



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor

May 15, 2014

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! And special prayers go to Our Lady during this month of May! 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!

Are you tired of looking at our group pictures? I can't help but show you this picture of our Vladivostok C.J.D. community as it was last week!



The guys in white are our new novices, Brothers Ferdinandus and Gregorius from Indonesia, Brother Luis from Vietnam, and Brother Jose from the Philippines. They will be with us this year. The sisters are Sisters Mary Catherine, Faustina, and Stella Marie from Kansas City who are making their home on Russian Island near the university. Besides Fr Dan and I, the guys in black are those who had just taken their first vows as religious: Brothers Augustine, Ignatius, Yohanes, and Jacob, all from Indonesia, and Brother Harben from the Philippines. One more novice, Brother Lefi from Indonesia is barely visible on the back, right. Wow, they are a good group. Those in black have

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already left Vladivostok for the major seminary to study for this year. We are still looking for funds to pay for their education!

One of our parishioners, Lily Timofeevna said, "Father, go ahead and show the pictures. We understand. These are your "grandchildren"! We always show pictures of our grandchildren, too!!" Okay! Okay! When my sisters are showing pictures of their grandchildren, they ask my brother about pictures of his grandkids. He says, "Oh, my grandkids are just ordinary grandkids!" I guess my "grandkids" are extraordinary alright!

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. We are hoping to help get new beds for the hospice. 9. Of course, we will continue our work with the parishes, the 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!

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

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.