



For information on costs, how to join a mission team, or how to organize one from your own parish or university, please contact the mission office.

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### Vladivostok missionaries say:

“Every one of us came back a changed person . . . we started entertaining the idea of coming back and living there, that’s how much we fell in love with it. Russia will never leave my heart.”

“It was the best experience of my life and I know most of the group can say the same.”

“I thought going to all the schools was wonderful, and all the children we got to work with in Lesozavodsk and on the street in Vladivostok were truly amazing.”



### President

V. Rev. Father Myron Effing, CJD  
[myron@catholic.vladivostok.ru](mailto:myron@catholic.vladivostok.ru)

You may also learn more and read stories from various mission groups by checking out our website.

[www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)



*Missionaries making bread to be cut into communion wafers.*

The Mary Mother of God Mission Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and gifts are tax-deductible.

# MISSION TEAMS



Mary Mother of God  
Mission Society  
Reviving the Roman Catholic Church  
in Eastern Russia

## A missionary church

The Catholic Church is essentially missionary. In 1992, American priests Fr. Myron Effing, CJD, and Fr. Daniel Maurer, CJD, arrived in Vladivostok to help reestablish the Church in eastern Russia.



Shortly thereafter, Fr. Myron started our mission society to spread the word about the Church's re-birth and to invite people to assist in its growth.

Over time, the priests opened or re-opened 11 Catholic parishes in an area that took in thousands of square miles. They also established a number of religious, catechetical, pro-life, and social service programs. Soon, people from other countries began visiting Russia to help with the work.

Now, we have mission teams visiting every year. Some are small groups of only 3 or 4 individuals, while others are larger groups of 10 to 15 from supportive parishes or Catholic organizations.

While experiencing the thrill of serving in a foreign country, the greatest contribution you will offer as a missionary volunteer is the living example of our Faith.

As you work, pray, and play with your new friends, you bring Christ to the people of Russia, a country spiritually devastated by atheistic communism for more than three generations.

This is no small matter. Although Russia has officially opened its doors to religion, the decades of suppression have taken their toll. Today, very few people practice any religion at all.

Places such as orphanages, hospitals, and institutions for children with disabilities are filled with people starved for loving concern, a human touch, attention, and the light of Christ. Our missionary visitors are always amazed at how quickly these needy souls respond to their care and affection. Many visitors say that their trip has changed them forever.



Every mission trip is different, but the following are some of the activities you might take part in.

- Cleaning or repairing buildings affiliated with some of our parishes
- Visiting orphanages to provide much needed care and hugs to the orphans
- Assisting hospice residents at meals
- Helping with the summertime Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference
- Assisting with the daily lunches provided for the elderly poor
- Helping out at the Catholic children's camp
- Assisting individual parishioners who need minor repairs to their homes
- Enjoying a typical Russian meal with parishioners or their families
- Attending Mass and praying the Liturgy of the Hours together.

You will also have the chance to see how the average Russian lives, meet our parishioners, and even visit many Russian historical sites. Most importantly, you will be sharing your talents and giving of yourself to those in need.