

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – April 1950

Tuesday April 4, 1950



Czechoslovakia

Trial begun on March 31, 1950 on charges of treason and espionage; UPDATE: all found guilty and sentenced to 9 years to life imprisonment

Fr Adolf Kajpr SJ (aged 47, arrested in [1941](#) by the Nazis, held in Terezin, Mauthausen and Dachau concentration camps; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment)

Fr Augustin Machalka CCOP CCOP (aged 43, had spent three years' in German concentration camps, arrested in [early 1950](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to 25 years imprisonment)

Fr Bohumil Vít Tajovský CCOP (aged 38, arrested in [January 1950](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment)

Fr Frantisek Silhan SJ (aged 45, arrested [March 18, 1950](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment)

Fr Frantisek Mikulasek SJ (aged 35, arrested [March 1950](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to 9 years' imprisonment)

Fr Ivan Mastiliak CSSR (aged 38; **UPDATE:** sentenced to life imprisonment)

Fr Jan Blesík CSSR (aged 40, arrested [March 1950](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment)

Fr Jan Evangelista Urban OFM (aged 49; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment)

Fr Josef Braitl OP (aged 51, arrested [March 16, 1950](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment)

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Kajpr - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustin_Machalka - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohumil_V%C3%ADt_Tajovsk%C3%BD - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franti%C5%A1ek_%C5%A0ilhan - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franti%C5%A1ek_Mikul%C3%A1%C5%A1ek - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivan_Mastiliak - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Bles%C3%ADk - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Evangelista_Urban - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silvestr_Brait - with translation

Saturday April 8, 1950



Latvia: Daugavpils

Fr Jozef Gajliewicz (aged 57, arrested on nationalist activities charges on [September 10, 1949](#);

UPDATE: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0805>

Sunday April 9, 1950



Russia: Construction Site 859, Chelyabinsk oblast

Fr Wladysław Bukowski (aged 46; arrested by the Soviets in [Lutsk](#) on [January 3, 1945](#);

sentenced in [Kiev](#) on [May 9, 1945](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE:** transferred to Steplag labor camp in Dzhezkazgan, Karaganda oblast)

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

Thursday April 13, 1950



Czechoslovakia: Leopoldov, Hlohovec

Fr Metod Dominik Trcka CSSR (aged 63, arrested, later sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment)

Czechoslovakia: Frystak

Fr Ignac Stuchly (aged 79, ejected from his residence by the StB secret police despite being bedridden from a stroke, placed in a retirement home under house arrest, died in 1953)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominick_Trcka
<https://istuchly.cz/en/life/>

Friday April 14, 1950



Albania: Shkodra

Fr Gasper Suma OFM (aged 53, **died in prison**)

https://sq.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaspër_Suma - with translation



Czechoslovakia: Brno

John Chrysostom Korec SJ (aged 26, seminarian, arrested and sent to a camp, later released, secretly ordained a priest six months later and a bishop less than a year after that, worked as a laborer)

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

Friday April 28, 1950



Czechoslovakia: Presov

Bishop Pavel Peter Gojdic OSBM (aged 62, issued a pastoral letter from **Presov** on **January 25, 1939** concerning the government's "Program for the Solution of the Jewish Question" and predicted disaster should it be implemented; accused by the government **on October 26, 1942** of protecting Jews by engaging in fictitious conversions; **UPDATE**: arrested for refusing to merge his church into the Russian Orthodox Church)

Auxiliary Bishop Basil Hopko (aged 46, arrested)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basil_Hopko
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pavel_Peter_Gojdi%C4%8D

April 1950, date unknown



СССР

Russia: Stalinsk oblast

Fr Dionizy Kajetanowicz (aged 72, arrested in [Lviv, Ukraine](#) on [November 27, 1945](#) after refusing to join the Orthodox church; sentenced on [March 9, 1946](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to [Stalinsk oblast](#); **UPDATE**: transferred to Minlag)

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



Czechoslovakia

Fr Jaroslav Tobola OFM (aged 40, arrested, tortured)

Fr Vojtech Basovnik SDB (aged 37, placed under house arrest)

<http://www.ustrcr.cz/cs/ambroz-jaroslav-tobola> - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vojt%C4%9Bch_Basov%C3%ADk - with translation

<http://www.ustrcr.cz/cs/basovnik-vojtech> - with translation