

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – February 1945

Thursday February 1, 1945



Poland: Paradyz, Goscikowo, Swiebodzin

Fr Karl Otto von Witowski OSB (aged 59, abbot, German citizen, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

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

Friday February 2, 1945



Germany: Plotzensee Prison, Berlin

Fr Alfred Delp SJ (aged 38, arrested by the Gestapo in [Munich](#) on [July 28, 1944](#) in connection with the plot to assassinate Hitler; secretly made his final vows on [December 9, 1944](#) in [Tegel Prison](#) in [Berlin](#); sentenced to death on [January 11, 1945](#); **UPDATE: hanged**, his last joking words to the prison chaplain were "In half an hour, I'll know more than you do")

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

Sunday February 4, 1945



Albania: Shkoder

Fr Ndre Zadeja OP (aged 53, playwright, arrested by Communists)

https://sq.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ndre_Zadeja - with translation

Wednesday February 7, 1945



Germany: Gestapo prison, Berlin

Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer (aged 39, fiancé of Maria von Wedemeyer; **UPDATE**: transferred to Buchenwald)

Josef Muller (aged 46, husband of Maria, father of Christa, attorney, interrogated by the SS in [November 1944](#), told that he was a dead man, replied that death was just a passage to eternal life, when asked if he prayed he replied yes, including for the SS and all his enemies; **UPDATE**: transferred to Buchenwald)

<https://openlibrary.org/books/OL25892903M/Bonhoeffer>

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

Friday February 9, 1945



Germany: Munich

Fr Josef Pontiller OSB (aged 55, Austrian, **died**)

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

Saturday February 10, 1945



Philippines: Manila

Fr John Heneghan SSC (aged 63, Irish citizen, **killed** by Japanese Marines)

Fr Kelly SSC (**killed** by Japanese Marines)

Fr Monaghan SSC (**killed** by Japanese Marines)

Fr Peter Fallon SSC (**killed** by Japanese Marines)

Br William Kelly FSC (aged 50, Irish citizen, President of De La Salle College, abducted by Japanese Marines)

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

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



Germany: Dachau Concentration Camp

Giovanni Palatucci (aged 35, police official, arrested in [Fiume, Italy](#) on [September 13, 1944](#) by the Germans for attempting to collaborate with the Allies, sent to [Dachau](#), had saved Jews; **UPDATE: died of typhus**)

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

Sunday February 11, 1945



Philippines: Malate, Manila

Fr Elias Gonzalez Gonzalez VC (Spanish citizen, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

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



Hungary: Budapest

Sr Hermine Szroeder FMM (aged 37, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

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



Czech Republic: Theresienstadt concentration camp

Fr Benedikt Hronek OP (aged 38, **died**)

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

Monday February 12, 1945



Indonesia: Muntok concentration camp

Fr Petrus Jacobus Josephus Cobben SCJ (aged 41, Dutch citizen, **died**)

<http://oorlogsgravenstichting.versie1.com/persoon/25706/petrus-jacobus-josephus-cobben> - with translation



Philippines: Manila

Br William Kelly FSC (aged 50, Irish citizen, President of De La Salle College, abducted on [February 10, 1945](#) by Japanese Marines; **UPDATE: assumed killed [official date of death]**, body not recovered)

Seventy civilians including 16 Christian Brothers were attacked by Japanese troops while taking refuge in their school chapel

Br Alfons Bender FSC (aged 30, German citizen, **killed**)

Alfonso Vazquez-Prada (**killed**)

Br Alois Seipel FSC (aged 36, German citizen, **killed**)

Anselmo Sudlan (**killed**)

Antonio Aquino (husband of Trinidad Cojuangco Aquino, severely injured, survived)

Antonio Carlos (aged 6, **killed**)

Dr Antonio Cojuangco Sr (**killed**)

Antonio Cojuangco Jr (aged 17, typhus victim, **killed**)

Apolinario (killed)

Armenia (killed)

Asela Carlos (aged 20, severely wounded, survived)

Cecilia Carlos (aged 12, daughter of Jose and Juanita Carlos, killed)

Ceferino Villamor (killed)

Clarita Roldan (aged 17, uninjured)

