

## NEW MARTYRS AND CONFESSORS OF RUSSIA



**Hieromartyr Efrgraph Evarestov, Archpriest.** Rector of the Resurrection cathedral in Ufa, well-known missionary, church historian and public figure, he was accused of “agitating for Kolchak” and executed by the Cheka in 1919. The sixty-two-year-old priest was beaten, spat at, pulled by his beard. He was led to the firing range in his underwear, made to walk barefoot in the snow.



**Martyr Fyodor Ivanov, layman.** Having suffered from paralysis of both legs since he was sixteen, Fyodor was deeply revered by the pious people of the Diocese of Tobolsk already in his lifetime. Arrested by the NKVD in 1937 as a “religious fanatic” on the charge of “organizing an armed uprising against the Soviet regime.” Carried to the Tobolsk prison on a stretcher. In his cell, he was placed facing the wall and was forbidden to speak. He wasn’t questioned about anything or taken to interrogations; no interrogators came to his cell. He was executed in the prison yard by order of the NKVD troika without investigation or trial. At the moment of execution, he was forty-one years old.



**Venerable Martyr Leo (Egorov), Archimandrite.** A well-known missionary, monk of the Alexander Nevsky Lavra, spiritual father of the brotherhood of St. Alexander Nevsky, one of the founders of the underground Theological Pastoral school in Petrograd. Charged with counter-revolutionary activity in 1932 with other members of the brotherhood and sentenced to ten years imprisonment in the Siberian Gulag. Executed in 1937 by order of the NKVD troika on the charge of “anti-Soviet propaganda” (i.e. discussing faith and politics) among the prisoners. At the moment of execution, he was forty-eight.



**Martyr Tatiana Grimblit, laywoman.** During the years of the 1920-30s all Christians in Russia knew of her. For many years, the OGPU (Secret Police of the Soviet Union from 1923-1934) tried to figure out the phenomenon of Tatiana Grimblit, basically to no avail. She spent most of her life helping prisoners. She brought them provisions, sent parcels, often assisting people she didn’t know, making no distinction between believers and unbelievers, or what they were charged with. She thus spent most of her earnings, encouraging other Christians to do the same. Incarcerated and exiled many times. Was sent to different prisons around the whole country with other convicts. In 1937, working as a nurse in the hospital in Konstantinov, she was arrested on the false charges of anti-Soviet campaigning and “consciously killing patients.” Executed by firing squad on the Butovo firing range in the Moscow region at the age of thirty-three years.



**Hieromartyr Peter (Polyansky), Metropolitan of Krutitsy.** Ordained in 1920 at the age of fifty-eight. Closest associate of Patriarch Tikhon in matters of ecclesiastical administration. Was the locum tenens of the Patriarchal Throne from 1925 (death of Patriarch Tikhon) until a false report of his death was spread in 1936. In prison since the end of 1926. Despite constant threats to prolong his incarceration, remained true to the church canons and refused to resign as the Patriarchal locum tenens without a lawful council. Suffered from scurvy and asthma. Suffered a partial paralysis after a meeting with Tuchkov in 1931. During the remaining years of his life was held as a “secret prisoner” in solitary confinement in the Verkhneuralsk prison. Executed in 1937 at the age of seventy-five by firing squad by order of the NKVD troika of the Chelyabinsk Oblast on the charge of “defamation of the Soviet regime” and accusing the Soviet Government of persecuting the Church.



**Martyr Duchess Kyra Obolensky, laywoman.** Kyra Ivanovna Oblensky came from a family of hereditary gentry and belonged to the ancient line of Obolensky that could be traced to the legendary Prince Rurik. She studied at the Smolny Institute for Noble Maidens, then worked as a teacher in a school for the poor. Under the Soviet regime, she was reappointed to the position of librarian. Active member of the brotherhood of St. Alexander Nevsky in Petrograd. Spent the years 1930-34 in labor camps for holding counter-revolutionary views (Gulag). Upon release, she lived in the town of Borovichi, 101 kilometers away from Leningrad. Arrested in 1937 with the clergy of Borovichi on the false charge of founding a “counter-revolutionary organization.” At the moment of execution, Kyra was forty-eight years old.



**Martyr Catherine Arsky, laywoman.** Born into a merchant family in St. Petersburg. In 1920, she survived a tragedy. First, her husband, an officer of the Tsar’s Army and warden of the Smolny cathedral, died of cholera, then all five of their children. Seeking the Lord’s succour, Catherine joined the brotherhood of St. Alexander Nevsky, founded at the cathedral of the Fyodorovskaya Icon in Petrograd, and became the spiritual child of Hieromartyr Leo (Egorov). Catherine was arrested in 1932 with the other members of the brotherhood (ninety in total). She was sentenced to three years of labour camp “as a member of a counter-revolutionary organisation.” Upon release, she settled in Borovichi, like Martyr Kyra Obolensky. In 1937, she was arrested and charged with the clergy of Borovichi. She refused to plead guilty of “counter-revolutionary activity” even under torture. Was executed by firing squad on the same day as Kyra Obolensky.



**Hieromartyr Benjamin (Kazanskii), Metropolitan of Petrograd and Gdov.** Arrested in 1922 for resisting the Bolshevik campaign of confiscation of ecclesiastical valuables. The real reason for his arrest was his rejection of the Living Church (Obnovlennchestvo). Executed by firing squad alongside Hieromonk Archimandrite Sergius (Shechein) (52), Martyr Ioann Kovsharov (Lawyer, 44), and Martyr Yurii Novitsky (Professor of St. Petersburg University, 40) in the environs of Petrograd, allegedly on the Rzhev firing range. Prior to execution, all Martyrs were shaved and dressed in rags, so their executioners would not recognize them as clerics. At the time of death, Metropolitan Benjamin was forty-five years old.