

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – April 1994

**Sunday April 3, 1994**

**Easter (Pascha) – Western calendar**

**Wednesday April 6, 1994**



**Rwanda: Kicukiro, Kigali**

Sr Marie Claire Mukabisangwa (aged 48, **killed**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)

**Thursday April 7, 1994**

**Beginning of the Rwandan genocide**



**Rwanda: Kigali**

Cyprien Rugamba (aged 59, husband of Daphrose Mukansanga Rugamba, former seminarian, historian, **killed** with his wife and 6 of their 10 children while engaged in a prayer vigil because they had opposed the actions which led to the genocide, had taken over 100 street children into his home and evangelized many couples)

Daphrose Mukansanga Rugamba (aged 50, wife of Cyprien Rugamba, former teacher, **killed** with her husband and 6 of their 10 children)

**Rwanda: Nyundo**

Bishop Wenceslas Kalibushi (aged 74, issued a pastoral letter on [December 28, 1993](#) condemning the government arming of militias; **UPDATE**: sheltered Tutsis in his chapel, only to see them killed there)

**Rwanda: Remera, Gasabo, Kigali**

Fr Alfred Nzabakurana (aged 41, **killed**)

Sr Beatrice Nyirangirababyeyi (**killed**)

Sr Bellancile Mukayitesi (aged 36, **killed**)

Fr Boniface Kanyoni (aged 52, **killed**)

Fr Chrysologue Mahame SJ (aged 67, **killed**)

Sr Florence Umutesi (aged 22, **killed**)

Sr Francine Mukakayange (aged 24, **killed**)

Sr Immaculee Mukamuligo (aged 26, **killed**)

Fr Innocent Rutagambwa SJ (aged 45, **killed**)

Fr Jean Marie Vianney Niyirema (aged 48, **killed**)

Sr Marie Rose Mukabadege (aged 37, **killed**)

Fr Patrick Gahizi SJ (aged 47, **killed**)

Fr Straton Gakwaya (aged 54, **killed**)

Sr Therese Murekeyisoni (**killed**)

Sr Winifrida Mukamana (aged 39, **killed**)

**Rwanda: Ruhuha, Kigali**

Fr Andre Caloone M.Afr (aged 53, French national, **shot dead** by a soldier)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wenceslas\\_Kalibushi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wenceslas_Kalibushi)

[http://www.emmanuelcommunity.ie/?page\\_id=2229](http://www.emmanuelcommunity.ie/?page_id=2229)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)

[http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=FR\\_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.africamission-mafr.org%2fassassines.htm](http://www.microsofttranslator.com/bv.aspx?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=en-US&dl=en&lp=FR_EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.africamission-mafr.org%2fassassines.htm)

**Friday April 8, 1994**



**Rwanda: Gisenyi, Rubavu**

Br Frederic Nyakaytru (**killed**)

## **Rwanda: Nyundo**

Bishop Wenceslas Kalibushi (aged 74, issued a pastoral letter on [December 28, 1993](#) condemning the government arming of militias; sheltered Tutsis in his chapel on [April 7, 1994](#), only to see them killed there; **UPDATE**: seized by Hutu militia, beaten, stripped, threatened with death, rescued by an army officer)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wenceslas\\_Kalibushi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wenceslas_Kalibushi)  
[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)

**Saturday April 9, 1994**



## **Rwanda: Gikondo, Kigali**

Fr Zdzislaw SAC (Polish citizen, forced to watch the murder of 110 Tutsis in his church)

## **Rwanda: Nyundo, Rubavu**

Br Aimable Mazimpaka (**killed**)

Br Jonathan Mwitirehe (**killed**)

Sr Marie Candida Kanyonga (aged 62, **killed**)

Sr Marie Giovane Mukeshimana (aged 73, **killed**)

Sr Marie Julienne Nyiraterharo (aged 73, **killed**)

Sr Marie Laetitia Nyiramakwandi (aged 63, **killed**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gikondo\\_massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gikondo_massacre)

**Sunday April 10, 1994**



## **Rwanda: Cyangugu**

Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa (preached against the massacres of Tutsis)

**Rwanda: Mataba village, Kibuye province**

Pastor Murinzi (began to shelter 8 Tutsis in his home including the future writer Immaculee Ilibagiza)

**Rwanda: Nyamasheke**

Fr Ubald Rugirangoga (fled his seminary in Nyundo in February 1973 when it was attacked by Hutus including fellow seminarians; **UPDATE**: approached the local police for protection and for food and water for the 10,000 refugees at his parish, given 4 officers)

