

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – May 1983

Tuesday May 3, 1983



Lithuania: Vilnius

Fr Alfonsas Svarinskas (aged 58, brother of Vytautas Svarinskas and Janina Pupkiene,

UPDATE: trial on charges of anti-Soviet activities begun)

Alvydas Vainoras (detained by the militia [police] for approaching the courthouse, sentenced to ten days' imprisonment for hooliganism)

Bernadeta Maliskaite (detained by the militia for approaching the courthouse, after questioning was placed in a bus, then pulled from the bus and sentenced to ten days' imprisonment for hooliganism)

Fr Gvidonas Dovydaitis (detained and questioned by the KGB, released)

Janina Pupkiene (sister of Fr Alfonsas Svarinskas, finally allowed entry to the courtroom)

Fr Jonas Kauneckas (detained by the militia for approaching the courthouse, after questioning was placed in a bus and dumped in a forest 50 kilometers away, after prayers left the forest and got on a passing bus and arrived at the courthouse before the militia returned)

Fr Jonas Matulionis (detained by the militia for approaching the courthouse, after questioning was placed in a bus and dumped in a forest 50 kilometers away, after prayers left the forest and got on a passing bus and arrived at the courthouse before the militia returned)

Fr Juozapas Razmantas (detained and questioned by the KGB, released)

Minika Gavenaite (housekeeper for Fr Alfonsas Svarinskas, detained by the militia for attempting to enter the courtroom)

Regina Teresiute (detained by the militia for attempting to enter the courtroom, sentenced to ten days' imprisonment for hooliganism)

Fr Rokas Puzonas (detained by the militia for approaching the courthouse, after questioning was placed in a bus and dumped in a forest 50 kilometers away, after prayers left the forest and got on a passing bus and arrived at the courthouse before the militia returned)

Vytautas Svarinskas (brother of Fr Alfonsas Svarinskas, finally allowed entry to the courtroom)

http://www.lituanus.org/1983_4/83_4_05.htm

Wednesday May 4, 1983



Lithuania: Vilnius

Fr Alfonsas Svarinskas (aged 58, brother of Vytautas Svarinskas and Janina Pupkiene,

UPDATE: trial on charges of anti-Soviet activities continued)

http://www.lituanus.org/1983_4/83_4_05.htm

Thursday May 5, 1983



Lithuania: Vilnius

Fr Alfonsas Svarinskas (aged 58, brother of Vytautas Svarinskas and Janina Pupkiene,

UPDATE: trial on charges of anti-Soviet activities continued)

Fr Algimantas Keina (detained by the KGB, interrogated and lectured, released)

Fr Antanas Lukosaitis (detained, fined 50 rubles, released)

Arunas Rekasius (detained, sentenced to ten days' imprisonment for hooliganism)

Fr Edmundas Paulionis (detained by the KGB, interrogated and lectured, released)

Fr Gvidonas Dovydaitis (detained by the KGB, interrogated and lectured, released)

Fr Ignas Plioraitis (detained by the KGB, interrogated and lectured, released)

Fr Jonas Kauneckas (detained by the KGB, interrogated and lectured, released)

Fr Jonas Matulionis (detained by the KGB, interrogated and lectured, released five times)

Fr Jonas Vaitonis (detained by the KGB, interrogated and lectured, released)

Fr Juozas Razmantas (detained by the KGB, interrogated and lectured, released five times)

Fr Kazimieras Zemenas (detained by the KGB, interrogated and lectured, released)

Fr Kestutis Daknevicus (detained by the KGB, interrogated and lectured, released)

Kleofa Budvytyte (detained, fined 50 rubles, released)

Fr Rokas Puzonas (detained by the KGB, interrogated and lectured, released)

