

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – 1953 – unknown month



China

Fr Andrew Han Jingtao (aged 32, scholar, imprisoned in a labor camp for refusing to join the official church)

China: Hanyang

Bishop Edward J. "Ned" Galvin SSC (aged 71, Irish citizen, expelled from the country)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-Andrew-Han-Jingtao,-a-giant-of-culture-and-faith-of-the-underground-Church,-dies-51968.html>

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



Laos

Fr Joseph Thao Tien (aged 30, arrested by Communist guerrillas in [Sam Neua](#) during [Easter season 1953](#), had refused to leave during their offensive saying "I am staying for my people. I am ready to lay down my life for my Laotian brothers and sisters", marched to a prison camp, later sentenced to death after refusing to leave the priesthood and marry)

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



USSR: Omlag labor camp

Fr Jan Borysiuk (aged 65, arrested in [1948](#), sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE:** [died](#), exact date unknown)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0159>



Russia: Madagan

Adele Dirsyte (aged 44, 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](#); sent to a labor camp at [Chuma](#) in the [summer of 1947](#); transferred to a labor camp at [Taishet](#) in the [summer of 1949](#); transferred to a labor camp at [Kolyma](#) in the [winter of 1950](#), then to a camp at [Magadan](#) in the [summer of 1950](#), organized prayer and religious meetings, wrote the *Prayer Book of Girls Exiled in Siberia*, repeatedly beaten and tortured for smuggling the Eucharist to fellow inmates, lost all her teeth; **UPDATE**: taken to an unknown location in [autumn 1953](#), extensively tortured)

Russia: Siberia

Fr Benediktos Andriushka SJ (aged 69, Lithuanian citizen, arrested and exiled to Siberia in [1944](#); **UPDATE**: [died](#))

<http://angelorum.lt/en/dievo-tarnai/adele-dirsyte-1909-1955/> - with translation
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0023>



Kazakhstan: Ad-Boksar

Fr Antoni Borysowicz (aged 60, arrested in [Minsk](#) in [1951](#), sentenced to internal exile; **UPDATE**: released)

Kazakhstan: Karlag labor camp, Akmolinsk sector

Fr Alfons Czyzewski SJ (aged 56, arrested in [Orsha, Belarus](#) in [1947](#), sentenced to possibly 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: released at the end of the year, [died](#) shortly thereafter)

Kazakhstan: Peschanlag labor camp

Fr Stanislaw Bogatkiewicz (aged 47, arrested in [Pelikany, outside Vidzy, Belarus](#) on [January 10, 1950](#); sentenced on [March 30, 1950](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: transferred to Steplag labor camp)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0137>
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0160>
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1538>



Belarus: Minsk

Fr Michal Aronowicz (aged 46, arrested in [Belarus](#) on charged of 'contacts with Polish nationalists' on [February 17, 1951](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp)

on [August 11, 1951](#); arrived at camp on [October 4, 1951](#); released [October 11, 1952](#), sent to Minsk Prison; **UPDATE**: released)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0035>



Hungary

Tibor Baranski (aged 31, former seminarian, arrested by the Soviets in [Budapest](#) on [December 30, 1944](#) as a suspected Nazi sympathizer, had rescued over 3,000 Jews under the encouragement of Papal Nuncio Angelo Rotta and his mother, later escaped with the help of a Russian Christian soldier; arrested in [1948](#) for "clerical reaction", sentenced to 9 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE**: released after Stalin's death)

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



Czechoslovakia

Bishop Stepan Trochta SDB (aged 48, arrested by the Gestapo on [May 28, 1942](#), sent to [Terezin](#), [Mauthausen](#) and [Dachau concentration camps](#); under house arrest by the StB in [1951](#), forced to sign allegiance to the socialist republic while under the likely influence of narcotics; **UPDATE**: arrested)

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%A0t%C4%9Bp%C3%A1n_Trochta - with translation