[https://openlibrary.org/works/OL5839078W/Left\\_to\\_Tell](https://openlibrary.org/works/OL5839078W/Left_to_Tell)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26840197M/Forgiveness\\_Makes\\_You\\_Free](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26840197M/Forgiveness_Makes_You_Free) pg 24

[http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1999/rwanda/Geno4-7-03.htm#P893\\_245534](http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1999/rwanda/Geno4-7-03.htm#P893_245534)



**Sierra Leone: Mile 91, Tonkolili**

Br Edward Senan Kerrigan FSC (aged 57, Irish national, killed)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Sierra\\_Leone.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Sierra_Leone.htm)

**Tuesday April 12, 1994**



**Rwanda: Kivumu**

Fr Vjekoslav "Vjeko" Curic OFM (aged 36, Croat national; began to shelter over 150 refugees at his parish, hired staff to feed them, would later save some by firing gunshots in the air)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vjekoslav\\_%C4%86uri%C4%87](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vjekoslav_%C4%86uri%C4%87)

<http://www.vjeko-rwanda.info/en/father-vjeko-centre/biography-of-padr-vjeko/17-fra-vjeko-curic-fratar-i-svecenik>

**Wednesday April 13, 1994**



**Rwanda: Nyamasheke**

Fr Ubald Rugirangoga (approached the local police on [April 10, 1994](#) for protection and for food and water for the 10,000 refugees at his parish in [Nyamasheke](#), given 4 officers;

**UPDATE:** parish church attacked by the Hutu militia, falsely accused of being a killer after the police shot a militia member, expelled from the parish and forced to travel to Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa's residence in [Cyangugu](#) under police escort)

Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa (**UPDATE:** arrived after receiving a call from Fr Ubald Rugirangoga that his parish was under attack)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26840197M/Forgiveness\\_Makes\\_You\\_Free](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26840197M/Forgiveness_Makes_You_Free) pg 25-27

### Thursday April 14, 1994



#### Rwanda: Cyangugu

Fr Ubald Rugirangoga (approached the local police on [April 10, 1994](#) for protection and for food and water for the 10,000 refugees at his parish in [Nyamasheke](#), given 4 officers; parish church attacked by the Hutu militia on [April 13, 1994](#), falsely accused of being a killer after the police shot a militia member, expelled from the parish and forced to travel to Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa's residence in [Cyangugu](#) under police escort; **UPDATE:** informed by a weeping Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa that the remaining Tutsi religious at his parish had been killed, saw the Bishop's bloodied clothing)

#### Rwanda: between Cyangugu and Nyamasheke

Br Anton (**killed**)

Br John Baptist (**killed**)

Br William (**killed**)

Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa (**UPDATE:** tried to evacuate three religious brothers and then tried to stop their murder by throwing himself between them and their killers, forced to watch their murders, clothing bloodied)

Fr Apollinaire Mtamabyariro (witnessed Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa's attempt to save the Tutsi religious brothers)

Evarist Nambaje (seminarian, witnessed Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa's attempt to save the Tutsi religious brothers)

#### Rwanda: Rwamagana

Br Dominique Munyurangabo FC (**killed**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26840197M/Forgiveness\\_Makes\\_You\\_Free](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26840197M/Forgiveness_Makes_You_Free) pg 27

[http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1999/rwanda/Geno4-7-03.htm#P893\\_245534](http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1999/rwanda/Geno4-7-03.htm#P893_245534)

**Friday April 15, 1994**



**Rwanda: Kibeho**

Abbe Pierre Ngoga (fled after massacres of Tutsis had begun, called the Bishop of Gikongoro with a request for help to rescue the Tutsis but was rebuffed)

**Rwanda: Kigali**

Fr Paulin (hid refugees in an office behind the Sainte-Famille church garage)

**Rwanda: Ndera, Gasabo**

Sr Cassilda Mukankwaya SSMN (aged 53, **killed**)

[http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1999/rwanda/Geno4-7-03.htm#P893\\_245534](http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1999/rwanda/Geno4-7-03.htm#P893_245534)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sainte-Famille\\_Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sainte-Famille_Church)

[https://openlibrary.org/works/OL1894074W/We\\_wish\\_to\\_inform\\_you\\_that\\_tomorrow\\_we\\_will\\_be\\_killed\\_with\\_our\\_families](https://openlibrary.org/works/OL1894074W/We_wish_to_inform_you_that_tomorrow_we_will_be_killed_with_our_families) pg 125

