



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

July 31, 2011

We're all exhausted! Two big weeks of travel and work and nights without sleep. That is all good news though!! We just finished the Children's retreat in Lesozavodsk and the Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference in Nakhodka, all with the help of sixteen American college students, members of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, and with the help of our Sisters in Jesus the Lord who are here for a three-month visit. The events were really great events, and I don't know how we could have done it without outside help! Even though it was hard work, and poor living conditions, they did a great job, and many said they would like to come back next year! I'm sure that especially the 24 kids in Lesozavodsk will long remember them. And we hope to have confirmed and strengthened the faith of our youth at the Conference. Here a photo of the boy's "command" from Lesozavodsk for you.



It was our first experience with a camp for children in Lesozavodsk, and it will hopefully be the first of a long series of such camps, as the kids really need it. But we aren't able to do it without people from outside who can help. These are the same children that the parishioner feed every Saturday when the kids don't get dinner at school. We've helped them several years already, but this is the first time we tried to do something extra. Some day maybe there will be a resident priest in Lesozovodsk, so we could work more at catechizing the children. Most are not baptized yet.

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But you are part of these big events, too, as we couldn't do it without your prayers and support. You are what make it possible. Thank you for your donation. Your help is especially appreciated in the summer when we are counting our pennies, and hoping we won't be abandoned while benefactors are on vacation. Thanks for all the kids that you help. Thank you that we can count on you. You are in our daily prayers, and we will continue to pray for you!

The theme of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference this year was, "To be a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". So we dealt with the problems and temptations of current culture, and asking how the young people can face those problems and even make a contribution in the new century. I gave one talk entitled "Marriage in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." I spoke about how medical technology and changing attitudes in post-Christian society will demand a great deal of Christians in the century ahead—in Europe, a century of militant atheism and of militant Islam. America is facing much the same challenges. The talk after mine was "the Teaching of the Church about Marriage". Talk is one thing, but living it is another.

We'll be getting ready to celebrate the feast of the Assumption—on August 14 this year for us. It's a special time when we'll be praying for you and for all our benefactors. Thank you, and God bless you!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.