



agenzia fides

AGENZIA DELLE PONTIFICIE OPERE MISSIONARIE

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FIDES SPECIAL FEATURE

MISSIONARIES KILLED IN THE YEAR 2020

“It is painful to recall that in this very moment, there are many Christians in various parts of the world who are suffering from persecution, and we must hope and pray that their trials will soon end. They are many: today’s martyrs outnumber the martyrs of the first centuries. Let us express our closeness to these brothers and sisters. We are a single body and these Christians are the bleeding limbs of the body of Christ who is the Church.”

Pope Francis, General Audience, April 29, 2020

MISSIONARIES KILLED IN 2020

Vatican City (Agenzia Fides) – According to information gathered by Agenzia Fides, in 2020 20 missionaries were killed in the world: 8 priests, 1 religious man, 3 religious women, 2 seminarians, 6 lay people. This year the highest number of missionaries killed returns to be registered in America, where 5 priests and 3 lay people were killed (8). Followed by Africa, where 1 priest, 3 religious women, 1 seminarian, 2 lay people were killed (7). In Asia 1 priest, 1 seminarian and 1 lay man. In Europe 1 priest and 1 religious man. In the last 20 years, from 2000 to 2020, 535 pastoral workers have been killed in the world, 5 of whom are Bishops.

Agenzia Fides continues its service to collect information regarding the missionaries killed during the year. We use the term "missionary" for all the baptized, aware that "in virtue of their Baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples. All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization" (EG 120). As it has been for some time, the annual list of Fides does not look only to Missionaries ad gentes in the strict sense, but tries to record all the baptized engaged in the life of the Church who died in a violent way, not only "in hatred of the faith". For this reason, we prefer not to use the term "martyrs", if not in its etymological meaning of "witness", in order not to enter into the question of the judgment that the Church might eventually deliver upon some of them, after careful consideration, for beatification or canonization.

Even in 2020 many pastoral workers lost their lives during attempted hold-ups and robberies, ferociously committed, in impoverished, degraded social contexts, where violence is the rule of life, the authority of the state was lacking or weakened by corruption and compromises and in the total lack of respect for life and for every human right. None of them carried out striking feats or actions, but simply shared the same daily life as the majority of the population, bearing their evangelical witness as a sign of Christian hope.

Recalling the 40th anniversary of the death of four North American missionaries killed in El Salvador, where they were kidnapped, raped and assassinated by a paramilitary group, during the general audience on 2 December, Pope Francis said: "They were serving in El Salvador within the context of the civil war. With evangelical dedication, and at great risk, they brought food and medicine to the displaced and helped the poorest families. These women lived their faith with great generosity. They are an example for everyone to become faithful missionary disciples".

This is the key to understanding the earthly events of the killed missionaries: parish priests who shared everything they had with the people entrusted to their care, hit by desperate criminals looking for who knows what treasure hidden in the church, or victims of one of the marginalized people to whom they dedicated every day of their life; religious women engaged in the education of the younger generations, attacked while carrying out their service or who did not hesitate to risk their lives in order to save the children entrusted to them; or young people, even girls, who shared the Christian commitment with enthusiasm and conviction, in situations of blind violence that do not take age into account; lay catechists committed to being peacemakers and witnesses to the faith among communities dispersed in the most inaccessible areas. A separate mention deserves the testimony of an eighteen-year-old seminarian kidnapped in Nigeria, where lack of security and kidnappings are the order of the day, who was killed because, according to his killer, "he continued to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ" to his kidnappers. All of them lived by giving their service with generosity and dedication, silently, without

looking at the risks and even less at "working" hours, in order to help those in need: they are truly "an example for everyone to become faithful missionaries".

The provisional list compiled annually by Fides, must therefore be added to the long list of many of whom there may never be news, who in every corner of the world suffer and even pay with their lives for their faith in Christ. As Pope Francis recalled during the general audience on April 29: "Today's martyrs outnumber the martyrs of the first centuries. Let us express our closeness to these brothers and sisters. We are a single body and these Christians are the bleeding limbs of the body of Christ who is the Church."

