

Ukraine is largely populated by Russians because of Stalin's Russification of the land in the 30s, 40s and 50s, and *Surjik*, a mixture of Russian and Ukrainian is the tongue.

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 68 of our dearest Chernobyl orphans down to the Black Sea where they were to stay at a sanitarium for 42 days. On June 9th we boarded an overnight train with them, bound for Herson, and in the morning we took a bus to Skadovsk. For thirteen days we were to be with them at the sea, swimming, going on excursions, and otherwise loving them every hour of the day. And we prayed with them often, in the afternoon during "tiki chas" (quiet hour) and in the evenings too.

While in Skadovsk we met again with Dr. Gak Konstantin of the local hospital who renewed his appeal that we help feed seven orphaned infants in his care. We are again sending him money to help feed and care for these dear children. The orphans knew that we had to leave them on June 24th, and they pleaded again and again, "don't go, stay here with us always, why are you leaving?" And their words seared our heart. We **had** to leave them to share with you their hearts—hearts of earnestness, gratitude, purity and simplicity, like the heart of the Virgin Mary. It is not easy to leave the hearts of the East, and one day we may stay there forever. ♥ ♥



Orphans Valya, Ira, Olga and Marina.



3rd Grade boys saying their evening prayers.



Marina, Katya, Irina, Irina, Nadia & Olga.



Very good 3rd graders with upbringer Ludmilla Vasilevna.



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Mary, Refuge of Sinners

We are very grateful for your continued support for this Marian Apostolate. Your devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a great encouragement to us. We have just returned from having spent nearly three months in Ukraine, and with a heavy heart—because we are now nine time zones removed from 165 Chernobyl orphans who are our family. We were with our dear orphans probably two thirds of the time. Otherwise we traveled with several priests visiting more than a dozen remote missionary outposts. On the road we prayed many Rosaries visited many villages and made many new friends. All along we realized that we are unworthy and inadequate servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In spite of our many shortcomings Mary protected us and granted us many blessings and consolations.

On April 11th we drove to Trypillja to visit our dear orphans, only to find that a visiting Italian family, intent upon finalizing an adoption, was occupying our quarters—the isolation ward in the medical point of the facility. This was our cue to take the train to the west and visit Greek Catholic priest Fr. Stephan Cych whom we hadn't seen in many years. A fifteen hour overnight train ride took us to Mukachevo in Zakarpatya. On the Tuesday after Easter a delighted Fr. Cych drove us all over his mountainous deanery, and we photographed some of the projects you have been supporting.

In Vinogradov we visited the church he built in Meydika's vineyard, entirely built with a QAMA grant for \$28,000. In Nizhny Bistry you are helping him restore the church of martyr Teodor Romzha. In Khust your generosity is helping him build a new cathedral, anticipating a time when Khust will be erected as an eparchy. In Negrovo, we attended Divine Liturgy with Fr. Cych, and then enjoyed the hospitality of the parish priest Fr. Stepan.



Built entirely with QAMA funding in Vinogradov.



Helping Fr. Cych restore this church in Nyzhnij Bystrij.



Fr. Cych builds a cathedral in Khust.

QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES MISSION ASSOCIATION

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Parishioners and Fr. Stephan in Negrovo, Zakarpatya.



Las Byzantinas sisters in Ivano-Frankivsk.



Fr. Stanislaw Mouravsky in Skvira chapel.



Parishioners in Skvira after Holy Mass.

Right:
Chernobyl orphans
Vitalic Lisovski &
Sasha Sahandihko.

Below:
Fr. Teodosi
is restoring
Basilian monastery
in Ulashkivtsi.



NOTICE:
Ukrainian Roman Catholic priest Fr. Alexander Goursky, from Kyiv, will visit Colorado from August 1st until September 12th. He will visit parishes in 5 or 6 Western and Midwestern states, and will be gladly available to meet the faithful of your parish or your prayer group during this time.

A five hour drive through the Carpathian mountains took us to Ivano-Frankivsk the next day, where the Byzantine Sisters complained that we were not with them for Easter, saying "it just wasn't the same without you, singing Easter songs together as we have these past few years." This touched our hearts, and we resolved to be with them at Easter next year.

The *Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara (Las Byzantinas)*, an Argentine order, now present in Ukraine for the last 5 years, have experienced an explosion of vocations in Ivano-Frankivsk, and their monastery is bursting at the seams. They have already sent 8 sisters to Rome for theological training, and still their monastery houses 24 sisters, aspirants and postulants. Moreover, they have invited under their roof many locals who are either orphans, infirm, elderly, or unwed and expecting mothers. They desperately seek to buy a home to serve as a shelter for these suffering souls, and they have asked us to help them to purchase a nearby massive new four story brick house, with several outbuildings and a half acre garden for \$80,000.

Bishop Irynei Bilyk collected us in Ivano-Frankivsk and took us to the Ulashkivtsi monastery near Chortkiv where eight priests and monks of the Basilian Order live in prayer and quiet contemplation. Often you have responded generously to Bishop Bilyk's request to help his favorite religious orders, the Sisters of the Holy Eucharist and Sisters of the Holy Family who are working in this very poor western region of Ukraine.

Your heartwarming generosity these past several years has allowed us to send **\$1.15 Million** 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 some 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 herein share.

Fr. Stanislaw Mouravsky recently assumed duties as vice-rector of the Roman Catholic seminary in Vorzel near Kyiv, but his heart is still with his former parishioners four hours south in Tal'ne. One Friday we drove south with him to visit Tal'ne and meet the new parish priest, Fr. Gennady and his dear 4 foot 2 inch mother living there with him, whom we embraced immediately. Then on Sunday morning we embarked upon a 12 hour road trip that took us to three remote scattered villages with no resident priests, where Fr. Stanislaw was to say Holy Mass before our return to Kyiv.

Russia received Christianity only after the peoples of Kyiv (the *Kyivan Rus*) received the Faith in 986 A.D. They took the Gospel deeper into Russia in subsequent centuries, and indeed Russians regard Kyiv 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



Above:
Fr. Gennady
and his mother
in Tal'ne.



Right:
Bishop
Szyrokoradiuk
ordains two priests
in Polonne.

Mark Your Calendars!
The QAMA summer picnic is Sunday September 12th from 1- 5 p.m. at Canyon Ranch Condominiums Clubhouse. Everyone Welcome! Call 303.794.1544



Natasha, Natasha, Taisa & Ira.



Church construction in Khust.



You bought new washers for Trypillja orphanage.



Franciscan sisters at Polonne ordination.