



# Moscow Representation of Valaam Monastery

## Orthodox Christian Discussion Club

### Pre-Screening of documentary *American Orthodox* held at meeting of the Orthodox Christian Discussion Club

Moscow - June 23, 2025 (Mon), the Moscow Representation of the Valaam Monastery (<https://mospodvorie.ru/>) hosted the screening of the *American Orthodox* documentary. The film preview took place at the meeting of the Orthodox Christian Discussion Club.

*American Orthodox* was a finalist at the Palm Springs International Screenplay in 2024 and was selected for 6 film festivals\* in 2025. The film is currently being screened in Orthodox churches and monasteries, schools and seminaries.

The film's screening at Valaam's Moscow Representation is symbolic, since God spread Orthodoxy in North America through the Valaam and Moscow saints (among others):

- St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (in 1898-1907)
- St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Apostle to Siberia and America (in 1824-1838 and 1841-1853)
- Hieromartyr Juvenal of Valaam and Alaska (in 1794-1796)
- Venerable Herman of Valaam and Alaska (in 1794-1837)

The Club's meeting opened with traditional prayers, which the participants chanted in English. Then the Club members proceeded to watching the film.

The film tells "a deeply personal and visually rich story of spiritual discovery, Orthodox saints, sacred places, and the living tradition of the ancient Christian faith on American soil." Principal filming locations include Fort Ross, San Francisco, Jackson, Santa Rosa, Sacramento, and Calistoga in California. *American Orthodox* is directed and executive produced by Robert John Hammond, the author of a book trilogy about Orthodoxy in North America.

The greatest impression and active discussion were sparked by the sincerity of the characters, living Orthodoxy in other parts of the world, and the miracle of the appearance of St Peter the Aleut's unburned icon on a Californian beach.

The Club's Head Roman Chustuzian directed the conversation, as the participants shared their reflections. The discussion was lively, thanks to genuine interest of the club members in film's storyline. The discussion ended with the traditional chanting of the prayer "It is Truly Meet" in English.

\* Cal Film Festival 2025, Marina Del Rey Festival 2025, Toronto Lift-Off Film Festival 2025, Christian Online Film Festival 2025, Christian Film Festival 2025, IndieX Film Fest 2025.

\*\*\*

Address of the Moscow Representation of the Valaam Monastery:  
Metro Station Belorusskaya / Mayakovskaya,  
2nd Tverskaya-Yamskaya St. 52  
Moscow, Russia

Orthodox Christian Discussion Club:

Website (RUS): <https://mospodvorie.ru/moskovskoe-podvorie/prosvetitel'skaya-deyatelnost/angliyskiy-klub/>

Telegram channel (RUS / ENG): [https://t.me/orthodox\\_christian\\_discussions](https://t.me/orthodox_christian_discussions)

The Club's trailer: <https://rutube.ru/video/a50c4229d7b499ddf79e9ecc0d40dc64/>