

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – April 1945

Sunday April 1, 1945

Easter [Pascha] – Western Calendar



Poland: Kietrz, Glubczyce

Sr Monika von Ballestrem FMM (aged 40, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

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



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Giuseppe Girotti OP (arrested while assisting a Jew on **August 29, 1944** in **Turin, Italy**;
UPDATE: killed)

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

Monday April 2, 1945



Poland: Nysa

Sr Maria Harbig SMI (aged 39, **killed** by Soviet soldiers while resisting rape)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Poland2.htm

[http://www.swzygmunt.knc.pl/MARTYROLOGIUM/POLISHRELIGIOUS/vENGLISH/HTMs/
POLISHRELIGIOUSmartyr3285.htm](http://www.swzygmunt.knc.pl/MARTYROLOGIUM/POLISHRELIGIOUS/vENGLISH/HTMs/POLISHRELIGIOUSmartyr3285.htm)



Hungary: Gyor

Bishop Vilmos Apor (aged 53, uncle of Fr Hans Urs von Balthasar and Sandor Palffy, shot on [March 30, 1945](#) while successfully protecting women from rape by Soviet soldiers;

UPDATE: died from his gunshot wounds)

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



Austria: Wiener Neustadt

Fr Alois Rabensteiner O.Cist (aged 70, **killed** by Soviet troops either while protecting women from rape or for moving dead German soldiers' bodies so they would not be run over by tanks [accounts vary])

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

Tuesday April 3, 1945



Austria: Tattendorf, Baden

Fr Alois Kremar OSA (aged 37, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

Germany: Buchenwald concentration camp

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

Josef Muller (aged 47, 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 Flossenburg)

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

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

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

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

Wednesday April 4, 1945



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Josef Albinger (aged 33, arrested in [Hanaun am Main](#) on [November 8, 1941](#) for circulating a copy of Bishop von Galen's anti-euthanasia homilies, jailed in [Frankfurt](#); arrived at [Dachau](#) on [February 5, 1942](#); **UPDATE**: released)

Germany: Nordhausen concentration camp

Fr Daniel Bonnin (aged 38, French citizen, **killed**)

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_Albinger - with translation
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/France.htm

Thursday April 5, 1945



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Heinrich Hennan (arrested in [Munster](#) on [November 20, 1941](#) for having said in a homily that current books on Church history were not objective; sent to [Dachau](#) on [January 30, 1942](#); **UPDATE**: released)

[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

Friday April 6, 1945



Austria: Kaltenleutgeben, Modling

Fr Johann Wolf (aged 52, **killed**)

Austria: Stein and Krems an der Donau

Agnes Redlinghofer (widow of Rudolf Redlinghofer; **UPDATE**: assisted Peter Goelles escape the massacre of released prisoners)

Peter Goelles (released from prison before the Soviet advance, escaped the subsequent massacre of released prisoners)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolf_Redlinghofer#Rudolf.27s_suit_saved_Christian_brother
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Austria1.htm

Saturday April 7, 1945



Germany: Flossenburg Concentration Camp

Flavio Corra (aged 28, brother of Gedeone Corra, arrested by fascists near [Salizzole, Italy](#) on [November 22, 1944](#); transferred to German SS control on [December 1, 1944](#); sent to Flossenburg on [January 18, 1945](#); **UPDATE**: [died](#))

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

Sunday April 8, 1945



Austria: Lafnitzegg, Steiermark

Sr Maria Margareta Kruckl (aged 26, [killed](#) while resisting rape)

Germany: Schonberg

Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer (aged 39; fiancé of Maria von Wedemeyer, co-founder of the Confessing Church, arrested on [April 5, 1943](#); **UPDATE**: taken for ‘trial’ at Flossenburg concentration camp, told a fellow inmate "This is the end — for me the beginning of life")

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/defense_of_self.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich_Bonhoeffer

Monday April 9, 1945



Germany: Flossenburg concentration camp

Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer (aged 39; fiancé of Maria von Wedemeyer, co-founder of the Confessing Church, arrested on [April 5, 1943](#); taken for trial on [April 8, 1945](#), told a fellow inmate "This is the end — for me the beginning of life"; **UPDATE:** [hanged](#))

