



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

October 31, 2008

It's a gusher! We decided to drill a well to save money on our water bills, and we hit water at 167 feet, with plenty of water for our needs. It all didn't happen without an accident though: Miroslava, our parishioner who was walking nearby, was shocked by suddenly being hit by a big spray of dirty water coming out of the well. She is okay now, but had to go home, lie down, and recover from the shock. Thanks be to God we haven't had any major accidents related to our construction project, but now the steeples are awfully high—Fingers are crossed and regular prayers are going up!

Perhaps you remember that I wrote about the Baby Boom in Lesozovodsk in the *Vladivostok Sunrise*. Yesterday there was a report on national TV that our state of Primorye currently has the highest birthrate in all of Russia! Again I congratulated all the leaders of our seven Women's Support Centers for doing a good job! They have been making presentations in all the schools near them about family life, preparing for marriage, why abortion is wrong, what is wrong with birth control, why preserve you chastity, etc. I'm sure we are part of the Boom. I just love the line in our mission video that shows kids in our church, and Kristina says, "It makes me feel like God is here!"

Thank you very much for your help. Fall is the special time for our elderly as they prepare for the rigors of winter. I'm currently visiting all the sick and elderly of our parish, and I'm so happy that we can be here for them. YOU make everything we do possible. Thanks!

We currently have a volunteer from the Philippines, Custodio. (I thought that "Custodio" is a strange name, but then he told me that it means "Guardian Angel", and he celebrated his name day on October 2.) He has been working with the children at the Orphanage #3, but is really sad today that two of the children that he has been working with will be transferred to the orphanage in Nakhodka, so today is their last day. Of course our parishioners in Nakhodka also work at that orphanage in the "Grandma Program," so the kids will continue to have attention from "Grandma".

I just received an invitation to attend the concert and reception in honor of the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Vladivostok and Primorye and of the 70th birthday of Bishop Benjamin. It is the first time I've received such an invitation, so I'm planning to go. Everyone says that our Churches should bear common witness in today's world, so we are anxious to cooperate and collaborate where we can.

If you are still stuck as to what to buy for Christmas for a friend, you can consider to buy our new book, "Harsh Vineyard" which is the history of the Catholic Church in the Russian Far East by our parishioner Miroslava Igorevna, and translated into English by Professor Gerri Kelley. Contact the office to get copies, or order it at any bookstore.

Okay. I couldn't resist putting a photo on the back anyway, even though I tried. Weak-willed, I guess! God bless you, Father Carr! Thanks for your help! May the Blessed Virgin obtain your prayers today.

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

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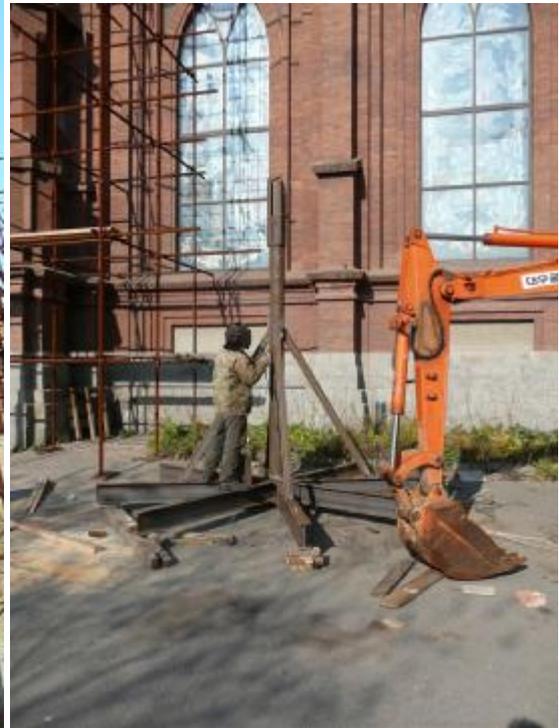
National Coordinator
Vicky Trevillyan

Address for Donations: 1854 Jefferson Avenue • St. Paul MN 55105 • 651-227-0208

National Office: 1813 Oakdale Road Suite 11 • Modesto CA 95355 • 209-408-0728

U.S. e-mail: USOffice@vladmission.org • Russia e-mail: myron@catholic.vladivostok.ru

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The brickwork for the two steeples is now done, except for some trim. The interior woodwork still remains to be done, and hanging the four bells. Now we are working on the final upper pointy parts of the steeples. You can see the gray "mast" standing between the fence and the church. That is the very inner part which will be clad with metal and a cross placed on top to complete the steeples, once it is lifted up and placed on the brickwork.

Here the welder is working on the second mast for the second steeple.