



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

November 15, 2022

Howdy! I've finished my **annual visit** to America. My weekend masses have all been in the Diocese of Cape Girardeau in Missouri. These are mostly country or small town parishes, so a more peaceful life. It was a beautiful time of year, with all the leaves turning red. We are grateful for all the support that we received there. Unfortunately, I had to take the long road back to Vladivostok, since most airlines won't serve Russia because of the sanctions, so it was more expensive. But it gave me a chance to visit our two new priests in Kazakhstan again. From there I could fly to Moscow and then to Vladivostok. While I was in America, it was such a pleasure to visit some benefactors along the route, and especially Fr Steven Bauer at St Alphonsus Church in Chicago—It was from Chicago that I entered and left America, and spent several days with him to recover from travel sickness and jet lag. I arrived in Chicago by Turkish Airlines and left by Qatar Airlines—first time I have been in those places and used those airlines.

In my previous letter I mentioned that the number of European priests gets less with the old age of us guys who came to Russia 30 years ago and there is a vocation crisis in Europe, let alone America. So what should I do about the **eleven young men who are begging me to let them join our order to become priests???** Actually, the number is more than eleven, but these eleven are the ones who clearly have all the requirements. More guys write but I don't have time to check all their documents. What is the problem? We just don't have the funds nor the places big enough to hold them while they finish their novitiate and seminary studies! How I will hate to say "no" to these aspiring young men who only want to serve God and have proved it by their life stories, which we have them write and which we read as part of the decision process. And then we had the sudden shock this year of the closing of visa processes for the Philippines for seminarians, where our English language seminarians usually study, including those planning to live and work in Russia. Where shall we send them?—Everyplace else is more expensive.

We are so **grateful** for your donation of \$«TotalContributions» «Left»«ContributionMemo»«Right»! Needless to say, these are difficult and trying times for you and for us, what with inflation, sanctions, military activities, and Covid. But we are so glad that you continue to support us—how else would we survive? God bless you and yours for your generosity!

Our **new seminary building in Maumere**, Indonesia is nearing completion. Here are some items still needed:

Bedroom for 1 seminarian = \$670 for all furnishings, linens, pillow, towels, waste basket, lamp (need 24)

Bedroom for 1 priest or guest = \$750 - same as seminarian room + book case or extra table & chair (need 4)

Storage room = \$1,200 for shelving and cabinetry

Library = \$4,200 for shelving, chairs, tables, desktop copier

Office = \$2,400 for desk, office chair, 2 additional chairs, file cabinet, bookshelf, computer, printer, software, storage cabinet, lamp

Meeting room = \$2,200 for tables, 32 chairs, white board

Meanwhile, it is the time of year for four of our brothers to take their vows. Here are some pictures for you on the back side. Brother Peter Cao, C.J.D. is from Vietnam and

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finished his novitiate with us here in Vladivostok. In the photo he is signing his perpetual vows document—Sorry you can't see his face because of the covid mask. He will soon be serving in the diocese of Gary in Indiana. Next is Brother Lloyd Cabatana, C.J.D. From the Philippines; he is also scheduled to serve in Gary, having completed his novitiate in Vladivostok. Next is Brother Dominic Kien, C.J.D., also from Vietnam. He is currently the superior of our eight seminarians studying in Vietnam (Vietnamese language, so they will be useful in Russia and America, too.) And finally, Fr Mark Dao, C.J.D. from Vietnam who is shepherding our 50 Vietnamese parishioners in Vladivostok. All took their novitiate in Vladivostok.



Brother Peter, Brother Lloyd, Brother Dominic, and Father Mark

I am 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.

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