

## **Saints and Venerated Supporters and Opponents of Name-Worship**

Both supporters and opponents of name-worship (imyaslavie) have been canonized as Orthodox saints by the Russian Orthodox Church and the ROCOR. Both supporters and opponents of name-worship have claimed and continue to claim that it has ancient origins (supporters associate it with the Church Fathers and hesychasm, while opponents associate it with the ancient heresiarchs).

Among those who sympathized with the idea of name-worship, without sharing its position, are:

Saint Macarius (Nevsky), Metropolitan of Moscow,  
the holy martyr (canonized by the ROCOR) Bishop Theodore Pozdeevsky of Volokolamsk,  
the passion-bearers (in the ROCOR - martyrs) Emperor of All Russia Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna,  
the martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna,  
the new martyr Mikhail Novoselov,  
the Venerable Barsanuphius of Optina,  
the Venerable Kuksha of Odessa,  
and the righteous St. John of Kronstadt.

Saints who opposed name-worshipping:

Hieromartyr Metropolitan Vladimir (Bogoyavlensky) of Kiev,  
Hieromartyr Bishop Hilarion (Troitsky),  
Saint Patriarch Tikhon (Bellavin) of Moscow and All Rus',  
Saint Seraphim (Sobolev).

Also, many others, both defenders and opponents of name-worshipping, ended their lives as martyrs after the October Revolution—like the uncanonized Fr. Pavel Florensky, Fr. Daniil Sysoev; many are included in the Synaxis of All Saints Who Shone Forth in the Russian Land, or specifically in the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia.

*This list is taken from the Russian Wikipedia. It should be pointed out that from the list of opponents, Hieromartyr Met. Vladimir opposed supporting the Tsar when the Holy Synod was asked to make a statement of support for the Emperor before His abdication. Hilarion Troitsky was viewed by the*

*bishops of the ROCOR as a traitor, since he eventually did accept the declaration of Sergius Stargorodsky of 1927 and joined what is now the MP. The same can be said for Seraphim Sobolev, in Bulgaria. Needless to say, these two were not considered to be Saints, in my day.*

*To the list of opponents could be added the name of Met. Anthony Khrapovitsky (1st Chief Hierarch of the ROCOR) who was part of the Holy Synod in 1913, which found Fr. Antony Bulatovich guilty of imyaslavie and removed from him both his priesthood and his monasticism.*

*To the list of proponents could be added the name of Met. Anastasy Gribanovsky (2nd Chief Hierarch of the ROCOR) who was part of the Holy Synod in 1914, which returned Fr. Antony Bulatovich to service as a hieromonk and appointed him to the chaplaincy of the Russian Armed Forces without epitimia or censure.*

*(That in italics was added by Archbishop Andrew of Pavlovskoye and Rockland)*