



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

June 19, 2012

The weather here has been so strange! First we had no snow this winter. Now it is June already, and it has been so cold that in some places there is frost! We've been in a "San Francisco" fog for two weeks now—no sun visible at all! We are sure hoping for some sun! Even though the grass was wet I mowed it today anyway, as we don't know when it will be dry!

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Today I watched as they removed the cranes from the new bridge across the Golden Horn Bay, and I saw a concrete mixer crossing the bridge, so it is nearly ready for use! Here is a picture that a benefactor in Canada sent me. I don't know how he got the picture, but you can see the bridge and our church in the same picture. It still shows the cranes; our church still has the old rusty roof. The new roof is in process, but the bad news is that we may not be able to finish it just now—We can't get visas for our Chinese roofers! The top roof will be done, but maybe the side roofs will have to wait. We'll see. What is done looks fantastic!

You may remember that our parishioner Vladimir Pisorenko who needed to fly to Korea for a cancer operation—He came

through the operation just fine, but now the extra good news: The tumor was not cancerous! The doctor said that it was extremely dangerous anyway, and could be fatal if it had burst accidentally. He has returned home. And he says that for the first time in 57 years he feels normal! Most of his life he has lived with fever and high white cell blood count. He wants to write a personal letter to all those who helped him with the operation. The donations for him from America came to just over \$5000. I don't have a report of his Russian-side donations yet. I'll let you know!

Yesterday I rushed to the hospital to anoint Albert Silin, the "chief volunteer" of CARITAS, as his wife the Director of CARITAS calls him. He had sudden breathing

problems, so there was an emergency operation. Now he is looking quite good, so we hope the crisis is over.

We have two very big deals coming up: 17 college students from FOCUS will be coming in July. They'll do a lot of good, especially for "my" kids in Lesozavodsk where they will lead a retreat. The second big deal is a group of American volunteers coming to do some construction at two of the orphanages, and on Russian Island for the sisters' convent. Sister Stella and Sr Catherine are coming in July, too. So we'll have our hands full with Fr Dan gone.

I just had a Skype call from Brother Inokenty who is studying in Manila. He is hoping for ordination to the diaconate soon. We are waiting for the bishop's decision. Let's hope!

Thank you for your donation! And thank you for your prayers and support. As I look at the big challenges ahead for us, I realize that we can't get all of this done without your help! And only by the grace of God and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin! I'll be especially praying for you and hoping for you and yours!

God bless you.

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.