

Today's Martyrs – November 1945

Monday November 12, 1945



Russia: Moscow

Fr Pietro Leoni SJ (aged 36, Italian citizen, arrested on [April 29, 1945](#) in [Odessa, Ukraine](#); transferred to [Lefortovo Prison in Moscow](#) on [July 13, 1945](#); under interrogation on [July 19, 1945](#) said “Inasmuch as I am a religious Catholic, I was and I remain an opponent of Marxism and the political system now existing in the USSR – a system which, according to my convictions, is no different from fascism. I find that there is neither democracy nor freedom of the people in the USSR. The Bolsheviks who are now in power have turned the Russian people into their slaves, using their labor for their own interests”; indicted on anti-Soviet agitation charges on [September 13, 1945](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp)

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



Ukraine

Fr Wendelin Jaworka SJ (aged 63, Slovak national, arrested in [Chernivtsi](#) on [June 12, 1945](#) on espionage charges, resisted interrogations; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Temlag in Russia)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1576>

Saturday November 17, 1945



Croatia: Trogir

Fr Nedjelko Barac OP (aged 33, arrested in [Dubrovnik](#) on [March 18, 1945](#) for publishing an anti-communist dissertation; sentenced to death on [June 18, 1945](#); **UPDATE**: **shot dead**)

https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominik_Bara%C4%8D - with translation

Friday November 23, 1945



Japan: Nagasaki

Dr Paul Takashi Nagai (aged 37, convert, widower 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; on [August 6, 1945](#) recalled his [December 8, 1941](#) presentment of the destruction of Nagasaki, sent his children to the country with his mother in law; survived the [August 9, 1945](#) nuclear attack with a serious head injury, began to die in [September](#); head injury miraculously cured on [October 5, 1945](#) through intercessory prayer; **UPDATE**: spoke to the people gathered for Mass in front of the ruins of Urakami Cathedral on the subject of Christian sacrifice: "...And just then, at 11:02 AM, an atom bomb exploded over our suburb. In an instant, eight thousand Christians were called to God, and in a few hours flames turned to ash this venerable Far Eastern holy place...I have heard that the atom bomb...was destined for another city [Kokura]. Heavy clouds rendered the target impossible, and the American crew headed for the secondary target, Nagasaki. Then a mechanical problem arose, and the bomb was dropped further north than planned and burst right above the cathedral...It was not the American crew, I believe, who chose our suburb. God's Providence chose Urakami and carried the bomb right above our homes...We are inheritors of Adam's sin...of Cain's sin. He killed his brother. Yes, we have forgotten we are God's children. We have turned to idols and forgotten love. Hating one another, killing one another, joyfully killing one another! At last the evil and horrific conflict came to an end, but mere repentance was not enough for peace...The Christian flock of Nagasaki was true to the Faith through three centuries of persecution. During the recent war, it prayed ceaselessly for a lasting peace. Here was the one pure lamb that had to be sacrificed as a holocaust on His altar...so that many millions of lives might be saved...")

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

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

Saturday November 24, 1945



Russia: Moscow

Fr Pietro Leoni SJ (aged 36, Italian citizen, arrested on [April 29, 1945](#) in [Odessa, Ukraine](#); transferred to [Lefortovo Prison in Moscow](#) on [July 13, 1945](#); indicted on anti-Soviet agitation charges on [September 13, 1945](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp on [November 12, 1945](#); **UPDATE**: transferred to Butyrka Prison, met Fr Jean Nicolas, later stated “Pale and emaciated, it was not so much pity for each other that we felt, but true pride to have become worthy to suffer so greatly for Christ“)

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

Tuesday November 27, 1945



Ukraine: Lviv

Fr Dionizy Kajetanowicz (aged 67, arrested after refusing to join the Orthodox church)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0981>

November 1945, date unknown