



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

April 16, 2020

Happy Easter! I hope you are healthy with no symptoms of the virus! So far there are only 34 cases of the **virus in our state**, all of which involve people who arrived from outside. We are grateful to the Blessed Virgin for protection! We continue to have services, but our bishop has removed the obligations, so attendance has been smaller. That is okay, given the danger, and now all churches are closed for Orthodox Easter. (That is because on their Palm Sunday the Orthodox churches just had flagrant violations of sanitation, even though the Patriarch asked people to stay home.) Starting with Holy Thursday we were able to stream our masses on the internet, so that was a first for us! Parishioners especially missed the Easter Vigil Service—my favorite, too. (If you would like to see our Sunday Mass without a congregation, stream <http://CATH.BOLGOFF.RU/> The time would be 9:00pm Saturday night, Central Time, which is noon Sunday here.)

The good news today was the live streaming of the ordination of our new deacon, Brother Kumud Nayak, C.J.D. He is from India, and a member of our community from Las Vegas, Nevada. He is currently working in Madison, Wisconsin where he was just ordained deacon. Hopefully he will be part of our second American community which is to be located in the Madison diocese. Bro Kumud certainly has a fascinating history. For four years he was parish administrator in Dubai, Arabia, working with many languages and situations in that Moslem country. Of course he finished his novitiate here in Vladivostok and speaks Russian, too! I don't have any pictures yet—They will be in the *Vladivostok Sunrise*.



More good news are the nine new members of our Church that became Catholics at the Easter Vigil. Here is a picture of the three boys that were baptized, together with their parents and godparents, and me and Fr Nikita. Fr Nikita conducted the inquiry classes this year, as I was too frequently gone. The boys chose the baptismal names of Bernard, Benedict, and Anthony! The other new members are adults.

Thank you for your donation! The many people who depend upon us for help will surely be grateful. And we are grateful already! Donations to your favorite charities will be welcomed. Maybe you can share our need with some friends? We need more income. Thank you for your prayers for our seminarians, too! We will be happy to include you in all our prayers in 2020—every day! For nearly 40 years I've been saying a Mass for Vocations on every "green Monday" of the year. For a while it looked so hopeless, but now, WOW! Asia has many vocations! Two months ago six more novices arrived in

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Vladivostok from Vietnam. Two from Pakistan were delayed by the virus. Plus we'll have more ordinations this year—eight more transitional deacons, who will be ordained priests later. Alleluia! The new deacon Brother

Kumud will be ordained a priest yet this year also. Only seven more deacons to go this year!!



Here is a picture just for fun of our seminarians in Indonesia celebrating the Jewish Seder meal, like at the Last Supper. Because there is no synagogue they can visit to get a taste of Jesus' times, the Seder is nice to experience something of what the Last Supper was probably like when Jesus instituted the Blessed Sacrament.

Thanks, and God bless you and yours for your generosity! Happy Easter time, even if maybe you can't go to church! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

To read *Vladivostok Sunrise 152*, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/152>

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