



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactors,

May 14, 2007

Today was an historic day for us! As part of the church restoration we placed the heavy marble crucifix back in the same spot it had occupied in 1922 when the church was consecrated! So I can't help but show you the pictures!



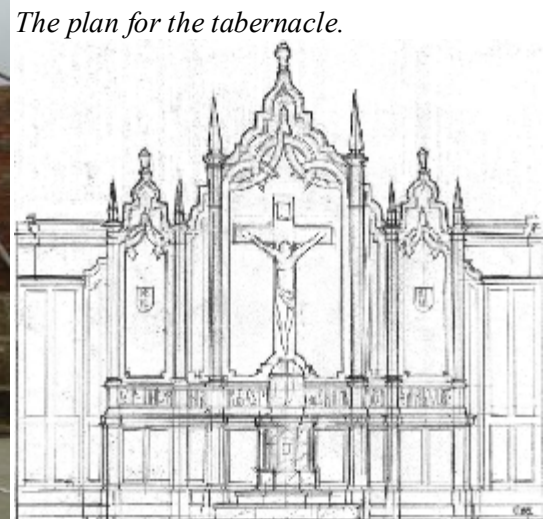
The Crucifix in 1922.



The Crucifix in place today, May 14, 2007.



The workers and parishioners today.



The plan for the tabernacle.

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Thank you for your contribution! Of course we will respect the purpose for which you sent your donation, but after 15 years of hoping and praying for the restoration of our church, you can understand why we are so excited! Fr Dan and the parishioners who were present couldn't help but singing songs during the final raising of the crucifix, including "Old Rugged Cross" and "Regina Caeli"! We'll keep you informed of progress as we head for the day of reconsecration—October 7!

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Right now we are planning toward the ordination to the diaconate of Brother Oleg Yelchaninov—June 22. It is such an important moment for us and for Russia because there have been so few vocations, and too few vocations to fill the need. Right after “perestroika”, the Catholic countries like Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, had a surge of vocations. Now, after “Western values” have taken over the media, those vocations have dried up. Russia, a non-Catholic country since the 1500’s at least, has not had a surge of vocations. And perhaps that is understandable with only one child per family and abortion everywhere! Thanks be to God there are still places with many vocations, like Mexico, Argentina, Africa, and India. And America seems to be doing better, too.

And we are still hoping and praying for more vocations here in Russia, especially as the society recovers from radical anti-Christian values. The funeral of President Boris Yeltsin was influential in that regard, because of his Christianity. The Orthodox funeral service was broadcast on TV live, with President Putin in evidence making the usual Christian gestures and participating in the prayers. So our work with youth is so important, not just for this society, but for future vocations.

During this month of May we will include you in our daily prayers to the Virgin! And may the Blessed Virgin obtain vocations for us all! And good health and the fulfillment of your hopes for you!

God bless you! Gratefully,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.