



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

August 31, 2026

Dear «Benefactor,

I hope and pray that you are doing fine as Fall approaches! The news is full of floods, fires, wars, but we have had the nicest summer here that I can remember! We are grateful to our Lady for her protection!

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Now the school year is starting. Yesterday we had the special blessing of students and teachers after mass that we do every year as the school year begins. Maybe because I'm from Indiana—Johnnie Appleseed Country—I always love to give a nice big apple to each student and teacher after the blessing. It makes the blessing be concrete! I tell them that I hope each school subject looks as good to them as that big apple, and, for the teachers, that each student is as attractive as that apple. Of course, sometimes they start munching the apple before they leave church!



Blessing the students and teachers (and the apples!)

This has been a good year for the apple harvest here, too, and even our own two apple trees produced well. We made a lot of applesauce which we froze for later use this winter. I remember that as kids in Indiana our favorite dessert was applesauce with buttered toast. (try it!)

With the school year begins more evangelization and classes for those who want to know more about the Catholic faith, and those planning to receive sacraments. We've added two parishes to our Russian mission since last year: Annunciation parish in Arsenyev and Nativity Parish in Ussurysk. Our Father Vicky Samuel, C.J.D., has become the pastor of those parishes. So that is seven parishes helped by Mary Mother of God Mission Society, plus Caritas, our charitable organization, plus the university chaplaincy at two big universities. Add to that our seminarians who are studying to become priests to work in Russia. Two of



The parish building in Ussurysk. It was built by Korean Catholics for a charity center. Now it is used as a Korean school, and the parish uses part of the building. The Korean priests are gone, so our Fr Vicky takes care of the parish. There are still 15 homeless and crippled men living in the building, too.

our parishes—Holy Trinity in Romanovka and St Joseph in Artyom—are in need of major building projects! Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk is in need of a microbus!

God bless you. We remember you at Holy Mass every day.

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

P.S. We need more **mass intentions**, too! (We have three more priests for daily mass.) To make a donation or order a Mass using your bank card, go here: <http://vladmission.org/get-involved/donate/> To see *Vladivostok Sunrise* 190, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/190>