



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

January 15, 2018

Happy New Year! On Christmas we had a really full house for the “Midnight Mass” and the Christmas concerts were sold out, too. The kids did a really spectacular performance of the Nativity scene—We started that years ago before we had figures for a Bethlehem scene, and it is still a tradition, although we also have a “crib” now. Yesterday was our main ecumenical event of the year, the Christmas Festival of Christian Choirs. It is a time when we Christians don’t argue about dogma, but celebrate the birth of the Savior! There were five choirs from various churches, plus a local children’s choir which sang together with our choir. See a picture on the back side.



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The weather here has been exceptionally cold, with an ice storm when I was nine hours trapped in a car because the traffic just wasn’t moving!—It made national news. Then we had a pretty, heavy snow storm, which was a joy for Bro Pradeep from India and Bro Rajnal from Pakistan because it was the first snow they have seen, and maybe more importantly, felt! By the way, at the “midnight mass” we had university students attending from all over the world: China, India, Pakistan, Africa, South America. The Sisters in Jesus the Lord held a Christmas party for foreign students at the St John the Evangelist Student Center (which is still woefully in need of repairs) near the university on Russian Island. Hopefully it helped them deal with the blues of not being home for Christmas.

Just in time for Christmas we were able to deliver 60 “soup kitchen” packages of food to elderly poor people. Many thanks to all the benefactors who donated to the Soup Kitchen project, and to the Social Services Department of the City of Vladivostok for helping to choose the recipients and who made the food deliveries! And to Lily Timofeevna who chose the foods and oversaw the project. We are planning another “Soup Kitchen” for Easter, if not before, depending upon donations. We were able to visit the hospice and orphanages and the poor parishioners with the food packets, too. The sisters have been collecting a “kilogram of solidarity” from parishioners for the poor also. It could be a kilogram of any food that doesn’t need refrigeration. It is an annual project of our Sisters of St Anne, one sister from Spain, one from the Philippines, and one Russian sister.

I want to thank you for your donation! We appreciate your help so much! I'd sure like to personally thank you, but a letter is all we can do for now. We will continue our daily prayers for you. We need you to carry on our work, and we need the young vocations to carry on our work. God bless you! Have a happy 2018!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

To read Sunrise 139, go here: <https://vladmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Sunrise-139.pdf>

To make a donation or order a Mass using your money card, go here: <http://vladmission.org/get-involved/donate/>

To watch our new video, go here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwiQLQzvDPY&feature=youtu.be>

Vladivostok Christmas Music Programs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjSNg1OOEAE>



The Children's Choir and our choir