



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

December 31, 2013

Happy New Year! May the Lord fulfill all your New Year's wishes and hear all your prayers throughout 2014! Tomorrow is the Feast of the Most Holy Mother of God, so we will especially remember you at mass.

Thank you for your donation! We would like to do even more in Russia, but so much depends on your help, on the future of our seminarians, and on the proper functioning of our governments! We pray for you every day, and it is usually the seminarians who are the first to pray for you! They are such great men, and we are really blessed to have them.

The kids did a really great job this year at Midnight Mass. Every year they give us a little play about the birth of Jesus, and this year's was a wholly musical performance. They were very disciplined by a parishioner who professionally directs choirs. Here is a photo:



I have to share a letter with you, because I think it is so cute! It was from our seminarian, Brother Patrick in Manila. He writes, "I attended the ordination of my classmate from the seminary. Fr Ronald Arcillas was ordained in his home Parish in San Roque Parish, Malabog, Davao City for his diocese. It is in the mountain, very far from the city proper. He was the first priest in their place and the first one also to be ordained in their Parish. It was a great celebration. Everyone was so excited to witness the event for the first time in their lives, since people there rarely come down to the city proper, so basically they've never been to an ordination. The celebration was so big that all the schools in their place declared no class, just to be in the church to witness the event. All the police and military were there too, as well as all the local government officials. The people prepared the venue and the food a day before the event: They killed 16 pigs, of which 12 were "lechoned" [whole roasted] and 4 were cooked into different recipes, they also slaughtered

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3 cows, 5 goats, and 50 native chickens--This is to tell you how big the celebration was. I was part of the priests' vestments preparation and assisting the priests on the day of the event to provide them vestments that fits them. There were 70 plus priests who came, but even though the task given to me was just easy, there were many of them, I also felt tired after the mass. Please pray for Fr.Ronald." The people were that glad to have a priest in their midst!! It gives me hope.

Vicky is celebrating, too. She says, "800 copies of our MMOG Abundant Blessings Cookbook were delivered today [Dec 19]. Even with a small army of volunteers helping in the beginning, it was sure a long road getting here. But, if I may say so, it is absolutely beautiful and well worth the wait!!!! I just love it!!!! As one who collects cookbooks, I think the MMOG is way above average not only in recipe variety, but in the colorful cover, story pages, and helpful hints. I'm promoting it as something that can be placed on a coffee table as well as in the kitchen. The cost is \$25 and includes shipping. Proceeds benefit the seminarians' education fund and the Women's Centers' fund. Please pray for a great response. We have already sold 5 copies in the store the last 3 hours and sent out 12 copies from email orders. Not a bad start." Well, if you missed Christmas, you could buy it as an Easter present for the person who cooks you everything!



Only 19 more years until the 2033 year Jubilee Year of the Redemption! I'm still hoping that there will be reunion between the Catholics and Orthodox before that time so that we can celebrate it together. I'll be giving some talks to Orthodox groups soon, and that will be the theme of my talk. We pray for reunion, too.

We'll be praying for you. God bless you! Happy New Year! Thank you so much for your help, and for having remembered us during the Christmas season! I'll be visiting all the sick in my parishes now, and I'll ask them to pray for you, too!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.