



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

April 18, 2011



Happy Easter!! God bless you throughout the Easter season! And throughout the month of May—the month of the Most Holy Mother of God!

Many thanks to you for your donation! It is no secret that it is a tough time for many charitable organizations—and for us, too—and we are looking ahead to the usual lean months of summer--Fingers are crossed. Thank you, that we can count on your help. You are in our daily prayers, and we will continue to pray for you!

It is still Holy Tuesday here as I write this, and we are preparing for the great liturgies of HolyWeek. Church was packed yesterday for Palm Sunday. Incidentally we don't have palms in most parts of Russia, so the custom is to use pussy willows instead. They are very nice, but you can't weave fancy designs from them like we used to do when I was a child. People like to take them home and keep them in a flower vase for the year. We can't cut any pussy willows here in the city, of course. Our parishioner Regina who lives outside the city always brings them for us, and also Sr Marina brought some from Romanovka. It was a beautiful holy day as we prepared the adults for baptism at the Easter vigil.

Five ships from India came into port yesterday, so we've had quite a few tourists to visit the church! One of the Indian consuls is a Catholic, so she and Sr Fransis have become fast friends already. We are expecting the level of tourism to increase as the bridges and roads get done, especially in the summer time.

Perhaps you'll get this letter before the next issue of the *Sunrise* comes to your house. It is the 99th edition! I'm trying to figure out how to make the 100th edition special, if you have any ideas. The deadline is about June 15.

God bless you! Thank you very much for your help!!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

P.S. Save this letter for the IRS as proof of your donation. You received no goods or services in consideration of this gift, so you can use this letter at tax time.

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