

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – unknown month 1945



### USSR

Fr Czeslaw Łapinski (aged 54, arrested, sent to a camp or into internal exile)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1083>



### Russia: Butyrka Prison, Moscow

Fr Walter Ciszek SJ (aged 41. U.S. citizen, arrested in [Chusovoy, Perm Krai](#) on [June 23, 1941](#), with two other Jesuits had taken advantage of the 1939 Soviet occupation of eastern Poland to volunteer as workers for transfer to Siberia for underground missionary work, charged with anti-Soviet activities and espionage, transferred to [Lubyanka Prison](#) in [Moscow](#), beaten and tortured, forced to sign confessions,; indicted on [August 26, 1942](#); sentenced on [September 23, 1942](#) to 15 years' imprisonment at hard labor, kept at [Butyrka Prison](#), 'broken', signed incriminating statements; **UPDATE**: exiled to the Urals, worked as a dump truck driver, engaged in underground missionary work)

### Russia: Norillag labor camp, Dudinka, Taymyr Dolgano-Nenets Autonomous Okrug

Fr Jozef Janczurewicz (arrested in [Poland](#) in the [autumn of 1939](#) by the Soviets; **UPDATE**: known to have been in Norillag after 1945, fate unknown)

Fr Kasper Koniuszewski (arrested in [Poland](#) in the [1939-1941 timeframe](#) by the Soviets, sentenced to a labor camp; **UPDATE**: known to have been in Norillag, fate unknown)

### Russia: Rostov-on-the-Don

Fr Jozef Kandefor OFM Cap (arrested in [Sendishove](#) in [1944](#), sentenced to possibly 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: transferred to a camp near Rostov)

### Russia: Siberia

Fr Vladislav Akola-Kulak (aged 55, farmer in [Rechki, Vitebsk province, Belarus](#), arrested on [October 11, 1930](#) during the collectivization campaign; sentenced to five years' exile in Siberia on [January 26, 1931](#); **UPDATE**: arrested for illegally saying Mass, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0008>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0985>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1102>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1515>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1706>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter\\_Ciszek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Ciszek)



### **Egypt: Old Cairo**

Fr Mina el-Baramousy aka Azer Youssef Atta (aged 43, the future Pope Kyrillos VI, beaten in a murder attempt in his hermitage by bandits, likely in 1939, hospitalized; evicted from his hermitage on October 28, 1941 by the government; **UPDATE**: returned to his hermitage mid-year, evicted by the British after a few months)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL27765146M/A\\_Silent\\_Patriarch](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL27765146M/A_Silent_Patriarch) pg 384



### **Ukraine**

Fr Jan Cegielski (arrested and sent to a labor camp)

#### **Ukraine: Lutsk**

Fr Karol Galezowski (aged 66, secretly fled from Belarus to Poland in 1926 after threats from the GPU; **UPDATE**: arrested)

#### **Ukraine: Lviv**

Fr Jan Dlugosz SJ (aged 44, arrested on counter-revolutionary charges)

Janina Kajtanowicz (investigated, possibly convicted, fate unknown)

Fr Wiktor Kwapinski (aged 62, arrested early in 1941 in Lviv, survived the mass shootings in Kiev Prison in June 1941 following the German invasion, returned to Lviv and resumed his ministry; **UPDATE**: arrested)

#### **Ukraine: Ternopil**

Fr Adolf Iwancow (aged 35, arrested)

Fr Vasyl Velychkovsky (aged 42, arrested, sentenced to death, sentence commuted to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp)

#### **Ukraine: Zhytomyr**

Fr Roman Jankowski (aged 57, arrested in Kotelnia on counter-revolutionary charges on August 27, 1935; sentenced on August 14, 1936 to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent into internal exile following his release; **UPDATE**: returned from internal exile and resumed his ministry, soon forced to live in Yablonna)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0286>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0369>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0924>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0972>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1071>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1504>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1714>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasyl\\_Velychkovsky](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasyl_Velychkovsky)



### **Belarus: Minsk**

Fr Antoni Borysowicz (aged 52, arrested on [December 12, 1944](#); sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp on [December 24, 1944](#); **UPDATE**: transferred to a labor camp in Tyumen, Russia)

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



### **Lithuania**

Fr Kruvlialis (arrested possibly in 1945, sent to Intlag in Russia)

#### **Lithuania: Kaunas**

Fr Pranas Kuraitis (aged 58, arrested possibly in 1945, sent to Siblag in Russia)

#### **Lithuania: Telshay**

Bishop Vincentas Borisevicius (aged 58, arrested, tortured, released)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0147>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1124>  
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1141>



### **Albania**

Fr Josif Mihali (aged 33, arrested, sentenced to 10 years' hard labor)

Fr Mikel Koliqi (arrested, would not be released from prison for 38 years)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs\\_of\\_Albania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs_of_Albania)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikel\\_Koliqi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikel_Koliqi)



### **Slovenia: Ljubljana**

Fr Anton Strie (aged 30, jailed for 3 months)

[https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton\\_Strle](https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton_Strle) - with translation



### **Czechoslovakia**

Bishop Michal Buzalka (aged 60, served 4 months' imprisonment for serving as Slovak military vicar during the war)

[https://sk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michal\\_Buzalka](https://sk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michal_Buzalka) - with translation



### **Germany: between Dachau concentration camp and Bad Tolz**

Fr Hermann Scheipers (aged 31, arrested in Ochtrup in October 1940 for ministering to Polish slave laborers; sent to Dachau in March 1941; **UPDATE**: escaped from a death march)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/06/16/last-priest-survivor-of-nazi-prison-camp-dies-aged-102/>