

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – December 1980

Monday December 1, 1980



El Salvador

Sr Ita Ford MM (aged 40, cousin of Bishop Francis Xavier Ford MM; **UPDATE**: reported to the attendees of a Maryknoll conference in [Managua, Nicaragua](#): “From January through October 1980, there have been 28 assassinations of Church personnel, 3 woundings, 21 arrests, 4 profanations of the Eucharist, 41 machine-gunnings of Church buildings, 14 bombs, and 33 searches and seizures of Church properties”)

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL968986M/Ita_Ford - pg 39

Tuesday December 2, 1980



El Salvador: San Salvador

Four U.S. missionaries were abducted, beaten, raped, and murdered by a military death squad

Sr Dorothy Kazel OSU (aged 41; **UPDATE**: **shot dead**)

Sr Ita Ford MM (aged 40; **UPDATE**: **shot dead**)

Jean Donovan (aged 27, fiancée of Douglas Cable; **UPDATE**: **shot dead**, had written two weeks earlier to a friend in the U.S.: "The Peace Corps left today and my heart sank low. The danger is extreme and they were right to leave...Now I must assess my own position, because I am not up for suicide. Several times I have decided to leave. I almost could, except for the children, the poor bruised victims of adult lunacy. Who would care for them? Whose heart would be so staunch as to favor the reasonable thing in a sea of their tears and helplessness? Not mine, dear friend, not mine")

Sr Maura Clarke MM (aged 49, **shot dead**)

Fr Paul Schindler (informed about the murder and burial of Jean Donovan and Srs Dorothy Kazel, Ita Ford, and Maura Clarke, passed the information to his bishop and to the U.S. embassy)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Kazel

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ita_Ford

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Donovan

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maura_Clarke

Tuesday December 16, 1980



Congo, Democratic Republic aka Zaire: Nkolo, Equateur

Sr Godelieve Gruyaert ICM (aged 41, Belgian national, **killed**)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Congo.htm

Wednesday December 31, 1980



Lebanon: Araya

Fathi Abboud Baladi (aged 19, student of architecture, **shot dead** while in his automobile)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Beatification-process-to-start-for-Fathi-Baladi,-young-man-martyred-during-Lebanons-civil-war-45399.html>

December 1980, date unknown