



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

May 15, 2025

Dear Benefactor,

**Happy Month of Mary!** I get to write you from our CJD community in Maumere, Indonesia, because I had to visit here for the election of a Prior for the community. The community is doing well, and has lots of vocations! This community was started by our community in Russia, so you see how far reaching your help and prayers have been and are! Now this house is financially independent from Russia, but we in Russia are still dependent upon you! Thanks be to you for your **donation!** Be assured we will use your donation for the purpose you intended.

Now it is the Easter Season! As we say in Russian, “**Kristos Voskress!**” or Christ has Risen! Easter is the day when Jesus passed from the “desert” of this world, across the “Jordan River”, and entered the “Promised Land.” That’s where we all hope to go, following Him when the time comes. Let’s look forward to it!

Here is a photo of the beautiful copy of the famous icon “**Salus Populi Romani**” (Mary Healer of the Romans), which the late Pope Francis gave to the

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Catholics in Russia which is travelling around to all the Roman Catholic parishes in Russia during this Jubilee Year of Hope 2025. It now has an even greater meaning because the pope's earthly remains are buried very near to the original icon which is the main sacred image in the Pauline Chapel of the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome. **The pope chose to be buried there** because of his love for the Blessed Mother and his love for this historic

icon, which he would visit often, especially when he had to leave Rome for an international trip. Fr Dan had to fly up to the city of Yakutsk (3.5 hours flight straight north of Vladivostok) to receive the icon from the Salesian Fathers, and he flew back with it on a Saturday so that on Sunday he could give a talk about the icon before our two Sunday Masses, and then after masses we had the recitation of the rosary.

From Vladivostok the icon went to the Romanovka and Nakhodka parishes for the weekend; and then the next week it went to Ussurysk and Arsenyev. After that, our helper Nikolai Dorodnov took it to Khabarovsk and Komsomolsk by car. The event was a very good source of grace for our parishioners and a visible symbol of our unity with the universal Church.

Wishing you grace and good health, and a happy Easter season, Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.



*April 8 was the date of the **Chrism Mass** for the Eastern end of our diocese, held this year in Vladivostok. Bishop Kirill blessed the holy oils which will be used by priests of our Far Eastern deaneries. Most of our Far Eastern priests attended, as did most of the sisters working in this part of Russia.*

**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/>**

**P.P.S. We have a new postal address!** The office hasn't moved, but delivery to a post office box is safer. We have had a problem with people stealing our mail from the box at the former street address.

**To read the May *Vladivostok Sunrise* 183, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/183>**