

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – 1947 – unknown month



Japan: Nagasaki

Dr Paul Takashi Nagai (aged 39, convert, widower of Marina Nagai Midori, father of Makoto and Kayano, radiologist, diagnosed in [June 1945](#) with leukemia resulting from occupational 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; spoke to the people gathered for a [November 23, 1945](#) Mass in front of the ruins of Urakami Cathedral on the subject of Christian sacrifice; **UPDATE:** bedridden from illness, moved into a hermitage built at Ground Zero called Nyokodo [As Yourself Hall, from “Love your neighbor as yourself”], continued his life of prayer, writing, and contemplation)

Japan: Tokyo

Chiune Sugihara (aged 47, convert, diplomat, **UPDATE:** asked to resign from the diplomatic service at least in part due to his issuance of the 6,000 visas in [July and August 1940](#) that allowed 10,000 Jews entry to Japan while he was stationed in [Lithuania](#))

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

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

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



Russia

Fr Volodymyr Figol (aged 36, arrested on [July 26, 1945](#) in [Lviv, Ukraine](#); sentenced on [May 11, 1946](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE:** appeal denied in Moscow on March 18, 1947, sent to Norlag labor camp in the summer of 1947, later transferred to Gorlag labor camp in the early 1950's, fate unknown)

Russia: Kolguta, Stavropol region

Fr Sergius aka Edward Sievers (aged 47, 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, sent to prison in Borisoglebsk; released in August 1945; **UPDATE:** arrested)

Russia: Kungur village, Perm oblast

Fr Kuksha aka Kosma Velichko (aged 72, arrested in Ukraine in 1938, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment in a camp, sent to Vilma camp in Perm oblast; released in 1943, sent into internal exile; **UPDATE:** released from internal exile, returned to Ukraine and resumed his ministry)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0961>

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

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



Kazakhstan

Sr Raisa Krylevskaya OP (aged 51, arrested in Kostroma, Russia on October 9, 1933; another prisoner testified on November 16, 1933 “Raisa Ivanovna Krylevskaya was endlessly devoted to Mother Catherine Abrikosova and Bishop [Eugene] Neveu. In her words, she would follow them 'to the firing squad'”; under interrogation in Moscow on December 6, 1933 said “I have expressed counter-revolutionary views, directed against the policies of the Party and Soviet authority. I stand by my counter-revolutionary views even now. I have not changed them and do not choose to do so. I am a fundamental opponent of the policy being carried out by Soviet power both in the city and in the countryside”; sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp on February 19, 1934; released from a labor camp in the Komi ASSR, Russia in October 1943, sent into internal exile; **UPDATE:** released from internal exile in the spring of 1947)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0423>



Ukraine

Fr Volodymyr Sterniuk (aged 30, arrested in, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Arkangelsk in Russia, worked as a lumberman)

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



Belarus: Orsha

Fr Alfons Czyzewski SJ (aged 50, arrested, sentenced to possibly 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Karlag labor camp)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1538>



Lithuania: Vilnius

Adele Dirsyte (aged 38, teacher, former Caritas director, helped hide Jews during the German occupation, arrested on [March 6, 1944](#) in [Vilnius, Lithuania](#) for hiding an escapee from the Soviets; sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [November 11, 1946](#); **UPDATE**: sent to a labor camp at [Chuma](#) in the [summer of 1947](#))

<http://angelorum.lt/en/dievo-tarnai/adele-dirsyte-1909-1955/> - with translation



Latvia

Fr Antoni Juchniewicz MIC (aged 42, **died under uncertain circumstances**, was either arrested and died during interrogation or was secretly murdered)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1583>



Albania

Fr Luigj Prendushi (aged 51, arrested on [December 5, 1946](#); **UPDATE**: **shot dead**)

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



Slovenia: Ljubljana

Fr Anton Strie (aged 32, jailed for 3 months' in [Ljubljana](#) in [1945](#); **UPDATE**: imprisoned)

https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton_Strle - with translation



Poland: Wola Korybutowa

Fr Franciszek Kozera OCD (aged 39, arrested by the Soviets, sentenced to imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to the Kengirsk sector of Steplag in Kazakhstan)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1056>