

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – August 1945

Thursday August 2, 1945



United States: Philippine Sea

Fr Thomas Conway (**died from exposure or shark attack** following the sinking of the USS Indianapolis, had swum among survivors to lead them in prayer and to encourage them to not despair)

<http://the-american-catholic.com/2016/05/27/uss-indianapolis-men-of-courage/>

Monday August 6, 1945

Nuclear Attack on Hiroshima by the United States



Japan: Hiroshima

Rev Kiyoshi Tanimoto (aged 36, slightly injured, aided the wounded)

Jesuit missionaries suffer varying degrees of injury, tend to the injured

Fr Erlinghagen SJ (German citizen)

Br Gropper SJ (German citizen)

Fr Hubert Cieslik SJ (German citizen, injured, later suffered from moderate radiation sickness)

Fr Hubert Schiffer SJ (aged 30, German citizen, severely injured, later recovered)

Fr Hugo Lassalle SJ (aged 46, German citizen, severely injured, later recovered)

Fr John A Siemes SJ (German citizen, slightly injured, the following month wrote an account of the attack in which he said of the Jesuits “We have discussed among ourselves the ethics of the use of the bomb. Some consider it in the same category as poison gas and were against its use on a civil population. Others were of the view that in total war, as carried

on in Japan, there was no difference between civilians and soldiers, and that the bomb itself was an effective force tending to end the bloodshed, warning Japan to surrender and thus to avoid total destruction. It seems logical to me that he who supports total war in principle cannot complain of war against civilians. The crux of the matter is whether total war in its present form is justifiable, even when it serves a just purpose. Does it not have material and spiritual evil as its consequences which far exceed whatever good that might result? When will our moralists give us a clear answer to this question?”)

Fr Kopp SJ (German citizen, slightly injured)

Fr Kruer SJ (German citizen)

Fr Lauries Jr SJ (German citizen)

Fr Luhmer SJ (German citizen)

Br Nobuhara SJ

Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ (aged 37, Spanish citizen, arrested on [December 8, 1941](#) on suspicion of espionage, later released; **UPDATE**: uninjured)

Fr Rektor SJ (German citizen)

Fr Stolte SJ (German citizen)

Fr Tappe SJ (German citizen)

Fr Wilhelm Kleinsorge SJ (German citizen, injured, later suffered from moderate radiation sickness)

Japan: Nagasaki

Marina Nagai Midori (wife of Dr Paul Takashi Nagai, descendant of Kakure Kirishitans [hidden Christians], when told in [June 1945](#) of his terminal illness said “Whether you live or die, it is for God’s glory”; **UPDATE**: elected to stay in the city with her husband after he said he was sure it would be the next nuclear target)

Dr Paul Takashi Nagai (aged 37, convert, husband of Marina Nagai Midori, father of Makoto aged 10 and Kayano aged 3, radiologist, diagnosed in [June 1945](#) with leukemia resulting from occupational radiation exposure, given three years to live; **UPDATE**: upon hearing of the attack on Hiroshima recalled his [December 8, 1941](#) presentment of the destruction of Nagasaki, sent his children to the country with his mother in law)

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/mp25.asp

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

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

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Enomiya-Lassalle

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

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

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL25893117M/A_Song_for_Nagasaki

Thursday August 9, 1945

Nuclear Attack on Nagasaki by the United States



Japan: Nagasaki

Marina Nagai Midori (wife of Dr Paul Takashi Nagai, descendant of Kakure Kirishitans [hidden Christians], when told in [June 1945](#) of his terminal illness said “Whether you live or die, it is for God’s glory”; elected to stay in the city with her husband after he said he was sure it would be the next nuclear target; **UPDATE**: **killed**, found with her rosary in her hand)

Fr Saburo Nishida (**killed** in Urakami Cathedral)

Dr Paul Takashi Nagai (aged 37, convert, husband of Marina Nagai Midori, father of Makoto and Kayano, radiologist, diagnosed in [June 1945](#) with leukemia resulting from radiation exposure, given three years to live; upon hearing of the [August 6, 1945](#) attack on Hiroshima recalled his [December 8, 1941](#) presentment of the destruction of Nagasaki, sent his children to the country with his mother in law; **UPDATE**: survived the attack with a serious head injury, began to die from it and from radiation sickness in September)

Fr Tamaya (**killed**)

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

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL25893117M/A_Song_for_Nagasaki

https://nagasakipeace.jp/english/record/photo/part_2_03.html

Friday August 10, 1945



Vietnam: Ke So, Hoa Binh

Fr Francisque Dupont SDB (aged 37, **killed**)

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

Saturday August 11, 1945



РСФСР

Russia: Krasnoyarsk province, Siberia

Bishop Basil of Kineshma aka Benjamin Preobrazhensky (aged 70, **UPDATE: died** in internal exile)

<http://www.roca.org/OA/106/106e.htm>

Sunday August 12, 1945



Germany - Allied Control Council: Planegg, Barvaria

Fr Karl Leisner (sent to Dachau concentration camp on [May 14, 1941](#); rescued after the liberation of Dachau on [May 17, 1945](#), sent to a sanatorium; **UPDATE: died from tuberculosis**)

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

Wednesday August 15, 1945



LIETUVOS
TSR

Lithuania: Vilnius

Fr Antoni Ciechonski (aged 57, arrested and sent to Vorkutlag labor camp in Russia without trial)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1503>

Monday August 20, 1945



Czechoslovakia: Sonov, Nachod

Fr Alfons Schmitt OSB (aged 35, **killed**)

Fr Julius Prause OSB (aged 58, **killed**)

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

Wednesday August 22, 1945



Lithuania: Vilnius

Fr Wladyslaw Kisel (aged 51, arrested on [December 1, 1944](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Karlag and later to Steplag in Kazakhstan)

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

Thursday August 23, 1945



North Korea: Hoeryong, North Hamgyong

Fr Longin Farrenkopf OSB (aged 39, German citizen, **killed**)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/North%20Korea.htm

August 1945, date unknown



Thailand

“Dusty” Miller (British POW, **crucified** by a Japanese guard for his faith two weeks before the end of the war, had ministered to his fellow POWs)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dusty_Miller_\(martyr\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dusty_Miller_(martyr))

PCФCP

Russia: Borisoglebsk

Fr Sergius aka Edward Sievers (aged 45, taken from the [Savvo-Krypetskiy Monastery](#) on or about [October 14, 1919](#) by Bolsheviks and shot, left for dead, recovered; ordained on [January 19, 1925](#) in [Leningrad](#); arrested in [1932](#), sent to [Svirlag](#) and then to a camp in [Uzbekistan](#), drowned in the Fergana Canal but survived; released in [1934](#); arrested in [1936](#); **UPDATE:** released)

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