



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

June 5, 2011

Last week I visited an orphanage in Novoshaktinsk for the first time. What an eye-opener! 90 kids, all from dysfunctional families. You can see the result of wrecked families and wrecked lives of these kids who are now orphans. Somebody asked me recently what I thought the errors were that Our Lady of Fatima warned would be spread by "Russia" throughout the world. Naturally I answered immediately abortion and the attempt to end family life. Russia was the first country in the world to approve abortion on demand, and, for a time, marriage was outlawed in Russia. Why? It was said that women had to have abortions in order to work in the factories in the place of men. It was said that all bad habits are passed on in families. Abortion leaves scarred women, and lack of families leaves scarred men and women and kids. Why am I mentioning this? Because the huge collection of orphans and broken homes in Russia is a result of these errors. Once families are destroyed, the culture is destroyed. As I see it, folks in America and Europe are still heading in that direction, but it is not too late to save the day. Here we are recovering from those errors, and it is a long uphill struggle. As the Psalms say, "Foundations once destroyed, what can the just man do?" Not much we can do, but with God's help and your help we are working at it! I'm trying to figure out how to help those orphans, as we continue our Rachael's Vineyard retreats for women scarred by abortion, as our Women's Support Centers are counseling and teaching the schools, and as we preach the Gospel everywhere we can. We have a long way to go. Please don't abandon us! I'd give you some photos of the orphans but we aren't allowed to photograph them.

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We helped to buy an apartment on Russian Island for the Sisters in Jesus the Lord who are planning to open their first community in Russia next year. Luckily an apartment became available right near the university site where the sisters want to work-- among the 100,000 students of the new federal university. And the apartment comes fully furnished! What a great chance to influence the future of these students and the future of Russia! Here is photo of Babba Shura who lives in the apartment under the sisters'. She has served for years as the building guard, and always invites me in for tea when I'm there. Her kitchen is kind of a typical kitchen for a Russian apartment. She'll be a good neighbor for the

sisters.

Here is an interesting fact: According to surveys, 56% of Russians believe in God. That is more than ANY OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY, including Poland! Perhaps it will mean a

rebirth of interest in Church and religion in general. We hope so! We are counting on it. Pray for the conversion of Russia!



Recently I was reading an article about young Evgenii Radionov. He was a Russian soldier during the Chechan War. He and his friends were captured by the enemy. They noticed he was wearing a cross (that he got when he was baptized) and ordered him to take it off. He refused. They said that if he did not take off his cross and accept Islam he would be executed. Evgenii refused to take off his cross. He was shot, and then, still living, decapitated. Later his body was found and the cross still with it. Now he is a candidate for canonization as a martyr of the Russian Orthodox Church. Churches and youth organizations are starting to be named after him.

We were saddened by the death of Leopold Kilga. An article about him was in the latest *Sunrise*. He was 91 years old. His parents were married in our church in 1920 and he was baptized there, too. During the bad years he changed his name from Leopold to Leonid as a way of avoiding their making him “an enemy of the people”. He became an engineer and professor of engineering, and was responsible for much of the electrification of our State of Primorye. He joined the parish again after we opened, and received the Sacraments of First Confession, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and the Holy Eucharist many months ago. He was a grand man and a great Catholic.

Thank you for your prayers and support and donations! Your donation means so much to us just now as summer draws near. Thanks especially from all the kids that you help. Thank you, that we can count on you. You are in our daily prayers, and we will continue to pray for you!

God bless you!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.