



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

## Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

October 31, 2018

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Happy Halloween, and All Saints Day! I'm at our sister parish of St Anne's in Porterville, California—our very first sister parish which has been helping us for 27 years already! I will finish up my American trip in Plymouth, Michigan. On the way back to Vladivostok I will visit **St Mary's Hospital in Seoul**. I seem to be getting better healthwise, but they want to see me on my return trip! I received a letter from St Mary's to say that they have donated \$8,398 to my healthcare over the last two years. God bless them! It is a great hospital! I'll try not to get sick, but I'm grateful to these friends in Korea and to our friends in America who helped me through the medical crisis I had.

I received this letter for you from Brother Rajnal: "Dear Benefactors: Greetings of peace and love! I am **Brother Rajnal Rehmat, CJD**. I am a simple professed member of the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord. I am studying in second year of Theology and live in Christ the King Seminary, Karachi Pakistan. I am fine and healthy by the grace of God.

"Christ the King Seminary provides me and all the other seminarians a good education in our Christian Catholic faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church about all the sacraments and liturgy. I participate in all the spiritual activities in the seminary like daily Mass, Meditation, Divine office, Adorations, Rosary, Novena prayers, monthly recollections and retreats. Beside all the spiritual activities the seminary provides us time for support which is good for me to remain healthy and active. I play basketball. We have weekly manual work in the seminary—I work in the garden.

"The theological studies are enriching my knowledge of God, the Bible, faith and Catechism of the Catholic Church. I am growing in my priestly vocation and I strongly believe that God has called me to become His servant and work for the Kingdom of God and serve the faithful people of God. For my pastoral work I go to a hospital and visit the sick and pray for their good health. I hear the problems of the people in the society and observe the human difficulties. My pastoral activities help me to express God's love to people.



*Brother Rajnal Rehmat, C.J.D.*

"I am very happy and grateful to you for all your love, care and financial support. All your help enables me to continue my studies. I am grateful to you for all your generosity. I pray for you every day in my daily prayers.

"May the Good Lord bless you and shower his abundant blessings upon you.

Yours sincerely, Bro. Rajnal Rehmat, C.J.D., Karachi, Pakistan."

We planned that Bro Rajnal would be in the seminary in the Philippines with our other seminarians, but the Philippines is now refusing student visas to men from Pakistan. I'm sure he is lonely, but he will offer that as God's will for now, too.

I'm writing to say a **big "thanks" to you** for your prayers and support! It is a joy to pray daily for you, as we are so grateful for your help! I enjoy sending you these thank you letters, so you can celebrate with us our mission, our successes, our joys, and sometimes our problems, and even our prayers! We can't do it without you!!

I've been telling folks here in America that we currently have **three problems to solve**: 1. How to do evangelization when missionary activity is forbidden by law? 2. How to encourage the Catholic foreign students who are studying in Vladivostok to become "churched"? 3. And how to pay for the education of our seminarians? The **first problem** arises because Russia got tired of Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormon missionaries, but, of course, we and the Orthodox still have to obey the law. I think that the answer is for parishioners to do more evangelizing, but that is sure hard for Russians who spent many years terrified that the state would find out that they were believers. The **second problem** will be partially solved when we can have a facility near the university where we can have mass, meetings, and social events for students in the variety of languages—English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, as well as Russian. Meanwhile our sisters who live near the university are encouraging students to participate in parish events. Here is a photo of a recent meeting of the sisters with some foreign students.



The **third problem** of course depends upon our benefactors, but I have the feeling that God won't call young men to the priesthood unless there will be funds to educate them, and He sure is calling them!! Nearly every day I get letters from young men asking to join our work and community. It takes a good while to screen them and check their references. Since they have made a decision and applied, I think it is hard for them to wait for a decision from us. We'll keep working at it!

Thanks for your prayers and help!! God bless you!!

Yours truly,

Handwritten signature of V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

To read Vladivostok Sunrise 144, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/144>

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>

### Special Needs List:

1. The Vladivostok Social Services Department is asking us to participate again in providing food for elderly citizens who are very poor. Food prices have gone up significantly with increases in pensions. We can provide bags of a variety of foods for \$20. The recipients are truly grateful. **"Soup Kitchen"**
2. Our Fr Reminus Hambur, C.J.D. is a teacher at the minor seminary in Maumere, Indonesia, where most of our vocations come from. It is a good distance from the monastery to the seminary, and a motorcycle is not convenient because of the many days of rain. He is asking to purchase a used car. **"Used Car"**
3. Vicky Trevillyan, our National Coordinator, needs a car for Mission Society business in Modesto California. Any California or Nevada donor willing and able to donate a good used automobile? **"California Auto"**