

Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Vladivostok Russia St Paul Minnesota

Issue Number Sixty Eight March 1, 2006



Romanovka parishioners gathered in their very small chapel for the event of change of pastors on January 14, 2006.

New Pastor in Romanovka

By V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

On January 14 Holy Trinity Parish in Romanovka received a new pastor, Fr Bartek Schost of Our Lady of the Pacific Parish in Nakhodka. Fr Schost has been helping Fr Daniel in Romanovka for some time because Romanovka is equidistant from Vladivostok and Nakhodka, and Fr Daniel has been super busy in Vladivostok while Fr Bartek had more time on his hands.

As the dean of the Vladivostok Deanery, Fr Myron was present to say the special mass and to receive Fr Bartek's oath as the new pastor. Concretely it means that the parish of Romanovka will now have Sunday Mass every Sunday instead of alternate Saturdays, and Fr Bartek will find it easier to be in the parish more frequently to care for the sick. Fr Daniel will continue to provide the interface with Romanovka's sister parish of St Philip Benizi in Redlands, Oregon, since Fr Bartek does not speak English. Mary Mother of God Mission Society will continue to provide financial support for the parish and for the charitable work being done there. The Sisters of Charity of St Anne go

there every Saturday to work with the elderly and infirm, and our volunteer from Canada, Myra Schatten, has been going there to work with disadvantaged children.



Myra Schatten (smiling) and her Russian language teacher Natasha.

Romanovka is one of the favorite places for our guests from America to visit, a very welcoming and warm Catholic community. We are sure that won't change!



Fr Myron was given an icon of Mary Mother of God to remember that he was the first pastor of the Catholics in this region before new parishes were formed. Ludmilla Sidorenko, the first trustee of the parish, made the presentations.



Fr Bartek and Fr Daniel, incoming and outgoing pastors of Holy Trinity Parish, with Fr Myron, Dean, in the background before the Trinity icon.

News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

- Fr Daniel's helper Igor Radzyuk has been repairing the "window wheels" that were part of the old church windows before we replaced them with new stained glass windows and aluminum frames. Now he's finished them and he has installed them in the Gothic window tops in the future sacristies. They are beautiful, don't you agree!





Antone and Mark Wilhelm shopping for clothing at the Chinese market.

- Mark Wilhelm and Erin Flynn, American volunteers, have come to work fulltime with street kids, we now have our own program rather than work through organizations founded by others. Mark calls the program "Street Kids Rescue Program". I.e. we are now concentrating on the street kids in the center of the city where we are, and we aren't just feeding them occasionally but seven days a week, and we are very involved in their lives to help them deal with situations that keep them from going home or from going back to school.



Slava, Erin Flynn, translator Dima Kamil, and Ivan having lunch.

We now have what we've dreamed of: a drop-in center, where they can come to eat the noon meal on the weekends (cooked by Erin), where they can wash and dry their clothes (There aren't any laundromats yet in Vladivostok (start a new business anyone?)) where they can take a bath and change clothes, and pick up supplies and donated clothing. We are dealing with their medical and dental needs (very expensive), from stab wounds, to beatings, to maggots in steam burns on their skin, to impacted teeth. No kids can stay there at night because

we don't have a license. In the daytime they are just guests.

Besides medical, food, and clothing, we are also helping them get back into society by helping them return to their parents, if they have parents, by getting their government documents so that they can get free medical help and so that they can find work through the state employment office, and so that some can return to school. (Otherwise it is hard to street kids to reintegrate into society because they are dirty, their clothes are dirty and torn and stinky, and so no one wants them around. By cleaning them up and giving them some new dignity they can more easily begin to manage for themselves.) Several have found regular paying jobs, with our help.

American donors have proposed buying a vehicle for the use of the program, for medical appointments, for traveling to get documents and tickets, for buying food wholesale, and for other needs of all our parish charity programs which have been begging for a car or truck for years! (Hospice, Children's Hospital #3, Romanovka, soup kitchen.) Can you imagine a charity operation in America without a vehicle? And if we want to expand our streetkids program to other parts of the city, then a vehicle is a sheer necessity.

Our helper Denis Bondaryev went to the city social services office to offer to be the foster parent for a street boy of 14 who needed special medical attention. The counselor told him that the state is gradually closing the remaining trade schools in our area for the orphans, and "only one trade school will be open, so soon the city will become flooded with street kids". It seems that the situation is so desperate that the officer offered any assistance possible if Denis or other parishioners would be willing to accept other street kids as foster children.



