



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

December 15, 2024

Dear Benefactor,

Our three novices for this year have done a good job of learning the Russian language, and they took their **first religious vows** on the First Vespers of December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. So now they will continue their seminary studies. Brothers Joseph Nien and Joseph De will be attending seminary in Vietnam, and Brother Arslan Piyara in Pakistan. Seminary is always a “long road”, so please keep them in your prayers!

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*Brothers De, Arslan, and Hein.*

Speaking of long roads, there are many in Russia, which is why we needed new (actually used) cars! The good news is that an anonymous foundation has agreed to fund the **purchase of an automobile** for us! But there was a catch: It was a **matching grant**, so we needed additional donations from our benefactors to

receive this grant. **The good news** is that our benefactors really came through for us, so now we have the matching funds, so we can proceed with the purchases! Thank you so much benefactors!! What would we do without you?? We desperately need these cars, as the old ones are beyond repair, and maybe even dangerous on these winter roads!

If you receive this letter with **American stamps**, it means that the sanctions are still in place, so we can't send your letter directly from Russia. Let's hope the problem will soon be solved to the satisfaction of all.

How about a footnote to **brag** about how our Russian community has effects elsewhere in the world? In this month two of our “alumni” who got their first training in religious life here in Vladivostok were ordained for service elsewhere! Brother Peter Cao, CJD was ordained for service in his home country of Vietnam, and Brother Justino Marquez, CJD, from the country of Timor Leste, was ordained for service in Indonesia or Timor Leste, depending upon further developments.

We are considering what should be the plan for the **Romanovka Parish of the Holy Trinity** which Fr Dan established 30 years ago. With Fr Sebastian's illness, our Father Marcus David has been serving the parish on weekends. Our Spanish Sisters of St Anne have been working with children there, daily, for many years, in an after-school program called “Trapinka” which the local

population appreciates very much, since there are many single parents who don't get home from work until too late for the kids from school. The sisters own the premises where the program is held. We have two apartments in Romanovka and the Women's Support Center is located in one of those apartments, as is also the parish chapel in the other where mass is said. We also have a grassy field where we could build a church. How to make sense of it all and make a plan for the future! The complication is that the city was part of a military base where foreigners were forbidden to live. The base is long gone, but traditions continue. Come Holy Spirit!

I am writing to say "Thank You!" for your donation and your prayers. **God bless you** for your financial support! We'll use it as wisely as we can! But I want to tell you the news, too, so you know how things are going.



*Fr Justino in native costume with his parents at his first mass in Timor Leste, the first ordination in his home parish in 27 years.*

And have a **Merry Christmas!** And lots of grace leading up to Christmas!

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 November *Vladivostok Sunrise* 180, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/180>**