

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – April 1954

Sunday April 4, 1954



Albania: Burrel

Fr Ndue Serreqi OFM (aged 43, **died from mistreatment**, had been imprisoned for refusing to divulge the confession of a condemned prisoner)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs_of_Albania
<https://usfranciscans.org/tag/postulation/page/3/>

Saturday April 10, 1954



Czech Republic: Brno

Fr Alfonz Paulen SDB (aged 41, arrested in [Senkvice, Slovakia](#) on [September 19, 1951](#) for helping seminarians cross the border into Austria; **UPDATE: died** while being taken to the prison hospital)

<http://senkvice.fara.sk/index.php/alfonz-paulen> - with translation

Sunday April 11, 1954



Austria: Linz

Fr Franz Ohnmacht (arrived in [Dachau concentration camp](#) on [June 17, 1938](#); released on [March 16, 1943](#); **UPDATE**: [died](#) from effects of medical experimentation in Dachau)

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pfarrerblock_\(KZ_Dachau\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pfarrerblock_(KZ_Dachau)) - with translation

April 1954, date unknown



Russia: Madagan

Adele Dirsyte (aged 45, 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; taken to an unknown location in [autumn 1953](#); **UPDATE**: returned in [April 1954](#) "mentally broken", had been extensively tortured, transferred in [the end of 1954](#) to the section of the camp hospital for the mentally ill, refused to eat food for the 'benefit' of other inmates)

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



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fr Alfred Pichler (aged 41, imprisoned in a camp in [Bosanski Aleksandrovac](#) in [May 1945](#) with others of German descent; released in [March 1946](#); imprisoned in [the spring of 1952](#) for 'enemy propaganda'; **UPDATE**: released)

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