



St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and all the Russias

In 1990 a Brotherhood called 'In the Name of the All-Merciful Saviour' set up the Database of the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, known as 'Those who Suffered for Christ'. The information group later came to set up the Chair of Computer Studies at St Tikhon's Orthodox University of the Humanities in Moscow. Since 1996 access to the database has been available from the site of the University, as given above - www.pstbi.ru. At the present time it includes a calendar and over 31,300 names of individual New Martyrs with over 5,000 photographs and 30,000 references to sources.

The creator of the Database, Dr Nikolai Emelianov, Professor and Head of the Faculty of Computer Studies and Mathematics, has noted that over the last decade the number of new churches has consistently matched the number of names of new and documented New Martyrs and Confessors in the Database. He writes:

‘Today we can look at an electronic map of the world and see the countries and regions from where people are consulting the New Martyrs Database. This map could be called ‘The Map of the Global Veneration of the New Martyrs of Russia’. It confirms that it is the New Martyrs who unite World Orthodoxy. He adds: ‘In churches where the iconostasis contains icons of New Martyrs and Confessors, where their lives are written, where services are compiled to them, where they are regularly commemorated in services and where their prayers are sought, their spiritual power is tangible’... The Bolshevik Empire did not break the Christian martyrs of the twentieth century. Through their prayers the New Russia will live and take the light of Christ to the whole world’.

(Translated from the article, ‘No Chance Statistic’, which appeared in the Russian-language Church journal ‘Foma’, October 2008)