Dr Clemente Uychuio (killed)

Dionisia Carlos (aged 16, sister of Gloria, niece of Felicidad Uychuico, injured, survived)

Enrique Vazquez-Prada Jr (killed)

Enrique Vazquez-Prada Sr (aged 59, semi-invalid, killed)

Br Ernst Kammerling FSC (aged 27, German citizen, killed)

Felicidad Uychuico (widow of Dr Clemente Uychuio, injured, survived)

Fernando Vazquez-Prada (aged 5, injured, survived)

Felisa (slightly wounded)

Filomeno Inolin (severely injured, survived)

Fortunata Salonga (aged 14, killed)

Fr Francis J Cosgrave CSSR (school chaplain, Australian citizen, bayoneted, survived)

Gloria Carlos (aged 17, sister of Dionisia, niece of Felicidad Uychuico, unhurt)

Br Gyula Miklos FSC (aged 26, Hungarian citizen, killed, had shielded Jose Carlos Jr with his body)

Helen Leowinsohn Vazquez-Prada (killed)

Br Helmut Jakob Wegner FSC (aged 30, German citizen, killed)

Herman Vazquez-Prada (killed)

Br Hermann Joseph Gelb FSC (aged 31, German citizen, killed)

Br Johann Nepomuk Meier FSC (aged 31, German citizen, killed)

Br Johannes Kuntz FSC (aged 29, German citizen, killed)

Br John Corcoran FSC (aged 68, Irish citizen, killed)

Jose Carlos Jr (aged 3, son of Jose and Juanita Carlos, survived, shielded by Br Gyula Miklos FSC)

Br Joseph Biely FSC (aged 27, Slovak national, killed)

Br Joseph Hastreiter FSC (aged 32, German citizen, killed)

Juanitia (shot, survived)

Juanita Carlos (mother of Cecilia and Jose Carlos Jr, shot, survived)

Br Konrad Wehle FSC (aged 29, German citizen, **killed**)
Br Lorenz Kreitner FSC (aged 32, German citizen, **killed**)
Lourdes Cojuangce (aged 15, daughter of Dr Antonio and Victoria Cojuangco, injured)
Natividad de las Alas Cojuangco (aged 20, newlywed wife of Ramon Cojuangco, **killed**)
Pamphilo Almodan (**killed**)
Paz Uychuico (aged 3, daughter of Felicidad Uychuico, unhurt)
Ramon Cojuangco (aged 20, son of Dr Antonio and Victoria Cojuangco, widower of Natividad de las Alas, unhurt)
Ramon Uychuico (**killed**)
Ricardo Bartolome (aged 3, adopted son of Dr Antonio and Victoria Cojuangco, **killed**)
Rosario Carlos (aged 21, shot, survived)
Servillano Aquino (aged 25, seriously wounded, survived)
Soledad Uychuico (aged 6, daughter of Felicidad Uychuico, unhurt)
Teofilo Candari (seriously wounded, survived)
Trinidad Cojuangco Aquino (aged 18, wife of Antonio Aquino, **killed**)
Victoria Uychuico Cojuangco (aged 37, mother of Ramon and Lourdes Cojuangce, adoptive mother of Ricardo Bartolome, **killed**)
Br Wilhelm Hengelbrock FSC (aged 37, German citizen, **killed**)
Br Wilhelm Spieker FSC (aged 34, German citizen, **killed**)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egbert_Xavier_Kelly
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Philippines3.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_La_Salle_Brothers_Philippine_District#The_February_12.2C_1945_massacre
<http://www.pinoyexchange.com/forums/showthread.php?t=334445>
http://e.wikipilipinas.org/index.php/Chapel_Of_The_Most_Blessed_Sacrament



Germany: Mittlebau-Dora concentration camp, sub-camp near Blankenburk

Fr Kristiaan Hubertus Muermans SCJ (aged 36, Belgian citizen, arrested by the Gestapo in [Brussels, Belgium](#) in [May 1944](#) for trying to save young people from deportation to labor camps; **UPDATE: died in unknown circumstances**)

Germany: Dachau Concentration Camp

Fr Franz Boehm (aged 64, **died**)

