

New Martyr Mstislava

Machine translated from <https://azbyka.ru/days/sv-mstislava-fokina>

The monastic martyr Mstislava was born in 1895 in the village of Maloye Uvarovo, Kolomna Uyezd, Moscow Province, into the family of Semyon Fokin, a worker from the Kolomna plant, and was baptized Maria. In the village of Maloye Uvarovo, Semyon had a land allotment, but since he himself was not involved in the peasantry, he rented this allotment. Maria graduated from a rural school and from 1908 worked at a silk-spinning factory in Kolomna.



In 1913, she had to leave her job, because at that time her mother became seriously ill, and she began to look after her. After the death of her parents, Maria first stayed with her brothers, but since they were members of the Communist Party and non-believers, she, wishing to serve the Lord entirely, left them in 1921 and settled in Kolomna at the church that belonged to the Kolomna Monastery. She lived here until 1930.

On April 15, 1930, in a church in the city of Izhevsk, Maria was tonsured into monasticism with the name Mstislav and returned to Kolomna, continuing her obedience at the temple. Having learned from the pilgrims that monks continue to live in the Theological Monastery near Ryazan and that monastic life has not yet been disrupted there, she went to the Theological Monastery in December 1930 and settled near the monastery in the village of Poshupovo and, despite the persecution, was quite happy that found a place where you could live a prayerful monastic life.

The godless authorities at that time with merciless consistency pursued their goal - the destruction in Russia of all the beginnings of church Christian life; On May 31, 1931, the monks of the Theological Monastery, nuns and laymen gathered around the monastery were arrested; in all, forty people were arrested, including the nun Mstislava. All of them were imprisoned in the city of Ryazan.

During interrogation, nun Mstislava said: "I boldly declare that the authorities oppress religion; freedom is given, but it turns out on the contrary - monasteries and churches are closed. "

The investigator asked the nun who tonsured her into monasticism, but she, not wanting to

name the priest, said that she did not know his last name, of this world, to give myself entirely to the service of God, in Whom I believe, and no convictions and oppression will kill my faith in God. "

On September 3, 1931, the OGPU troika sentenced nun Mstislava to three years of imprisonment in a forced labor camp, and she was sent with a escort to the Administration of the Solovetsky forced labor camps of the OGPU at the Svir station of the Murmansk railway. After serving her entire term of imprisonment in hard labour in Svirlag, nun Mstislava returned to Kolomna in 1934. As a person who had returned from prison, she was forbidden to live here, and no one took her to work with a camp certificate, so she received her passport again, as if she had lost her documents, and after that she began to live in the city, serving at the Church of the Intercession. Temples were closed everywhere, and in 1936 she was forced to work as a storekeeper at a gramophone plant in Kolomna.

In the second half of 1937, the authorities began to arrest the priests and monks who remained at large, and on February 24, 1938, nun Mstislava was arrested and imprisoned in Kolomna prison.

- The investigation established that you, Fokina, having a hostile attitude towards the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks and the Soviet regime, carried out counter-revolutionary agitation during your stay in Kolomna, despite your past convictions. The investigation requires your confession.

- I do not deny that I was convicted of counter-revolutionary activities in 1931. During my stay in Kolomna, I did not conduct any counter-revolutionary agitation among the citizens living next to me.

- Your hostility to the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the Soviet regime and counter-revolutionary agitation are confirmed by the testimony of those interrogated in your case. Excerpts from the testimony of witnesses are read to you.

And the investigator read out excerpts from the testimony of witnesses, which the nun rejected all one by one. On March 2, 1938, the NKVD troika sentenced her to be shot, and she was transported to the Taganskaya prison in Moscow. Nun Mstislava (Fokina) was shot on March 10, 1938 and buried in an unknown mass grave at the Butovo training ground near Moscow.