



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

February 15, 2023

We are so thankful to you for your prayers and for your donation! In spite of the international difficulties, benefactors like you keep us going. We can't do it without you! God bless you! Coming up is the ordination of two of our brothers to the priesthood here in Vladivostok on April 26. (And maybe two deacons will be ordained, too. Fingers crossed.) As the original missionaries came to Russia already 30 years ago, it is time for the new generation, and that is what we are working on!

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Fr Mark Dao, C.J.D. arrived to be with us again. He is Vietnamese, and takes care of the Vietnamese parishioners here in Vladivostok. Because of visa issues, he can't be here continuously, so he has been alternating with Deacon Vincent Pham, C.J.D. who is currently in Vietnam. Once in a while I have Sunday Mass with the Vietnamese parishioners. It is always a joyful event with lots of singing. They just finished celebrating "Chinese new year" and my 82nd birthday. This picture is from

last fall in New Orleans when Fr Mark took his final vows.

The next project for the parish is the remounting of the bells in the steeples! When we installed them, no one here had mounted bells in a steeple before, so we made some mistakes. Now a bell expert from Singapore will be coming to supervise the remounting, so the result should be safer bells (i.e. they shouldn't fall!) and they should be easier to ring. When it happens, I'll let you know how it goes. We would have done it earlier, but covid and sanctions made travel impossible for the bell expert. Now there are flights to the Pacific countries again. Alleluia!

Another big project is "Giving Day", March 25th, Feast of the Annunciation. We need to buy a "new" minivan for the various uses of the parish. The old one, a 1990 Nissan, has bit the dust! We have to junk it! We are hoping to buy a 3 year old Toyota Noah recently imported from Japan. The Japanese like to trade in their cars after 3 years to save taxes, and often they are little used, and used on good roads, so they are a good buy here—just across the water! Besides, a "Giving Day" is a good way to thank the Blessed Virgin for being willing to become the Mother of God! On her feastday!

Fr Dan has been busy planning for organ concerts for this Spring and Summer. The artists are the best Russia and the world have to offer, as they are on a circuit for many concerts elsewhere in Russia, too. Usually it is classical and religious music. The concerts are important for us, as they bring people to visit the church who otherwise would never come. So it is an evangelization program for us. During covid we couldn't have concerts, but now again, the last seat is always taken. So it is an income source, too. I'd like to see the day when we could have a concert of American spiritual music—O Happy Day!

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.

Giving Day

for Mary Mother of God Mission Society

March 25: Feast of the Annunciation

The Day the Virgin Mary became the Mother of God

Our Goal: to purchase a 7-passenger 2020 Toyota Noah for the Vladivostok parish! Cost: \$23,800.



- The current vehicle is a 1990 Nissan LeGrande (yes, 33 years old!) which is totally rusted out and not safe to drive any more. It will have to be junked.
- We use a minibus to transfer donated items between the parishes and the Women's Support Centers.
- We use it to help University students attend church meetings and attend mass, since the U is so far away.
- We use it to transport novices to meetings and liturgies, like the bishop's Holy Oils Mass.
- We use it to help transport attendees and staff at the Youth Conferences and retreat days.
- We use it to take the novices to language school on school days, especially in bad or extra cold weather.
- We use it to deliver bulky items that need purchasing.

You can encourage your friends to give on this day, too. Mark your check “Giving Day”.

To make a donation or order a Mass using your bank card, go here:
<http://vladmission.org/get-involved/donate/>

To read the January 2023 *Vladivostok Sunrise* 169, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/169>

Because of the sanctions, we can't show you our live Sunday mass. Let's hope and pray that there will be peace and that the sanctions will end soon.