



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

September 30, 2024

Board

Bishop Cyril Klimovich DD

Rev. Joseph Fessio SJ

Rev. Joseph Illo

Rev. Robert Stoeckig

Mr. & Mrs. David Sonnen

Miss Mary Jo Peyton

Officers

Chairman and President
Very Rev. Myron Effing,
C.J.D.

Vice President
Mr. and Mrs. Terrence Kopp
KCHS

Chief Financial Officer
Rev. Daniel Maurer, C.J.D.

Secretary
Mr. Tyler Kolden

Board Member
Rev. Doug Grandon, PhD

Board Member
Rev Steven Bauer

Board Member
Mrs. Susan Gray

Board Member
Prof. Robert F Moran, PhD

Board Member
Mr. Jeffrey Lang

Board Member
Mrs Vicky Trevillyan

National Coordinator
Jessica Trevillyan

I am writing to say “Thank You!” for your donation and your prayers. It is really God’s grace that we have faithful benefactors like you, else how could we do the work we are doing in Russia? And our presence here is even growing, with **new seminarians** who want to work here as priests, and new parishes that we have to take over. Recently, our bishop Kirill Klimovich wrote a letter to us asking us to pray for a list of ten priests who are ill in our diocese! You see, many, like us, came 30 years ago and are getting ready for our “great reward,” so who will be the priests for the next generation? America has few vocations and needs to import priests, and that is also true of Europe! But our new seminarians are from Asia! Often they are from poor families and poor dioceses, so you see that your help is essential. This week we received six new seminarians who want to be priests in Russia, so they come here for novitiate and for learning the Russian language: one from India, one from Pakistan, one from Africa, one from Vietnam, one from the Philippines, and finally, one from Canada.

In December, the three seminarians who joined us last year can take their **first vows**, and then move on to their final seminary preparation for priesthood. Currently we have four brothers waiting for ordination to the diaconate here in Russia. More guys are writing me asking to join us here in Russia, and more dioceses are writing asking for priests! And more young men are writing to me hoping to discern their future!

September 2 was the first day of the **new school year** in here Vladivostok, so we had the blessing of students and teachers after the noon mass on September 1. I’m usually amazed that we seem to have more teachers than students in the parish! I always give them—students and teachers alike—a big red apple (I guess it is the “American” in me.) (Hello, Johnny Appleseed!) I suggest to the teachers that I hope each student will be as attractive as that apple, and to the students, that each subject is as attractive as that big red apple, too! (Of course they can’t wait to start munching!)

Meanwhile, we’ve renovated two **new classrooms** for our children’s catechism classes. They were storage rooms earlier, but I guess we have less to store there since all the public stores are full of stuff these days. And, with Fr Nikita being gone to help in the parish in Blagoveschensk and then on vacation to his family in Rostov-on-the-Don, I got to teach the adult catechism classes. It was great fun! The first lesson was answering initial questions, and then giving a history of the Catholic Church in our part of Russia, and the history of our parish. The second was an overview of the Bible, and the third one about the stories of creation in Genesis 1 to 3. But then I had to give it over to someone else, as I am in America for preaching and for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of Mary Mother of God Mission Society. We meet this year in Chicago.

On September 5th Bishop Kirill Klimovich of our Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk appointed our community member Fr Vicky Samuel, C.J.D. to be **pastor of two parishes: Annunciation in Arsenyev and Nativity in Ussurysk**. These parishes are about two hours or so away from Vladivostok, so Fr Vicky will be doing a lot of driving (See note about cars below!) These parishes were founded by myself nearly 30 years ago, and were then served by Franciscans from South Korea. More recently they have been served by Franciscans from Europe, but their community is now suffering from lack of vocations in Europe, so they have to relinquish these parishes. Fr Vicky has been serving as assistant priest in Vladivostok and Lesozavodsk, and as Catholic Chaplain for the Far Eastern Federal University here in Vladivostok. He is from St Mary’s Parish in Sialkot, Pakistan, and completed his theology studies at the National Catholic Theological Institute in

Karachi. He served his novitiate with us and completed his seminary education in Pakistan. He was ordained a deacon and then priest four years ago. As my helper priest in Lesozavodsk he has been leading the annual children's retreat there, and hopefully can continue to do so. His English and Russian are excellent. He says, "The kids taught me how to speak Russian!" But I said, "Watch out what you say, because some of those kids' Russian is pretty off-color!"

There is a possibility of a cash match if we raise sufficient funds for the **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! In fact, we will need them even more soon, as we take over three more parishes: Arsenyev and Ussurysk, as I mentioned above, and a yet undetermined parish where our Father Patrick Napal, C.J.D. will be serving—yet to be decided by the bishop. If you want to donate for this purpose, just mark the check "For Cars." I just noticed on one of the cars how rusty is the trunk lid, and rust is all around the bottom of the doors and chassis—It already had an engine change. The other one, our "long distance" Toyota Wish, is really on its last leg, and now the air conditioner went out, and we are told by the mechanics that it can't be repaired because the car is too old and there are no spare parts for it. I tell the priests who are leaving for parish work to take some cash along, in case they have a breakdown and have to be towed! On September 21 the car I was in was rear-ended on our way to Arsenyev. Hopefully the driver of the other car will make good on his promise to pay for repairs.

And of course I have to say "Thank You!" to all the folks in America who attended masses and programs for our mission through **Fr Dan Maurer's** presence in America for this past month. He has now returned to us. It will be my turn in October. See you there?



Eisley and Emery Trevillyan

For a little bit of happy news, our National Coordinator in Modesto has just given birth to twin girls! Congratulations to Jessica Trevillyan and husband Mason. Here is a photo for you!

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

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

P.S. We need more mass intentions, too!

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>