In the journey of the Church, since the protomartyr Stephen, the blood shed by Christians has always been considered food and support for the entire community, a source of inspiration and life, and this continues over the centuries. "Martyrdom is the greatest testimony of faith, because it faithfully reproduces Christ, giving his life so that others can have life in abundance" stressed the Episcopal Conference of El Salvador proclaiming the Jubilee Year of Martyrs, after 40 years since the martyrdom of Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero, with the intention of remembering the national martyrs: Fr. Rutilio Grande, Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Fr. Cosme Spessotto. "The martyrs gave their lives and accompany us on our pilgrimage of faith. We want to hear their voice and at the same time we want to make that voice echo" wrote the Bishops.

In this year 2020, marked by the Coronavirus pandemic, we cannot forget that "among the bleeding members of the body of Christ" there are hundreds of priests and religious women, hospital chaplains, pastoral workers in the health care world, as well as Bishops, who lost their lives during their service, doing their utmost to help those affected by this disease in places of care. Priests are the second category after doctors who paid with their lives due to Covid in Europe. According to a partial report by the Council of Bishops' Conferences of Europe, at least 400 priests died on the continent from the end of February to the end of September 2020 due to Covid. Among these there are many missionaries who, after having spent long years in mission lands announcing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, died affected by the virus, which had the upper hand on their bodies, worn out by a life spent for the most part between the privations and the difficulties of the missions.

(SL) (Agenzia Fides, 31/12/2020)

OVERVIEW OF CONTINENTS

AMERICA

In America 5 priest and 3 lay persons were killed (8).

In **Nicaragua (3)** three young people were killed by the violence that is gripping the country: Lilliam Yunielka and Blanca Marlene González, two sisters aged 12 and 10, brutally killed on September 15, who were part of the Pontifical Missionary Childhood and Adolescence; the young Bryan José Coronado Zeledon, 17, a musician and member of the Pastorale Cristo Joven of the Cathedral of Matagalpa, found dead along the bank of the Rio Grande on 19 September.

In **Argentina (2)** the priest Oscar Juárez was found dead on July 15, inside his parish, due to an attempted theft; also the priest, Jorge Vaudagna, known as "Father Coqui", was found dead on the evening of 27 October, shot dead.

In **El Salvador (1)** Father Ricardo Antonio Cortéz was shot dead on August 7 during a street shooting.

In **Brazil (1)** Fr. Adriano da Silva Barros was kidnapped and found lifeless on October 14, victim of a robbery.

In **Venezuela (1)** Fr. José Manuel de Jesus Ferreira was shot dead on 20 October during a robbery.

AFRICA

In Africa, 1 priest, 3 religious women, 1 seminarian, 2 lay people were killed (7).

In **Nigeria (3)** lay man Augustine Avertse, at the head of the Catholic community of Saint Augustine, in the Keana Local Government Area of the Nasarawa State, in central Nigeria, was killed during an attack on January 20; on 1 February 2020 the body of seminarian Michael Nnadi was found, who had been kidnapped together with four other seminarians from the Good Shepherd major Seminary of Kakau; Sister Henrietta Alokha, administrator of Bethlehem Girls College, in Abule Ado area, in Lagos, was covered in flames after she did everything she could to save all the students on March 15.

In **South Africa (1)** Fr. Jozef (Jef) Hollanders, of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (OMI), was killed during a robbery in the parish of the city of Bodibe, in the north-western province of South Africa, on the night of Sunday 12 January.

In **Burkina Faso (1)** a lay catechist, **Philippe Yarga**, was killed together with a group of people of different faiths during a jihadist attack on 16 February on the village of Pansi, in northern Burkina Faso.

In **Gabon (1)** Sister Lydie Oyanem Nzoughe, who had dedicated her life to welcoming abandoned elderly people in the Center d'accueil Fraternité Saint Jean in Libreville, was attacked and murdered on the night between 19 and 20 March.

In **Zambia (1)** Sister Matilda Mulengachonzi, of the Congregation of the Little Servants of Mary Immaculate (LSMI), was wounded together with a sister on the evening of August 24, in the assault on the parish in which they served in Zambia. She died because of the injuries on Sunday October 25.

ASIA

In Asia 1 priest, 1 seminarian and 1 lay person were killed (3).

