



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

January 31, 2021

I hope and pray you are doing fine! Maybe you have been following our escapades for some time and you know that we were directly hit by a **supertyphoon** on September 3, and the result is a lot of damage to the roof of the rectory. Then on November 19 we were hit by an **ice storm** that left 1½ inches of ice on everything, breaking down trees all over the city. The result for us was that the ice on the rectory roof sealed the shingles that were broken by the supertyphoon, so we've had little leakage of water through the ice this winter. But as spring comes we'll have to **re-shingle the whole roof**. It would have been nice to just replace broken or torn shingles, but the present roof was done years ago with Soviet shingles which are no longer available and of a different size than any replacements that we can buy now. So we are looking for help with this project. Andre, our building superintendent, says it will cost \$14,450! If you would like to help us with this, putting "**roof**" on the memo of your check or bank payment should do the job! Thank you, if you can help! Where would we be without our benefactors?!

After all the excitement of the "**Autumn Leaves**" quilt drawing, I can mention that the winner is a great benefactor from Pleasant Hills, California. Maybe you will be the winner next time! You are part of our daily prayers!

We've had major **snowstorms** this year with raging winds—very unusual. For a couple of years we hardly had any snow at all. The storms paralyze the city for some time, as we really aren't over the ice storm that we had earlier—thick ice lies everywhere! We've had the "**Baptism Freeze**", which is what the Russians call the bad weather about the time of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and now they are looking forward to the "**Chinese Freeze**", which means the last blast of Arctic weather about the time of Chinese New Year. It will signal the arrival of spring soon after--hopefully! Yeah, Sun!!



*The two couples with Bro Joseph, my interpreter, and Bro Vincent, the server*

Soon I'll have been a priest for 50 years, but something happened on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> that was a first for me. We had a **double wedding ceremony** for two Vietnamese couples of our parish! They didn't speak English or Russian, and I don't speak Vietnamese, so I had to do the wedding through an interpreter. The music in Vietnamese was wonderful, the flowers were fantastic, and the people were so happy for the couples. Many of the attendees were Buddhists, which was a first for us, too. Of course people

were in masks, kept distances, and got their hands sprayed at the door.

**Thank you for your donation!** God bless you and yours for your generosity!

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The pandemic is still raging here although now the Russian vaccine is beginning to be available free of charge. I still haven't decided when and where I'll get the shot. I'm not too worried, because I think I had the virus already in March 2020, just after we had many Chinese tourists from Wuhan visiting Vladivostok. But I guess that the immunity can wear off! Wishing you good health, and God bless you! Thank you so much, especially during this difficult time! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

P.S. See the flowers below.

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

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

**To read the January 2021 *Vladivostok Sunrise* 157, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/157>**

**To watch our Sunday mass, (8:00 pm Central Time Saturdays) go here: [facebook.com/parishvvo](https://www.facebook.com/parishvvo)**

