



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

January 15, 2009

Thanks! We've reached our goal for the building of the steeples on our church! Two larger donations came in from very loyal donors, and these put us over the top! How great it will be when they are finally complete and our steeples will be visible from a good part of the city, and lit up at night, they will show that the Church is present in Russia!

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Hopefully we are near the completion of the steeple construction project. The Crosses for the top are now being manufactured in Vladivostok, donated by wonderful folks in Illinois, 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. I did the statistics on the steeple fund yesterday, and 40% of the collected amount is from Russians (which shows how anxious the Russians are to complete the steeples) 60% is from Americans. Thanks! We have been working on the church for 17 years already!



Ouch! My car got rear ended in Partyzansk when Yuri drove it there to pick up a handicapped person to bring him home for the holidays! That poor car has been beaten up so many times. It was the one I nearly died in several years ago when we slid on an icy road near Michaelovka. And Fr Dan had a accident in it on the way to the airport. But I just love the old car. It is a right-steering-

wheeled little Toyota with—best for me—continuous four wheel drive. Oh well! We'll get it repaired just one more time before we think about a new used car. There is no way we can afford a new used car just now, and we can never afford a new new car.

Thank you for your help! God bless you with all you are dreaming of for this new year! Thanks for your prayers. Pray for vocations! May the Virgin Mary look over you—and us.

Yours truly,
V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

P.S. I know Christmas is over, but I thought you would enjoy this Christmas drawing by a child in Nakhodka as I did.