Josef Muller (aged 47, 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:** taken to be hanged, execution stopped due to the intervention of Hitler's chief bodyguard, who was an old friend)

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

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

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

Tuesday April 10, 1945



Italy: Piani di Monchio

Rolando Rivi (aged 14, seminarian, abducted by Communist partisans, repeatedly beaten)

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

Wednesday April 11, 1945



Ukraine: Lviv

Bishop Josyf Slipyj (aged 58, arrested by the NKVD)

Bishop Nikolay Charnetsky CSSR (aged 60, arrested)

Bishop Nykyta Budka (aged 68, Canadian citizen, arrested, later sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp)

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

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

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1508>

Friday April 13, 1945



Italy: Piani di Monchio

Rolando Rivi (aged 14, seminarian, abducted on [April 10, 1945](#) by Communist partisans, repeatedly beaten; **UPDATE: shot dead**)

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

Sunday April 15, 1945



Austria: Krems an der Donau

Fr Anton Granig (aged 43, arrested on [July 6, 1943](#) for anti-Nazi activities; **UPDATE: executed by firing squad**, the Soviet army was only 6 kilometers away)

Fr Eduard Steinwender OFM (aged 50, arrested on [July 6, 1943](#) for anti-Nazi activities; **UPDATE: executed by firing squad**, the Soviet army was only 6 kilometers away)

Fr Johannes Wilhelm Pieller OFM (aged 53, arrested on [August 23, 1943](#) for anti-Nazi activities; **UPDATE: executed by firing squad**, the Soviet army was only 6 kilometers away)

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%2fAnton_Granig

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%2fAngelus_Steinwender

http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=DE_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2faustria-forum.org%2faf%2fWissenssammlungen%2fBiographien%2fPieller%252C_Wilhelm

Tuesday April 17, 1945



Austria: Matzen-Raggendorf, Gansendorf

Fr Georg Halzl (aged 47, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

Austria: Niedersulz, Gansendorf

Fr Rudolf Frank (aged 42, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

Germany: St Wolfgang

Leopold Engleitner (aged 39, Austrian, conscientious objector, sent to work on a farm as a slave laborer, **UPDATE**: received a conscription notice, fled the farm and hid in a cabin and a cave from searchers)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/defense_of_women.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopold_Engleitner

Thursday April 19, 1945



Italy: Felina, Castelnovo Monti, Reggio Emilia

Fr Giuseppe Jemmi (aged 25, beaten and **killed** by Communist partisans while travelling to say a funeral Mass for their victims)

http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=IT_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.salpan.org%2fMISCELLANEA%2fDon_Jemmi.html
http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Italy2.htm



Germany: Bergen-Belsen concentration camp

Fr Henri van Oostayen SJ (aged 39, Belgian citizen, arrested in [Brussels](#) on [July 25, 1944](#) by the Gestapo for sheltering Jews; **UPDATE: killed**)

<http://college.holycross.edu/faculty/vlapomar/hiatt/oostayen.html>

Friday April 20, 1945



Germany: Brandenburg-Gorden prison, Brandenburg an der Havel

Fr Josef Jilek (aged 36, Czech national, **killed**)

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

Saturday April 21, 1945



Germany: Neuengamme concentration subcamp, Neustadt in Holstein

Johannes Bernardus Josephus Scholte (aged 45, Dutch citizen, husband, **killed**)

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

Sunday April 22, 1945



Austria: Mistelbach

Fr Titus Helde SDS (aged 39, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

Germany: Neuruppin, Ostprignitz-Ruppin

Frantisek Munk (aged 49, husband of Gizela Kohnove Munk, father of Tomas Dezider Munk and Juraj Munk, arrested in [Ruzomberok, Slovakia](#) on [December 15, 1944](#) by the Gestapo)

due to his Jewish ancestry; **UPDATE**: **shot dead** during a death march from Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp while protecting his son)

Tomas Dezider Munk SJ (aged 21, son of Frantisek and Gizela Kohnove Munk, brother of Juraj Monk. novice; **UPDATE**: **shot dead** during a death march from Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp due to illness)