**Saturday April 16, 1994**



**Rwanda: Mugonero**

Seven pastors were killed along with their parishioners in the hospital where they had taken refuge, the previous day they had written to their senior pastor "Our dear leader, Pastor Elizaphan Ntakirutimana, How are you! We wish you to be strong in all these problems we are facing. We wish to inform you that we have heard that tomorrow we will be killed with our families. We therefore request you to intervene on our behalf and talk with the Mayor. We believe that, with the help of God who entrusted you the leadership of this flock, which is going to be destroyed, your intervention will be highly appreciated, the same way as the Jews were saved by Esther. We give honor to you", the senior pastor helped organize the killings

Pastor Eliezer Seromba (**killed**)

Pastor Ezekias Zigirinshuti (**killed**)

Pastor Ezekiel Semugeshi (**killed**)

Pastor Isaka Rucondo (**killed**)

Pastor Jerome Gakwaya (**killed**)

Pastor Seth Rwanyabuto (**killed**)

Pastor Seth Sebihe (**killed**)

[https://openlibrary.org/works/OL1894074W/We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families](https://openlibrary.org/works/OL1894074W/We_wish_to_inform_you_that_tomorrow_we_will_be_killed_with_our_families) pg 42

### **Sunday April 17, 1994**



#### **Rwanda: Cyangugu**

Fr Ubald Rugirangoga (approached the local police on [April 10, 1994](#) for protection and for food and water for the 10,000 refugees at his parish in [Nyamasheke](#), given 4 officers; parish church attacked by the Hutu militia on [April 13, 1994](#), falsely accused of being a killer after the police shot a militia member, expelled from the parish and forced to travel to Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa's residence in [Cyangugu](#) under police escort; informed by a weeping Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa on [April 14, 1994](#) that the remaining Tutsi religious brothers at his parish had been killed, saw the Bishop's bloodied clothing; **UPDATE:** informed that all the refugees at his parish had been killed, and his entire family remaining in his home village including his mother had been killed)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26840197M/Forgiveness Makes You Free](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26840197M/Forgiveness_Makes_You_Free) pg 28

### **Monday April 18, 1994**



#### **Rwanda: Gikongoro, Nyamagabe**

Br Georges Gashugi OFM (aged 32, **killed**)

#### **Rwanda: Simbi, Huye**

Sr Marie Paule Mukangwje (aged 86, **killed**)

Sr Marie Pelagie Kantama (aged 74, **killed**)

Sr Marie Pierre-Claver Yankurije (aged 52, **killed**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)

**Tuesday April 19, 1994**



**Rwanda: Kivumu**

Fr Vjekoslav "Vjeko" Curic OFM (aged 36, Croat national; began to shelter over 150 refugees at his **Kivumu** parish on **April 12, 1994**, hired staff to feed them, would later save some by firing gunshots in the air; **UPDATE**: took survivors of a massacre in a primary school to a hospital, buried the dead)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vjekoslav\\_%C4%86uri%C4%87](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vjekoslav_%C4%86uri%C4%87)

<http://www.vjeko-rwanda.info/en/father-vjeko-centre/biography-of-padr-vjeko/17-fra-vjeko-curic-fratar-i-svecenik>

**Thursday April 21, 1994**



**Rwanda: Gisenyi, Rubavu**

Sr Felicitas Niyitegeka (aged 59, **shot dead** along with 43 others, had sheltered Tutsis and helped them escape to Zaire, threatened with death but refused to stop her efforts)

[http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1999/rwanda/Geno4-7-03.htm#P893\\_245534](http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1999/rwanda/Geno4-7-03.htm#P893_245534)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)



**Jamaica: Falmouth, Trelawny**

Fr Vincent Power SSC (aged 62, Irish national, **killed**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Jamaica.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Jamaica.htm)

**Friday April 22, 1994**



**Rwanda: Gihindamuyaga, Huye**

Br Antoine Rutagengwa (**killed**)

Br Gaetan Gatera BMV (**killed**)

**Rwanda: at the border with Burundi**

Sr Alexis Nyirbajyambere (aged 25, disappeared, **presumed dead**)

Br Etienne Rwesa SM (aged 52, disappeared, **presumed dead**)

Sr Patricia Ntawuyigenga (aged 35, disappeared, **presumed dead**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)

**Saturday April 23, 1994**



**Rwanda**

Br Janvier Murenzi CSC (aged 25, **killed**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)

