



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

December 31, 2018

Happy Feast of the Most Holy Mother of God, January 1! It is our parish feastday and the feastday of Mary Mother of God Mission Society. We'll be especially praying for you tomorrow! We were sure happy to receive your donation. Thanks for your help!

I was so please when I was in Indonesia earlier this month for the final vows of two of our seminarians to find out something very interesting!: The seminarians in Maumere have a big garden, and are producing lots of tomatoes and green beans which they harvest and take to the market every day. With the money they buy fish for the day's meals. Maumere is a big fishing center and most of the fish is flown fresh to Bali every morning for the tourists there. I'm so happy about it because it shows that the guys are doing what they can to help support themselves, and not just relying on your generosity. Besides, the neighbors are glad to buy the fresh produce every day! I flew through Bali, and it is a beautiful place, but somehow I don't think the motto, "The Last Paradise on Earth" is quite correct! If you visit our seminary and the great seminarians studying there, you can visit Bali, too, on the way. Also, they are expecting an even larger number of seminarians in the future, and are planning accordingly. Indonesian priests are starting to work throughout the world, and not just with us. Who would have thought?! Here is a photo I took of the guys getting ready for market:



This year we have seven seminarians slated for ordination to the priesthood, and one of them, Bro Nikita Kushnaryev is a Russian! His ordination is scheduled now for April 10 here in Vladivostok. He will be helping us with our growing work in Russia. And we are expecting three ordinations for work in Kazakhstan, a former Soviet Republic where the bishops begged us for priests! And then two ordinations in the Philippines— We don't know yet where they will work. And then one in India! I hope you don't get bored about regular news about our vocations, but we've been praying about it for so long, and now it is happening! Praise God! Stay tuned.

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This year we were again able to participate in the city's special program for needy citizens by giving 40 food packets to the program from our Soup Kitchen Project. Here is a picture of the contents of our food packets for this year, and a photo of one of the recipients. Of course people are very grateful to our benefactors for this help.



While I was in Indonesia I met five bishops, bishops of Ende, Maumere, Panepane, Tarlak, and Tarajah. They all have amazingly large numbers of Catholics in their dioceses, and amazingly long liturgies! They, too, need vocations, but they are having them, probably because of larger families, piety, and general gratitude to God that they were evangelized, are one of the last countries on Earth to be so. In my lifetime cannibalism was still a reality in some parts of Indonesia. Now iPhones are everywhere!

We've had an interesting occurrence here in Vladivostok: We currently have three Vietnamese novices, two of whom have completely finished the seminary. They are very apostolic, and began to look up Vietnamese people here, and suddenly we find that we have about 20 Vietnamese parishioners in St Joseph's Parish in Artyom, and maybe as many here in Vladivostok! They have begun organizing them, and hope to have a weekly Sunday Vietnamese mass here and in Artyom. Also, some need to prepare for baptism, for first communion, and some even to regularize their marriages. They also need catechetical teaching, especially the kids. Of course we don't have a Vietnamese priest, so the novices will be helping me, Fr Dan, and soon to be priest Nikita to minister to them. They are mostly young married couples, raising their children in Russia. Only several already speak Russian, but the children will surely be bilingual.

Thanks for your prayers and help!! God bless you in the new year!! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

To read Vladivostok Sunrise 145, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/145>

To make a donation or order a Mass using your money card, go here: <http://vladmission.org/get-involved/donate/>

Special Needs List:

1. 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—very common in Indonesia—is not convenient because of the many days of rain. And now our Fr Hubert Yakobus will also be teaching there, so another motorcycle? They are asking to purchase a used car. **“Used Car”**
2. 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”**
3. The Superior of our seminary in Maumere is begging me for an automobile to help care for the seminarians. **“Maumere Auto”**