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

http://www.scj.org/scj_homp/we-scj/martyers_kristiaan_hubertus_muermans_10022001.html#e

Wednesday February 14, 1945



Philippines: Manila

Japanese troops set fires at De La Salle College after their massacre at the school chapel

Br Hubert FSC (**killed** by Japanese troops after he put out the fire they had set)

<http://www.pinoyexchange.com/forums/showthread.php?t=334445>

Thursday February 15, 1945



Poland: Chojnice

Sr Kunigunda Tuminska OSF (aged 50, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

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

Friday February 16, 1945



Ukraine: Klesov

Fr Antoni Chomicki (aged 35, arrested on counter-revolutionary charges, sent to Rivine prison)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1820>



Poland: Pokoj, Opole

Sr Anne Sonsalla OSF (aged 52, **burnt alive** by Soviet soldiers along with the 16 people she was hiding, including 4 children)

<http://www.swzygmunt.knc.pl/MARTYROLOGIUM/POLISHRELIGIOUS/vENGLISH/HTMs/POLISHRELIGIOUSmartyr2537.htm>

Saturday February 17, 1945



Indonesia: Muntok concentration camp

Fr Andreas Hendrikus Gebbing SCJ (aged 37, Dutch citizen, **died**)

<https://oorlogsgravenstichting.nl/persoon/47231/andreas-hendrikus-gebbing> - with translation

Sunday February 18, 1945



Germany: Ravensbruck concentration camp

Josefa Sumper (aged 57, Austrian, **died**)

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

Thursday February 22, 1945



Indonesia: Muntok concentration camp

Fr Isidorus Leonard Mikkers SCJ (aged 47, Dutch citizen, **died**)

<https://oorlogsgravenstichting.nl/persoon/104231/isidorus-leonardus-mikkers> - with translation



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Richard Henkes (aged 43, German citizen, arrested on [April 8, 1943](#) in [Strahovice, Czech Republic](#) by the Gestapo on a charge of "sedition of the nation from the pulpit" for his anti-Nazi homilies; transferred to Dachau on [July 10, 1943](#); **UPDATE: died of typhus**, had volunteered to care for the sick and dying)

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Henkes - with translation

Friday February 23, 1945



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Stefan Wincenty Frelichowski (aged 32, Polish citizen, arrested by the Gestapo on [October 18, 1939](#); **UPDATE: died**)

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

Saturday February 24, 1945



Poland: Jesionowo, Pырzyce

Fr Paul Sawatzke (aged 41, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

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



Austria: Graz

Fr Stefan Singer (aged 73, **died**)

Germany: near Erlangen, Barvaria

Josef Mayr-Nusser (aged 34, husband of Hildegard, father of Alberto aged 2, Italian citizen, drafted into the German SS in or near [Bolzano, Italy](#), sent to [Prussia in Germany](#) for training on [September 7, 1944](#); refused to take the oath of allegiance to Adolph Hitler on [October 4, 1944](#), said “I cannot take an oath to Hitler in the name of God. I cannot do it because my faith and conscience do not allow it”, arrested; **UPDATE**: sentenced to death in Danzig in early 1945, transferred to Dachau for execution, **died from dysentery** on the train prior to his arrival at Dachau, found with a Bible and rosary)

Germany: Neuengamme concentration camp

Eugene Pons (aged 59, printer, published Christian and anti-Nazi literature, arrested [May 22, 1944](#) in [Lyon, France](#); **UPDATE**: **died during deportation** to Neuengamme)

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

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Austria.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=fr&to=en&a=http%3A%2F%2Ffr.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FEug%25C3%25A8ne_Pons

Monday February 26, 1945



Italy: Castiglione, Verbania

Fr Giuseppe Rossi (**killed**)

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

Tuesday February 27, 1945



Poland: Rzeczenica, Czluchow

Fr Engelbert Rahmel (aged 45, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

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



Germany: Munich

Fr Johann Nepomuk Schwingshackl SJ (aged 57, Austrian, **died**)

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

February 1945, date unknown



Lithuania: Vilnius

Archbishop Romuald Jalbrzykowski (aged 69, arrested in **January 1945**; **UPDATE**: released)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1571>