



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

August 31, 2022

We are heading into the new school year already. Sunday we had the blessing of our parish students and pupils, as well as a blessing for all the teachers and professors. It is our annual tradition, and I can't help being an American: I gave each one a nice big red juicy apple! And the new school years means lots of expenses for our seminarians. The Vietnamese seminarians are already in school in Vietnam. And we expect six new novices here in Vladivostok on October 1. I am just so please with the young men who join us: Good men from Catholic families.

I hope to be in the USA in October, after attending the priestly ordination of two of our priests in Russian-speaking Kazakhstan: Bro Augustinus Brussen, C.J.D., and Bro Filipus Lasas, C.J.D. They are both products of our vocation work here in Vladivostok. The ordination will take place at the cathedral in Karaganda, on September 14, and then the First Mass on September 17. They asked me to speak at the First Mass, and I can tell them some of my experiences in the 50 years of my own priesthood. Pope Francis is scheduled to be in Karaganda at that time, too.

And then I hope to be in my home diocese of Evansville, Indiana, and my home parish of St Joseph in the County in Evansville, Indiana, to celebrate my 50 years as a priest on October 9. I'll have some speaking assignments, too, especially in Missouri in the weeks following.

I hope it is okay to brag about our sending seven vocations to America! It is a "thank you" for financial support for our work in Russia. Three have gone to the Diocese of Madison, in Wisconsin, and four are scheduled for the Diocese of Gary in Indiana. We would have loved to have them work here in Russia, but priestly positions in Russia have not opened up as fast as vocations have come forward! I think that situation will be changing as European priests who are working in Russia get older, and Europe itself is having a vocation crunch.

At last we've had the week's retreat for the children of Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk and their friends, after two years of Covid!. These are super-poor kids from a depressed

city, mostly children of single mothers—Dads have moved work. Moms and kids can't leave the city because there is no one to buy their apartments if they leave, so they would have no funds. Maybe you remember that it is in Lesozavodsk that our parish feeds 70



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*Kids making bread on the Lesozavodsk retreat, with Brother Lazar Iqbal, C.J.D.  
He makes great pizza crust, too!*

kids every Saturday, else they would be away to look for hungry with no free meal in school which they get on school days. Fr Vicky from Pakistan is in charge of the retreat program. I know that our novices were a big hit with them. One novice is great at basketball, another is great at karate, and another has a magic show that the kids love. Of course our sisters were there, too, especially to help the girls. I myself am too old for this sort of thing, so I've been holding down the fort here in Vladivostok. The picture on the previous page is of Fr Vicky Samuel, C.J.D. who led the retreat, and some of the girls who participated.

So **Thank you** for your donation! We are so glad that you continue to support us during these difficult times. God bless you and yours for your generosity! We are wishing and praying for your good health, and praying for you every day! Thank you so much, and God bless you! 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 July 2022 Vladivostok Sunrise 166, go here:** <https://vladmission.org/s/166>

**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.