



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

July 15, 2024

Greetings from Russia! I hope your health is great, and your spirit, too!



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Fr Dan was in America and Fr Nikita was in Blagoveschensk, but here is the rest of the Vladivostok CJD community present for Fr Vincent's profession of vows. Back row from left: Deacon candidate Peter Nsamba, Fr Vicky Samuel, Fr Myron Effing, Fr Patrick Napal, and deacon candidate Edwin Intan. Front row from left: Novice Hien, Deacon candidate Pradeep Mulupuri, Fr Vincent Pham, novice Hien, and novice Arslan. Missing were deacon candidates Lloyd Cabatana and Harben Forte who were not in Russia at the time. Missing priest members were Fr Augustine Brusen who was on vacation, and Fr Filipus Lasa who was tending his four parishes in Kazakhstan.

On June 25th we had the joy of Fr Vincent Pham's taking his final, lifetime vows here in Vladivostok. He is Vietnamese, and is a godsend for our Vietnamese parishioners. I estimate that at least 350 Vietnamese live in Vladivostok and Artyom, of which about 50 are Catholics. Meanwhile, Fr Vincent has received an appointment from Bishop Kirill to be the chaplain of all Vietnamese in the diocese. Incidentally, we've had another request from an American diocese for a Vietnamese priest. We already have Fr Mark Dao, C.J.D. working at St Boniface Parish in Cleveland, Ohio, and a Vietnamese seminarian of ours has joined him there.

This summer many families in the central part of our state of Primorye suffered from heavy rains, closed bridges and roads. But most importantly, the floods came at a very bad time for the gardens—Too late to plant again and get a good harvest! Most families there depend on their gardens for the year's supply of potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, beets, cucumbers, and pumpkins. If possible, we need to provide assistance to families with children who are already registered with us as needy families at the Women's Support Center in Lesozavdosk. We won't mention names here, but included are:

Family with 5 children.
Family with 3 children.

Family with 6 children
Family with 5 children

Family with 3 children
Single mother with 1 child
Family with 6 children-
Family with 2 children

If you would like to donate, just mark it "Flood Relief".

The participants have returned from the Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference which was held this year in Yakutsk, but I don't have any pictures yet, nor a story to tell you. The only complaint I heard was that participants couldn't sleep because Yakutia is in "the land of the midnight sun." Surely I'll get more news for the September Vladivostok Sunrise.

Ditto for the annual Lesozavodsk children' camp. Fr Vicky and two brothers went as leaders, and some parishioners from Visitation Parish were there to help.

One of the big deals for this past month has also been the eye operations for an 85 year old parishioner from Lessozavodsk parish. He began to develop cataracts, but he lives alone, even raising his own garden, so we needed to help him through our "Project Hope." He made the 9 hour trip to Vladivostok, had the operation on one eye (The doctors want to do the other one in a month) so he can now see again to manage his affairs. One of our Vladivostok friends stayed at his house while he was gone to ward off burglars and to pick the strawberries. In a month we'll go through the process again. He has been our parishioner since "day one." He was happy that he could pay for the operation, but we helped him with the arrangements and other expenses. Project Hope is named after a program in Incarnation Parish in Dayton, Ohio, by that name. In gratitude for their help back when, we started our own Project Hope. It is funds for unusual situations, like house fires, or like the eye operation above. Sometimes emergency medical treatment, loss of income because of sickness, etc.

God bless you for your financial support! We'll use it as wisely as we can!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

To make a donation or order a Mass using your bank card, go here:

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

To read the May 2024 *Vladivostok Sunrise* 177, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/177>