



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

November 30, 2007

I'm writing to thank you for your contribution! Thanks be to God, too, for friends like you who continue to support our efforts here in Russia. We all think that this presence and this work is very important for the future, so thank you being a part of it. As usually, I can't wait to give you the latest news!



The number of people attending our inquiry class every Sunday has been growing, and we now have a second Russian living with us to join our religious community, with another visiting us over Christmas. Of course we are hoping and praying for these vocations, and encourage you to pray with us. The Russian Duma again passed a law that makes it more difficult for us foreign priests to work here, and the final result isn't in yet, but everybody is concerned. Russian vocations are very important for the future. Meanwhile, there are attempts to find a solution for priests and sisters working in Russia. We are still trying to resolve the problem, and I'm sure that the bishops and government authorities are also working on it. Time will tell.

Merry Christmas!

The scaffold for building the steeples is up, and the old roof will be removed tomorrow. Then it is time to lay the first bricks up there. We don't have the total amount needed to build the steeples yet, but we are trusting in God to make it happen, because we really want to re-consecrate the church on February 3, the 70th anniversary of the death of our martyrs. And besides, February 2 is the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. So there is hardly a better time to do it. Besides, when the restoration of the church is done we can again concentrate our energies on the poor and on evangelization. I am looking forward to being able to spend more time with people again. Thank you so much for your generosity.

This past weekend I traveled to Khabarovsk to install the new pastor in the parishes of St Benedict and Holy Trinity. He is Fr Marcelo Brandan, from Argentina. He is a member of a new religious order called the Society of the Incarnate Word. This is their third place of service in Russia. They have many vocations in Argentina. Fr Marcelo told me that their founder says that they have many vocations because they take the most difficult assignments. (So now you know: Russia is a most difficult assignment. J) The parishioners are glad to have a priest at all. The former pastor, Fr Joseph McCabe was called to serve in the Vatican. It was fun to be in the parish that I founded so many years ago already, and to get reacquainted with some of the people that I baptized. Here's a photo of Fr Marcelo taking his oath of office.

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Thank you. God bless you as you prepare for Christmas. Thanks for all you do, and for all that you will do for the poor this Christmas. Most Holy Mother of God, Pray for us!—looking forward to her feastday on January 1. Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.