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Vladivostok Sunrise #1

Most Holy Mother of God Roman Catholic Church + Vladivostok + Russia

Fr Effing and Br Dan to Vladivostok

On November 15 Bishop Joseph Werth formally accepted the application of Father Myron Effing and Brother Dan Maurer to be the first resident Roman Catholic clergy in Vladivostok in 50 years. Vladivostok is a seaport city of a million people in Russia near Korea. It is the end of the Transsiberian railroad, and one of the most southerly points of the Republic of Russia.

They are expected in Vladivostok by the fledgling Catholic Community of the Most Holy Mother of God in early January. Brother Dan will be ordained a deacon before departing. This is scheduled for his home parish, St Bernard's in Benton Harbor, Michigan, on December 21. Bishop Paul Donovan of Kalamazoo will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Orders.

Father Effing made two trips to Russia to meet with Bishop Werth and to search for possible sites for the community. He was able to tour much of Asian Russia, including the cities of Magadan and Irkutsk where there are already resident Roman Catholic Priests, Novosibirsk which is the Bishop's see city, and the cities of Uzhno-Sakalinsk, Khabarovsk, and Vladivostok--large cities with no Catholic priest. He reports that nearly 15% of the peoples of these cities are of Catholic extraction, including Germans, Poles, Lithuanians, and Ukrainians.

The Catholic Community of the Most Holy Mother of God of Vladivostok formed itself from acquaintances who knew other Catholics when religious freedom was declared in Russia. After organizing under their Chairman, Andrew Popov, they sent word to Bishop Werth of their existence and asked him for a priest. It was at the same time



Bishop Joseph Werth of Novosibirsk

*Most Holy Mother of God
Catholic Church in
Vladivostok as it is today.*

that Father Effing was visiting the Bishop, and so he asked Father Effing to visit Vladivostok and report to him on the needs of the Catholic there.

Archbishop Francis Hurley of Anchorage, Alaska, had already made a trip to Vladivostok, and was exploring how Americans might be of help to Asian Russia when the Holy Father, Pope John Paul, announced the establishment of two Roman Catholic dioceses in Russia: the Archdiocese of Moscow for Europe and the Diocese of Novosibirsk, a city of two million people, for Asia. Bishop Werth is of German descent, and a member of the Jesuit Order. In addition to Bishop Werth there are four priests in Novosibirsk, and eight sisters. The Legion of Mary is in the process of being formed in the diocese, and Father Effing said he thought the Legion would be very helpful for finding Roman Catholics in Vladivostok.

There is a former Roman Catholic church and school building in Vladivostok which has been used as the Regional Archives since the disestablishment of the Catholic community in 1935. Archbishop Hurley is negotiating with the government for the return of the building to Church use. There is also a Lutheran church building which is in the process of being returned to use as a church.



The first mass at the Cathedral in 56 years. Fr. Effing had to celebrate on the front steps.



Golden Horn Port and Vladivostok

First Mass at Cathedral

On November 10 Father Effing had the first Mass at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Mother of God in Vladivostok in 56 years. The event was announced the previous evening on Vladivostok cable TV and was attended by about 70 people, including some Americans. For most of the Russians, it was the first Mass they had attended, although some of the elderly reported that they remember Mass from their childhood when they went to the Cathedral. The Cathedral was closed in 1935, even though it was completed only in 1921. Two inner-floors have been added so that it can be used as the Regional Archives of the Soviet government.

The Mass had to be held on the front steps outdoors in the November cold with a wind blowing across the Golden Horn Bay and up to the hill where the Cathedral is located. Father Effing had to wear a hat and gloves during the Mass, and his winter coat was worn under the vestments. Mass began with the official reception of the statue of Mary which the Catholic Community owns. She was welcomed to her Cathedral of the Most Holy Mother of God in traditional Russian fashion by an offering of bread and salt, while Father Effing sang the *Salve Regina* in Latin. Father Effing said Mass in English which was translated to Russian by an interpreter. The readings and the people's parts of the Mass were said in Russian by members of the Community. **There was no music during Mass as Russians know no hymns.**

The Mass was videotaped by Vladivostok cable television for later showing. News of the Mass was broadcast all across Russia on national network news programs, and a copy of the video tape was given to Father Effing. After Mass the community gathered for a delicious meal including caviar and wine in the apartment of one of the members.

