



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

November 15, 2007



Happy Thanksgiving!

I'm taking advantage of a group of Americans going to Illinois to send you this "Thank you" for your contribution. We try to be economical to make the best use of your donation. Thanksgiving is surely a time to give thanks, even though we celebrated Thanksgiving a month ago in Russia (winter comes early here). But, of course, we American priests will remember you at mass on the day that is Thanksgiving in America. As you celebrate Thanksgiving to God, you can be aware of the many people who are grateful

to you.

The scaffold for building the steeples is getting higher and higher. So we are anxious to lay the first brick up there. We don't have the total amount needed to build the steeples yet, but we are trusting in God to make it happen, because we really want to re-consecrate the church on February 3, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of our martyrs. And besides, February 2 is the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. So there is hardly a better time to do it. Besides, when the restoration of the church is done we can again concentrate our energies 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.



I don't know if I told you already that the parish was able to move Sunday Mass back into the church on October 7 (without the reconsecration yet, of course.) Here's a photo 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. Now 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

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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. 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. As you can see in the photo, Bishop Kirill was here for our Sunday Mass that day because he came to Primorye to dedicate a home for the homeless which will be run by the Franciscans in Ussuryk. The funds for their building was raised among the American Korean community.

This week we've had visitors from Dixon, Illinois. Three men who came to figure out how they can adopt more children from Russia. They are great Catholics, and fathers of children already. It is an inspiration for Russian men to see how Catholic men in America manage their families and fight for life. I'm hoping guys from here will take the example and learn from them.

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

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.