In the **Philippines (1)** Fr. Nomer de Lumen was shot dead, on 9 September, in his room in the rectory of the Church of St John the Baptist in Taytay, in the province of Rizal, near Manila, where he was assistant parish priest.

In **Indonesia (2)** Rufinus Tigau, a Catholic catechist from the diocese of Timika (in the province of Papua), was shot dead by members of a joint Indonesian army and police operation on October 26; the lifeless body of seminarian **Zhage Sil** was found in a ditch in Jayapura, a city of Indonesian Papua, on the evening of December 24, 2020

EUROPE

In Europe, 1 priest and 1 religious man were killed (2).

In **Italy (2)** Fr. Roberto Malgesini was murdered in Como on September 15 by a homeless man with mental problems, among the many poor to whom he devoted himself; Br Leonardo Grasso, of the Camillians, died on the morning of December 5, in the arson attack that destroyed the headquarters of the rehabilitation community for drug addicts and AIDS patients that he headed in Riposto, in Catania.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH

Fides News Agency welcomes any extra information or correction to this year's list or to those of previous years

Fr. Jozef (Jef) Hollanders, of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI), was killed in a robbery in the parish of Bodibe, near Mahikeng, in the northwestern province of South Africa, on Sunday night 12 January 2020. His body was discovered on Monday afternoon by a parishioner. Fr. Jeff was found tied hand and foot and with a rope around his neck, he probably died of a heart attack or strangulation. It is not excluded that Fr. Hollanders suffered a robbery attempt, but according to Archbishop Phalana, the robbers were misinformed: "Everyone knew he had no money. He served a poor community. He

used every penny he ever owned for his people. He gave away everything he had". Fr. Hollanders was "full of enthusiasm, life and dedication" and spoke fluently Afrikaans and Tswana, a Bantu language spoken in South Africa and Botswana. Fr. Hollanders was born in Belgium on March 4, 1937. He professed his first vows as an Oblate on September 8, 1958 and was ordained a priest on December 26, 1963. He arrived in South Africa on January 31, 1965, where he spent 55 years of full and intense missionary life.

Agenzia Fides 16/1/2020

On the morning of January 20 2020, some bandits, perhaps Fulani shepherds, attacked the community of Abebe. In the shooting, **Augustine Avertse**, the leader of the local Catholic community died together with his father, Akaa'am Avertse, and two other people.

One of the survivors, who was injured, said that the attack was not provoked, as there had never been any form of misunderstanding between the members of the community and the Fulani shepherds who lived in the area.

Agenzia Fides 22/1/2020

On February 1, 2020 His Exc. Mgr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, Bishop of Sokoto, Nigeria, announced the discovery of the body of **Michael Nnadi**, the youngest (18 years old) of the four seminarians who had been kidnapped by gunmen from the Good Shepherd major Seminary of Kakau, in the State of Kaduna, in northwestern Nigeria. The other 3 seminarians were released on January 18 and 31. Mustapha Mohammed, later arrested on suspicion of being the murderer of Michael Nnadi, gave an interview in which he took responsibility for the murder because, according to his account, the young seminarian "continued to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ" to his kidnappers. Mustapha, 26, who was identified as the leader of a 45-member gang dedicated to robbing motorists, nevertheless praised Nnadi's "exceptional courage" and reported that the seminarian "said to abandon the way of wickedness otherwise he risked dying".

Agenzia Fides 13/1/2020; 21/1/2020; 3/2/2020; 4/5/2020

A lay catechist **Philippe Yarga**, was killed along with a group of people of different faiths during a jihadist attack on Sunday 16 February 2020 in the village of Pansi, located not far from Sebba, in the province of Yahgha, in northern Burkina Faso. Among the 24 people killed, one was a Catholic catechist, who was one of the first catechists sent on a mission when the diocese of Dori was founded, which roughly corresponds to the Sahel part of Burkina Faso. Following the attack, the decision was to also close the parish in Sebba. The diocese of Dori has a huge territory, Catholics are about 2% of the population. There are 6 parishes, 3 of which have been closed due to the attacks committed by jihadists. The clergy was brought together in Dori as well as the titular catechists together with their families.