Saulius Kelpsas (detained, fined 50 rubles, released)

http://www.lituanus.org/1983_4/83_4_05.htm

Friday May 6, 1983



Lithuania: Vilnius

Fr Alfonsas Svarinskas (aged 58, brother of Vytautas Svarinskas and Janina Pupkiene,
UPDATE: trial on charges of anti-Soviet activities concluded, demanded that the judge stop interrupting his defense speech because he did not expect to survive imprisonment "You won't have to try me again. I shall remain a debtor. I don't expect to finish my sentence. Are you afraid of me? Surely, I'm not going to destroy your powerful tanks with my bare hands - you took away even my rosary", sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in a labor camp and three years internal exile)

Janina Judikeviciute (detained by the militia, sentenced to five days' imprisonment)

Fr Jonas Kauneckas (**UPDATE:** summoned to hear the verdict)

Roma Tamasauskaite (detained by the militia, sentenced to five days' imprisonment)

Fr Sigitas Tamkevicius SJ (had initiated the compiling of *The Chronicles of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* in 1972; **UPDATE:** the only witness for the defense to be allowed by the prosecution, said "Essentially I cannot be a witness. It would be an insult for me, a priest, to be a witness against another priest. I can only be accused and sit in the prisoners' dock alongside Fr Alfonsas Svarinskas. That would be an honor for me", summoned to hear the verdict, after the verdict was handed over to the prosecutor's office and taken to the KGB dungeons)

Terese Maciokaite (detained by the militia, sentenced to five days' imprisonment)

http://www.lituanus.org/1983_4/83_4_05.htm

<http://www.bernardinai.lt/straipsnis/2012-03-12-archbishop-sigitas-tamkevicius-sj-the-chronicle-of-the-catholic-church-in-lithuania/78665>

Sunday May 8, 1983

Pascha [Easter] – Eastern Calendar



Russia: Perm-36 labor camp

Alexander Ogorodnikov (aged 32, Christian Seminar member, husband of Yelena Levashova, father of Dima; arrested in [Redkino](#) for parasitism on [November 20, 1978](#); trial in [Konakovo](#) ended on [January 11, 1979](#), sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment; released from prison in [Leningrad](#) on [November 20, 1979](#), re-arrested as he left the prison gate on anti-Soviet agitation charges; found guilty of anti-Soviet agitation in [Tver](#) on [September 8, 1980](#), sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment followed by 3 years' internal exile; **UPDATE:** started a hunger strike to regain his Bible, put into a punishment cell by the camp commander, told the camp commander that God would punish him, the camp commander was stricken with an acute gallbladder attack that night and died two months later)

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26180614M/Dissident_For_Life - page 147

Thursday May 12, 1983



Poland: Warsaw

Grzegorz Przemyk (aged 18, student, church cantor, son of Barbara Sadowska, arrested by the MO militia [police] at a restaurant while celebrating his high school graduation, beaten while in custody, released, later hospitalized with irreversible intestinal perforations)

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

Saturday May 14, 1983



Philippines: Buenavista, Agusan del Norte

Br Isagani Miro Valle O.Carm (aged 23, **shot dead** by the police while walking on the street with two farmers)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Philippines1.htm

<http://ocarmemorial.blogspot.com/2009/03/in-memorial-fr.html>



Poland: Warsaw

Grzegorz Przemyk (aged 18, student, church cantor, son of Barbara Sadowska, arrested on [May 12, 1983](#) by the MO militia [police] at a restaurant while celebrating his high school graduation, beaten while in custody, released, later hospitalized with irreversible intestinal perforations; **UPDATE:** [died](#))

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

Thursday May 19, 1983



Poland: Warsaw

Fr Jerzy Popiełuszko (aged 35, Solidarity union chaplain, residence damaged by an explosive device on [December 14, 1982](#), not injured; **UPDATE:** spoke at the funeral Mass for Grzegorz Przemyk "Satan dared to perpetrate such a horrible crime that all Warsaw is mute with fear. He broke the thread of an innocent young life. In a brutal way, he deprived a mother of her only son")

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

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26627966M/Blessed_Jerzy_Popiełusko

May 1983, date unknown