



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

July 17, 2012

Brother Patrick is getting ready for his year in the seminary, so he'll be away from us for a while. I asked him to help me write this note to you, since he has also been the beneficiary of your generosity. Here is his letter:

“Dear Benefactor, May the Peace, Joy and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and all your loved ones. St. Therese of the Child Jesus is considered to be as one of the Patron Saints for all Missionaries, she herself had never been in a mission land, but what she dedicated her life and prayers for all the missionaries of the world.

“My Dear Benefactor, you are playing a very important role in our missionary life here in the Far East of Russia. Most of you, our benefactors, like St. Therese, have never been to Russia, but your kindness and generosity reached Russia and have touched so much lives. Our presence in Russia would have not been possible, if not because of your kindness. The Catholic Church in Russia is still very young, and therefore much work is still needed to be done, bringing love and re-introducing the Love of Jesus to every Individual is something that we can offer to God's people in Russia, where people used to have no God. To offer love means to offer some help; to offer some help always means money.

“A special project that we have now is changing the roof of our church, we need to do this, to make our church more conducive as a place of worship, for people to meet God, in this House of Prayer. As of now, the work is in progress, our church, the Parish of the Most Holy Mother of God, is the only standard Catholic church building in the entire Primorsky State, and the church is beautiful. The church has undergone so much restoration, and now she stands on a hill with all her beauty. Without your help this would have not been possible.

“Yesterday, I returned from Nakhodka after visiting a dear friend who is also a priest, Fr Krzysztof Terepka. I spent four days with him. In Russia, we try to support each other, and we try to encourage each other in the Service of God and his People. I myself, as a future Priest, see the need of priests to be supported and encouraged, because the life of priests and missionaries in Russia is not that easy, as one may think. Today, Bro .Edwin went to visit another priest, for the same purpose, just to be with him, just to make him feel that he is being supported and being loved by his brothers in the same life style. This is very important, as we need to support each other, strengthen each other, and be in communion with each other, so that people may see us living in communion and in unity, and not just hear us talking about service and love and communion. We need to live it in our lives first. To visit a priest, as you know, takes money, not maybe a lot, but it takes money and time. My last visit to Fr. Krzysztof and today's visit of Bro.Edwin to Fr. Sebastian, would not be possible without your financial help. Tomorrow, I will go to visit the little ones at the orphanage--to go there also takes money. Some of our Caritas helpers go to visit and help the elderly--they also need money to do that.

“As of this very moment, we have two brothers in the Philippines for seminary studies. We have 5 candidates in our congregation in Indonesia who are now studying. I myself, just got my degree in Philosophy this year--these are all because of your help.

“Your Kindness and compassion really knows no limits, May God bless your heart, for he loves a cheerful giver. You know we cannot pay you in return for what have you done to us, and for His Church in Russia, but rest assured we remember you and your intentions in our prayers.

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“May God Bless us all through the intercession of our Mother Mary – the Mother of God. Amen. Forever I am grateful to God because of you. Bro. Patrick Milan Napal, CJD”

You remember that our Lesozavodsk parishioner Vladimir needed to fly to Korea for a cancer operation—He came through the operation just fine, but now the extra good news: The two tumors were 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. Donations from the Russian side came to \$3500. Most of this came from the active work of the parishioners of Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk. Congratulations everybody!



The upper roof on the church is completely done! It looks great! Now our workers are putting the finishing touches on the side roofs. I've heard reports that now it is easy to see the church from across Golden Horn Bay, as the roof looks quite bright from there! Thank you to everyone who donated to this project. It is still not totally paid for.

We have two very big deals coming up: 17 college students from FOCUS will be coming in two weeks. 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 a couple of days, too. So we'll have our hands full with Fr Dan gone.

Thank you for your donation! And thank you for your prayers and support. These are the summer months when donations are usually slow. So your help is even more valuable now. We are grateful for you, and we will continue to pray for you, and we are hoping for you and yours!

God bless you. Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.