



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

February 15, 2015

“Happy Birthday to me!” was a big part of last week’s doings, as I became 74 years old on February 7. Here are the kids in Vladivostok giving me a birthday present that they had made themselves after Sunday Mass:



And here is a photo that our seminarians in Indonesia sent me as a greeting:



I got so many boxes of candy and bottles of wine that I shudder to think what my 75th birthday will bring next year!



Good news is that the Franciscan Mission Warehouse in Kansas City has shipped to us 40 used electric hospital beds! We had to buy new mattresses to ship with them, and we have to pay for transportation and customs expenses. It is a wonderful opportunity, so we can’t pass it up. Some of the beds will go to the Hospice in Vladivostok, and the rest to the general city hospital in Lesozavodsk where our Women’s Support Center has been located many years already. Neither have proper hospital beds! Both places have only flat beds currently, so you can imagine how difficult it is for sick elderly folks to eat the usual Russian soup without getting it in their lungs.

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That is a cause of dangerous lung infections. So we are hoping that the “new” beds will making eating and feeding a lot better. Chances are good we’ll have to upgrade the electricity at the hospice, as they currently have only two single receptacles in each room! They need those for fans and other medical equipment. If you want to help with these projects, it would be great! We haven’t checked on the situation with electricity yet in the Lesozavodsk hospital.

During Lent we have preparations for adult baptisms at the Easter Vigil, a Rachael’s Vineyard retreat, Youth Recollection Days, Youth Conference Preparations, and the Chrism Mass which will be this year in Yakutsk, near the Arctic Circle—the coldest continuously inhabited city on earth. That should be interesting! Recently when I was a guest I was served reindeer barbeque. It was fantastic. It reminded me of the time during a snow storm in Chisholm, Minnesota, I “had” to eat a deer steak, as it was the only thing in the house. Also fantastic! Maybe we’ll have reindeer again at the Chrism Mass, as deer meat is a product of Yakutia.

Thank you for your donation! I think how wonderful it is that you take good care of us and our kids and our seminarians! I’m grateful that you trust God to take care of you and us! And what good surprises God has in mind. We just added about 15 foreign parishioners to our parish—people who are coming to work with Russia’s new developments here in the Russian Far East. And we’ve added new foreign parishioners in St Joseph’s parish and in Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk. And of course the number of Russian parishioners in gradually increasing. We now even have a Russian seminarian again! We expect five of our other seminarians to be ordained deacons later this year, but it isn’t clear yet where they will serve. Stay tuned.

God bless you! Have a happy Lent! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.



It's a good thing my birthday is before Lent!