

-----Original Message-----

From: P. Juan Carlos Sack, VE JuanCarlosSack@ive.org

To: gama@aol.com

Sent: Sat, 12 Jul 2008 9:53 pm

Subject: new church in Kazan

Dear Matt: hope you are doing well! Thank you for the newsletter, a lot of pictures and information, excellent!

On August 28th there will be the consecration of the new church in Kazan, Russia. QAMA helped us at the beginnings, as you remember, and I wonder if you would be interested in participating in this unique occasion.

Let me know, we can talk details later.

Fr. Juan Carlos

From: gama@aol.com [<mailto:gama@aol.com>]

Sent: Sunday, July 13, 2008 12:11 PM

To: JuanCarlosSack@ive.org

Subject: Re: new church in Kazan

Dear Fr. Juan Carlos: we love and miss Kazan very much. I would love to be there on that day, but I will have a Ukrainian priest here as my guest until August 29th. But please tell me more about your life and work. We remember you always. Pray for us. We have here a little bit of a spiritual desert you know.

Your brother in Christ,

Matt

-----Original Message-----

From: P. Juan Carlos Sack, VE <JuanCarlosSack@ive.org>

To: gama@aol.com

Sent: Sun, 27 Jul 2008 5:56 am

Subject: RE: new church in Kazan

Dear Matt: a pity that you cannot be in Kazan for the dedication; be sure we'll pray for all our benefactors on that solemn day, and in particular for you and QAMA.

In Tajikistan we work in two small parishes, which keep us busy all day with a lot of kids, a real blessing. We have also been blessed with what it looks like two young priestly vocations, for which we open the "novitiate" this year again. Another one is studying in Rome at our seminary. He is in his about to begin his third Philosophical year. Also, one young woman from Dushanbe is in Ivano Frankivsk as a novice (Maria Vaplashonava Slova). Younger boys and girls look at this possibility as something real: we are far from being pushy, but do try to create an atmosphere where they could eventually discern their call. It's a lot for 300 Catholic faithful let me tell you! And be sure *it does not come from our work*, we are very conscious of that. So, we praise God, try not to put obstacles to His work and do our best to promote the Kingdom of God around us. We have been blessed with a nice priestly and sisterly community, without which we couldn't have done much in a place like Tajikistan (non Christian, so different in culture etc.)

Our children's choir is becoming kind of famous, also, and Caritas Tajikistan allows us to "enter" where otherwise the Church would not have any input.

Besides this, the "normal" work of all parishes in the world: sacraments, groups, plans...

Kazakhstan is doing fine with a small parish in Chimkent, in the south; three priests, three sisters and a small parish community, but active and growing. A week ago one of our priests arrived in Karaganda as a Spiritual Director of the only Seminary in Central Asia.

Pakistan is also a blessing: we have two priests helping with the training of *all* Pakistani vocations to the diocesan priesthood. We have two priests there.

In Russia... that's a long story! But doing well too. We need more priests in some communities, and surviving financially is for some of them a real challenge. But I think that's the way to go, having everything assured would not necessarily mean

things are going fine. It makes you more dependant of Divine Providence (Good St. Joseph hears from our priests more often than other priests, I'm sure!) Persevering in faith, good works and witness is the challenge... God bless them in Kazan, Ulyanovsk, St. Petersburg, Omsk and Khabarovsk.

We are so happy we can be part of this. God bless you all for also being part of it!

We stay in touch.

Fr. Juan Carlos