

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – June 1980

Wednesday June 4, 1980



Guatemala: Xeixojbitz, El Quiche

Domingo del Barrio Batz (aged 29, husband, **assassinated**)

Fr Jose Maria Gran Cirera MSC (aged 35, Spanish citizen, **assassinated**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/Guatemala.htm>

Friday June 14, 1980



El Salvador: San Juan Nonualco, Zacatecoluca

Fr Cosme Spezzatto OFM (aged 57, Italian citizen, **shot dead** in church while at prayer at the altar just before Mass, his dying words were "Pardon, pardon")

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

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/news_archives_2020.htm

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL8698941M/Salvador_Witness

Friday June 20, 1980



Russia: Moscow

Fr Dimitri Dudko (aged 58, husband of Nina, father of Mikhail and Natalya, arrested in 1948 at seminary for having written poems against Stalin; released in 1956; ordained in 1960; priestly faculties temporarily suspended on May 4, 1974 after he allowed a question to be asked in his church that was critical of the Moscow Patriarch, transferred two weeks later to a church in Kabanovo, two hours from Moscow by rail; fired by his bishop in December 1975 for preaching on social problems such as alcoholism and abortion; assigned to a parish in Grebnevo outside Moscow in April 1976; arrested on January 15, 1980; **UPDATE:** confessed on television to anti-government activities)

Marina Lepeshinskaya (follower of Fr Dimitri Dudko, wrote an open letter stating "I...accuse the organs of the KGB of the murder of my spiritual father")

Fr Gleb Yakunin (**UPDATE:** later said "There were always people who gave up [under KGB pressure], because they were scared. But with Dimitri Didko, it was like a rebirth...It was like a psychological rebuilding of himself. He went on and on about how much he loved the KGB. It was almost as if he fell into a psychological hole")

Vladimir Sedov (student, future priest, arrested by the KGB at the church of Fr Dimitri Dudko in Grebnevo outside Moscow in November 1978, released after 5 days; arrested in the Moscow area in December 1978, released after a few days; **UPDATE:** later said of Fr Dimitri Dudko: "I would not say they fooled him, rather they broke him. I stopped going to see him then. A lot of people left and did not come back, they all said he had been broken. And if he was broken, then he was not from God because a martyr should not be broken")

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26791441M/The_Last_Man_in_Russia - pages 172 – 179, 219

Saturday June 21, 1980



Russia: Moscow

Fr Dimitri Dudko (aged 58, husband of Nina, father of Mikhail and Natalya, arrested on January 15, 1980; confessed on television to anti-government activities on June 20, 1980; **UPDATE:** released from prison)

Mikhail Dudko (son of Nina and Fr Dimitri Dudko, future priest, said to his father after his father betrayed his followers: "What is wrong with you? Have you gone mad?...I would like to vanish off the face of the earth")

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26791441M/The_Last_Man_in_Russia - page 179

Thursday June 26, 1980



Argentina: Paso de los Libres, Corrientes

Fr Jorge Oscar Adur AA (aged 48, disappeared, **presumed dead**)

http://newsaints.faihweb.com/new_martyrs/Argentina.htm

June 1980, date unknown