

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – May 1945

Friday May 4, 1945



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Karl Leisner (sent to Dachau concentration camp on [May 14, 1941](#); **UPDATE**: freed after receiving medical treatment from the American military)

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

Saturday May 5, 1945



Czechoslovakia

Bishop John Vojtassak (aged 67, arrested for having served in the wartime Slovak government)

https://sk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ján_Vojtaššák - with translation



Italy: Niederdorf, South Tyrol

German prisoners were liberated by the U.S. Fifth army

Rev Martin Niemoller (husband of Else Bremer Niemoller, arrested on [July 8, 1938](#) and imprisoned in Sachsenhausen concentration camp)

Bishop Gabriel Piguet (aged 58, arrested for allegedly protecting a priest wanted by the Gestapo on [May 28, 1944 in Clermont-Ferrand, France](#); secretly ordained Deacon Karl Leisner to the priesthood in Dachau concentration camp on [December 17, 1944](#))

Josef Muller (aged 47, 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; 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; taken to be hanged at [Flossenburg concentration camp](#) on [April 9, 1945](#), execution stopped due to the intervention of Hitler's chief bodyguard, who was an old friend)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Niem%C3%B6ller

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

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

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



Germany: St Wolfgang

Leopold Engleitner (aged 39, conscientious objector, released from Ravensbruck concentration camp on [July 15, 1943](#), weighed 62 lbs, sent to work on a farm as a slave laborer, received a conscription notice on [April 17, 1945](#), fled the farm and hid in a cabin and a cave from searchers **UPDATE:** returned to the farm, was not released from slave labor until the U.S. occupation authorities intervened in April 1946)

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

Sunday May 6, 1945

Pascha (Easter) – Eastern Calendar



Ukraine: Krasyliv

Fr Jozef Kuczynski (aged 42, arrested on espionage charges on [January 8, 1945](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Sevurallag in Russia)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0425>



Germany: Dachau concentration camp

Fr Joseph Kentenich SAC (aged 59, founder of the Schoenstatt Movement, arrested by the Gestapo in [Koblenz](#) on [September 20, 1941](#) for his anti-Nazi views, told his interrogators "My mission is to reveal the inner emptiness of National Socialism, and by there to defeat it": arrived in Dachau in [March 1942](#); **UPDATE**: freed after receiving medical treatment from the American military)

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

Monday May 7, 1945



Czech Republic: Prague

Fr Julius Hewera (aged 45, **killed**)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Czech2.htm

Tuesday May 8, 1945

Surrender of Germany to the Allies



Germany: Goppeln, Sachsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge

Sr Clara Schumacher (aged 58, founder of the Sisters of Nazareth of Saint Francis, **killed** while protecting women from rape)

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

Wednesday May 9, 1945



Russia: Kraslag labor camp, Tugachinsk section, Krasnoyarsk region

Fr Jozef Borodziula (aged 52, sentenced on [August 6, 1941](#) to 10 additional year's imprisonment; **UPDATE:** released but denied the right to leave – effectively sentenced to internal exile)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0151>



Ukraine: Kiev

Fr Władysław Bukowinski (aged 41; arrested by the Soviets in [Lutsk](#) on [January 3, 1945](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Construction Site 859 in Chelyabinsk oblast, Russia)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0191>

Saturday May 12, 1945



Slovenia: Celje

Metropolitan Joanikije Lipovac (aged 55, captured by partisans, sent to Zagreb)

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

Wednesday May 16, 1945



China: Taikiachwang, Shandong province

Fr Friedrich Huttermann SVD (aged 57, German citizen, missionary, **shot dead** by Communist guerrillas)

<https://bitterwinter.org/missionary-and-martyr-father-friedrich-huttermann/>

Thursday May 17, 1945



Germany – Allied Control Council: Planegg, Bavaria

Fr Karl Leisner (sent to Dachau concentration camp on [May 14, 1941](#); freed on [May 6, 1945](#) after receiving medical treatment from the American military; **UPDATE**: sent to a sanatorium)

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

Monday May 21, 1945



Germany – Allied Control Council: Dachau Concentration Camp

Fr Antonio Seghezzi (aged 38, arrested in [Bergamo, Italy](#) on [November 4, 1943](#) for supporting the resistance; transferred to [Germany](#) on [December 31, 1944](#); **UPDATE**: died from tuberculosis in the camp hospital)

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

May 1945, date unknown



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fr Alfred Pichler (aged 32, imprisoned in a camp in [Bosanski Aleksandrovac](#) with others of German descent)

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



Czech Republic: Prague

Fr Avgustyn Ivanovych Voloshyn (aged 71, former president of Carpatho-Ukraine, arrested by the NKVD, sent to Butyrka Prison, Moscow)

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