Denis Bondaryev of the Vladivostok St Vincent de Paul Society delivering supplies to the Children's Home #3.

- Russia decided to increase the waiting period for adoptions by foreigners from three months to six months, to give Russian couples more time to adopt. The result is that orphanages suddenly had twice as many children to care for. Vladivostok Orphanage #3 ask us for help to increase their capacity from 35 to 70 children, by providing playground equipment and air conditioners for six rooms on the 3rd floor under the hot ceiling where the AIDS children would be housed. We asked the Social Outreach Committee of Incarnation Parish in Dayton, Ohio, to help, and they graciously provided \$3000 for this work.

We began pricing and figuring out how to carry out this work when our worker heard that a Russian businessman had donated a set of playground equipment to the city in the general area of the hospital. So our representative went to him, and he agreed to donate equipment to the hospital, too! So it turns out that due to the grant from the Social Outreach Committee we were able to get playground equipment free of charge! See the photo.



Playground equipment at Children's Hospital #3.

Next we began working on the air conditioners. We have a parishioner connected with the Korean company LG. We were able to get six air conditioner/heat pumps for \$2631.58, which we purchased immediately. But the company doesn't want to install them until the Spring, so we haven't paid for the installation yet, so they are in the company's warehouse. So we still have \$368.42 from the grant available for installation costs. The installation will be somewhat more than that, but we won't know until the Spring because prices change. It will be slightly more expensive to install them than normal because, being on the upper floor, a special crane will have to be rented to lift the workmen from the street to the top floor. We expect maybe the cost will be about \$1000 to install, but we're not sure yet. Thanks, Incarnation parishioners!

- The latest swindle we've heard about here is for Russian girls to make friends with men throughout the world on the internet, and then she suddenly needs cash, because she's sick or being thrown out of her apartment or lost her job. Seeking for a way to help, men write us. Of course we will investigate, but it is usually a swindle.

- Our thanks and prayers go out to Mr Lee Larkey of St Anna, Minnesota (St Nicolas at our Minnesota fundraiser). He was severely burned in his home by an exploding hot water pipe. He told us he is offering his pain for the work of our mission.

How to Communicate with Us

Internet

Russian language: www.catholic.vladivostok.ru

English language: www.vladmission.org

Sisters: www.cjd.cc

Office in Russia:

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Or you can donate from your credit card through our web site. Your donations are tax-deductible. You will receive any required receipt for tax purposes by return mail. Please be assured that we do not sell our mailing list or any other donor information to other organizations.

Sisters in Jesus the Lord

Phone: (651)230-3337

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More News about the Ultrasound Machines

By V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

We just received the next installment of five ultrasounds from trans-Pacific shipment. The next step was to have them tested and certified. Then they will be taken to their new homes. Just think: All the Women's Support Centers will have ultrasound equipment! A dream come true!

The first ultrasound equipment was installed in May of 2005 in Vladivostok at the government Women's Consultation Service #7 where one of our own Women's Support Centers is located. They began taking clients in June. Because our Centers don't have our own licensed medical workers, our coordinator signed an agreement with the Service concerning the use and servicing of the ultrasound equipment. The Service's operator of the equipment works free of charge for our programs one day per week. On Fridays she only works with those clients who have been sent to her by our WSC volunteers. After several years of our collaboration, the Service's doctors have come closer to our philosophy, and, judging by the reports of our pregnant women, they do their procedures carefully with a regard to the right to life and the expectation of motherhood, showing the images of the child in the mother's womb.

The Service's workers have an interest in cooperation, because just before our ultrasound equipment arrived in Vladivostok their own aged machine malfunctioned. So our machine is working, not only for the saving of human unborn lives, but also for the health of women with various gynecological problems. In the first three month period, there were 111 women that we sent to use the equipment. That isn't the limit because time allows for serving 50 women every month.

After our first machine was up and running we had an unexpected problem from other women's consultation services. They began to claim that our examinations at #7 were invalid, and they demanded that our pregnant women should repeat their examination on their equipment—not free of charge, of course! Ultrasound examinations in Vladivostok cost from \$10 to \$18 dollars. Of course their position was nonsense and had no foundation in fact. But it does illustrate the correctness of our decision to install our apparatus in an official medical facility, and that it would be used by officially licensed medical workers.



