

In Zakarpatya Fr. Stephan Cych asks us to send him assistance to restore an old and dilapidated church. Fr. Vasyl Melnychuk in Otyynija and Bishop Vasylyk Pavlo in Chernivtsy have asked for help in their eparchy and we have been able to send them substantial aid. At the very poor orphanage in Vasilkov the director Ludmilla Mikolaevna was so very grateful not only for the \$1,000 you gave her, but especially because she said that she knows that this money came from the heart. In the scarred mining town of Krivij Rig in southern Ukraine Fr. Maiyeka sent us a very dear letter of thanks for the money which we gave him to complete the roof on the first Catholic church in that mostly unchurched city of 800,000 souls. Finally, we were also able to support a third Oblate mission in Yevpatoria in Crimea when we flew there in June and stayed with Fr. Andrei and Fr. Josef.

Central to this mission is devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart, a heart of purity and simplicity and littleness. And we find hearts such as these at the orphanages in the East. We are drawn to these hearts seeking love, and consolation and healing. So too are the priests and sisters drawn. Our joy is that more and more we are finding opportunities to bring sisters and priests to these orphanages. At Shkola Internat in Tripillja perhaps because we bring humanitarian relief the director allows us to bring the Byzantine Sisters to the orphanage to conduct missions, where we sing and play with the children and teach them about God and his Immaculate Mother. This then got us an invitation to follow the 122 Chernobyl orphans down to the Black Sea where they were to stay at a sanitarium for 42 days. From Yevpatoria Fr. Andrei delivered us by car to the Skadovsk sanitarium where the children hoped we would visit. For thirteen days we were to be with them at the sea, swimming, going on excursions, and otherwise spending every hour of the day. But most importantly we prayed with them often; in the afternoon during "tiki chas" (nap time) and in the evenings too.

While in Skadovsk we met Dr. Gak Konstantin of the local hospital who made to us an appeal to help feed seven orphaned infants in their care. We have sent him money for these dear children. Returning to Kyiv we had time to take another field trip to Poltava or Sumy, but we had no energy for the task. We wanted only to return to the loving and sorrowful hearts of the Tripillja orphans. By then there were only twelve of them left. Forty were still at the Black Sea. Thirty-five of them had gone to host families in Spain and Italy. The rest were back with families and relatives in the Kyivska Oblast. With this remnant of twelve we spent another week of love and sharing, walks down the hill, washing clothes, swimming in the river.

When we left on June 29th a dear girl gave us a sorrowful letter that wounded our heart. She wrote a letter of love, earnestness, gratitude and purity. She wrote, "I wish God will see you and help you in everything..." She said she was going to cry when we left, and we all did weep when we finally had to leave. It is not easy to leave the hearts of the East.

Ancient mariners looked to Mary to help them survive the tempests which threatened their lives. We also look to her for her guidance and protection. All of the priests and sisters we know in the East have a great love for Our Blessed Mother. And now also do the orphans whom we have taught the words to the *Hail Mary*, and who now often ask us to say prayers with them.

Help us to continue to bring hope and love to Mary's forgotten children! ♥ ♥

Adopt a Kyrgyzstani orphan: www.PhilomenaAdoption.com



Postulants take their vows in Ivano-Frankivsk.



We say "Hail Marys" every night.



On the banks of the Dnipro river in Tripillja.



Chernobyl orphans at Black Sea sanitarium.



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Mary, Star of the Sea

Thank you so much for keeping this Marian Apostolate in your heart, and thank you for your continued generosity. It is a great encouragement to all of us to know so many humble people around the country who keep close to the **Immaculate Heart of Mary**. Here's an update on missionary activity in the former Soviet Union. We recently spent 2 1/2 months in Ukraine, staying in quarters in Kyiv which Bishop Szyrokoradiuk provides us, but for the most part we either slept at the orphanage or we were traveling with priests visiting their parishes, praying Rosaries and realizing that we are unworthy and inadequate servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Nevertheless she protected us and granted many blessings and consolations.

On April 21st we had the joy to formally open a new Catholic orphanage in Zhytomyr with a ribbon cutting ceremony and Holy Mass. Through your generous gift of **\$35,000** last year Bishop Stanislas Szyrodoradiuk was able to buy the building, and now after one year of renovations it is a home to twelve orphans. Three Daughters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary care for the children.

