



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

April 24, 2010

Thank you for your help! I hope it doesn't take long for this letter to get to you to express our gratitude to you. I often think how remarkable it is that God has arranged supporters for us like you! And he won't be outdone in generosity, that's for sure! Thank you!

We are getting all geared up for coming "secular" events. Sunday will be the 65th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day for Russia. It is scheduled to be one of the biggest holidays ever, complete with parades throughout Russia. Even Americans will be marching on Red Square together with soldiers of the Allied Forces. And American sailors will be marching in the parade here in Vladivostok, from an American ship which will be arriving next week. Meanwhile I received an e-mail from the chaplain on board that they want to attend our mass after the parade. We'll have to move our mass to one hour later because of all the "commotion". Russia has given all of her living veterans of WWII a new apartment in gratitude!

The second event was a big news report on national television yesterday about the construction of the new "Far Eastern Federal University" on Russian Island. What a grand campus for 100,000 students complete with dormitories and new homes for faculty! A new oceanarium will be included for marine studies. Naturally the Church has to be there, so we are working and planning ahead to be able to open a Newman Center and a Women's Support Center near the new campus. It means buying land and building buildings probably, but what a wonderful opportunity for the faith!



The bridge to Russian Island currently being built.

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And while I'm at it, I might as well show you the model for the new bridge here in the city across the Golden Horn Bay. You can see they are similar in design.



Golden Horn Bay Bridge

One of the great viewpoints of the new bridge will be the area beside our church building, so we will be expecting lots of tourists when it is done, and when the landscaping around the church is done—working on it now.

Meanwhile I've just had a discussion with Lily Timofeevna about our work with orphans and orphanages. She was saying how the kids from the orphanage are afraid to go to school. I suggested that it sure would be a good area of work for our “grandma” volunteers—to go with the kids to school in advance to see the building, meet some of the teachers, and have a little meal. Maybe they would feel different about beginning school then when there wouldn't be such a fear of the unknown. So it is an idea we will be following up on. Want to come and be a volunteer?

Spring has arrived, and so has the month of May! We'll be remembering you and all our benefactors as we sing the Marian hymn each day at mass, as well as in the mass itself. Thanks for your help! Pray for vocations! God bless you!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.