

# Marina Akhmedova - Today I got a call in the morning, and a stranger...

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## Marina Akhmedova

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Today they called me in the morning, and an unfamiliar female voice said: "Everything is a lie." The voice was caked, the way people talk when they have a fever. The callers (there were three of them) turned out to be nuns of the St. Elisabeth Monastery in Minsk.

The nuns began to tell us that Mother Alexia was in intensive care with positive covid pneumonia. Father Vasily is also in the hospital. Out of one hundred and thirty sisters, one hundred are sick. The sick were moved away from the still healthy ones from the buildings into a hotel, but they were severely punished: "When the doctors arrive, you will say that you were resettled because the buildings are undergoing renovations."

Food for the sick is left in the corridor, and they go out to get it wearing masks. But at the same time, the monastery is working, and the flock comes to it in droves. For example, on Easter alone, 970 people received communion from one spoon overnight. The spoon was not processed, and when one of the girls who wanted to receive communion burst into tears and asked for the spoon to be processed, she was told that she should go to another church and receive communion there, but this is the only way here. But if doctors come, those who are sick are told to say, "You got sick after Easter. Just now". The leadership of the monastery does not want people to understand that on Easter they went to the monastery, where there were already so many sick people.

- How? - I ask. "The Patriarch told us to pray at home."

"And the sisters say," they answered me, "that we should not listen to the patriarch, but we should listen to Father Andrei, he is a saint, and through his prayers no one will get sick." In his sermons, he says that grace disinfects and heals everything, and you cannot get sick in church; sick people can come to church and be healed.

- Is he crazy? - I ask.

"How can you not understand," they tell me, "after all, if he says otherwise, it will erase the idea that he carried to the church for years, by which he lived." And Mother Agapia did not let anyone leave the Liturgy. And many nuns had a fever and tried to get time off.

- What kind of idea is this?

– This is the idea of standing for the purity of Orthodoxy, and it has always been like this in our monastery. We will now send you an order from the older sisters for us.

Later, the following text will come to my messenger: “For parishioners, the monastery operates as usual; none of the monastery’s acquaintances, friends or employees should know about the situation inside the monastery, that is, about quarantine measures. There is no need to wear masks in public, on the street or in church. Mother and father are aware of all the measures being taken.”

It was early in the morning, and it was difficult for me to perceive what these unfamiliar women with fever from Belarus were telling me. And why are they calling me? And why do they whisper to me, “Everything is not true. All. You can’t preach the Gospel and deceive people, right?”

- Why are you listening to this Father Andrei?! - I ask.

– And his personal charisma is very strong. He always says, “I prayed and God revealed it to me.” He is always right. You know nothing about him. He came to Orthodoxy from a hippie, he believed and worked as a temple guard for ten years, then he was ordained, he created a sisterhood around a psychiatric hospital in Novinki. And then he was blessed to build a monastery on a vacant lot. We don’t want to denigrate him, but we understand that people should not suffer because he built a cult of personality here and made everyone believe that his prayers help. But now they don’t help. Just admitting it is like death for him.

What kind of faith is this, I wonder, listening to them. Where is your own personality in this faith? Why don’t people know how to believe outside the temple? Why do they always need everything from the faith - rituals, priests, temples. Or maybe this is all because, left without rituals at home, alone with themselves and with God, people will understand that they don’t really believe?

“Yes, now such a process of sifting out the believers is underway,” agrees one of the nuns.

– What is your temperature now?

– I’m 37, she’s 38, she’s 37 and 5. Do you think we called you for our own sake? No, we called you not for ourselves, but because we want the truth.

I warned them that I would now call the head of the Synodal Department for Relations between the Church and Society, Vladimir Legoyda. And they warned me that their phones could be taken away today. I actually called Legoyda right away; he already knew about this situation. He said that doctors would come to the monastery today. They just came in. But I am writing this post because, in any case, I promised the nuns to tell the truth. And I say it.

See Translation



## 1.1K comments

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- Nicolaos Cheropoulos

My two daughters who were Kidnapped on the 18th of April 2017 were infected at this Monastery because the Clown and Charlatan Andrei Lemeshonok forced everybody to take communion from the same spoon...!! It took me 5 months to find out about this throu...

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