



AID TO THE CHURCH IN RUSSIA

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For over seventy years, a Godless communist regime relentlessly persecuted the Catholic Church in Russia. In 1917, there were more than 300 Roman Catholic Churches in Russia...

...within just six years there were only two!

Our churches were violently desecrated. They were turned into dance halls, stables, museums, warehouses, and even chicken coops and public baths.

In 1923, our last Russian bishop, John Cieplak, was sentenced to ten years in a Siberian prison camp, and most of his clergy, faithful to the end, were executed after a mock trial

in Moscow. All told, more than 40,000 Catholic and Orthodox priests were murdered in Russia - *- approximately the total number of priests in the United States today.*

Through those terrible years and later, the world fervently prayed. At daily Mass, priests led the faithful in begging for the conversion of Russia. Both East and West knew and clung to the incredible promise made by Our Lady of Fatima in 1917: Russia "...will be converted and the world will enjoy a period of peace."

*Mary's words have finally come true. Russia has been liberated!
Now we must help them rebuild their church.*

In 1995 an amazing thing happened. The only two Catholic bishops in Russia recovered -- after sixty years of communist occupation -- the one Catholic Cathedral in European Russia, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Moscow.

Completed in 1911, this beautiful Cathedral was desecrated only six years later by the atheistic forces of communism, who turned this house of God into offices and warehouse space.

The estimated cost of rebuilding the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is about 2 million dollars. It would be impossible to restore a Cathedral in the United States with this budget. But in Russia we can make it happen.

We must now help salvage Our Lady's Cathedral!

The significance and spiritual impact of a Catholic Cathedral in Russia cannot be measured.

* This will be the only Catholic Cathedral in a territory nearly the size of the United States!