



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear «MailName»,

March 31, 2017

It was a real eye opener to be in the hospital here while I was sick a month ago. It is the post-Soviet free healthcare, but I suffered more from that than from the pain of being sick! The doctors seemed to know what they were doing, and I'm now out, but still suffering. I finally got a private room after many sleepless nights. And I kept thinking how great it would be if we had sisters to humanize and Christianize the hospitals, but that could be only be a distant dream for now. The National Minister of Health says that Russia has made great progress on medical research and new specialized hospitals, but that it is time to work on the regional and city hospitals. Amen!

Thank you very much for your prayers and your donation! We try to be as efficient as we can be with your donations. Thanks for praying for my health! Sr Stella is also having some medical tests done, so we are hoping they turn out well, too.

We were able to again deliver 60 food parcels for the "Soup Kitchen Program" to people



who were desperately in need according to the City Social Services Department. Thank you to our benefactors of the food packages. Each package is about a month's supply of products that don't need refrigeration, like dried milk, macaroni, canned meats, flour, sugar, oil, etc. Here is one photo of a recipient for you.

People are starting to get ready for their gardens here in Vladivostok as the days are getting longer. Last year was a disaster year for all fruits, vegetables, and berries, except for pumpkins, squash, and their relatives. People say it was the late freeze, but I also wonder if it wasn't Chinese "red rain" (Yes, the ground was covered with a red powder.) So this year we are hoping and praying for good crops. The previous year my apple trees were bushy and had fruit for the first time. Last year they almost didn't even have leaves on them! Again, hoping for the best this year!



The school year is coming to an end, and some of the brothers are finishing up. Bro Edwin received his Bachelor's in Theology from the SVD seminary in the Philippines, so he has two more years before ordination. Bro Patrick also has two more years. Deacons Jose and Luis will be ordained priests on May 31, so plans are advancing for that. Fr Ferdinandus is the first of our priests besides Fr Dan and myself to be assigned a regular parish pastoral assignment. Recently we had contact from a bishop asking us to send him a priest! More seminarians are

working their way through school. We haven't been able to complete our new seminary

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buildings in Indonesia, yet, due to funds. And it costs money to educate seminarians. Thanks for your help, and we'll be praying for you. Pray for vocations!

Here is a picture of our parishioners Mr and Mrs Albert and Lilia Silin. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, and received a special blessing from the bishop. Members since the first days of the parish 25 years ago, they have always been part of Caritas, the charitable parish outreach. Lilia masterminded many programs, and she says that Albert was always her best volunteer! Congratulations, Albert and Lilia!

God bless you! Have a happy spring, and a Happy Easter!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

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