



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

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January 1, 2009

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Happy New Year! And Happy Feast of the Most Holy Mother of God!

I wanted to put a picture of the Christmas Tree in church here for you, but decided to put a photo of the crowd at the Christmas Concert instead. We consider the concerts to be a major part of our evangelization program. There were four concerts, all sold out. The photo kind of looks like a Christmas Tree anyway—with people as decorations!

Here is a photo of a baby you helped through our Women's Support Centers. I can't help but think that it looks like the baby Jesus (so I changed the date on the photo—easy to do with Microsoft Paint.)

Hopefully we are nearing the end of the steeple project! The Crosses for the top are now being manufactured in Vladivostok, and the metal cladding for the spires is being done nearby in China. My fingers are crossed to get them done for February 2 and 3—two of our big feast days. We have nearly achieved our fundraising goal for the



steeple—only \$5000 to go. I did the statistics on the fund yesterday, and 44% of the donations are from Russians. It shows how anxious the Russians are to complete the steeples. It is a big sacrifice for them. It means that 66% is from Americans. We been working on the church for 17 years already!

Thank you for your help. You should have a special feeling of satisfaction in this new year that you have helped the less fortunate, even a baby for whom there was “no room in the inn.” And you've helped spread the Good News that the angels sang, even to these far corners of the world.

God bless you with all that you are dreaming of for the new year! Thanks for your help! Thanks for your prayers. Pray for vocations!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

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
Website: www.vladmission.org Fax: 209-408-8665