



Prayer of intercession

Our loving God,
You filled the Blessed martyr
and father of a family Franz Jägerstätter
with great love for You,
for his family and for all people.
In a time of brutally dehumanising politics
and violence,
he formed his own clear,
incorruptible judgement.
You gave him the grace to resist evil.

Out of his deep connection with Your Son
and in faithfulness to his conscience,

he resolutely said 'No'
to the denial of your presence,
to contempt for human dignity
and to an unrighteous war.

Trusting in You

he laid down his life,
because he loved You above all else.

Through the power of Your spirit
and at his intercession, strengthen our love
for You and our fellow human beings.

Help us to stand up for justice,
peace and human dignity,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.



“Shouldn’t we Christians
become ever more like Christ?”

The Blessed Franz Jägerstätter

The Blessed Franz Jägerstätter

Martyr & Father of a Family

Remembrance Day: 21st May

Franz Jägerstätter was born on 20th May 1907 in St. Radegund (Upper Austria) and baptised in his parish church on 21st May. In 1936, he married Franziska Schwaninger.

When the Nazis took over power in Austria in 1938, Franz refused to cooperate with them in any way. After having been conscripted into the army twice, he subsequently obeyed a fresh call to conscript on 1st March 1943 and explained to the military authorities that, due to his religious conscience and in accordance with the commandments to love God and one's fellow man, he refused to do military service with armed combat, because "you should obey God before men".

Even though he had volunteered to do medical service, he was condemned to death in Berlin for "undermining military morale", and beheaded in Brandenburg an der Havel on 9th August 1943.

From the writings

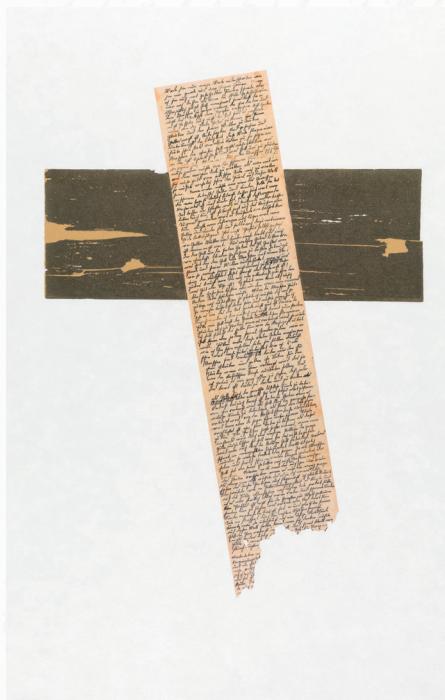
of the Blessed Franz Jägerstätter

at the prison in Berlin/Tegel,

July/August 1943

**Who shall separate us
from the love of Christ? Romans 8:35**

"Now I shall write down a few words here, just as they come from my heart. Even though I'm writing them with bound hands – yet that's still better than if my will were bound. Evidently God sometimes shows His power, which He can give to those



people who love him and don't put earthly above eternal things. Neither prison, nor bonds, nor even death are able to separate a person from the love of God, to rob him of his faith and free will. God's power is invincible. [...]

If we were only willing to make the same efforts to save each person from deep sin and so from eternal death as are being made to save me from an earthly death, then truly Heaven would already be here in this world."