

Glasberg, Alexandre

(1902--1981), French priest who saved the lives of many Jews during the Holocaust.

Born a Jew in Zhitomir, in the Ukraine, Glasberg traveled around Central Europe, converted to Catholicism, and ultimately became a Catholic priest in France. After the Germans invaded and occupied France in May 1940, Glasberg set up a charity, called Christian Friendship (*Amitie Chretienne*), to help Jews who were being persecuted by the Nazis. Christian Friendship was supported by Cardinal Pierre-Marie Gerlier, the head of the Catholic church in France; under his sponsorship, the organization established shelters that took in hundreds of Jews who had been released from French internment camps.

The Nazis began the mass arrest and deportation of French Jews in the summer of 1942. At that point Glasberg took his rescue activities underground. He worked with Jewish rescue associations, and made sure that the Jews living in his shelters were not pressured to convert to Catholicism. The *Gestapo* found out about Glasberg's rescue activities in December 1942. Glasberg then joined the French Partisans under a different name. After the war ended, he participated in the activities of the *Aliya Bet*, helping Jews in France and Iran "illegally" immigrate to Palestine.