

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 eleven Catholic parishes in an area covering more than sixteen hundred 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 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. **Today, less than 1% of Russia actively practices any form of religion.** Through faith, Russian people can better overcome the heartbreaking fallout of nearly four generations of the social and religious persecution...

- Alcoholism is the No.1 social problem
- Russian women have average of 6-8 abortions in their life time.

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. Your financial assistance sustains existence of our parishes, education programs and development, 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. Parishes learn to pray for one another. Sister parish

members or individuals are welcome to travel in mission teams to our parishes in Vladivostok to participate in charitable works!

Activities You Can Help Support To Revive The Catholic Faith In Russia

- ❖ Re-open or build proposed new parishes
- ❖ Correspondence courses in the Catholic faith to Russians via mail and internet
- ❖ Support for seminarians
- ❖ 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 Young Adults Far Eastern Russia Catholic Youth Conference (18-30 yrs.)
- ❖ Boy Scout program
- ❖ Food program for the abandoned elderly
- ❖ Grandparent orphan mentoring program
- ❖ Assistance for children and families in crisis
- ❖ Adopt A Family
- ❖ 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.

National Officers . . .

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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 . . .

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Mail: Letters and donations should be sent to:
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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**



Incorporated in the State of Minnesota
Non-profit

**Most Holy Mother of God,
Pray for Us**