



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

## Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

Aug 15, 2011

Congratulations for the Feast of the Assumption! We celebrated the Feast on Sunday with our annual procession and special prayers—you were included, too! Then on Monday we celebrated the first vows of Brother Arnulfo Undona, C.J.D., and the renewal of vows of Sister Catherine Morse, C.J.D., as the sisters have been here for three months helping with all the summer activities. In fact, as I'm writing the sisters are doing a little concert for the folks at the hospice. "Ave Maria" is always a hit!



*Brother Arnulfo taking his first vows.*

Frankly, I'm not recovered yet from our two big weeks of travel and work and nights without sleep. That is all good news though!! We finished the Children's retreat in Lesozavodsk and the Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference in Nakhodka, all with the help of sixteen American college students, members of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), and with the help of our Sisters in Jesus the Lord who are here for a three-month visit. The events were really great events, and I don't know how we could have done it without outside help! Even though it was hard work, and poor living conditions, they did a great job, and many said they would like to come back next year! I'm sure that especially the 24 kids in Lesozavodsk will long remember them. And we hope to have confirmed and strengthened the faith of our youth at the Conference. Here a photo of the boy's "command" from Lesozavodsk for you.

### Board

Chairman  
David Sonnen

Most Rev. Cyril  
Klimovich, DD

Rev Joseph Illo

Rev. Bernard Reiser

Rev. Joseph Fessio, SJ

Rev. Benedict  
Groeschel, CFR

Rev. Richard Wey

V. Rev. Robert Stoelckig

Sandra Sonnen

Melanee Targia

Ilona Soransen, OCDS

Rev. Douglas Grandon,  
Ph.D.

Lynn Grandon

Mary Jo Peyton

### Officers

President  
V.Rev. Myron Effing, CJD

Vice President  
Terrence Kopp, KCHS

Chief Financial Officer  
Rev. Daniel Maurer, CJD

Secretary  
Susan Gray

National Coordinator  
Vicky Trevillyan



It was our first experience with a camp for children in Lesozavodsk, and it will hopefully be the first of a long series of such camps, as the kids really need it. But we aren't able to do it without people from outside who can help. These are the same children that the parishioner feed every Saturday when the kids don't get dinner at school. We've helped them several years already, but this is the first time we tried to do something extra. Some day maybe there will be a resident priest in Lesozovodsk, so we could work more at catechizing the children. Most are not baptized yet.

As soon as those events were done, I had to give two talks at the Lutheran Annual Seminar. "History of the Catholic Church in the Russian Far East" and "What is a Catholic?" It was enjoyable, and the Lutheran, Armenian, and Evangelical pastors gave similar talks, and a lay historian spoke about the Orthodox Church. We found out a lot about each other's traditions.

But you are part of these big events, too, as we couldn't do it without your prayers and support. You are what make it possible. Thank you for your help, especially appreciated in the summer when we are counting our pennies, and hoping we won't be abandoned while benefactors are on vacation. Thanks for all the kids that you help. Thank you that we can count on you. You are in our daily prayers, and we will continue to pray for you!

Now we'll be concentrating on "Back to School", helping some kids with their needs through the Guardian Angel Program, and, of course, the Sunday school in the parishes. We'll be praying for you and for all our benefactors. Thank you, and God bless you!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.