



Mission Society of the Mother of God of Boronyavo

Summer 2009

The Village of Sojmy

The village of Sojmy was entirely Greek Catholic in 1949, except for three Orthodox families. Today there are 41 Catholic families, 230 Orthodox families, and 3 Jehovah's Witness families. The wooden church was deliberately burned by the communists in the 1960s and replaced with a school. While a Greek Catholic community was registered in December 1989, a parcel of land was given to the Catholics by the village council only in 2007 and a permanent priest was only assigned in 2008. That priest comes from the village of Tjusha, a distance of five kilometers away, and serves three villages but with a priest coming regularly, the Catholic parish is rapidly growing. Your donations will help them build a bigger church which in turn will help bring more souls into the parish!



In the village of Sojmy, Greek Catholics had to hold all their services outdoors. When a small wooden chapel was built, then the attendance increased significantly.



Now the parishioners are building a larger wooden church in front of the chapel. This is one of the ways we build up our Greek Catholic communities in Transcarpathia. \$1,000 is enough for the foundation of a new church.

All support of the Mission Society's work is in addition to members' and donors' existing support of their local parish, their eparchy, and the Metropolia of Pittsburgh. Renewal of our Mother Church in Central Europe cannot mean a diminishment of our financial and spiritual dedication to the church in America.

**MISSION SOCIETY OF
THE MOTHER OF
GOD OF
BORONYAVO, INC.**

The Mission Society is an independent organization dedicated to the renewal and strengthening of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America and Central Europe.

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Thank you! Spasebo! Dzakuje! Danke!

We are so thankful for the continued flow of donations to the Mission Society in this time of economic difficulty. Your generosity will be rewarded by God in heaven, and you are assured of prayers from our correspondents in Eastern Europe. Stephanie Block edits and creates our newsletters. Phyllis Snider does all the banking and individual thank-you letters, plus the mailing of our newsletters. No one gets paid - it is all done out of love. The money used for mailing, stationery, Liturgy cards, etc. is taken out of the "For Greatest Need" account. It's not a fancy operation by any means, but the bishops in Slovakia and Ukraine are very grateful. Thank you for your trust and your prayers... and your gifts.

In 2008, we sent the following to:

Divine Liturgy Intentions \$3,215

New Church Construction in Eparchy of Bratislava:
\$4,100

New Church Construction in Eparchy of Mukachevo:
\$22,235*

Catechist Training in Eparchy of Mukachevo \$4,000*
Korolevo Orphanage \$3,780.

Seminarian Assistance, Slovakia: \$3,000

Seminarian Assistance, Ukraine: \$ 8,475*

St Cecelia Academy, Slovakia: \$829

Medzilaborce Novitiate, Slovakia: \$2,7115

Priests Assistance: \$1720

Church Renovation in Slovakia: \$635

*We received a single donation of \$25,000 for the Mukachevo Eparchy broken down into these categories.

LITURGY INTENTIONS - The Holy Sacrifice is offered by priests in Slovakia and Transcarpathia for the spiritual benefits which you request. We send intentions out on a monthly basis. Our Liturgy cards can be used for either the living or deceased: please mark the donation box if you want to have more cards sent to you. What better gift can there be for an anniversary or wedding or birthday than this? All the money goes directly to the priests, to help them with their financial needs. Most priests do not have a regular income, and most have families. Every penny is a huge help.

Seminary tuition is \$300 a year. One-third of the 112 students cannot afford to pay \$25 a month for their studies. Can you? Mark your donation Seminary and indicate if you will be contributing monthly. Or you can send one check in a particular amount for the support of a seminarian over the span of several months!

I wish I had more to give, but I can't afford much now. How else can I help?

PRAY – for vocations in America, and for the building up of our Church in the nations of Eastern Europe.

Organize a pancake breakfast at your parish after Divine Liturgy, with your pastor's permission, and round up volunteers for shopping, cooking, serving, and cleaning up. It doesn't take much work to raise enough to renovate a room or pay for a seminarian's tuition.

Hold a garage sale at your home. Get other people to donate items. Post a sign that all the income goes to help seminarians in Uzhorod, Ukraine. Put notices about the sale in the regular newspaper notices, and in church bulletins around your area.

Please cut and insert into enclosed envelope with your donation(s).

I am enclosing support for (check those that apply). Mark where your donation is going:

- Greatest Need
- Medzilaborce Novitiate
- Caritas Building
- Seminarian Tuition
- Orphanage in Korolevo
- New Church in Soymy
- New Church in Pidvinohradiv
- Divine Liturgy Intentions: Please print the names and intention (health, repose of soul, etc)

Pray for the full restoration of our Church in Transcarpathia and Slovakia!



UKRAINE - EPARCHY OF MUKACHEVO

The village of Pidvinohradiv has over 3,000 inhabitants, and one of the main features is the church of St George, built in 1832. This church is supposed to be shared between the Greek Catholics and Orthodox, but the Orthodox will not do so. Bishop Sasik has given the Catholics permission to start construction on a new chapel.



When the weather is nice, a tent is set up for the holy table, and the priest and servers. Everyone else is outdoors.

The photo shows the interior of a house currently used for worship. It is too small, and most people have to stand outdoors, giving the elderly and pregnant first choice for going inside.

This is the house which the Greek Catholics have purchased for use as a prayer house. Only if there is a proper church will more people with Catholic sympathies attend this mission. When a full chapel is built, then attendance jumps - see our story on Sojmy.



Please help.

SLOVAKIA- CARITAS HOUSE

Work has progressed on this building, and in the coming school year seminarians will live in the new rooms created in the attic. They will be experiencing hands-on pastoral and social work, helping with CARITAS, the international Catholic relief agency. This project will serve scores of people in Svidnik with job-searching, work training, a soup kitchen, and respite care for elderly as a sign that the Greek Catholic Church is involved in the larger community. Donations are still being accepted to help this building be completed.



Insulation being put into the new roof over the sleeping quarters for the seminarians.



New roof and new stairs

SLOVAKIA - SISTERS OF ST BASIL

Thank you for your support of the Medzilaborce renovation project for the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great.

Here are photos of your donations at work. The Novitiate has been transformed into a fine house of formation to benefit future vocations of our Sisters.

You can continue to send donations for this project, as the Sisters still have to pay the contractor who went ahead and supplied everything and finished the job.



Sisters at the Novitiate



One of the Sisters of St Josaphat working with a child at the Korolevo orphanage, Ukraine.