Brother Dan to be Ordained Deacon

Brother Daniel L. Maurer, a member of the new religious community of the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord, will be ordained to the Diaconate for the Apostolic Vicariate of Novosibirsk, Russia on Saturday, December 21. The ordination ceremony will take place at his home parish of Saint Bernard in Benton Harbor, Michigan at 4:30 p.m. The ordaining bishop will be the Most Reverend Paul V. Donovan of the diocese of Kalamazoo.

After being ordained, Brother Dan will accompany Father Myron Effing to Vladivostok, Russia (see related story). Brother Dan will be ordained a priest in Russia after a six-month diaconate.

Brother Dan, age 40, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Maurer, Sr. of Benton Harbor, Michigan where he grew up. He left home in 1965 to pursue his studies toward the priesthood, first at Our Lady of the Lake Seminary in Syracuse, Indiana, graduating as valedictorian in 1969. He continued his studies at Michigan State University, East Lansing, where he received his B.A. degree, *magna cum laude*, in East Asian Studies in 1973.

Brother Dan entered religious life in 1975, joining the Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross (Crossiers) for novitiate and major seminary. In 1981 he transferred to the Augustinians of the Assumption (Assumptionists), and completed his priesthood studies at the Jesuit Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, earning a Masters of Divinity in 1983. From 1983 to 1988, while waiting to fulfill the three-year requirement for ordination to the priesthood, he worked in various Assumptionist communities in the United States, Mexico and Chile.

While in Chile, Brother Dan decided to return to the charism of the canons regular when he heard that Father Effing was seriously considering establishing a new community according to the ancient canonical model. He joined Father Effing in Guam where he worked as Dean of Students and taught Spanish at Father Duenas Memorial School, the only Catholic college prep school for boys in the Marianas Islands. Two years later the community moved to Central Catholic High School in Modesto, California, where Brother Dan again held the positions of Dean of Students and Spanish teacher.



Brother Dan Maurer, C.J.D.

Mission Needs

How can you help our mission?

Father Effing studied prices and availability of food, housing, travel, and utilities when he was in Russia. We believe that the operation of our mission in Vladivostok for the first year will require about \$15,000--really a small sum compared to American costs! This money must come from outside Russia because the Catholic Community in Vladivostok is still small, most of the members are older pensioners, and the income the community has will be needed for printing and purchasing things in the Russian language, like Bibles, catechisms, and adult education materials.

All liturgical items are also needed by our mission, as we will be beginning completely new churches--things like a tabernacle, vestments, ciboria, candlesticks, bread and wine--even Christmas manger figures. These things are not manufactured in Russia! Perhaps your parish has these surplus items stored in the attic or closet? A Catholic Encyclopedia is needed, and scholarly books on theology, saints, and liturgy.

Another way you can help is to ask an organization in your parish to support our mission for one week--that is only \$288!

Vladivostok Sunrise is a newsletter published by the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord for their benefactors, to keep them informed about their work in Russia.

Before Jan 15, 1992:

Rev Myron Effing
1718 Walnut Avenue
Livingston CA 95334
(209)394-7513

After Jan 15, 1992:

Vladivostok Mission
P.O. Box 2239
Anchorage AK 99510
U.S.A.

Donations should be made out to the Archdiocese of Anchorage, and sent to the Anchorage address. Inquiries about the mission can also be addressed to the Archbishop of Anchorage, Most Rev Francis Hurley, D.D.

San Diego's Sister City

In September the City of Vladivostok and the City of San Diego signed an official sister-city agreement. That will mean a lot of exchange of people, ideas, and information between the two cities. We heard that a group of 50 people from Vladivostok will visit San Diego next month, and in the spring a large group from San Diego will visit Vladivostok. We hope the sister-city agreement will encourage our churches to cooperate, too. The mission statement of the Sister City Association says that it is "dedicated to promoting cultural, educational, business and people-to-people exchanges



among Pacific Rim citizens." There is another "sister", too--Tacoma, Washington, was named the "sister-port" to the port of Vladivostok. Those interested in joining the Association may write P.O. Box 2348, LaJolla CA 92038.



Rev Myron Effing
1718 Walnut Avenue
Livingston CA 95334

FIRST CLASS

O Holy Mother of God,
Pray for us!