



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

## Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

May 1, 2014

Happy month of May, in honor of the Blessed Virgin! Recently someone asked me about our relationship with the Virgin Mary. This is what I said: “The Vladivostok Parish and Vladivostok Diocese were under Her patronage since the beginnings back in the 1860’s, so it only seemed natural to continue that tradition when we came in 1992. Mary Mother of God Mission Society also took its name from Her through us. We believe that She has specially interceded for us and for the martyrs of our parish, some of whom will soon be canonized. Every day, regardless of the season or feast, we begin our prayers in Her church with a special greeting and hymn to Her.” We ask her to accompany our prayer and work for the day. I hope you feel Her protection, too! Happy May!

Here is a photo of one of our recent baptisms of a child on Easter Sunday. At the Easter Vigil we baptized five adults and four more entered the Catholic Church. There does seem gradually to be more interest, as we see more new faces every Sunday in church these days. And while I’m at it, here is another child’s baptism during Lent (on back side). I love our baptismal garments, which Sergei has on.



In Russian, they don’t say “Happy Easter”—They say “Christ is Risen”. And the answer is “Truly Risen”. But there were Easter eggs and kuliches, which are special breads for Easter which are almost like tall cakes, usually with white icing and lots of sprinkles. The food was blessed at all Easter Masses. It is a great tradition to end the Lenten fast.

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We've got lots of things on our plate just now: 1. We are hoping to convert the heating system to gas, which will be cheaper. 2. We have to work on the bells, to make their mounting safer. 3. The parish space in Lesozavodsk needs work before the next heating season. 4. We need to install a water softener here, as we spend too much money on broken water heater parts because of the hardness of the water. 5. I have to buy a new used car, as this one is about 20 years old, been through many accidents and bad roads, and is nearly worn out. 6. We are helping to build the new church for Our Lady of the Pacific Parish in Nakhodka. 7. We are working on a new video presentation. 8. The new novice class begins on May 10. 9. We are hoping to help get new beds for the hospice. 10. Of course, we will continue our work with orphans, with the hospice, and with the Women's Support Centers, and so on. Besides that, we have nothing to do!!

Spring has sprung, and we've planted our garden of radishes, lettuce, and beans. Fresh veggies are my favorite. It's too cool and foggy here in the summer for tomatoes or cucumbers, though. Outside the city, off the peninsula, the weather is warmer and sunnier, so this is maximum work time as people work in their dachas preparing summer gardens. The sisters are hoping for a big garden on Russian Island, too. Easter and Spring are times of hope. The weather forecasters say it will be a dry summer!

Thank you for your donation! I don't know of a better way to express our gratitude to you. You are always in our Mass intentions and prayers at the Liturgy of the Hours. Thanks for your prayers, too!

God bless you! Happy May! Thank you so much for your help!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.