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Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

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Feb 15, 2012

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I'm writing to say "Thank You!" for your donation! Every day as I have to pay the bills I have a chance to thank God for your generosity! As the Soup Kitchen has opened again, and we are beginning to plan our summer activities, including the Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference, we recognize how dependent we are on our benefactors like you! Before those events we still have to replace the roof on the church, so that we will be ready for the big meeting of the Pacific countries which will take place in September— We are expecting many visitors! Thank you so much for your help! We will be praying for you daily.

Right now we are feeling a little "blue" as two of our seminarians left for the seminary in Manila, Philippines. It is good news that they are going to the seminary!! The sad part is that we are without them here just now. Brother Edwin is still here with us, and we have our regular novitiate classes. Brother Inosensius skyped me this morning, so we'll have electronic contact. Brother Arnulfo is on assignment in the Philippines until the school year starts there in June. Brother Patrick's dad is seriously ill, so he is juggling between seminary studies and visits to the hospital. We hope things will go okay.

Here is a picture of the kids all dressed up at the Sails of Hope orphanage. Our youth group went there to celebrate Christmas and New Years with the kids. The custom is for the kids to put on costumes for these events. Sure are cute!



Recently in the news they spoke about another adopted orphan in America who was killed by her parents. This makes big news here, and now some people in the duma want to forbid adoption by Americans. Of course it is a matter of pride for Russians, but then there are so many orphans!

Our 93 year old parishioner Kazimira Feliksovna Talko passed away on January 27. She was baptized in our church by Bishop Slivovsky before the church was confiscated. I was happy to be able to give her the Last Sacraments. Only one of her relatives is a Catholic—a granddaughter. The rest of the family did not want any religious ceremony, so we had the Vigil at her house, and I will go bless the grave in the spring. So there remains, as far as we know, only three pre-revolutionary parishioners. Two of them have refused any contact for 20 years already, but we are still hoping. And the last one, Regina Stanislavovna, lives in Tomsk in Siberia. We have occasional contact by telephone. She is the lady whose father buried Bishop Slivovsky, so the whole family had to leave Vladivostok in the middle of the night to escape the KGB. She saved some of the bishop's personal effects, which she gave to us. You can see them in the church. I think I'll publish Kazimira's memoires in the next *Vladivostok Sunrise* (issue 105).

I'm so happy that Lent is here!! We'll be praying for you and for all your needs. God bless you.

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.