



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

## Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

September 15, 2012

Thank you for your donation! We are so grateful to you for your support. Lots of folks here are counting on our help, but the only help we can give is what you provide! Here is some news about what all is going on. We are grateful for you and will continue to pray for you!

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I'm gritting my teeth waiting for the upcoming auction of the building where our Parish of the Visitation is in Lesozavodsk. We need more space in this building. I've entered the auction by paying the down payment of \$3000. Now we'll see if there are other buyers and how high the bidding will go. The auction is set for September 25. If we can't afford to win the auction, perhaps the new buyer will be able to sell us some more space. Or if we are the winner, perhaps we can sell some of the building so that we won't have the whole expense. Obviously my mind and my prayers will be busy with this auction until it is over, and if we win, I'll be asking for help paying for the building which is sorely needed! Here is a picture of the building, taken when FOCUS was there.



*The mini-mall where Visitation Parish is located.*

The big summit meeting in Vladivostok is finished. We'll see what the results are. America was represented by Mrs Clinton. Brother Edwin saw her and President Putin when he was working as a volunteer translator at one of the banquets. Brother Edwin is an official translator, as he speaks, Cebuano, Tagalog, English, Japanese, and Korean! Meanwhile we are trying to get used to the new traffic patterns and bus routes necessitated by the new bridges. And the sisters are so anxious to make progress on their home on Russian Island and at the university.

Brother Patrick wrote that he manned a table at a big vocations conference in the Philippines. It is called a "jamboree" with 90 religious congregations attending, and they expect 3000 youth to attend. He has prepared a display and made brochures, both for us and for the Sisters in Jesus the Lord. Then he was asked to be one of the main speakers at

the jamboree. He did such a good job that other dioceses have asked him to come to their vocation programs to speak. Right now he is in Leite at a diocesan conference. I must say we have good seminarians who have come to us from the Philippines. Naturally they still have to finish the seminary, which is quite an expense, but we will need them for the future of the Church here in Russia. Vocations in America are picking up, too, so we are hoping to get American vocations, also. Pray for vocations! Pray for funds to support vocations!

Speaking of the Philippines, I received a nice letter and this photo from a young man there who wanted to thank me for sending him a copy of the Roman Breviary. He is in high school, but is already thinking about a vocation to the priesthood. We'll pray for him and others who are also thinking about it. His name is Gabriel.



We have a big deal coming up: A group of American volunteers is coming in September to do some construction at two of the orphanages, and on Russian Island for the sisters' convent. It will be a busy time. They are from "Friends of the Missions, Inc." At one orphanage they are building two gazebos. These children are from birth to five years old. When they would go out for a walk they would take umbrellas (as Russians are very light-skinned. They need sunlight for vitamin D, but have to be careful about sunburn.). Expenses for the gazebos are being paid by "Orphans at Play", but we are providing the coordination and volunteer labor.

The second project for orphans is in Novoshakhtinsk, at a home for 100 orphans of school age. We are going to line their hockey rink, which was built five years ago, but never used because it won't hold water to freeze for ice. I really feel sorry for the boys at this orphanage, as they have absolutely nothing to do but to get into trouble. The hockey rink will give them an afterschool and weekend pastime. The girls have lots of activities, and, as usual, there are no men working at the orphanage.

God bless you,. Thanks for your help!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.