



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

January 31, 2025

Dear Benefactor,

Thank You for your donation! Be assured we will use it for the purpose you intended. Now that we have seven parishes to support, the Women's Support Centers, and the work with university students—plus the novitiate and seminarian programs—you see that we can't do it without you! I want to tell you the news, so you know how things are going.

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The Armenian Choir



The Presbyterian Choir



Our Choir, directed by Oksana Nam

January 11 was a good day for our parish and for the Christians of Vladivostok. With Covid mostly gone, we were able once again to host the **Christmas Festival of Christian Choirs**. Before Covid, it was always a happy event when Christians of a variety of congregations could get together to celebrate the birth of Jesus,

irrespective of their denominations. This year's choirs were from the Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches, and we were so happy that the Armenian Apostolic Church also joined us this year. The Festival was a roaring success with a full house of listeners from nearly every Christian denomination.

I'll let you in on a little secret! Years ago we received two church-sized Christmas Manger sets: one was a 12

inch size and the other was 10 inch. At the time we only had one parish church and, since I liked the camels, we used the camels from both sets to make a bigger scene. Finally, when we had a church in Nakhodka, we gave them the 10" set, but the camel was still being stored with the 12" set. It kind of got forgotten and Nakhodka didn't know they were missing a

camel! But I guess now is the time to give it to them! I'll be missing my camel! Oh well! Now we have more parishes, and need more manger sets, just in case you know of a closing church which doesn't need its manger set any more.

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, C.J.D. has been serving the parish on weekends. Our Spanish Sisters of St Anne have been working with children there, daily, for 15 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. (I had to laugh recently when our novice from Canada went to trapinka to visit. He is a great hockey player, so he made quite a stir with the boys of trapinka on the ice rink there!) The sisters own the premises where the program is usually 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, but it is now against government policies that chapels be in apartments. 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! So this will be our "Giving Day" purpose this year—a church in Romanovka-- when our giving day is on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation.

Wishing you grace and good health, 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 January *Vladivostok Sunrise* 181, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/181>