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Rev. Joseph Illo

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

November 30, 2020

Greetings from Russia! Tthank you, for your donation! God bless you and yours for your generosity! We've had a really big snow and ice storm on November 19 which was reported on the international media, so maybe you heard about it already. It was a 40-year freak storm which poured lots of freezing rain on the city. It was amazing! Good parts of the city were without lights and even heat for days. Trees were born down with the weight of the ice. Cars were simply coated with $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of ice! The big suspension bridge to Russian Island was closed due to the ice load, and has not yet reopened. Providently, Fr Dan and some of the seminarians were in Ussurysk at the time of the storm where weather was normal, but they sure got an eyeful when they drove home to Vladivostok. Thanks be to God we've had a couple of days of plus temperatures to help remove the ice. Here is a picture of the church in ice taken from the Dalzavod busstop.



We have to prepare for extra expenses during the **heating season**. We heat with natural gas for the church and for the rectory. It is usually \$4000 per delivery, so your donation is really appreciated! God bless you!

Congratulations, too, for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception! The whole world is in need of Her help and protection! You are part of our prayers!



Here is another picture showing how thick the ice was.

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On November 22 our Brothers Usno and Alberten were ordained deacons in Indonesia. They had their novitiate training here with us in Vladivostok. They will do their deacon inservice at Holy Spirit Parish and St Joseph Parish in Maumere, Indonesia. On December 7 the priestly ordination of our Brother Deacon Kumud Nayak is scheduled for Madison, Wisconsin. And then on December 13 our brothers Augustine and Filipus are scheduled for deacon ordination in Russian-speaking Kazakhstan. I know all the guys will appreciate your prayers!

Deacon Alberten and Deacon Usno with their parents and Bishop Edwaldo.

As you know, for years now part of our important work here in Russia is the novitiate for seminarians preparing to be priests here in

Russia and in other parts of Asia. Today six of our novices who have been studying here for a year took their first vows. They are surely a happy group. Here is a picture of them in their new religious habits. Now they are waiting for the borders to open so that they can continue their education in the Philippines.



Brother Elia from Pakistan, Brothers Francis, Joseph, and Philip from Vietnam, Brother Marcus from Pakistan, and Bro Dominic from Vietnam.

Meanwhile the pandemic is still raging. Many parishioners have suffered, but only one death so far! The Russian vaccine is starting to be used for medical personnel, and probably soon for teachers and elderly. Wishing you good health, and God bless you! Thank you and a thousand times thank you during this difficult time! 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: <u>http://vladmission.org/get-involved/donate/</u>

To read the November Vladivostok Sunrise 156, go here: https://vladmission.org/s/156

To watch our Sunday mass, (8:00 pm Central Time Saturdays) go here: <u>http://CATH.BOLGOFF.RU/</u>