

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – 1956 – unknown month



### China

John Wang Zhongfa (aged 25, seminarian, sentenced to 12 years' forced labor)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Peter-Shao-Zhumin-under-guard-in-a-Beijing-hospital-41738.html>



### USSR

Fr Alexander Jodovalkis (aged 76, arrested in [Petrograd, Russia](#) at the [end of 1923](#), deported to [Latvia](#); arrested in Riga, Latvia in [1950](#), sentenced to prison camp; **UPDATE**: released, returned to Riga)

Fr Antoni Duliniec (aged 67, arrested in [Segnevichi, Belarus](#) in [1949](#), sentenced to a labor camp, possibly sent to [Siblag labor camp in Russia](#); released from camp in [1954](#), sent into internal exile; **UPDATE**: released from internal exile, returned to Belarus and resumed his ministry)

Fr Justinas Juodaitis (aged 57, arrested in [Telsiai, Lithuania](#) in 1949, sent to [Siberia](#); **UPDATE**: released, returned to Lithuania and resumed his ministry)

Fr Wiktor Kwapinski (aged 73, arrested early in [1941](#) in [Lviv](#), survived the mass shootings in [Kiev Prison](#) in [June 1941](#) following the German invasion, returned to [Lviv](#) and resumed his ministry; arrested in [1945](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp on [March 9, 1946](#); **UPDATE**: released from the camp, later emigrated to Poland)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0938>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0979>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1071>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1587>



## **Russia**

Bishop Nikolay Charnetsky CSSR (aged 71, arrested in [Lviv, Ukraine](#) on [April 11, 1945](#); sentenced on [March 3, 1946](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp in Siberia; **UPDATE**: released, returned to Lviv but prohibited from ministry)

### **Russia: State Collective Farm No. 10, Cherepovets, Vologoda oblast**

Fr Wladyslaw Kernicki OFM (aged 44, arrested in [Lviv, Ukraine](#) in [July 1944](#), sentenced to possibly 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; transferred to [NKVD GuShosDor Camp No 1, Ryazan oblast](#) on [January 9, 1946](#), worked in road construction, later escaped; recaptured on [July 6, 1947](#), later transferred to State Collective Farm No. 10; **UPDATE**: released, returned to Lviv and secretly resumed his ministry)

### **Russia: Intlag labor camp, Inta, Komi ASSR**

Dimitri Dudko (aged 34, seminarian, arrested in [1948](#) at seminary in [Moscow](#) for having written poems against Stalin; **UPDATE**: released)

### **Russia: Kargopollag labor camp**

Fr Czeslaw Jankowski (aged 50, arrested in [Minaity, Lithuania](#) in [1950](#); **UPDATE**: released, returned to his parish)

### **Russia: Krasnoyarsk**

Fr Juozapas Gustas SDB (aged 52, Lithuanian national, freed from a labor camp, stayed for pastoral work)

### **Russia: Ozerlag labor camp, Tayshet**

Fr Boleslaw Gudejko (aged 62, arrested in [Krupovka, Lida raion, Grodno oblast, Belarus](#) on [January 16, 1951](#); sentenced on [August 25, 1951](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to [Kamyshlag](#); transferred to a factory construction site in [Omsk oblast](#) earlier in [1953](#), then to [Ozerlag](#) on [July 12, 1953](#); **UPDATE**: released, emigrated to Poland)

### **Russia: Siblag labor camp**

Fr Juozanas Gustas SDB (arrested by the Soviets in [Saldutishkis, Lithuania](#), exact year unknown but [possibly 1944](#), later sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: released, returned to Lithuania)

Fr Pranas Kuraitis (aged 69, arrested in [Kaunas, Lithuania](#) possibly in [1945](#); **UPDATE**: released, returned to Lithuania)

Fr Wladyslaw Czyzewski (aged 45, arrested in [Khiniche, Volodymyr, Ukraine](#) in [July 1944](#), sentenced to death, commuted to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: released, emigrated to Poland)

### **Russia: Tayushetlag labor camp, outside Irkutsk, Russia**

Fr Jozef Germanowicz MIC (aged 66, arrested with other priests by local communists in [Harbin, China](#), handed over to the Soviet MGB, sent to [Chita Prison in Zabaykalsky Krai](#) in Russia, sentenced to possibly 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: released, emigrated to Poland)

Fr Paul Chaleil (aged 43, French national, arrested in [Harbin, China](#) on [December 22, 1948](#) with other priests by local communists, handed over to the Soviet MGB; sentenced on [May 10, 1949](#) in [Chita Prison, Zabaykalsky Krai](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE:** granted an early release, returned to France)

