



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

July 31, 2024

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

This summer many families in the central part of our state of Primorye suffered from heavy rains, closed bridges, floods, and closed 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 3 children. | Single mother with 1 child |
| Family with 6 children | Family with 6 children- |
| Family with 5 children | Family with 2 children |

If you would like to donate, just mark it “**Flood Relief**”.



Primorye flood picture from the Moscow Times.

The participants have returned from the **26th annual Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference** which was held this year in Yakutsk, the coldest city in the world, but I don’t have any pictures yet, nor a story to tell you. The only complaint I heard was that the participants couldn’t sleep because Yakutia is in “the land of the midnight sun.” Yakutsk is also the place where there are thousands of mammoths frozen in the permafrost! 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 Lesozavodsk’s Visitation Parish were there to help, too. That city is so poor and depressed. Few kids have dads because the men have all moved elsewhere for jobs, but mom and the kids remain because they have no one to sell their apartments to, since nobody wants to move there. Several big companies have closed leaving a furniture factory as one of the few industries.

One of the big deals for this past month has been the **eye operations** for an 85 year old parishioner from Lesozavodsk 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

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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.

Let me mention another program of ours that has been going a long time already, but I don't think we have mentioned it anywhere. In a corner downstairs there is a place where people can leave **used clothing** that is still good. We get all kinds of things there, including shoes, men and women's clothing, children's clothing, toys and even baby buggies (I guess they call them strollers these days.) Once a month when our priest goes to Lesozavodsk or when the sisters go to Romanovka, all these things go along. The items are in demand in these depressed cities. And our volunteer helpers there say "Keep them coming." Here is a photo of a recent pile of things with Brother.Arlan who helped get it to Lesozavodsk this month.



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 July 2024 Vladivostok Sunrise 179, go here: [Sunrise 179.docx](#)