

Often we are able to ship religious literature and sacramentals to the East. Many Rosary makers send us boxes of their works of love. Dick Pollack of Denver gives us thousands of brown Scapulars. Patty Melvin of the Universal Living Rosary Association sends us miraculous medals. All of these we ship or carry to priests and sisters in Ukraine and Russia.

In February 2003 Fr. Stanislaw of Sumy, Ukraine spent a couple of weeks in Colorado with the *other* Colorado non-profit missionary Apostolate at Holy Apostles Catholic Church in Colorado Springs. Fr. Paul Wicker, his assistant Marion Franowicz, and their parish have for seven years been supporting the several parishes in and around Sumy with their Catholic Outreach to Northern Ukraine mission. They have been pairing American parishes with needy ones in Ukraine, and most importantly they have been carrying the humble and meek heart of Mary to our brothers and sisters in the East who have responded to this gesture with great enthusiasm and love.

In early years we collected and shipped humanitarian relief supplies to the missions in the East, but then we learned that two factors made it more efficient to send or deliver money instead. The cost of shipping clothes and medicines is so great, that our priest friends in the East have told us that they would rather have the moneys we spent on these efforts. Moreover, problems at the border such as duties and pilfering make the shipments of supplies problematic.

Nevertheless we continue to gather orphan relief supplies with annual drives among the several schools in and around Denver where some of us teach catechism to grade schoolers. These supplies we carry in suitcases when some of us go to the land of disillusionment, dejection and despair. Aspirin, shoelaces, fingernail clippers, Carmex, toothpaste, socks, and underwear pack tightly into the suitcases we carry, and this project allows for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to pitch in with love and concern for poor orphans in Russia.

We have recently been speaking about Marian devotion to youth groups, school children and catechism classes—mostly in the Denver area. To these children we explain recent Maria apparitions, especially *Fatima*, and tell the children that Mary comes to help us live holy lives, so we can merit eternal salvation. These children are often very curious about what it is like to live in Russia—and what kind of life do orphans have. As class projects they gather relief supplies which we take to the orphanages ourselves, or we give them to other missionaries heading to the East. **We are available to speak at your schools and youth groups if you will extend us an invitation.**

We are heartened by your frequent and honest letters of sincerity and encouragement which urge us onwards in the evangelizing of the hearts of our suffering brothers and sisters in Russia. Most important in the eyes of heaven are your prayers, your Rosaries, your sufferings and sacrifices, which are so cherished by Mary most pure. Please join us in this exciting work. If you will ever travel to the East you will leave your heart there.

Our friend Marion Franowicz confirmed that he too after returning from the East needed a month to adjust to the culture shock of coming back to America. Why? You yourselves might go to the East to learn first hand of such humble, open, simple and uncomplicated hearts that have been purified by suffering and difficult lives. Our hearts yearn to embrace theirs, and theirs ours. The church must breathe with two lungs—*East and West*—as our wise and humble pontiff has often pleaded. ♥ ♥



With Bishops Irinej Bilyk and Sofron Mudrij.



Tripillja orphans clean cabbage from root cellar.



Masha, Irina and Jula peel potatoes.



Your QAMA friends and colleagues in Colorado.



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10th Anniversary of QAMA

After ten years of missionary activity in Russia and the East we gratefully provide you this report on the 10th Anniversary of the founding of this Marian Apostolate.

The Queen of the Apostles Mission Association (QAMA) is a group of several thousand lay American Catholics who share a devotion to Immaculate Mary, and who in particular have a devotion to **Our Lady of the Rosary** who at Fatima, Portugal in 1917 told us of the Father's wish that we devote and consecrate ourselves to Her **Immaculate Heart**. At Fatima She asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart, and she prophesied that Russia would spread her errors (Atheistic Communism) throughout the world. In accordance with Mary's exhortations to holiness and sacrifice the members of this association collaborate in prayer and alms giving to assist dozens of Catholic missions in the former Soviet Union.

Since 1993 you have helped us send or deliver nearly one million dollars to the priests and religious working at about 35 remote missionary stations in mostly Russia and Ukraine. This enterprise has its roots in a profound devotion to Mary's heart which sprang up in Denver in the early 1990s. Thousands of pilgrims came from all over the country and Canada to consecrate themselves to Mary's heart—just as St. Alphonsos Liguori had encouraged in France in the 17th century.

It was a time of conversions, peace, and spiritual and physical healings. The Denver area remains one of strong Marian devotion and we meet and make new friends and supporters on a weekly basis.

