



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

February 15, 2014

Thank you for your donation! You are one of our “co-missionaries” in Russia, as we couldn’t even be here without your help. Thank you so much! There has been a lot of news about Russia these days, what with the Olympics in Sochi. I’m glad you thought of us when you watched the news and games! And thanks for your prayers!

Only 19 more years until the 2033 year Jubilee Year of the Redemption! I’m still hoping that there will be reunion between the Catholics and Orthodox before that time so that we can celebrate it together. I’ll be giving some talks to Orthodox groups soon, and that will be the theme of my talk. We pray for reunion, too. Time goes fast, so I hope there is still time to get all the changes of heart necessary for reunion to happen, and lots of hurts have to be forgiven, too.

Soon three brothers will take their final vows, and six novices will take first vows, and then we are expecting a new class of five novices. It is such a joy that young men want to join our work, and I’m so very happy with the quality of these men. We are hoping for ordinations in the years ahead so that we can expand our work, both in Russia and elsewhere. We are praying for that! Every “green” Monday we say the Mass for Vocations to the Priesthood. Just for fun, here is a picture of Bro Edwin and Fr Inosensius “consoling” the angel who lost his place—at least temporarily—near the tabernacle during the Christmas season when the Christmas tree needed a place near the altar. He’s back in his place now, keeping guard of the Blessed Sacrament!



We had an historical moment on Friday when the Sisters in Jesus the Lord asked me to say the first mass at their convent on Russian Island, not far from the Far Eastern Federal University. They at last were able to move to the convent from the parish, so we are very happy for them as they continue to consolidate their presence on the Island. With the arrival of Sr Faustina there are now three sisters. They are very helpful to us in all our

liturgical and pastoral work. And they are so happy now to at last have the Blessed Sacrament in their home on the Island. We'll have to figure out a way to have mass there occasionally, especially as the number of Catholic students increases. Here's a picture for you:



They still needs lots of help with repairs of the building, and they are hoping to buy some more room there so that there will be room for retreats and conferences, as well as for more sisters. A big bonus is that, since they are located on the inside bay of the island, they have summer swimming and winter ice skating to help keep them in shape, and it will be a great place for retreats and for the Far Eastern Catholic Youth conference.

Vicky asked me to clarify with our donors that our mailing address hasn't changed! I guess there is some confusion, given that our store in Modesto changed locations, but our mailing address remains the same. Sorry if there was some confusion!

God bless you throughout the new year, and especially as we begin Lent! Thank you so much for your help!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.