



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

## Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

June 30, 2013

Thank you for your donation! Your help is so important to us—I'm only a month behind in the payroll for our employees, so the folks here are making a sacrifice, too. Naturally we don't get behind in the Guardian Angel Program and other programs involving kids, and now we get a little reprieve from paying tuition for our many seminarians, as it is summer break! Back to school again on September 2nd.

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We have big events coming up, the biggest being the ordination to the priesthood of our Deacon Inosensius Hetu, CJD. The ceremony is scheduled for August 15 in Surabaya, Indonesia, and then his First Mass in his home parish on Flores Island (which Pope Benedict called "a second Ireland" because of the number of vocations it has produced and is still producing! I can't go to the ordination—we can't afford it. Meanwhile here is a photo of Brother Inosensius, and some words that he sent to me recently:



*Brother Patrick, Deacon Inosensius, myself, and Brother Arnulfo*

"Over the last few months, I have been trying to be a witness of Christ not only reading and preaching the Gospel, distributing communion, doing my daily Christian prayer but also walking around the orphanage and the poor. I don't have material things to give them, but I have something which belongs to Christ: He gives me 'spirit' when I was with them all. My presence is enough for them, and I try to hear what they want to say. Yes, many people want to speak and only a few people want to listen."

August 15 is also the Feast of the Assumption, so we'll be having our traditional procession and prayers, including prayers for you.

The plans for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference have already begun to take shape. The youth are getting more and more organized and committed to the Church. Besides our Russians, we expect to have American, Koreans, Filipinos, and Indonesians at the Conference this year. I'm excited about the theme, which is "The Task of the Church among the Peoples". We hope a lot of the young people will see their own personal vocations among the things we'll talk about at the Conference. Our parishioner Pavel will be the conference leader. He is a young military neurosurgeon who does a great job with the conference. That will be in the last week of July and early August. Please pray for us!

And before that it is time for the annual Children's Retreat in Lesozavodsk. Again this year American university students from FOCUS will be coming to help it. The kids are already getting excited about it. I was there on Saturday for our monthly mass. Again we were lamenting that there isn't a full time priest for that parish, as it is far away from the others, and so many kids there would love to be more involved in the Church. Thank you FOCUS that you will care for these kids. We need to have sisters there, too, to work with the kids, but to have sisters you need a priest first, as sisters want to go to mass every day. You see we need vocations so much, and we have many, many applicants, but we can't afford the seminary expenses for so many! How can we solve the problem and still work in Russia where we are very much needed? If you know of any sources of funds for seminarians, please let me know!! As another example, in Magadan, on Kamchatka, and on Sakhalin Island, one priest is working on each. Even though they are hours away from another priest, they can't get away for vacation, for spiritual retreats, for sickness, or even to go to confession! They need helpers.

About the time you get this letter you'll also be getting our *Vladivostok Sunrise* with even more news. Thank you so much for being there for all of us, kids and religious alike! God bless you! We'll be praying for you. Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

P.S. Here is a picture of some of the kids from Lesozavodsk's camp from two years ago.