The members of the association are those pilgrims from afar, and locally who encourage and support each other in devotion to the most pure mother of God. Some members of the association we met at the several Marian conferences which have been held here in Colorado, including the two



Miroslava & Valya.



In Kazan Frs. Diogenes & Elia dine with Orthodox priests.



Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Kazan, Russia.



The new and the old St. Basil's in Lutsk.

QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES MISSION ASSOCIATION

Supporting Catholic Priests & Religious at numerous needy mission outposts in the former U.S.S.R. with more than \$975,000 since 1994.
2375 East Arizona Avenue • Denver, CO 80210-1924 • 303-733-1771 • Fax: 303-744-6124 • Email: qama@aol.com • www.qama.org • Editor: A. Matt Werner



One big family at Tripillja orphanage.



Your donations benefit Fr. Anatoliy, and the Sisters Canossian, of the Holy Family and of the Divine Redeemer.



Ukrainian Catholics persevered under Communism.



Orphans Anton, Zhenya, Roman and Yura.



Olga, Valya, Jula and Nadya.

Russia conferences we organized in the mid and late 90's. Some we have met when we have traveled on missions, in particular to Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana. Every year Mary brings us new friends who all share a desire to help their suffering brothers and sisters in the East—in Russia and Ukraine where the legacy of communism is suffering, disillusionment and despair.

QAMA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and a private foundation which in a legal sense has as its focus the support of Catholic missionary activity in Russia and Ukraine. Prior to 1995 QAMA was known as Catholic Evangelization Mission for the Conversion of Russia (CEM/COR). On average you have helped us send almost \$100,000 each year since 1994 to bishops, priests and sisters in the East who work in those missions which are so remote as to not benefit from other organs of international relief or church agencies. Our overhead is very low, and usually we distribute funds as soon as they arrive. We trust in Mary to continue to send the assistance which is desperately needed. The last fiscal year we delivered \$110,000 in aid. The previous year we delivered \$105,000 in aid. We operate this non-profit foundation with great efficiency—as a look at the books will confirm.

Within the next several months you will have helped us send more than one million dollars to the missions in Russia and the East since this Marian Apostolate was founded. While this is a small sum in the eyes of the world, more important in the eyes of our Blessed Mother is the gathering of hearts, which she will preserve safe in Her **Immaculate Heart**. We measure the success of this Apostolate not in financial terms, but in spiritual terms. We are helping Mary to gather hearts for the Kingdom of Heaven, battling against her adversary who is so very active in our vulgar and trivial culture of death?

Many times we have watched as your generous donations open up large doors in the East where your generosity permits the building of a church where there was none, or the purchase of an orphanage to raise children who would otherwise be lost on the streets. Your giving hearts and your generous donations have enabled pure hearted missionary sisters in western Ukraine to travel often to the East and adopt whole orphanages with their frequent missions to the sorrowful and often despairing hearts.

To date you have helped with your donations to build or restore from ruins seven complete churches and monasteries, those in Kontcovo (*Mother of God*); Kazan, Russia (*Exaltation of the Holy Cross*); Kyiv (*Assumption of the Virgin Mary*); Vinogradov, Ukraine (*Annunciation Church*); Lutsk (*St. Basil the Great monastery*); Talne (*parish center*); and Ivano-Frankivsk (*Las Byzantinas' monastery*). You have provided substantial assistance in the construction of more than fifteen or twenty other large structures in Ukraine and Russia. Then last year you gave Bishop Szykoradiuk the entire \$35,000 he needed to buy in Zhytomyr the building he just recently converted into a Catholic orphanage; and we will travel there in April to attend the dedication ceremony.

Recently in St. Petersburg Russia you have given nearly \$5,000 to help Miles Jesu build a "boy's town" for the orphaned young men who would otherwise be living in the sewers of that city. St. James Parish in Mequon Wisconsin has adopted this new Catholic Russian "Boy's Town." Please remember that on average one American dollar buys in Russia what you would need twenty dollars to buy here. Ten thousand dollars will build a nice sturdy but modest church in most outlying regions.



Orphans love their evening prayers.



Public school children in Kyiv share their hearts.



Orphans Anya, Natasha, Jula and Marina.



Vova, Lonya, Vadim, Tolic, Alyosha and Sasha.



Fr. Stepien, Sec. of Caritas in Kyiv, and Stan Borin.



Frs. Fernando and Sofron grateful for new plumbing.



Marina, Matt and Marina.