



An Easter Message from Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov, Rector of the Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia

Dear Friends of the Seminary:

Let me greet you with the traditional Paschal greeting: *Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!*

Amid anxieties, frustrations, and turmoil of this life, we boldly proclaim the victory of Life over death. Although we are tempted to be afraid like the myrrh-bearing women (Mk 16:8), we don't need to be, for the Gospel "is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16).

This year is unlike any other at our seminary. Are we afraid because of rapid changes around us and less-than-certain future? Humanly speaking, we are. However, the joy of Easter overcomes our fears. No matter what happens, the devil is not able to take this spiritual joy away from us: the risen Christ has triumphed over death and the devil in the waters of our Baptism.

At this time, our seminary continues to train students for the Holy Ministry – both from Russia and Ukraine! All people are sinners in need of forgiveness, and so all need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. No matter what shape or form the Seminary takes in the future, we will continue to "pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38) and do everything within our power toward that noble task.

Thus, your support and prayers are appreciated at this time as much as at any other.

Let the risen Lord fill your hearts with His joy and love!