

Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

November 30, 2023

God bless you for your financial support, as well as your spiritual support by your prayers, for our work in Russia! «Left» «ContributionMemo» «Right»! What would we do if you weren't helping us? We are **praying** for you every day! Meanwhile I have to thank you, too, for your prayers for me! I fell sick on Easter Sunday and thought that I might not make it. Thanks to lots of prayers, the help of my doctors, and kind people who took my place at work, and lots of extra sleep, I'm finally back at work full time, and I feel like my health is better than it was last year, thanks be to God. I was able to complete my preaching assignments in America in October, thanks to friends, relative, and benefactors who helped me with travel and at the parishes where I spoke.



It is interesting how our work in Russia has repercussions elsewhere. For example, here is a photo of the C.J.D. Sisters of Vietnam! They took their organization and spirituality from us in Russia and now have been founded in Vietnam by Sr Marthina who

visited us in Russia a long time ago. (She is on the left in the Photo.) The sisters help orphans and do day care and catechetical work with children in Vietnam. Also I visited Fr Mark Dao, C.J.D. in Cleveland, Ohio in October where he is the pastor of a large parish of Vietnamese Americans. More of our brothers want to work with him there. It all started in Russia.

But, of course, your donations and help continue to support us in Russia. Right now I'm thinking of some of the big families that our Women's Support Centers help. Five kids! Seven kids! And winter is here so there is heat to pay for, and food expenses become larger as the kids grow! Clothing is not such a big problem, as the Centers also collect and provide used clothing. On the other hand, wouldn't it be nice to get a new shirt or skirt at Christmas? Or even a new toy for the youngsters?

The next "big" event for us is our brothers' taking vows. Two are due for permanent vows later this month. Then on December 8 the three novices will take their first temporary vows and then leave for the seminary, and on December 7 three brothers will take the religious habit as novices. I'm always amazed at the good quality of the men who join us! Thanks be to God!

Another interesting event was a sudden surprise: The cross fell off of one of our steeples! No one saw it happen and no one was hurt. I proposed that it was caused by lightning, but Fr Dan thinks it was caused by vibrations from the four bells that were recently installed.

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National Office: 1736 Milestone Cir • Modesto CA 95357 • 209-408-0728
U.S. e-mail: <u>USOffice@vladmission.org</u> • Russia e-mail: <u>Myron.effing@gmail.com</u>
Website: <u>www.vladmission.org</u> Fax: 209-408-8665

So we have to solve the problem and make new crosses and hope it doesn't happen again! The church looks so nice with its two steeples and the crosses overlooking the city. But those crosses are so high up! We'll have to find a crane or helicopter to put them on. When we first put them on, a large crane was available from building the bridge across the Bay.

Thanks again for your great help, and happy Advent! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

p.s. Here is a photo of the missing cross:



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