#### **Russia: Vorkuta**

Fr Jozef Kuczynski (aged 52, arrested on espionage charges in [Krasyliv, Ukraine](#) on [January 8, 1945](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp on [May 6, 1946](#), sent to [Sevurallag in Russia](#); transferred to [Vorkutlag](#) in [January 1947](#); released on [October 16, 1954](#) but denied the right to leave; **UPDATE:** sent into internal exile to Krasnoarmeysk Kazakhstan)

#### **Russia: Vorkutlag labor camp**

Fr Feliks Karpinski (aged 45, arrested in [Baruny, Belarus](#) on [November 11, 1944](#) by the Soviets; sentenced on [August 16, 1946](#) in [Vileyka](#) to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; arrived at [Vorkutlag](#) on [September 26, 1947](#); released on [November 10, 1949](#), returned to [Belarus](#); arrested in [1950](#), sent to [Vorkutlag](#); **UPDATE:** released, returned to Belarus and resumed his ministry)

#### **Russia: Yenisei region, Krasnoyarsk Krai**

Fr Jan Kapusta SDB (aged 58, arrested in [Dzyatlava, Poland \[now Belarus\]](#) in [1940](#), sent to a prison camp; amnestied as a Polish citizen in [February 1942](#); arrested on [August 10, 1942](#) as the Polish Armed Forces of the East was exiting the [USSR](#) into [Iran](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp on [January 13, 1943](#), sent to [Vorkutlag](#); transferred to [Rechlag](#) in [1948](#); released on [August 10, 1952](#), sent into internal exile; **UPDATE:** released from exile, left the USSR for Poland)

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<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0883>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1508>

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<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1008>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1021>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1141>

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26791441M/The Last Man in Russia](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26791441M/The_Last_Man_in_Russia)

[http://www.lkbkronika.lt/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&id=486&Itemid=37](http://www.lkbkronika.lt/en/index.php?option=com_content&id=486&Itemid=37)



**Kazakhstan: Akmolinsk oblast**

Fr Bronislaw Drzepecki (aged 50, arrested by the Soviets in [Zhytomyr, Ukraine](#) on [January 10, 1945](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp on [March 6, 1946](#); released from camp on [November 10, 1954](#), kept in internal exile; **UPDATE**: arrested on anti-Soviet activities related to his secret Masses, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to Ozerlag, Chuna, Irkutsk oblast to work as a lumberjack)

#### **Kazakhstan: Karlag labor camp**

Fr Stanislaw Ingeliewicz (aged 59, arrested in [1949](#) in [Nowy Pohost, Lithuania](#), sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: released, returned to his parish)

#### **Kazakhstan: Steplag labor camp**

Fr Franciszek Kozera OCD (aged 48, arrested by the Soviets in [Wola Korybutowa, Poland](#) in [1947](#), sentenced to imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: released, sent into internal exile to Irkutsk)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0242>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0970>

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



#### **Ukraine: Kharkiv**

Fr Stanisław Ceszczanowski (aged 55, arrested on [August 13, 1950](#); sentenced on [December 12, 1950](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE**: released)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1506>



#### **Romania: Curtea de Arges Monastery**

Bishop Ioan Balan (aged 76, arrested in [Lugoj](#) on [October 28, 1948](#), sent to [Dragoslavele](#); transferred to [Caldarusani](#) in [February 1949](#); transferred to [Sighet Prison](#) in [May 1950](#); transferred to the [Curtea de Arges Monastery](#) in [1955](#); **UPDATE**: transferred to the [Maici de la Ciorogarla monastery](#))

Bishop Iuliu Hossu (aged 71, arrested in [Cluj](#) on [October 28, 1948](#), sent to [Dragoslavele](#); transferred to [Caldarusani](#) in [February 1949](#); transferred to [Sighet Prison](#) in [May 1950](#); transferred to the [Curtea de Arges Monastery](#) in [1955](#); **UPDATE**: transferred to the [Maici de la Ciorogarla monastery](#), later back to [Caldarusani](#))

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ioan\\_B%C4%83lan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ioan_B%C4%83lan)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iuliu\\_Hossu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iuliu_Hossu)

<http://www.bru.ro/lugoj/lista-episcopilor/ps-ioan-balan/> - with translation



### **Czechoslovakia: Prague**

Bishop Michal Buzalka (aged 71, served 4 months' imprisonment in 1945 for serving as Slovak military vicar during the war; arrested in Bratislava on July 12, 1950, tortured; sentenced to life imprisonment on January 12, 1951; **UPDATE**: released due to poor health, transferred to a nursing home)

[https://sk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michal\\_Buzalka](https://sk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michal_Buzalka) - with translation