



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

February 29, 2024

A big "Thank You! From all the poor children who received Christmas presents this year from MMOG donors. Here is just a few pictures!



Happy Leap Day! God bless you during this season of Lent! It seems to me that the international situation does really call for us to repent and use our means and prayers to deliver people from their suffering and sins! You keep us going, and we are happy doing

our work here in eastern Russia. Meanwhile, thanks to those who sent birthday blessings to me on February 7! Here is a photo of a birthday cake given by some of our Vietnamese parishioners! Their joy in the faith is always a joy for me, and they are from a Communist country!



This spring, we may start a Tagalog mass, as the number of Filipino parishioners is increasing. They already have a social gathering on the DeFriese Peninsula (part of St. Joseph Parish territory), and one of our Filipino brothers, Edwin Intan, C.J.D. will be going there regularly, too, to begin some prayers and spiritual recollections. Hopefully he will be

ordained a deacon soon, and then a priest. He finished the seminary several years ago already, and had been doing great missionary and charity work on the Philippine Islands, waiting for C.J.D. to begin working there, which didn't happen so far because the bishops there say they have plenty of vocations already. He speaks Tagalog (as well as Russian, English, Korean, Japanese, and Cebuano). It is never a dull moment around here as our vocations from many countries keep things hopping!

Here is a photo of our St Joseph parishioner Lubov Sadovnikova, who has been a real anchor for the St. Joseph Parish in Artyom and former Leader of the Women's Support Center there. Now she is mostly confined to a wheelchair, which isn't very accessible from her apartment, so one of us priests says mass for her at home. Here in the picture is Fr Vicky Samuel, C.J.D. and seminarian Brother Kiran Chinthapalli, C..J.D., Thank God that her son and grandchildren live not too far away, and they take good care of her.

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Recently we've had requests to re-open a Women's Support Center in Artyom, a suburb of Vladivostok. And I've been dreaming of opening a new site in Artyom for St Joseph's Parish. St. Joseph's has existed for a long time already, but now Artyom is growing rapidly, and also is the whole area around Artyom because the Vladivostok Airport is there, located on the continent instead of on the peninsula like Vladivostok is (to avoid sea fog.) So land prices there are better than in Vladivostok, and many companies are locating there, so that the number of Russian parishioners is growing again. What I would like to do is to buy a commercial property on the first floor of a building in Artyom so that the Women's Support Center could be located there, and on Sundays we could start having Holy Mass there, too. No use thinking about a church building until the parish grows significantly. So we'll be looking for donors for the St



*St. Joseph icon from St. Joseph's Parish, Artyom*

Joseph's Parish in Artyom to buy such a premises. Currently Mary Mother of God Mission Society helps support five parishes, and offers priestly support to about seven more (depending upon the season of the year), in addition to the Women's Support Centers, and the seminarians who want to work in Russia after their ordination as priests. My home parish in Indiana and Fr Dan's in Michigan were both St. Joseph's Parishes. And St. Joseph's Parish is our sister parish in Modesto where Mary Mother of God Mission Society's offices are located. And St Joseph is the name of our Russian diocese in Irkutsk. **It will be our Giving Day project this year on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation.** We hope St. Joseph will pray for this project! We will need about \$33,000 to buy the premises, but we will also need temporary seating. Good, strong steel chairs cost \$34.11 apiece. They are manufactured in Artyom!

Thanks be to God that we have more priestly vocations, so I have proposed to our Bishop Kirill that we could take on more parishes now here in Russia. It also means we need more mass intentions and stipends.

Thanks again for your great help! God bless you! Happy Lent! And get ready for a happy Easter a month from now!! Yours truly,



V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

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

**To read the January 2024 Vladivostok Sunrise 176, go here:** <https://vladmission.org/s/176>