Agenzia Fides 17/2/2020; 20/2/2020

Sr. Henrietta Alokha, an administrator at Bethlehem Girls College, Abule Ado, Amuwo Odofin local government area of Lagos State lost her life in the explosion which occurred on Sunday, March 15 2020. While Holy Mass was being celebrated in the school, a strong explosion occurred, and a violent fire broke out which seriously damaged homes and buildings in the surroundings. Sister Henrietta rescued all the children under her care from the explosion and could not make it herself.

The Archbishop of Lagos, Alfred Adewale Martins, said that Sister Henrietta "paid the supreme price of her offer to ensure the safety of over 300 students under her responsibility". All the students of the school are safe and sound. Those who suffered injuries were promptly assisted in various hospitals in the surroundings. Sister Henrietta belonged to the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart (SSH), the first indigenous religious order in the Mid-West region of Nigeria, founded by Archbishop Patrick Ebosele Ekpu, on April 6, 1975.

Agenzia Fides 17/03/2020

On the night between 19 and 20 March, **Sister Lydie Oyanem Nzoughe** who had dedicated her life to welcoming and caring for the elderly abandoned by their families, poor and homeless, was attacked and murdered in her room, in the Center d'accueil Fraternité Saint Jean in Libreville. Some personal items and the religious' car disappeared. The criminal turned himself in: he is a person who did small jobs for the house.

The Fraternité Saint Jean reception Center, run by Sister Lydie, is located in Vallée Sainte Marie in Libreville, under the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, and does not receive any public funding. It welcomes sick and abandoned elderly people, accompanying them with love and dedication. Sister Lydie, who belonged to the indigenous religious Congregation of the Religieuses de Sainte Marie, was also the founder of the Mouvement eucharistique des Jeunes (MEJ Gabon).

Agenzia Fides 23/03/2020

Father Oscar Juárez, was found by a cleaner in the church of San Martín de Porres, in the capital of the province of Tucumán, in Argentina on Wednesday 15 July 2020. He was killed and the reason could be because of theft. "We believe that this painful loss is part of the numerous insecurity facts we are experiencing in Tucuman", said the statement of the Archdiocese.

Fr. Oscar Juárez, priest of the secular clergy, was born on February 6, 1953 in San Miguel de Tucumán. He was ordained a priest on March 17, 1979. He was appointed Professor at the Archdiocesan "Our Lady of Mercy and St. Joseph" major Seminary and at the "Santo Toribio de Mogrovejo" Higher Institute of Religious Culture. He had carried out his pastoral service in various Parishes.

Agenzia Fides 16/07/2020

The Rector of Santiago de María of Zacatecoluca major Seminary, El Salvador, **Father Ricardo Antonio Cortéz**, was shot dead on 7 August 2020, during a shooting at kilometer 80 of the El Litoral highway, which connects San Salvador with several municipalities in the department of La Paz (center) and in the eastern coastal area. El Salvador is considered to be one of the most violent countries in the world with the highest murder rates. The crimes are mainly attributed to the Mara Salvatrucha (MS13) and Barrio 18 gangs.

Agenzia Fides 8/8/2020

Fr. Nomer de Lumen, a Catholic priest of the diocese of Antipolo, suffragan of the archdiocese of Manila (Philippines), was found dead due to gunshots in his room on 9 September. He was 32 years old. The lifeless body of Father De Lumen, parish vicar of St. John the Baptist church in Taytay, in the province of Rizal, near Manila, was found in his room around 3:45 pm, by a pastoral worker who called the police. A revolver and two bullets were found at the scene of the crime. Priests, religious and lay people from various parishes expressed their affection and appreciation for Fr. Nomer on social media. "This is a serious loss for our community: a priest who gave so much and could still give to the pastoral and missionary work".

Father De Lumen was a young priest, who recently became a priest, and had been appointed assistant parish priest in St. John the Baptist Parish, in Taytay in December 2019. He was also Director of the Commission for Social Communications of the Diocese of Antipolo.

Agenzia Fides 11/9/2020

Father Roberto Malgesini was murdered in Como by a homeless man with mental problems. The priest, 51 years old, originally from Valtellina, was killed in the city center, not far from San Rocco Parish, where he was a collaborator. The attack took place shortly after 7 am, the priest was hit in the back with a knife, which was then found, and the murderer turned himself in. Fr. Roberto was known for being "the priest of the marginalized", he dedicated himself in particular to assisting the homeless and migrants.

