



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

September 15, 2025

Dear Benefactor,

**“Lift High the Cross!”** As you know, yesterday was the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross!** I just heard that our **steeple crosses** which fell to the ground last winter will be installed this week, depending upon the weather. And actually, these are new stainless steel crosses, just in case the old crosses fell because of rust in this sea air. We still don’t know why they fell—Lightning? Ice? Rust? A new way of anchoring them to the steeples will be used, so maybe the new ones won’t fall. Here is a photo of the new crosses as I blessed them yesterday to prepare them for mounting this week. Between them stands our relic of the true Cross which St Helena sent to Rome, and which is still there today. Of course, our relic is only a tiny piece, mounted in a bigger wooden cross. **Stay tuned!**—I’ll send you pictures of their remounting on the steeples this week. An alpinist has agreed to do the job, high on the steeples!

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We are sure grateful to those who have donated to our **“Priests Health and Retirement Fund!”** Fr Dan Maurer wound up his time doing fundraising in America by having an operation for kidney stones in Stockton, California when he was there. Fr Marcus David has been in the hospital for three weeks in Vladivostok for pancreas problems. Fr Sebastian is doing better after having a pacemaker put in in Nakhodka. Providently, our Fr Nikita Kushnaryev has been here for the summer from his studies in Rome, and Fr Vicky Samuel has also been here, so we three have been able to carry the load of seven parishes, with the help of our deacons. We need more vocations! Prospective seminarians write us, but seminary takes time and money. (and prayers!)

Meanwhile our deacons have been on vacation, and are expected to return in November for ordination to the priesthood. Deacon Peter Nsamba is from

Uganda, and while he is there he was given the task of helping his pastor catch up on infant baptisms. Here is a photo in a crowded place of the moms and kids lined up for baptism!



Thanks be to you for your donation! Be assured we will use your donation for the purpose you intended. And thanks to all the donors who donated to our car fund at Giving Day!! Wishing you grace and good health, and a happy Fall season, 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 see *Vladivostok Sunrise 185*, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/185>