



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

March 31, 2015



Happy Easter! May the Easter Season bring you many blessings! This is my favorite Easter picture, painted by a parishioner in Arsenyev. It shows the shocked women at the tomb who are told by the angel that “He has risen!” Now if you have recovered from the shock, have a nice Easter Season!

Actually, I’m hoping to get this letter off to you before we get to the Easter weekend, because I want to thank you for your donation! You won’t get this letter until after Easter! I think how wonderful it is that you take good care of us and our kids and our seminarians! I’m grateful that you trust God to take care of you! And what good surprises God has in mind. We just added about 15 foreign

parishioners to our parish—people who are coming to work with Russia’s new developments here in the Russian Far East. We’ve added new foreign parishioners in St Joseph’s Parish in Artyom, and in Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk. And of course the number of Russian parishioners is gradually increasing. I expect to baptize 7 adults at the Easter Vigil. We now even have a Russian seminarian again! We expect five of our other seminarians to be ordained deacons later this year, but it isn’t clear yet where they will serve. Stay tuned. The first deacon ordination is scheduled for June 7.

We were able to send the beds that we imported from Kansas City to the Hospice here in Vladivostok, and to the City Hospital in Lesozavodsk. Here is a photo for you from the Hospice. The patients can now push the button and sit up or elevate their feet. Of course we and the patients will be forever grateful to those who made it possible.



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During Lent we had preparations for adult baptisms, a Rachael's Vineyard retreat, Youth Recollection Days, Youth Conference Preparations, and it is always fun to work with the kids in Lesozavodsk, with the orphans, and with the Women's Support Centers. This year the Chrism Mass was held by Bishop Kirill in Yakutsk, in the Sakha Republic, near the Arctic Circle—the coldest continuously inhabited city on earth. It was interesting to be there for the first time. (All us priests were required to go.) It is a rapidly developing city with all the oil and gas production in the Arctic, and production of deer meat. The Salesians have been working in the Sakha Republic for over 20 years. It is a nice city, but strange that all buildings are built up on stilts, and all hot piping is above the surface. The reason is that the land is in permafrost. The building where we stayed was a modular building imported from Canada—It was nice and warm!

On "Palm" Sunday, called "Herb" Sunday here, we had the procession with Russia's version of palms: pussy willow branches. They are the first signs of Spring, so they popular for decorations at this time of year, and for the Passion Sunday Procession. Here is a photo for you.

God bless you during all this Easter Season! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

P.S. We are really low on mass intentions, in case you would like us to say Mass for your intentions. **To make a donation or order a Mass using your money card, go here:**

<http://vladmission.org/get-involved/donate/>

God bless you!