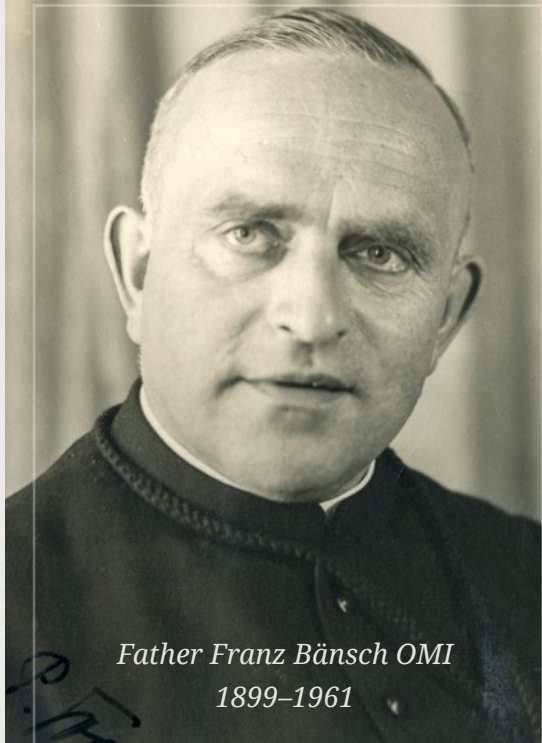


- 1899** Birth in Großenhain/Sachsen
- 1899–1913** Family, childhood and school days
- 1913–1917** Juniorate St. Karl in Valkenburg/
The Netherlands
- 1917–1919** Soldier in the First World War
- 1920–1925** Entering the Congregation (OMI)
and years of study
- 1923** Perpetual vows in Dresden
- 1925** Ordination to the priesthood
- 1928–1934** Popular missionary in Breslau
- 1935–1957** Pastor in Dresden-Plauen
- 1935–1945** Prison chaplain in Dresden
- 1957–1961** Diocesan director of men's ministry
- 1961** Death after a severe heart attack

Father Franz Bänsch was a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate (OMI). He worked most of his life in the Catholic diaspora in Saxony. There, he was confronted with the two anti-church systems: the Nazis and the communists (SED).

As a prison chaplain at Münchner Platz in Dresden, he gave comfort to those persecuted by the Nazi regime and accompanied them on their way to execution. Father Bänsch worked throughout his life for the reconciliation of Germans, Poles and Czechs.

Further information: www.oblaten.org



Father Franz Bänsch OMI

1899–1961

Lord, our God

We thank you for having graced the church in difficult times with witnesses who, by their word and example, have shown your people the way.

We thank you for Franz Bänisch whom you have called to religious life and priestly ministry.

We give you thanks for all that has been given to the Church through his faith and his courage.

As a popular missionary and priest, you have gifted him with clear thinking and appropriate language to bring your truth to the world.

As a priest and missionary, he reached out to the distant and doubtful with significant blessing.

Serving your people in two dictatorships, he made your love visible and tangible.

Through his humanity, as a messenger of hope and through his bold testimony, Father Franz Bänisch also became an architect of reconciliation between Germans, Poles and Czechs.

As a zealous confessor and companion to people sentenced to death, he became a messenger of your peace and mercy. He brought comfort and light to people in the darkness of hatred and violence, especially to the oppressed and desperate, prisoners and refugees.

Lord, we ask you with confidence: Let the example of his life raise people's awareness so that we can contribute to humanity, peace and the unity of Europe.

May the light of his testimony of faith touch and change our own life and may it become a source of strength for many people.

Lord, our God, following the life and faith example of Father Franz Bänisch, renew my faith, nourish my hope and strengthen my love for my neighbor.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning so now and forever. Amen.