The team who packaged up the machines for shipment: David Sonnen, Pete and Judy Welvang, Kevin Furlong. Standing sealing box is John Ernster. Welvangs of Leaflette Missal Company, St Pau, MN, gave the space and donated to the packaged machines. John was the engineer who constructed the boxes to ship them. Shipping costs provided by the Lynch Family Foundation.



Here (l to r) Viktor Gregorai, Vladimir Pisarenko, and Sergei Akulenko ready the machine for transport to Lesozovodsk after it was checked out to be in good working order.

Meanwhile, in Russia, the second ultrasound machine has been taken to Lesozovodsk where it will be in a private clinic not far from the hospital. Again, Caritas Women's Support Center clients will be able to use the machine free

of charge, and other users will pay a small fee which will contribute to the support of the Center.

There are four more machines being prepared for other cities in the Russian Far East. Thanks, benefactors who donated these machines.

From Our Benefactors:

A Story of Love

by Vicky Trevillyan

Last night, I turned to a TV program reporting on famous American musicians' homes. Several musicians spent 20, 30, and 40 million dollars on the price of a home just to show off their wealth! As I watched the tour of their "wealth" and beautiful homes, it made me think of the poverty and the many struggles of our humble mission in Russia. I wished with all my heart that those who had so much would open their hearts to share and give just a tiny bit. I cried in wanting so much more for our humble mission.

I remembered the revelations of a volunteer at the mission - the buildings without hot water or no water at all; the hospital for the poor elderly with rotting wood floors so far gone one could smell the dampness and mold in every room, the moist and decaying wood giving way under foot; the stare of the elderly woman whose head had to be held while the volunteer fed her; the loneliness and despair of the other elders near her who were too poor to be anywhere else; the sick abandoned baby girl who was left to die on crib sheets wet and stained with mold from old urine - no one to cuddle her and comfort her (praise God she was at least in a crib); and most of all I remembered the volunteer's description of the many people on the streets of Russia who did not smile back nor return the "Hello" ... just stoic and mistrusting stares. Their hearts did not know the joy and peace of God. They had been denied him for so long. I remembered these revelations of the mission volunteer.

My thoughts returned to our humble mission again. How, because of our Merciful Father and Loving Mother, hot water heaters were installed in buildings and rotting floors had linoleum over them. Because of our mission - because of our Heavenly Father - there was a volunteer to smile into the grateful eyes of an old woman - to sing to her, and feed her and share joy with her. There was someone to hug the abandoned elders and bring them loving friendship. Because of our mission, there was someone to make a warm dry bed for a dying infant - to sing of Mary to her and caress her in motherly love. Because of our

mission - because of our Loving Father in Heaven - there was someone who would share God's love through a smile with strangers on the street. Because of our humble mission, communities gather again in the house of God, joyful and smiling in the richness of His peace, love and friendship.



Feeding the dying at the hospice.

Then, I remembered the greatest gift of love - the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ - the gift of Himself. His richness brought to us in so many ways everyday. I remembered the love from our Father and our Blessed Mother - the abundant gifts and greater wealth than any of us could ever imagine waiting for us for all eternity. Then I remembered our humble mission, and my heart was not filled with want, but with great love and joy! I overflowed with tears of humble gratitude! \$30 million dollars for a house?--what greater true wealth and beauty they already possess--if they would only open their hearts and remember...!

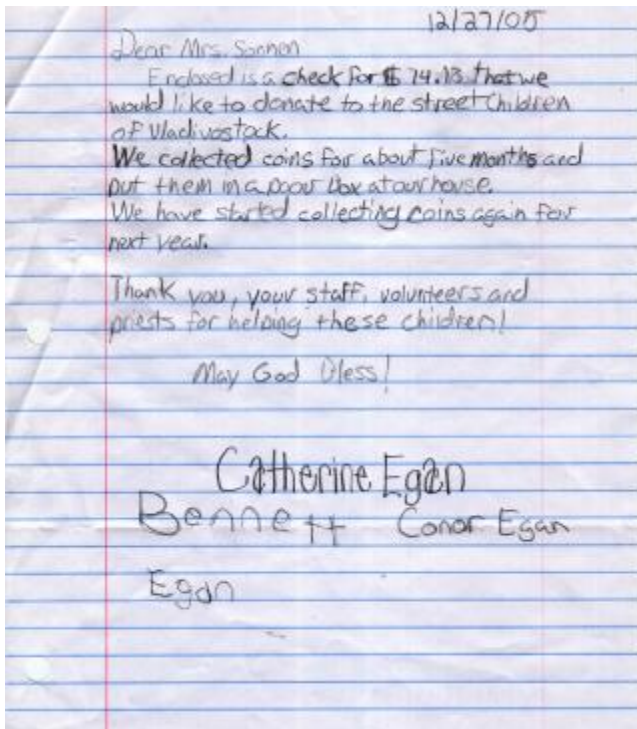
Vladivostok Sunrise Edited and produced in Russia by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D. Assembled for mailing by Nativity Parish, St Paul, Minnesota.

