



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor

May 9, 2011

Happy Month of May!! The leaves have appeared and the grass is green! And people are busy planting their gardens with hope for a good harvest! Naturally we are praying to the Blessed Virgin Mary during her month of May, and remembering to pray for you, too. Of course things are happening, so there is some news.

I've been busy buying an apartment on Russian Island for the Sisters in Jesus the Lord who are planning to open their first community in Russia soon. Luckily an apartment became available right near the university site where the sisters want to work, so we acted quickly. They are planning to work among the 100,000 students of the new federal university. And the apartment comes fully furnished!



May 10 was installation day for the new printer that was donated to us by Our Sunday Visitor! They also donated the old one to us several years ago, but we ran it ragged with all of our printing of evangelization materials, religious textbooks, pro-life materials, thank-you letters and what have you! We traded the old one in on toner for the new machine. Thank you, Our Sunday Visitor!

Here is a photo of the new printer being admired by our mail clerk

Igor Lukin, who will have the most work to do on it, and the representative of FARTEC, the company whose sold it to us and will do the servicing. In the foreground is a paper cutter.

Here is an interesting fact: According to surveys, 56% of Russians believe in God. That is more than ANY OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY, including Poland! Perhaps it will mean a rebirth of interest in Church and religion in general. We hope so! We are counting on it.

Another interesting piece of news: I was sad that the building we wanted to buy for Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk had an asking price of \$200,000, so there was no way we could afford it. Real estate prices are going up. The parish is growing, and needs more space. But I heard today that the auction was cancelled because no one would buy it for that price. So there is hope again that we might be able to buy the building. The price would have to be a lot lower!

We were saddened by the death of one of our eldest parishioners, Leopold Kilga. He was 91 years old. His parents were married in our church in 1920 and he was baptized there, too.

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During the bad years he changed his name from Leopold to Leonid as a way of avoiding their making him “an enemy of the people”. He became an engineer and professor of engineering, and was responsible for much of the electrification of our State of Primorye. He joined the parish again after we opened, and received the Sacraments of First Confession, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and the Holy Eucharist many months ago. He was a grand man and a great Catholic.

Thank you for your prayers and support and your donation! Your donation means so much here where there is such poverty—and most important—spiritual poverty, and yet where the country has a space program and so many billionaires! Fortunately for us, it is mostly the poor that we have doings with and who depend so much on our help, and especially the kids. Thank you that we can count on your help. You are in our daily prayers, and we will continue to pray for you!

God bless you!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.