



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

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August 15, 2024

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Happy Feastday! Today is feast of Mary's "birth" into heaven, and her reuniting with her son, as is celebrated in the US.! We always celebrate it here on Sunday because it is sort of our "patronal feastday" so everybody can be present. Of course, January 1 is the actual feast of the "Holy Mother of God" but it is a bad day for Russians whose major family day is January 1—New Years Day--a leftover from the Communist culture that is now, thankfully, a thing of the past. The Communists made use of events close to Easter and Christmas in order to blank out the Christian feasts.

This summer many families in the central part of our state of Primorye are suffering 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 Lesozavodsk. 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**".



*Primorye flood picture
from the Moscow Times.*

"Dear Fr Myron, My old **washing Machine** broke down. It is more than 17 years old. I need to buy a new washing machine and dryer. Yours Truly,

Fr. Sebastian Marian D'Silva, Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Pacific, Nakhodka, Russia," Anybody want to help with this??

oo

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, a widower, he lives alone, taking care of himself, 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

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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 travel 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.Arslan who helped get it to Lesozavodsk this month.

Finally, let me mention that a wonderful benefactor has offered to match donations for the **new cars** that we need, as the old ones are getting to the end of their useful lives, and, of course,

Russia is big and the parishes are far apart, so we use the cars a lot! If you want to donate for this purpose, just mark the check "For Cars"

God bless you for your financial and prayer 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 178, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/178>