



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

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July 31, 2014

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Happy Feast of the Assumption coming up! I hope you are doing fine! Here is a copy of the “Coronation” window from our church, which was named in honor of our sister parish of the Coronation in Kansas City. They have been one of our earliest sister parishes, and continue to help us still. Their pastor, Fr Stephen, is just now visiting us, and is the chaplain for the FOCUS team that came to work in Lesozavodsk. Thank you, Father, and thank you, Coronation!

“It was the greatest camp ever!” said Sr Faustina when she and FOCUS volunteers returned to Vladivostok from Lesozavodsk. The 13 students from FOCUS and two seminarians from America came to help us with the children’s retreat in Lesozavodsk and with the 18th Annual Catholic Youth Conference. This year the Conference is being held on Russian Island. It should be a great money saver to have it here, as places for camps and meetings are getting more and more expensive. Our facilities on Russian Island are not yet in good shape (Frankly, they are in terrible shape!) but the students who attend the Conference will adjust, I’m sure—Russians, Americans, Indonesians, Filipinos, Vietnamese, Poles. The theme this year is “God’s Family” where we will talk about the Church’s teaching about family life, and about the Church as a family. It should be interesting. The main speaker is Sr Juliana Gostkovska, SSPS from Irkutsk, Siberia. It will end on August 3, so I’ll be sure to let you know how it turns out. If you can, please remember this important work in your prayers.

There was a tragic accident recently. The mother of three Guardian Angel kids in Lesozavodsk who was desperate for work to feed her family found new work in Vladivostok, so she was transporting the

kids from Lesozavodsk to their new home here. There was an accident. Mom was killed, but all three children lived! The government has given the grandmother in Lesozavodsk charge of the kids, so their Guardian Angel benefactors will be even more important for them! If grandma can’t cope, the government will move the kids to an orphanage. It

won't be easy for grandma, as the kids are three boys! They are healthy, smart kids, so I hope they will be able to cope.

It is amazing for us, but our parish just acquired six Filipino lay parishioners who are now working in Vladivostok! And probably more to come! We even added a Filipino parishioner in Lesozavodsk! Naturally our novice Bro José is excited about that, too. Refugees from the war in Ukraine are also coming to our state of Primorye, so perhaps there will be Catholics among them. The Russian Far East is really being promoted by the government development agencies, so we expect to see many more people from all over the world to be coming here, especially students for our universities who want to learn the Russian language.

We've been working on budgets for our seminarians, and we have been trying to find the most economical education for them that will still deliver the product. But meanwhile, nothing worries me more than paying these expenses which we simply must do if we want a future for our parish and our mission. If earlier we had to provide apartments and buildings for parishes, now we simply must provide priests! I know you will want to help if you can. We are helping to build a church in Our Lady of the Pacific Parish in Nakhodka, but parishes need priests, too. I'm 73 already—How time flies! Fr Dan is 63.

Speaking of those American seminarians, one was from St Paul, MN and the other from Asheville, NC. The guys pitched right in, and I'm especially glad they like to work on "unfinished" projects that have been waiting for "golden hands" to do them. We have a list of about 30 projects that need a carpenter, for example. They told me that they are really impressed with our novice brothers, and enjoyed praying the Liturgy of the Hours with them in English. (They are still studying Russian!)

Well, that's about all I can thank to tell you today. Thank you so much for your donation, which helped to take the burden from my back, as summers are always financial problems. I don't know of a better way to express my gratitude to you than to pray for you. You are always in our Mass intentions and prayers at the Liturgy of the Hours. Thanks for your prayers, too!

God bless you! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.