



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

March 15, 2025

Dear Benefactor,

Thank You for your **donation!** 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! Be assured we will use your donation for the purpose you intended. But I want to tell you the news, so you know how things are going.

The big thing soon is our Giving Day, March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation! I hope you have heard what we are planning for the **Romanovka Parish of the Holy Trinity** which Fr Dan established 30 years ago. Our Sisters of St Anne have been working with the children there, daily, for 20 years now. We own two apartments there where Sunday 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. So we have decided that funds for a church in Romanovka will be our **Giving Day project this year**. It looks like we will need about an additional \$60,000 to build the little church. Simply mark your donation "Giving Day".

Fr Dan and I have received a thank you from the **AA groups** of Vladivostok for the role we've had in forming AA in Vladivostok already 32 years ago! At that time alcoholism was a big problem in Russia. I was glad to invite AA from Alaska to come to begin its service in Vladivostok, and subsequently I managed to speak at over 80 schools about the scientific theory of alcoholism. Now the situation is much better. In fact, the death age of men has risen from 57 to 77 in these past years, maybe partly because of AA

Another piece of Good News! Our Bishop Kirill Klimovich has expressed his idea of having the Lenten **Chrism Mass** here in Vladivostok again this year on April 8. And he has agreed to **ordain three of our C.J.D. brothers to**



*"Thank you" from AA*

**the diaconate** to work with us here in Russia. That will take place on April 6! And that means that next year in April they can be ordained priests! Hallelujah! They will be Brother Edwin from the Philippines, Brother Peter from Uganda, and Brother Pradeep from India. Brothers Edwin and Peter finished the seminary in the Philippines, and Brother Pradeep in India.

On March 9 I had the privilege of serving mass at **Annunciation Parish** in Arsenyev and at **Nativity Parish** in Ussuryysk. I founded these parishes 30 years ago, and it is good to see their progress and church buildings which were built by their pastors after me, Franciscans from Seoul and Poland. Now those parishes have been given back to us

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Canons Regular because of lack of vocations in Europe and Korea. Thank God we have vocations!, and thanks to you for supporting them with your prayers and interest and funds.

But it was a very tiring day, as it was **many miles of travel** to those parishes. Luckily all the roads were ice-free already, but white lines were mostly missing yet, which made navigation pretty hard for my driver, Brother Ivan from Canada. We were stopped once by the police for driving “in the center of the road” but without lines....? He didn’t ticket us. And we had a flat tire. When Bro Ivan tried to change the tire, he couldn’t because the nuts were rusted, and so the wrench wasn’t long enough to provide enough purchase to loosen them. So we had to drive on the flat tire until we got to a mechanic. He had a bigger wrench and was able to change the tire. He charged us 150 rubles (only about \$1.50), but he said that our spare wasn’t much good either. He noted that the car already had more than 200,000 kilometers on it (more than 100,000 miles) so perhaps it was time to get another car. I didn’t mention it, but our benefactors have already given us money to replace it, and we are just waiting for the end of the war so that banks can operate without sanctions again so that we can receive the money from our California office. You can tell it was an exhausting day for this 84 year old!

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>**



*Some parishioners of Annunciation Parish with Pastor, Fr Vicky Samuel, C.J.D.*