Agenzia Fides 15/9/2020

Lilliam Yunielka and Blanca Marlene González, two sisters aged 12 and 10, were brutally killed on September 15 in Nicaragua. They were part of the Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence of Nicaragua (IAM), of the community of Lisawe, parish of the Holy Spirit in Mulukuku. According to the mother, the eldest of the two daughters had already suffered abuse in the past, which had been reported without any results. Mgr. Pablo Schmitz Simon, Bishop of the Diocese of Bluefields and Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Siuna said: "Facts like this reflect the society we have built so far: a violent and male chauvinist society that does not respect life, care of girls and boys, which makes women even more cruelly defenseless and at risk, especially poor women, single mothers, young people, teenagers and girls. In the face of so much barbarism, I join my voice to all the voices that cry out for justice, I reaffirm our commitment and encourage in the different parish communities of Siuna to carry out actions that support the women of our communities, to take care of them, to protect them and denounce any fact that endangers their physical, psychological and spiritual integrity".

The lifeless body of the young musician, **Bryan José Coronado Zeledon**, 17, was found along the bank of the Rio Grande in Matagalpa (Nicaragua), on Saturday 19 September. The first hypothesis was that of an accident in the river, but the signs of violence on his body prompted the victim's relatives to report the murder at the hands of crime.

Agenzia Fides 21/09/2020

Fr. Adriano da Silva Barros, parish vicar of São Simão parish, in Simonésia, Diocese of Caratinga (Brazil) had disappeared in the early afternoon of 13 October, when he was last seen in Reduto. On the night of 14 October, his lifeless body was found in the vicinity of the city of Manhumirim. The initial hypothesis is that he was the victim of an armed robbery. His body was set on fire. A farmer in the rural area of Manhumirim, seeing the fire from afar, gave the alarm.

Agenzia Fides 16/10/2020

The Bishop of the diocese of San Carlos de Venezuela, Mgr. Polito Rodríguez Méndez, as well as the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Dehonians), issued a statement to inform about the violent death of **Father José Manuel de Jesus Ferreira**, parish priest of the Diocesan Eucharistic Shrine of San Juan Bautista. The murder took place on Tuesday 20 October, after the priest had celebrated Mass in the presence of a few people, due to the pandemic, while he was greeting them outside the church, on the street. The priest, while greeting this small group of people, saw a woman who had just been robbed. The priest immediately went to help her and was gunshot. Despite being taken to San Carlos hospital, the priest died soon after.

Father José Manuel was born in Caracas (Venezuela) on November 25, 1980, son of Portuguese immigrants. He entered the Congregation of Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 2000. He was ordained a priest on December 19, 2009. He was currently parish priest at "San Juan" Eucharistic shrine, where he had begun the restoration of the shrine and was promoting various social activities in favor of the most disadvantaged. Among other tasks, he was responsible for the missionary pastoral care of the diocese of San Carlos.

Agenzia Fides 22/10/2020

On October 26, 2020, **Rufinus Tigau** a 28-year-old indigenous Papuan and Catholic catechist from the diocese of Timika (in the province of Papua) , was shot dead and killed by members of a joint operation between the Indonesian army and police in Kampung Jibaguge (in the district of Sugapa, of the Intan Jaya Regency in Papua). Rufinus Tigau approached the security forces who surrounded the area where he lived, and said, 'Please stop shooting. We must speak calmly. What is the problem?' A member of the police pointed a gun at him who immediately raised his hands in submission. However, he was killed on the spot", cold-bloodedly. The military denied the existence of an incident, accusing R. Tigau of being a member of the armed criminal separatist group (Kelompok Kriminal Separatis Bersenjata - Kksb), a term used to indicate one belongs to the TPN-PB. The assertion that Tigau was a member of the TPN-

PB was rejected by Father Martin Kuayo, Administrator of the Catholic diocese of Timika, Papua, who confirmed that Rufinus Tigaus was a peaceful catechist of his own diocese.

