



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

February 14, 2016

Happy Valentine's Day!! (and Happy Lent! Already!) I'm writing to thank you for your donation! We will be able to use your contribution it according to your wishes. Thanks for "being there" for us!

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Papal Nuncio to Russia, Archbishop Ivan Yerkovich

I couldn't believe the big celebration that our parishioners made for my 75th birthday! Plus the Papal Nuncio came, and so did our Bishop Kirill! And Vicky Trevillyan came from our office in California. Naturally she was reluctant to spend money on a ticket, but I explained to her that it has been a while since she was in Russia, and she needs to keep updated about the mission. She said she always wanted to be a missionary, and now she is—from her home in Modesto, CA—as she is working with our Russian parishes, and with our seminarians in Indonesia and in the Philippines. We couldn't exist without her!

This is a time of economic crisis in Russia, what with oil prices so low—about half of what the government needs to keep solvent! (You know Russia one of the world's largest producers of oil and gas.) So many women are turning to our Women's Support Centers for help! Vicky brought with her two suitcases of children's clothing—They were snapped up instantly. Also, the Guardian Angel kids' parents are so grateful for the benefactors who are helping them just now. The people here are so grateful for whatever help we can give. Our prayers go out for those who can help. We've opened another Women's Support Center in Romanovka, and continue to help the many children in Lesozavodsk and Romanovka, which is where the poorest children are. I'm wondering if we don't have to begin the soup kitchen for elderly poor already, as the government pensions are so small, and elderly who don't have families to help them will be in big trouble.

I still have a big impression from my trip to Indonesia. On the backside there is a photo of our seminarians there, together with Fr Inosensius and Fr Ferdinandus. They are standing in front of the temporary building which is their home, which they built with their own hands this past year! When I was there last year, it was just a jungle. Now it is home to our 27 seminarians. Of course we need to build a chapel and a permanent building when we can. Because of overcrowding, they are building a 2nd temporary building now, to house the students who are writing their theses for their degree. The monastery is so overcrowded that the students can't find a quiet enough place to do their research and write their papers. We rented a small nearby house for a month until the new temporary place could be built. As Fr Dan told folks at my 75th birthday party, "Earlier we had so few vocations we didn't know what to do, but now we have so many we don't know how we will feed them!" A great problem to have, no? It will be great when the first Indonesian or Filipino priests will be able to come to Russia as Fr Dan and I are aging. And maybe even several Indian and Vietnamese priests, too! Counting the days!



We may have a total of six ordinations to the priesthood this year! Have a happy Lent, and let's look forward to Easter and Spring!! You are in our prayers. **God bless you!** Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.



Some guests on my 75th birthday.

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<http://vladmission.org/get-involved/donate/>

To watch our new video, go here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwiQLQzvDPY&feature=youtu.be>