**Sunday April 24, 1994**



**Rwanda: Nyanza**

Sr Marie Francoise Mukamparirwa (aged 58, **killed**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)

**Tuesday April 26, 1994**



**Rwanda: Birambo, Karongi**

Sr Agnes Kangofero RA (aged 58, **killed**)

Sr Albina Nyirangilimana RA (aged 53, **killed**)

Anne Marie Mukashema RA (aged 29, novice, **killed**)

Br Boniface Ndayisenga (**killed**)

Hilda Maria Mukandinda RA (aged 28, novice, **killed**)

Fr Innocent Ruberizesa (aged 52, **killed**)

Br Joseph Sahabu (**killed**)

Sr Leonilla Mukambera RA (aged 48, **killed**)

Fr Narcisse Sebasare (aged 52, **killed**)

**Rwanda: Kabuye, Kigali**

Sr Marie Madeleine Nyirabatware RA (aged 55, **killed**)

**Rwanda: Kageyo, Byumba, Gicumbi**

Fr Joaquim Vallmajo Sala M.Afr (aged 53, Spanish national, **killed**)

**Rwanda: Kigali**

Sr Leocadiya Mukankuranga (aged 30, **killed**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)

**April 1994, date unknown**



**Pakistan**

Salamat Masih (aged 13, arrested on blasphemy charges in **May 1993**; **UPDATE**: shot during a court hearing, survived)

Manzoor Masih (arrested on blasphemy charges in **May 1993**; **UPDATE**: **shot dead** during a court hearing)

Rehmat Masih (arrested on blasphemy charges in [May 1993](#); **UPDATE**: shot during a court hearing, survived)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL1009175M/In\\_the\\_Lion's\\_Den](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL1009175M/In_the_Lion's_Den) - page 36



### **Rwanda: Kibungo**

Fr Eliseus Mpongano (**shot dead** for trying to protect Tutsis)

Bishop Frederic Rubwejanga (witnessed the shooting death of Fr Eliseus Mpongano and the murder of 1,200 of his parishioners)

### **Rwanda: Gisenyi, Rubavu**

Anicet Butera (novice, **killed**)

Sr Candide Mukabaziga (**killed**)

Sr Marie Mukamusana (**killed**)

### **Rwanda: Kabgayi, Muhanga**

Br Aloys Cadali (**killed**)

Bishop Thaddee Nsengiyumva (aged 45, issued the pastoral letter *Let Us Convert to Live Together in Peace* in [Kabgayi](#) in [December 1991](#) in which he decried ethnic hatred, assassinations, government exploitation of division, and Church inaction; **UPDATE**: made repeated appeals to stop the genocide, tried to aid refugees)

### **Rwanda: Kigali**

Fr Andre Sibomana (aged 40, journalist, tried several times in [1990](#) for publishing information that embarrassed the government, not convicted; **UPDATE**: escaped from the capital, saved many from death, later said "For many people in Rwanda, refraining from murder was, in itself, an act of resistance. Several peasant farmers were killed because they refused to strike the corpses of their Tutsi neighbors. There are courageous and upright men who were not able or did not dare to come to the aid of their fellows and now live with remorse for having failed to do so. There is no merit in my having rescued a few people, because it was in my power to do so. My position gave me a better chance than others")

### **Rwanda: Muhororo, Ruhengeri**

Sr Marie Alphonse Nziza (aged 86, **killed**)

Sr Marie Francois-Xavier Mukamugiro (aged 54, **killed**)

Sr Marie Gerarda Mukamurihira (aged 74, **killed**)

Sr Marie Regis Gakwanzi (aged 60, **killed**)

### **Rwanda: Nyamasheke**

Br Ladislas Sinigenga (killed)

**Rwanda: Nyanza**

Sr Marie Augustine Nyiranyundo (aged 78, killed)

**Rwanda: Nyumba, Gishamvu**

Sr Marie Edmonde Nyirabudeyi (aged 64, killed)

**Rwanda: Rwesero, Nyamasheke**

Sr Marie Carola Nyirankurikizayabo (aged 66, killed)

[http://cjonline.com/stories/040699/new\\_rwanda.shtml#.WRqRbvnyuM8](http://cjonline.com/stories/040699/new_rwanda.shtml#.WRqRbvnyuM8)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Rwanda.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Rwanda.htm)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/André\\_Sibomana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/André_Sibomana)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thadd%C3%A9\\_Nsengiyumva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thadd%C3%A9_Nsengiyumva)