From our Benefactors:

"It's been 3 1/2 years since I was at the Most Holy Mother of God mission in Vladivostok with a mission group from the US. Fr Myron and Fr Dan were so easy to meet and like. They have impossible dreams for the Church in Russia, or so I thought. The Fathers depend on the Holy Spirit, the Mother of God, and Americans to help. They have spent 14 years in Vladivostok changing the paganism to Christianity and living in poverty to carry on their work.

"I inherited land in California and was praying that I could sell it. Recently I received a letter from a broker offering to buy it. The price was low so I told him he could buy it for the amount he offered. I asked if he would also send a check for half (\$6,000) to the MMOG mission. My son overheard this conversation and said he'd like the land and was willing to donate to the MMOG mission. I was impressed! God works in mysterious ways. The money is going to feed the street children for a while longer."

--Marianne Mersch.



**Remember
Mary Mother of God Mission Society
in your will.**

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printer ink/larger toner cartridges and old cell phones. Place a collection container at your parish and office. Send the cartridges and cell phones to the recycling company with prepaid shipping labels provided. Our mission will receive a check from the recycling company in 30 days! For collection materials and more information, click on the recycling company link: www.advantagecartridge.com Or call the mission office for more information.

- We are stopping our **business reply envelopes** soon. The costs have increased out of sight. If you have old business reply envelopes from us, please throw them away. Otherwise the post office will send your donation to the dead letter office. Thanks for putting a stamp on the envelope with your donation—it will really help!

- The **milk and fruit program** is going very well. Adoptive parents have jumped for the chance to financially help feed the children in the 3 orphanages. We are trying to start a grandma mentoring program for the 3 orphanages. For \$40 a month we can send a grandma into the orphanage for 2 days a week for 6 hours to cuddle the kids. Fr Myron will start the bureaucratic paperwork if get a 1 year financial commitment from donors. We would need a few grandmas to start the program. He thinks this could spread to other orphanages where we have contacts. So I am looking for 4 donors for each orphanage to get a woman in there 7 days a week. I need \$40 a month for a 1 year commitment from 12 helpers to get this going. Hurry! Get your first installment in so we can get those kids regular cuddling, holding, stimulation and love. Spread the word, we could use a woman in each room!

- Might any of you wish some **newsletters to pass around** your group? Or parish? Ask your Pastor's permission please. Also if you are receiving a bulk amount, is it the amount you wish? Are there leftovers after a while? Shall we decrease the amount?

- **Thanks** for everything. I sure hope we can travel together to Vladivostok this fall. Get your passports in order. They must be good for 6 months after our travel dates. See you in Las Vegas for the conference. More info to follow. God love you all.

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From the development desk...

Dear Vladivostok Mission supporter,

- Our **next Fall Conference** will be in Las Vegas, Nevada on Oct 20-21-22, 2006. We will be joined by St Joseph Husband of Mary Parish in Las Vegas. The pastor, Fr Robert Stoekig was in Vladivostok in early January. His parishioner, Tim Purdy and his helpers, will assist us on our week end. Mark your calendars!

- Some of us will be just back from Vladivostok or on our way home after the **rededication of the Cathedral** scheduled for October 2, 2006. It will be 85 years to the date it was first dedicated. If you would like to join me and others for this great date, let me know by July, 2006 when we will finalize our travel plans. [Gulp! Can we really get the building done by then??—ed]

- We are starting **Mary Mother of God Mission Society in Canada!** We are in the process of becoming a registered charity there. Donations can be made by Canadians to MMOG Canada, P.O. Box 868, Atikokan, Ontario, Canada P0T 1C0. Nancy and Glenn Ivall will be

the national coordinators for Canada. They live about 1 hour west of Thunder Bay, Ontario. (807) 597-6052
gnivall@shaw.ca



Glenn and Nancy Ivall, our new representatives in Canada

- **Save used Ink/Toner Cartridges and cell phones to help our mission!** Start a fundraising program in your parish or office to benefit our mission and preserve our environment It costs nothing to participate! Collect used
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