These photos show you the progress and life of the church in the East. The priests are so very grateful for the financial support you have been providing. With honest, humble and sincere countenances they clasp your hand in deep gratitude, and they say that they will pray for their benefactors, and they do. From Lutsk Fr. Hryhorak has just written you a letter of thanks: *Dear QAMA benefactors! You are dear friends to us and everybody who are the recipients of your love, care and concern. The Wisdom says a friend in need is a friend indeed. The amount we received from you is to our urgent need and we may move on with the construction works in the church and the monastery. Our warmest invitation to you to come and visit our church and see how things are going on here. We are writing to thank you heartily for your monetary help... Praying for you for God's blessings in your life and work, God bless you all! Pater Dmytro Hryhorak.*

NOTICE:

Ukrainian Roman Catholic priest Fr. Alexander Goursky, from Cherkasy, will visit St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Denver, Colorado from July 29th until September 19th. He will perform pastoral duties at the parish and will be gladly available to meet the faithful of your parish or your prayer group during this time. He is fluent in English, and most outgoing, humble, earnest and with devotion to Mary most pure.



Fr. Hryhorak gives great thanks for your help in Lutsk.



Las Byzantinas at their monastery in Ivano-Frankivsk.



Altar boys in Zvenigorodka.

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 \$1,000,000 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



With Bishop Szyrokoradiuk at new Zhytomyr Catholic orphanage.



Maya, Masha, Anya and Olga.



Yevpatoria parishioners Olga and Natasha.



Fr. Jacek is building a church in Poltava.

Fr. Cych asks for help to restore this church in Zakarpatya.



Mark Your Calendars!

QAMA summer picnic is Sunday Sept. 7th from 1- 5 p.m. at Canyon Ranch Condominiums Clubhouse. Everyone welcome! Call 303.794.1544

Miroslava, Nastia and Masha sweep the yard.

Your heartwarming generosity these past several years has allowed us to send more than **one million dollars** to many poor remote mission stations in Russia and Ukraine. What are small amounts of money for us in America are huge sums in the East where we have seen two churches built for **\$10,000** or less—and several others for from **\$25,000** to **\$60,000**. We have told you about these in past newsletters. We continue to receive updates and reports which we will now share.

One recent development which gives us joy is that the Byzantine sisters (*The Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara or Las Byzantinas*), for the purchase of whose monastery you provided the necessary funding of **\$38,000** a couple of years ago, are now doing or planning missions with three separate orphanages in the Kyivska Oblast. They either visit the school, plan a summer camp, or bring 30 or 40 of the orphans across country by rail to stay in their monasteries. Mother Maria de las Lagrimas and her 21 sisters, postulants and aspirants travel with a priest who hears the childrens' confessions. The children are filled with joy and tell of their resolve to avoid the sins which deprive their souls of grace. These missions are all funded by QAMA through your generous hearts devoted to Mary.

You might remember Russia received Christianity only after the peoples of Kyiv (the *Kyivan Rus*) received the Faith in 983 A.D. They took the Gospel deeper into Russia in subsequent centuries, and indeed Russians regard Kyiv (Kiev) as the heart of old Russia. Today Ukraine is a separate political entity from Russia, but culturally, spiritually, ethnically and linguistically there is little difference. Most of your generous donations go to missions in Ukraine, because we have found that country to be perhaps even more forsaken and forgotten than the Russian Federation. In fact Eastern Ukraine is largely populated by Russians because of

Stalin's Russification of the land in the 30s, 40s and 50s, and Russian is the tongue.

But the only truly important language is that spoken through the **Immaculate Heart of Mary**. Her heart speaks of sorrows and grief. Her heart speaks of purity and hope. And where the hearts of her children in the East are still lost, alone, despairing and confused—they are yearning for the embrace of their mother. Through their brokenness and dejection they are made ripe for the freedom and peace that comes with conversion. This is why we are so attracted to the small and humble projects we bring to you, because they quickly attract many hungry souls in their vicinity, especially those of children.

In Poltava the Oblate missionaries from Poland are building a church where there was none. When Fr. Jacek Pyl, the superior of the delegation approached us for assistance we were able to send them \$3,000. In the gulag city of **Magadan, Russia** you have provided additional assistance to Fr. Michael Shields as he builds the first Catholic church in that city which saw millions go to their graves mining gold for Stalin. For this church you have already given more than **\$20,000**. In Slavutyck you have helped Fr. Radoslav's new parish of refugees from the Chernobyl evacuation.

Mother de las Lagrimas periodically asks for \$500 or \$1,000 for one urgent need or another—and we always have the money because of your generosity. To accommodate all the new vocations she recently completed the fourth floor of their monastery after we wired her \$2,000 for the project. Recently many orphans and stray children have found their way to the sister's monastery and they believe they are being called by God to open a new home for orphans. So we now hope to raise **\$30,000** in the next year to help them buy a house for their orphans.



Every new journey to the East brings us new friends and new opportunities to bring hope, practice charity and share the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Above: One of seven orphaned babies in Skadovsk hospital.
Right: Dr. Gak Konstantin and Natasha ask us to help feed the babies.



Masha fixes Marina's hair, Marina fixes Ira's.



Orphans Masha and Tanya.



"Snakes and snails and puppy dog tails..."



Orphans Vallya, Yula, Ina and Nadya.