Agenzia Fides 11/11/2020; 17/11/2020

Following a robbery, **Father Jorge Vaudagna**, also known as “Father Coqui”, parish priest of Vicuña Mackenna, a town in the department of Río Cuarto, province of Córdoba, Argentina was killed. The priest was 58 and was found dead on the evening of Tuesday 27 October.

According to local news, he was shot and killed in a probable theft attempt in his parish in the city centre.

Agenzia Fides 28/10/2020

Sister Matilda Mulengachonzi, 60, of the Congregation of the Little Servants of Mary Immaculate (LSMI), suffered injuries, together with a sister on the evening of August 24, in an armed attack on the parish where they served in Zambia.

Sister Matilda, 60, died on Sunday 25 October, after the religious woman suffered deep cuts on her forehead and head, and a serious injury to her eye during the attack.

In their message of condolences to the LSMI congregation, the Bishops of Zambia called the attack "cruel and violent". Sister Matilda was seriously injured, when an armed bandit entered the parish of St. Barbara, in the diocese of Monze. The criminal took Sister Okafor Assumpta and Sister Matilda Mulengachonzi by surprise. The two victims had surprised the burglar while he was trying to break into the monastery

Agenzia Fides 3/11/2020

Br Leonardo Grasso, of the Ministers of the Sick (Camillians MI), died on the morning of December 5, 2020, in the arson attack that destroyed the headquarters of the rehabilitation community for drug addicts and AIDS patients "Tenda di San Camillo" in Riposto, in Catania. The perpetrator of the crime is apparently a guest of the community, who first attacked the priest and then set the fire. Br Leonardo, 78, had been a commercial agent before radically changing his life. He became a Camillian in 1986, since 1996 he was in charge of the “Tenda di San Camillo” in Riposto, to which he had dedicated himself with passion and without sparing himself.

Agenzia Fides 5/12/2020

The lifeless body of Zhage Sil, a Catholic seminarian, was found in a ditch in Jayapura, in the Indonesian province of Papua, on the evening of 24 December 2020. The community of Sorong-Manokwari, the diocese to which Sil belonged, received numerous messages of condolence from religious and lay leaders who strongly condemn the atrocious act. "I am shocked by his sudden and tragic death. He would have become a deacon next year and a diocesan priest immediately after", said Fr. Johan, parish priest in the diocese of Jayapura. Fr. Johan, who knew Sil personally, added: "He was a courageous person who cared about people's needs and was not afraid to raise his voice, especially when it came to justice. We hope to receive clear news about his death soon". Sil was among the young people often engaged in demanding justice for the province of Papua, stigmatizing "racism against the Papuan people".

Agenzia Fides 12/28/2020

SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

N°	Name and surname	Nationality	Institute or Diocese	Date and place of death
1.	Fr. Jozef (Jef) Hollanders	Belgium	Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI)	12/1 – South Africa
2.	Augustine Avertse	Nigeria	Lay man	20/1 - Nigeria
3.	Michael Nnadi	Nigeria	Diocesan Seminarian	1/2 - Nigeria
4	Philippe Yarga	Burkina F.	Lay Catechist	16/2 – Burkina Faso
5.	Sister Henrietta Alokha	Nigeria	Sisters of the Sacred Heart (SSH)	15/3 - Nigeria
6.	Sister Lydie Oyanem Nzoughe	Gabon	Religieuses de Sainte Marie	19-20/3 - Gabon
7.	Fr. Oscar Juárez	Argentina	Diocesan	15/7 - Argentina
8.	Fr. Ricardo Antonio Cortéz	El Salvador	Diocesan	7/8 – El Salvador
9.	Fr. Nomer de Lumen	Philippines	Diocesan	9/9 - Philippines
10.	Fr. Roberto Malgesini	Italy	Diocesan	15/9 - Italy
11.	Lilliam Yunielka	Nicaragua	Lay woman, Missionary Childhood	15/9 - Nicaragua
12.	Blanca Marlene González	Nicaragua	Lay woman, Missionary Childhood	15/9 - Nicaragua
13.	Bryan José Coronado Zeledon	Nicaragua	Lay man, Pastorale Cristo Joven	19/9 - Nicaragua
14.	Fr. Adriano da Silva Barros	Brazil	Diocesan	14/10 - Brazil
15.	Fr. José Manuel de Jesus Ferreira	Venezuela	Dehonian	20/10 - Venezuela
16.	Rufinus Tigau	Indonesia	Catechista laico	26/10 - Indonesia
17.	Fr. Jorge Vaudagna	Argentina	Diocesano	27/10 - Argentina
18.	Sister Matilda Mulengachonzi	Zambia	Little Servant of Mary Immaculate (LSMI)	25/10 - Zambia
19.	Br Leonardo Grasso	Italy	Camillian (MI)	5/12 - Italy
20.	Zhage Sil	Indonesia	Diocesan seminarian	24/12 - Indonesia

