



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear «MailName»,

July 26, 2010

**It finally happened!** After nearly 20 years of working in Russia, I have at last received a “green card” from the government! It is permission to live in Russia without any visas for five years, at which time I have to extend it, or become a Russian citizen. It will save us a lot of red tape and useless trips to Korea or America to renew my visa! Now we are waiting to see if Fr Dan and Fr Sebastian will receive theirs, too! I’m sure the parish will applaud Sunday when I tell them. **Thanks be to God!**

I’m happy to tell you the news, but of course I’m really writing to thank you for your donation! You make our being here possible, and you are part of all that we do here! Thank you very much for being there for us, and for your generosity. We pray for you daily at mass. We try to keep things going well here so that you know that your sacrifices are well used.



When I edited the last Vladivostok Sunrise, I didn’t have a photo to tell you about the 1000<sup>th</sup> “Adopt-a-Birth” baby. So here is the photo for you. The “baby” is twins! Here they are in the arms of their older sister. “Denis (1) is actually #1000. It means that we have helped 1000 moms give birth by offering financial support at birth time when they needed it—support which came from American benefactors like you. Of course our Women’s Support Centers have helped many more women of all ages who didn’t that that particular \$20 help at birth time.

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1000 times \$20 adds up to \$20,000's donated for this purpose! Thanks, benefactors!

We've been getting more inquiries about young men wanting to find a religious community to join. That is sure a good sign. Right now we have one novice, two candidates, and about five guys collecting their files to apply. So your prayers for vocations will surely have an effect.

Fr Dan called this morning from Chicago. He finished his work in the States and will spend a week in Michigan before returning. I'll be in the States in October, my traditional vacation time.

Since this is the vacation season in Russia, we are getting a lot of tour groups of people from all over Russia. Most have never been in a Catholic church before, so it is quite an experience for them. We try to accommodate them, if possible. My turn to be in the church is all Saturday afternoon. That is fine with me! If I don't have many guests I can get prayer time in, and work on my Sunday sermon.

The annual Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference is in session in Khabarovsk. I haven't heard yet how many youth are attending, and we are praying regularly for a good conference. The theme of the Conference this year is "Witness"--How the Church, the Bible, our families witness the faith to us and how we in turn witness our faith to others. I got interested in the theme after reading the book "Jesus and the Eyewitnesses" by Richard Bauckham. It is a tough book, but well worth reading for those who may have been dismayed by the text critics. Today's youth will be the backbone of the parishes tomorrow, so it is important.

Have a good August until we get back to the serious business of the school year! Soon it will be time for the Feast of the Assumption when we also will especially remember you to the Blessed Virgin during the procession and benediction. Happy Feast Day!

God bless you,!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.