



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

April 30, 2016

Here it is, the new home for our Theology-level seminarians in Maumere in Indonesia for



their last years before ordination to the priesthood! Amazing how fast the seminarians work—They built their own house! Of course, the technical work, like electricity, is being done by experts. The seminarians have also been busy in the garden, producing their own vegetables, fruits,

and even now raising pigs and chickens. They are a happy group—You could visit them! I can't wait until some are able to come to help us out in Russia as priests! So thank you for your donation, «MailName», which makes this and all our other projects possible! Thank you for your donation! We will be remembering you and your intentions in prayer throughout this Easter Season. I'm thinking how great God is during this holy season, giving me a vow of poverty and giving you a chance to be generous, «MailName»! Amazing, isn't it? God bless you! And giving us so many seminarians! After the good news, a little bit of news of another kind.

Our parishioner Miroslava Efimova died on April 18. She had been sick for a long time, and just a week before, Fr Dan had anointed her and gave her the apostolic remission of sins, so we couldn't be too sad, figuring she had a pretty direct "flight". She was born in White Church, Ukraine in the family of a military officer. She lived through the bombings of World War II, evacuation to the Volga region of Russia and to Kazakhstan and Siberia, hunger and Typhus.



After graduating from the Geological Faculty of the Far Eastern Political Institute, she was active with work, music, and her favorite—playing basketball. She worked in the Geological Institute of the Russian Academy of Science where she participated in geological expeditions, including one to North Korea. She successfully defended her doctor's thesis on the theme "Lead, Zinc, and Tin Sources in the Far East." She founded a museum of mineralogy at the Institute, and later worked at the Arsenyev State Museum where she created a mineral exposition. Among her popular works was "Twelve Bible Minerals", a book which was published by the Institute.

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She got involved in the processes relative to the rebirth of the Catholic Church in the Russian Far East. For many years she worked to collect information from the archives in St Petersburg, Moscow, Minsk, Warsaw, Lublin, and Krakov, Khabarovsk, Blagoveschensk and Vladivostok connected with the activities of the Vladivostok Diocese. She used the historical documents and photos that she found to write a book about the history of the Roman Catholic Church of the Russian Far East, *The Harsh Vineyard* (available from our office), and a series of booklets about Bishop Karol Slivovsky, about the repression of Catholics in the Soviet Union, about Catholic churches and parishioners. She founded the Vladivostok parish's archive.

Miroslava was among the founders of the Polish Cultural Society "Gmina" and became its president. For her work to discover and save the remnants of Polish history in the Russian Far East she was awarded the Golden Cross for Service by the government of Poland. She will be remembered for her fast smile, her time spent in prayer, her scientific and optimistic outlook. We will treasure her memory as a prayerful and respected parishioner.

Happy month of May and Happy Pentecost and Happy Spring!! May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and we are really counting on your help what with all the building projects going on here in Russia and in Indonesia, and all the young men lined up preparing for ordination to the priesthood! I lost count of the number expecting ordination to the diaconate this year—Stay tuned! Our seminarian fund is already in the red.

I mentioned in the Vladivostok Sunrise that we should begin a soup kitchen program for the indigent elderly again, as we had before, given the economic situation in Russia just now. But we think that rather than just offering a meal at a café it would be better to provide food for them to take home so that they don't have to come to the café so often, thus saving them money on bus fare. Bus fare could be up to \$1.20 per day, depending upon where they live in the city. Here is the proposed food packet, which costs \$12. I'm sure some of our benefactors will be interested in this.



*Rice, Oats, Buckwheat, Tea, Salad Oil, Powdered Milk, Macaroni (2 kinds), Flour, Condensed Milk, Canned Beef, Sugar, in the package for \$12*

All during May we will have special prayers for you to the Blessed Virgin Mary. I hope you will remember us in prayer, too! God bless you! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

**To make a donation or order a Mass using your money card, go here:**

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

**To watch our new video, go here:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwiQLQzvDPY&feature=youtu.be>