



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

April 15, 2024

Christos Voskress!! That is how we say **Happy Easter** in Russian! Easter masses were pretty full this year. The Vigil Mass in Russian and Vietnamese, Then Easter Day Mass in Russian, and then Mass in English, and then one in Spanish! So many masses because Vladivostok's universities are a big draw from Africa and the Philippines and South America! Little did we expect that when we started our work here thirty two years ago!! Of course, God knew, which is why He sent us here with your help! By the way, our C.J.D. priests also served Easter Sunday Masses in Nakhodka, Romanova, Lesozavodsk, and Arsenyev!!

Green is now peeping up on all the trees and grasslands! It was a great, mild winter here—Almost no snow! That's the kind of winter I like, but when I was a child in Indiana, we loved the snow for snow cream and for sledding, We have a little garden here, and radishes are planted. They do well here, and so does green leavy things, but that's about all. Of course, in the countryside it is wheat, corn, and sunflowers., and this week will be major field work throughout the state.



Brother Peter signing his vows.

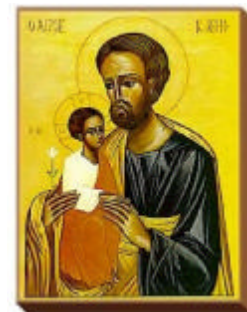
On April 14 **Brother Peter Thang, C.J.D.**, took his simple vows for three years here in Vladivostok, finishing his novitiate. He is from Vietnam where he served as an English teacher before joining us. He also studied Chinese. He will now go to the seminary in Vietnam to study in his native language. Hopefully he will return to us for ordination. He is also known here for his interest in physical education, maybe

doing more daily exercises that any of the rest of us!

This year the plan is to have the **Youth Conference** in Yakutsk, a city built on permafrost up in the North, sort of like Alaska, including the native peoples. I haven't heard a proposal for the theme of the conference yet. But it is always important, and the youth are upper high school students and college students, so their future is ahead of them. We always speak about marriage and family life and about religious vocations, too.

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.

We are waiting for the results of the **Giving Day, March 25**. Then we need to do more intense work in Artyom at St Joseph's Parish, including opening a Women's Support Center there. Another one has opened in Ussuryusk in connection with Nativity Parish there. Incidentally, I just heard that one of the biggest businesses in Vladivostok is moving to Mirny, a suburb of Artyom. It is the Center for



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

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importation of used Japanese cars, a really big operation, since the Russians love Japanese cars. (So do we!—We have five of them! They keep us on the move!) Land prices are high here, since Vladivostok is built on a peninsular with little room for expansion except on Russian Island where the university is. So expansion is off the peninsula on the continent at Mirny and Artyom!

God bless you, during this Easter season and the coming feast of Pentecost! And God bless you again for your financial and prayer support! We'll use it as wisely as we can!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

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