Religious Status

Priests	8	6 diocesan, 2 religious men (Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate OMI, Dehonians)
Men Religious	1	1 Minister of the Sick, MI, Camillians
Women Religious	3	1 Sister of the Sacred Heart (SSH), 1 Religieuses de Sainte Marie, 1 Little Servants of Mary Immaculate (LSMI)
Seminarians	2	Diocesan
Lay persons	6	

Country of Origin

Africa	6	3 Nigeria, 1 Burkina Faso, 1 Zambia, 1 Gabon
America	8	3 Nicaragua, 2 Argentina, 1 El Salvador, 1 Brazil, 1 Venezuela
Asia	3	2 Indonesia, 1 Philippines
Europe	3	2 Italy, 1 Belgium

Place of death

Africa	7	3 Nigeria, 1 Burkina Faso, 1 Gabon, 1 South Africa, 1 Zambia
America	8	3 Nicaragua, 2 Argentina, 1 El Salvador, 1 Brazil, 1 Venezuela
Asia	3	2 Indonesia, 1 Philippines
Europe	2	Italy

PASTORAL CARE WORKERS KILLED FROM 1980 TO 2019

Vatican City (Agenzia Fides) – According to data in Fides’ possession, in the decade from **1980-1989** **115 missionaries** lost their lives in violent manners. This number, however, is doubtful, based only upon the cases which made news.

The collective summary from **1990-2000** presents a total of **604 missionaries killed**, still according to our information. The number is significantly higher than the previous decade, however, one must also consider the following factors: the genocide in Rwanda (1994) that caused at least 248 victims among church personnel; the increased speed of the mass media in disseminating the news even from most remote places; the total does not include only the missionaries *ad gentes* in the strictest sense, but all church personnel killed in a violent manner, or who sacrificed their lives aware of the risks they ran, while not abandoning the people in their care.

During the years **2001-2019** the total of the pastoral care workers killed is **485**.

YEAR	TOT	BISH	PRIE	DEA	BRO	REL	SEM	ICL	CAT	LAI	VOL
1990	17		10			7					
1991	19	1	14		1	3					
1992	21		6		2	13					
1993	21	1C+1	13			4	1	1			
1994	26		20		1	4	1				
1994*	248	3	103		47	65		30			
1995	33		18	1	3	9				2	
1996	48	3	19		8	13	1	2	1	1(ct)	
1997	68	1	19		1	7	40				
1998	40	1	13		5	17	4				
1999	32		17			9	4		2		
2000	31		19			7	3	1			1
2001	33		25			5	1	1		1	
2002	25	1	18		1	2	2	1			
2003	29	1	20		1		3			2	2
2004	16		12			1				3	
2005	25	1	18		2	3				1	
2006	24		17		1	3				2	1
2007	21		15	3	1	1	1				
2008	20	1	16		1					2	
2009	37		30			2	2			3	
2010	25	1	17		1	1	2			3	
2011	26		18			4				4	
2012	13		11			1				1	
2013	23		20			1				2	
2014	26		17		1	6	1			1	
2015	22		13			4				5	
2016	28		14			9	1			4	
2017	23		13		1	1				8	
2018	40		35				1			4	
2019	29		18	1	2	2				6	

* = Data referring just to the Rwanda genocide.

BIS: Bishops; C: Cardinals; PRIE: diocesan and religious priests; DEAC: deacons; BRO: religious brothers; REL: religious sisters; SEM: seminarians; ICL: members of institutes of consecrated life; CAT: catechists; LAI: laity; VOL: volunteers; CT: catechumen

Fides Special S.L. – Agenzia Fides 31/12/2020