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

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

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

Tuesday April 24, 1945



Japan: Okinawa

Fr Larry Lynch (aged 38, U.S. Army chaplain, **killed** by Japanese shellfire after deliberately exposing himself to give Last Rites to a dying soldier)

<http://the-american-catholic.com/2015/04/24/april-24-1945-death-of-father-cyclone/#more-58867>

Wednesday April 26, 1945



Germany: Dachau Concentration Camp

Fr Korbinian Aigner (aged 59, arrested in [Hohenbercha](#) on [November 22, 1939](#); sent to [Dachau](#) on [June 23, 1941](#); **UPDATE**: left [Dachau](#) in a death march)

Fr Wilhelm Schamoni (aged 40, arrested in [Bad Oeynhausen](#) on [December 30, 1939](#) for homilies based on the papal encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* [*With Burning Anxiety*] which called the Nazis barbarians; **UPDATE**: forced out of the camp and into a death march, later escaped)

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

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

Thursday April 27, 1945



Germany: outside Dachau Concentration Camp

Fr Hermann Scheipers (aged 31, arrested in [Hubertusburg](#) on [October 4, 1940](#) for assisting Polish laborers, later sent to [Dachau](#); **UPDATE**: escaped from a death march)

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

Saturday April 28, 1945



Germany: Aufkirchen

Fr Korbinian Aigner (aged 59, arrested in [Hohenbercha](#) on [November 22, 1939](#); sent to [Dachau](#) on [June 23, 1941](#); left [Dachau](#) in a death march on [April 26, 1945](#); **UPDATE**: escaped from the death march)

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

Sunday April 29, 1945



Ukraine: Odessa

Fr Pietro Leoni SJ (aged 36, Italian citizen, arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1837>



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Camp liberated by the U.S. Army

Fr Johannes Burkhart (arrived in [Dachau](#) on [February 2, 1942](#); interrogated in [September 1943](#) for attempting to send illegal letters; **UPDATE**: freed)

Fr Johannes Maria Lenz SJ (aged 43, Austrian national, arrested in [Vienna](#) on [December 5, 1938](#); acquitted on [May 6, 1940](#); arrested by the Gestapo on [May 18, 1940](#); arrived at [Dachau](#) on [August 9, 1940](#), abused and tortured; **UPDATE**: freed, later wrote *Christ in Dachau*)

Fr Paolo Liggeri (aged 33, arrested in [Milan, Italy](#) on [March 26, 1944](#) 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](#); **UPDATE**: freed)

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

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26360161M/The_Priest_Barracks

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

Monday April 30, 1945



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Konrad Just OC (aged 43; arrested [June 10, 1938](#); **UPDATE**: escaped during a death march)

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

April 1945, date unknown



Ukraine: Ivano-Frankivsk

Bishop Hryhory Khomyshyn (aged 78, arrested by the NKVD, sent to Kiev, tortured)

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



Hungary: Sopron

Bishop Jozsef Mindszenty (aged 53, arrested in [Veszprem](#) on [November 27, 1944](#) for opposition to government seizure of church property to quarter troops; **UPDATE**: released from house arrest)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B3zsef_Mindszenty



Austria: Nickelsdorf, Neusiedl am See

Fr Josef Weber (**killed**)

Germany: Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp

Fr Jean Joseph Rosay (aged 43, 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; evacuated from [Auschwitz](#) in [December 1944](#); **UPDATE**: **died of exposure and exhaustion** sometime between [April 10-15, 1945](#))

Germany: Berlin

Pastor Heinrich Gruber (married, father of three, arrested by the Gestapo on [December 19, 1940](#) for attempting to travel to occupied France to visit more deported German Jews; released on [June 23, 1943](#); **UPDATE**: organized the hiding of women to protect them from rape)

Germany: Munster

Bishop Clemens August Graf von Galen (aged 60, **UPDATE**: complained on or about [April 12, 1945](#) to the British occupation authorities that churches had been desecrated and girls raped)

Germany: Ravensbruck Concentration Camp

Maria Borgato (aged 46, Italian citizen, **killed** [toward the end of April 1945](#))

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Austria1.htm

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

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Church_\(Berlin-Kaulsdorf\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Church_(Berlin-Kaulsdorf))

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

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26246325M/The_Lion_of_Munster