



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

## Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

May 17, 2012

Happy Feast of the Ascension!! We'll celebrate twice—today and Sunday again!

My mind has been busy with two problems: the roof on the church, and help for Vladimir. I'll start with Vladimir. Vladimir Pisorenko is the founder of our Parish of the



Visitation in Lesozavodsk. He has been suffering from fever and high blood count for a year. Finally he went to Korea to get a diagnosis, and the result is liver cancer. He has to have the operation before it spreads, so the operation is scheduled for June 2. The operation, if all things go normally, will cost \$20,000. Naturally he doesn't have that kind of money, so he has been asking everywhere for help. The parishioners in Lesozavodsk have really jumped to the cause. The elderly parishioners gave him a month's pension while I was there. Others are contacting the many people that Vladimir helped through the years in his work as a consumer

advocate. Others are taking turns manning a booth at the public library where they are asking for donations. I was really impressed by the determination of the parishioners to help, and in any case, I think the parish will be better off for all of this intense effort and care for one of their own. Of course it won't be enough, so Vladimir asked me to appeal to the Americans that he has met, too, to ask for help. So I've been writing letters and sending emails. Here's his photo, so you can put him in your prayer list.

Now for the roof: A neighbor lady stopped me on the street recently to say "congratulations on the beautiful steeples on the church. It has made the building really special for our city. But when are you going to get rid of that RUSTY roof!?" I was glad she asked, so I showed her the scaffold which is now set up around the church, and the workers from China who are already beginning the repair of the roof! We promised the government to have it ready before the big summit meeting which will take place in Vladivostok in September. But it is expensive, and we are already scrapping the bottom of the barrel. If you can help with one of these causes, put "Vladimir" or "Roof" in the memo section of your check. Or use your donation site on the internet: <http://www.vladmission.org/donations/donations.htm> Maybe you know of someone else who could help! I'll be sure to let you know the results of Vladimir's operation, and will send you pictures of the completed roof on the church when it is done!

Right now we are enjoying the presence of three of our seminarians! They are such good guys. Soon Brother Inosens and Brother Patrick will leave for school, so we have to enjoy them now. Yesterday they worked with the kids at Children's Hospital #3. Brother Edwin will be with us until next year. He is quite a hit with the foreign students at the university, since he speaks Korean, Japanese, Russian, and English, besides his own Cebuano. And now he is also working on Chinese. He'll be my "right hand man" when Fr Dan is in the States this summer.

The building where our Parish of the Visitation is located in Lesozavodsk will go on sale this summer at the city auction. We absolutely need to buy this building, as anything later

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will be even more expensive! We do not know what the final price will be, as it is an auction, but we have to be ready with CASH if you know what I mean! We missed a chance to buy it at the earlier auction when it would have gone for only \$25,000, because I was too honest!--I didn't send someone extra to the auction to bid against me, and, since I was the only buyer, the auction didn't happen!! Now maybe I'm not so honest! If we can buy this building, it will solve our space needs for the parish in Lesozavodsk for a long time to come, and maybe even provide some income, as we can rent out some of the space. The kids are so hoping that the sisters will soon come to work with them. We need space.



*Lesozavodsk kids*

Thank you for your help! God knows how to be generous to you, too! And thank you for your prayers and support. As I look at the big challenges ahead for us, I realize that we can't get all of this done without your help! And only by the grace of God and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin! So during this month of May, the month of Mary, I'll be especially praying for you and hoping for you and us!

Happy May! I was so happy for Lent as I was looking forward to the fast. But now it is time to rejoice! Happy Pentecost soon! God bless you.

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.