

The Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

In the early 1900's, the Russian Far East boasted a thriving Roman Catholic population. Many Russians, Poles, Lithuanians and other groups inhabited the area. They built schools, hospitals, and beautiful churches.

After the revolution of 1917, Siberia became a showplace of the new Communist era, a land without churches and without God. Under Stalin, all Catholic churches were confiscated, and many were turned into the most degrading uses imaginable. Catholics were murdered by the thousands, and their bodies dumped into mass graves. Cemeteries were turned into amusement parks.

Two American priests, Fr. Myron Effing, CJD, and Fr. Daniel Maurer, CJD, arrived in Vladivostok in 1992 to help re-establish the Church in this region. **They founded or refounded 11 Catholic parishes in an area covering over 500,000 square miles.** With the foundations laid, additional priests and sisters are joining the work, and parishes are slowly growing and multiplying.



The Russian Far East and our parish areas

Our Purpose

The purpose of the [Mary Mother of God Mission Society](#) is to bring spiritual and material support to the Catholic Church in the Diocese of St. Joseph, Irkutsk and the Far East of Russia. We are also a means of mission awareness and education for our members in the United States.

Your help is important in returning the Catholic faith to Russia. There is much work to be done. But through faith, Russians can overcome the heartbreaking fallout of nearly four generations of social and religious persecution. Today, for example, less than 1% of Russia actively practices any form of religion. Russia's rates of alcohol consumption, abortion and suicide are among the highest in the world.

Only with your help can the doors be open to rebuilding our Catholic church – the rebuilding of hope – in Russia.

How You Can Help

We ask foremost for your prayers. Along with your financial assistance, they sustain our parishes, educational programs, and charitable works, thus enabling us to accomplish our ultimate goal - bringing the Catholic Faith to the people of Russia.

An American parish can adopt one of our Russian parishes to provide prayer, material and financial support for that parish. Sister parish members and university students are welcome to travel in mission teams to our parishes in Vladivostok to participate in charitable works!

Activities You Can Help Support

- ❖ The re-opening or building of new parishes
- ❖ Correspondence courses in the Catholic faith to Russians via mail and internet
- ❖ Seminarians' education
- ❖ Children's catechetical programs
- ❖ Russian translation and publication of hymnals, catechetical materials, and prayer books
- ❖ On-campus Catholic programs for college students
- ❖ Summer Bible camp for children/youth
- ❖ Annual Far Eastern Russia Catholic Conference for Young Adults
- ❖ Food program for the abandoned elderly
- ❖ Grandparent-to-orphan mentoring program
- ❖ Assistance for children and families in crisis
- ❖ Sponsor a child or family in need
- ❖ Pregnancy Support Centers
 - Natural Family Planning
 - Education/Counseling
 - Adopt-A-Mother
 - Adopt-A-Birth
- ❖ "Just Say No to Alcohol" programs

For more information on individual programs or how you can become involved, please contact us!

Financial and material donations are tax-deductible. You will receive any required receipt for tax purposes by return mail. We do not give, sell, or loan our list of donors to other organizations.

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*Thank you for your prayers and support.
You will be included in the daily masses
and prayers of our missionaries and of
our members.*

How to Contact Us

In Russia

For letters without donations:

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*For online Credit Card donations or
Automatic Withdraw see our website:*

www.vladmission.org

If you have in-kind items that you think we can use,
contact Mrs. Vicky Trevillyan with a complete list of
items. If we can accept your offer, you will need
information for Russian customs.

Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church
in Eastern Russia



Most Holy Mother of God,
Pray for Us

Mary Mother of God Mission Society
is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Organization