



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear «MailName»,

November 2, 2007



Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank you for your contribution! We are so grateful that our friends and co-missionaries like you have remembered our needs and those of the poor that we serve. Almost daily our volunteer is present at the deaths of patients at the hospice--No family members are there. They are abandoned people who have no one but us. That is the kind of thing that your donations make possible. As you celebrate Thanksgiving to God, you can be aware of the many people who are grateful to you.

Yesterday, the Feast of All Saints was a special day for us almost by accident (although do accidents really happen with God?)—We started the project of building the steeples on the church! Here is a photo which shows the first steps of building the scaffold, which will get taller and taller! We only have \$32 000 toward the \$100 000 required to complete the job, but we are still hoping God will send major donors our way so that we can finish the job! And I do mean finish. Why? We have a document written by Bishop



Slivovsky where he asks the Papal Nuncio to allow him to consecrate the church without the steeples. So the finishing the steeples is a way to honor those folks who tried to finish the church, but then suffered so terribly from the Communist Repression, including so many martyrs. So we are hoping to see the reconsecration WITH the steeples. Besides, as the restoration of the church is getting done we can again concentrate our energy on the

poor and on evangelization. I am looking forward to being able to spend more time with people again. Thank you so much for your generosity. We'd be lost without you.

The parish was able to move Sunday Mass back into the church on October 7 (without the reconsecration yet, of course.) Bishop Kirill was here for that event (which was the date formerly planned for the reconsecration. I've put a photo on the other side for you. The altar and tabernacle stand are still not in place, and the reredos is still unpainted-- but we hope to get to that soon, as we've just got the complete color scheme from the artist. We also were able to have the first organ concert in over a year on November 8 and 9. In the picture you can see the beautiful chandeliers which were made in Poland and donated by a parishioner. We have another little problem to solve--Now that the "pews" have been returned to the church building, we have almost nothing to sit on in the rectory, so I have to purchase some chairs. We also have to upgrade the heating system, since it was not completed last winter when we moved in. In this connection, the furnaces (Shadrack, Mishack, and Abednigo, as you recall we named them—and now there is a fourth one, so I guess we'll have to call it "Angel"--have been reinstalled in the basement of the church.

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Earlier the fire department wouldn't let us install them there, so we had to build a shed outside the church for them and pipe the heat to the church. Now the fire regulations have been changed, so the furnaces are back where they should be.

We are expecting Fr Dan to return from Las Vegas any day now. I heard that the conference was a success, and especially some of the talks by lay people who have visited Vladivostok. I'll try to get some photos to you in the next *Sunrise*. The Conference is especially important to allow our volunteers from the USA and Canada to get to know one another and to share their knowledge and experience. Many are from our Speaker's Bureau and represent us in parishes and conferences.

Thank you, and God bless you. Most Holy Mother of God, Pray for us! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.