



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

October 5, 2012

I'm writing you from North Carolina! This is the first time I've been in this state. I am speaking this weekend at Holy Angels Parish in Mt. Airy, which is nationally known as "Mayberry" as this was the site of the TV program that was so popular. I'll be in the US for six weeks. This is an important time of the presidential elections, so I hope you vote!

But I'm writing to thank you for your donation! We really are living from hand to mouth these days, so all the more so important your help to us! The reason is our great problem of having vocations to educate in the seminary. We have such good seminarians, but it takes a lot of money to pay for their education. That in addition to all our work in Russia. We are grateful for you, and will continue to pray for you!

We lost at the auction in Lesozavodsk! Someone else richer than us bought the building where our Visitation Parish is located, so now we are wondering what will happen to our parish there. Perhaps the new buyer will be able to sell us some more space. Or maybe we'll have to move out to different premises! Waiting to see what God has in store...

I had such a big week just before leaving Vladivostok for America! A group of American volunteers came to do some construction at two of the orphanages, and on Russian Island for the sisters' convent. It was a busy time. They are from "Friends of the Missions, Inc." At one orphanage they built 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 were paid by "Orphans at Play", but we provided the coordination and translators. Our helper Victor Anisimov and I served as translators, and our Director of Building and Grounds Andre Udovichenko served as coordinator of the construction projects. The volunteers were really great, and we got a lot done before my flight.

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. He just finished at a diocesan conference on the island in Leite. During the trip there was a typhoon, so the boat stopped at a safe harbor and all were marooned there for a couple of days until the winds subsided. Now he is continuing his work for other dioceses. I must say we have good seminarians, and 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!

God bless you. You are in our prayers. Thanks for your help!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

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