



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

## Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor

August 31, 2014

Thank you so much for your donation, which helped to ease our summertime burden, as summers are always financial problems—right at the time that we are most active with summer programs, especially for kids. I don't know of a better way to express my gratitude to you than to pray for you, and to let you know what is happening via these letters. You are always in our Mass intentions, and prayers at the Liturgy of the Hours. Thank you for your prayers, too!

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*Seminarians Peter Ascik (NC) and Nicolas Hagen (StP) with Fr Stephen Hansen of Coronation Parish (KC) by the steam locomotive at the Vladivostok train station. (The engine was made in Philadelphia!)*

Yesterday we had the blessing of students and teachers. It was a really big group, which means that there are more kids than previously, and more teachers to work with them. Families are busy with "back to school" activities. Many schools here require uniforms, and there are books to buy and stationery items. We help where we can, but mostly the "Guardian Angels" help. Here is a nice drawing that one grateful child just sent to her Guardian Angel. (Next page) Isn't it great! I was impressed!

Our own seminarians are back in school for the school year, too, some in Indonesia and some in the Philippines, and we have four novices with us now to learn the Russian language. School for them starts this week, too, at the Far Eastern Government University of Economics and Services.

I just had the opportunity to visit our elderly parishioners way up North in our state of Primorye. Two are handicapped who can never leave their beds. They assure me of their prayers, for you and for me. They are members of the Lesozavodsk parish of the Visitation, and I try to see them a couple of times a year, if possible. They say it is a “big event” when the priest comes. Transportation is still pretty difficult to their villages, but our benefactors keep us moving. I usually drive myself, even though the steering wheel is on the “wrong side” of the car! It is a whole hour trip on a dirt road after the highway, and the traffic is very fast, so you are breathing dirt for a whole hour. The air conditioner on my car doesn’t work, so you really get pretty dusty! It is worth it, of course, to bring the sacraments to these long-suffering folks. And then another hour back on the dirt road.

Sunrise 119 is in the mail. I hope you enjoy it. God bless you! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.



*Anastacia Musilkova drew this!*