



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

April 15, 2022

Happy Easter!!

Let's pray for a better year ahead! I hope it will be the end of Covid and of international conflicts!

People ask me why my letters don't have Russian stamps on them now. Flights from Russia to America are cancelled because of the Ukraine conflict, so I'm not sure the mail is going through, so I'm sending this letter electronically to California where Vicky will print it on paper and put it in the mail for you. We are all praying for a soon end to the conflict with justice for all and few casualties!

Our Bishop Cyril Klimovich was here for the mass of the blessing of holy oils for the Far Eastern half of the diocese. It is the only time of year when we priests get together with the bishop, since our diocese is so big (biggest in the world in land area—Half of Russia!) The news is that the Bishop has decided to come to Vladivostok on May 29 to celebrate my 50th ordination anniversary to the priesthood (May 27). And he might ordain two of our brothers to the diaconate on May 28 if they are ready.



The priests of the Far Eastern part of our diocese with Bishop Kirill at the Chrism Mass.

Once again many families with many children are asking for our help here in Russia. Inflation is a fact here, too. You can be sure we will help where we can. We get requests through our Women's Support Centers, but also through the City of Vladivostok Social Service Department. We'll see what we can do. Our bedfast parishioner in Lesozavodsk needs help. We need to send a volunteer to clean her apartment. She has a daughter who works in medicine who is super busy with the Covid patients in that city. She is exhausted by the time she gets off from work, she says. I'd be exhausted too if I had to wear a mask all day!

I was so surprised by a recent phone call. Margarita Ivnikskaya in Tomsk called to remind us that she still had in her possession one last item that was **owned by Bishop Slivovsky**, our sainthood candidate who died in 1933 in exile. I had forgotten about it! It is the trunk which was in the bishop's room where he died in which he kept his personal items. Many of those personal items had already been given to us by Margarita's mother, Regina Stanko whose father had buried the bishop, there being no priests available in Russia in those terrible days of persecution. The trunk with contents had been taken to Tomsk with

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the Stanko family as they escaped persecution themselves! Now the trunk is on its way to us, and it will be part of the relics of the bishop. Stay tuned as the process of the Bishop's canonization proceeds!



“Rita” on the left, Regina on the right, and Rita’s son Andre between them. Regina was a hero of the Soviet Union for her physician services to wounded soldiers during WWII.

Maybe Bishop Slovovsky will be known as the patron saint of those persecuted for their faith. That includes almost everybody these days! We hope to buy the little apartment where he lived three years in exile and died. No news about where his grave might be located, although we have a photo of the grave marker taken by Regina when she was a girl. It is no longer in place, and we can't tell from the photo where that place is. She was not able to find it either when she came to visit years ago. The landscape had been changed a lot by roads and water pipes over the years. And the Soviets always removed grave markers because they usually had a Cross or were in the shape of a Cross. They didn't want people to think of the past, but only about the “glorious socialist future of heaven on Earth.”

Fr Dan always says, “We live on miracles!” Our benefactors are some of those miracles! Thank you for your donation! It means so much to us and to those we help! Our young vocations are miracles, too! God bless you and yours for your generosity! We are wishing for your good health, and praying for you every day—not just today! Let's all hope and pray that we are through with this pandemic! God bless you! Happy Easter Season! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

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

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

To read the March 2022 *Vladivostok Sunrise* 164, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/164>

To watch our Russian Sunday mass, (8:00 pm Central Time Saturdays) go here:

<https://vk.com/public211190633>. We plan to continue broadcasting our Sunday Mass indefinitely, as many people live far from Catholic churches in Russia.