL3408070M/The_Hiding_Place - page 227

Sunday December 17, 1944



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Karl Leisner (sent to Dachau concentration camp on [December 14, 1941](#); **UPDATE**: secretly ordained a priest)

Bishop Gabriel Piguet (aged 58, arrested for allegedly protecting a priest wanted by the Gestapo on [May 28, 1944 in Clermont-Ferrand, France](#); **UPDATE**: secretly ordained Deacon Karl Leisner to the priesthood)

Josefa Mack (aged 20, children's home employee, under pain of death smuggled into Dachau the liturgical items necessary for the ordination of Karl Leisner, later became a professed religious sister)

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

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

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josefa_Mack - with translation

Thursday December 21, 1944



Germany: Berlin

Eugen Bolz (aged 63, attorney, Interior Minister, spent several weeks in a concentration camp in [1933](#), released; arrested in [Beuron](#) on [August 12, 1944](#) for having agreed to serve in a post-Nazi government; **UPDATE**: sentenced to death)

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

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1945.htm>

Saturday December 23, 1944



Poland: Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp

Sr Maria Cecilia Autsch OSST.Ter (aged 44, Austrian national, arrested in [Motz, Austria](#) on [August 12, 1940](#) after saying Hitler was a calamity for Europe; transferred to [Ravensbruck concentration camp](#) on [August 31, 1940](#), became known for her support of

other prisoners despite frequent beatings; arrived at [Auschwitz](#) on [March 26, 1942](#); transferred to the [Birkenau](#) extermination sub-camp in [March 1943](#), continued to comfort other prisoners; **UPDATE**: **killed** in an Allied bombing raid)

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

Sunday December 24, 1944



Belarus: Minsk

Fr Antoni Borysowicz (aged 51, arrested on [December 12, 1944](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0160>

Tuesday December 26, 1944



Germany: Ravensbruck concentration camp

Sophia Eugenia Maria van Berckel (aged 55, Dutch citizen, **died**)

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

Wednesday December 27, 1944



Hungary: Budapest

Sr Sara Salkahazi SSS (aged 45, **shot dead** on the bank of the Danube by Arrow Cross gunmen for rescuing Jews)

Vilma Bernovits (religion teacher, **shot dead** on the bank of the Danube by Arrow Cross gunmen for rescuing Jews)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A1ra_Salkah%C3%A1zi
http://www.salkahazisara.com/bio_en.html



Germany: Hersbruck concentration camp

Odoardo Focheerini (aged 37, husband of Maria Marchesi, father of Olga and six other children; arrested by the Germans in [Carpi, Italy](#) on [March 11, 1944](#) for helping Jews escape to Switzerland with false documents; **UPDATE: died of septicemia** from an infected leg wound)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_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/>

Thursday December 28, 1944



Ukraine: Kamianets-Podilskyi

Fr Adolf Kukuruzinski (aged 50, arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1136>



Bulgaria: Ruse

Fr Dimitar Iv Boyadzhiev (husband, **executed without trial** by Communists)

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



Germany: Ravensbruck concentration camp

Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom (aged 52, daughter of Casper ten Boom, sister of Elisabeth "Betsie" ten Boom; arrested by the Gestapo on [February 29, 1944](#) for harboring Jews in her home in [Haarlem, Netherlands](#); **UPDATE**: released due to a clerical error, shortly thereafter all women prisoners her age would be gassed)

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

Saturday December 30, 1944



Hungary: Budapest

Tibor Baranski (aged 22, former seminarian, arrested by the Soviets as a suspected Nazi sympathizer, had rescued over 3,000 Jews under the encouragement of Papal Nuncio Angelo Rotta and his mother, later escaped with the help of a Russian Christian soldier)

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

Sunday December 31, 1944



Poland: Gross-Rosen concentration camp

Sr Marie Wachs (aged 73, French citizen, **died**)

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



Italy

Fr Antonio Seghezzi (aged 38, arrested in [Bergamo, Italy](#) on [November 4, 1943](#) for supporting the resistance; **UPDATE**: transferred to Germany)

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

December 1944, date unknown



Poland: Auschwitz Concentration Camp

Fr Jean Joseph Rosay (aged 42, arrested in [Douvaine, France](#) on [February 11, 1944](#) for aiding Jews and shot-down Allied flight crews, implicated himself to save others; deported to [Auschwitz Concentration Camp](#) on [April 27, 1944](#), described by a fellow inmate as ‘radiant’ and as always helping fellow inmates; **UPDATE** evacuated from Auschwitz)

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Rosay - with translation