



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

## Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

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January 15, 2013

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Happy New Year! I'm so grateful to Almighty God for you and for all our benefactors, but also for the remarkable things that are happening just now! On December 15 our Brother Inokenty Hetu, C.J.D. was ordained to the diaconate as a step to the priesthood! I went to Manila for the event, which isn't so far from here, and then on to Surabaya, Indonesia, where I met with our newly forming community there, which currently has six members, and more on the way. That was also a great experience! Then I visited the orphanage in Jakarta where two of our postulants are helping the sisters, teaching music, and playing soccer with the boys. Also a remarkable experience!

All of this is such exciting news for me, both as a religious, and as a pioneer here in Russia, because, with the lack of vocations in Europe and America, Russia will suffer without priests if we don't find or grow some. So it is exciting that there are so many vocations in the Philippines and in Indonesia, and that some of these guys want to work in Russia after ordination, and others will serve in other countries (even in America?? Why not?) after their ordinations. But we'll have the expenses of their seminary training, but I know God will provide, and these seminarians are so terrific--I should know—I worked many years in seminaries and as a vocation director in the U.S. before my work here in Russia. I don't want to count my chickens before the autumn (as the Russians say), but we probably will have two Filipino and 5 Indonesian novices this year here in Vladivostok, and that means 7 more guys in the seminary next year. All these guys are from traditional Catholic families, and most of them are older and have their degrees and work experience already. Fingers crossed! Thanks be to God! But my worry is paying for all the tuition expenses which going to the seminary entails. I don't mind telling you that some of them wanted to go to the seminary a long time ago, but were unable because of the poverty of their families. But we need priests, so please pray for them and please help me if you can with their expenses! Maybe somebody would like to be a "Guardian Angel" for a seminarian, and pay for his seminary expenses. God bless you! But why not Russian vocations? There is some interest, and I received a letter just this week, but with 7 abortions per woman and 80% divorce rate there just aren't many kids! Europe is in the same pickle.



"Midnight" Mass

Thank you for your Christmas donation! May the Lord be equally generous with you in the New Year! Our parishioners had such a happy Christmas (even though it was a work day in Russia, so the "Midnight" Mass was even more packed than usual.) And Fr Dan put the final touches on the four Christmas concerts, all of which were sold out. We also had the annual Christmas Festival of Christian Choirs, which is our ecumenical event associated with the week of prayer for Christian unity. Also our American sisters have arrived from Kansas City. So now it is time to get the seminarians organized for their school year (which in the Philippines and Indonesia begins in the Spring.)

It is about time to work on Vladivostok Sunrise 110. I'll catch you up on more news there. Wow, a lot of work still lies ahead. Pray for us. We prayed for you on the Feast of the Most Holy Mother of God, January 1! Happy New Year! God bless you,.

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.