



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

Sept 15, 2011

School Days, School Days—Good old-fashioned rule days! The kids are back to school! Here is a photo of kids from the Kolomaitsev family from the parish in Arsenyev decked out in their Russian school uniforms with the required bouquet of flowers for the teacher!



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We always have a blessing for students and teachers after Sunday Mass, and it is always amazing that the teachers outnumber the students! It means that many public school teachers and professors are our parishioners. Yuri Belozorov, a biologist who helps teach our NFP and pro-life classes, will be teaching biology at two schools this year, since there is a dearth of biology teachers (and I said “Great!” because it means there will be a pro-life man biology teacher in two schools. (Almost all teachers here are women, as are physicians—Remember that teachers and doctors were among the most poorly paid occupations in the Soviet Union!—as if health and education don’t matter!) And I’m sure that all the Guardian Angel kids are grateful to their benefactors for helping them get ready for school.

We have a big project coming up next week, that I’ll be sure to write you about: We are planning a memorial day when all the descendants of our pre-Communism parishioners will have a day of visiting the historical sites where it all happened, including the church, the

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bishop's house, mass gravesite. It should be a great event. Maybe it is the kind of thing that would make sense in November when we remember the dead, but it is too cold and snowy here at that time. I'll send some pictures.

What would you do if you couldn't buy pickle relish?--No egg salad sandwiches, no ham salad sandwiches, no liver salad sandwiches, no potato salad, no mashed potato salad, no bean salad, no thousand island dressing! I know, you'd make your own!! And that is what I have been doing, since we are just past the height of the cucumber and onion season here. It was easy to get a good recipe from the internet, and I enjoyed the break from my usual worries. It was interesting when Bro Innokenti was helping me, he said, "Is that all there is to it?? No one in Indonesia knows how to can vegetables! If we have extra vegetables, we just have to feed the pigs. I'll have to show my mom how to do this."

Brother Patrick seems to be doing well in the seminary, and we now have three seminarians here with us, Brother Arnulfo, Brother Innokenti, and Edwin Intan. Fr Dan has also just returned from the States, so we have classes for the seminarians, too. Our sisters from Kansas City were here for three months helping with all the summer activities, and many people will miss them. We hope they can return permanently in January. The elderly at the hospice and at the soup kitchen especially enjoy their visits and music. "Ave Maria" is always a hit!

Concerning our special projects, the two roofs on the sacristies and the spires on the transepts that had to be repaired this year are done! I'll get you a photo. The main roof still needs some financing, and we'll hope to the repairs next summer. Now we'll start on installing the fire safety equipment that the Fire Department requires.

What would we do without your prayers and support! You make it all possible. Thank you for your donation! Thanks to you for all the kids that you help to save at our Women's Support Centers. You are in our daily prayers, and we will continue to pray for you!

We'll be praying for you, and for all your needs. Thank you, and God bless you!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.