

Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Vladivostok Russia St Paul Minnesota
Issue Number Seventy Six July 1, 2007



May 14—Historic Day!

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

May 14 was an historic day for us! As part of the church restoration we placed the heavy **marble crucifix** back in the same spot it had occupied in 1922 when the church was consecrated!



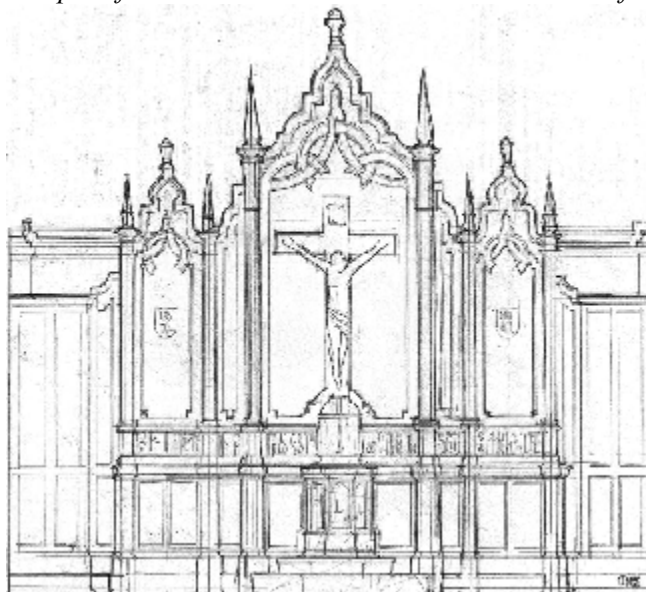
The Crucifix in 1922.

The workers and parishioners hoist the Crucifix.



The Crucifix in place, May 14, 2007.

The plan for the tabernacle screen around the Crucifix.



After 15 years of hoping and praying for the restoration of our church, you can understand why we are so excited! Fr Dan and the parishioners who were present couldn't help but sing songs during the final raising of the Crucifix, including "Old Rugged Cross" and "Regina Caeli"! It is such a relief to be really making progress as we head for the day of reconsecration—October 7!

Here are the latest photos as the carpenters begin to install the lower raredos into place.



The raredos begins to rise.

This is a good time to mention some helpers in all of these projects. Our main architect for both the rectory and the church restoration project is Pavel Manonov.

As is usually the case in Russia, this is the first Catholic church that Mr Manonov has ever worked on, so it took a lot of research and consultation to complete the project.



Architect Pavel Manonov

As usual, our mission work would be impossible without our myriad helpers, and this is where Matthew Alderman, an intern architect from Manhattan comes in. He has been providing consultation and drawing for all the religious aspects of the restoration project, except for the stained glass windows. Matthew graduated *Cum Laude* from the School of Architecture of the University of Notre Dame in 2006. His work is complicated by the fact that we didn't have such a consultant before, so Matt has to try to harmonize what we did before with what we are doing now, and he is doing a great job! (And thank God for the internet so letters and images can fly back and forth between New York and Vladivostok.) He prepared the design of the raredos, altar, baptistery, and other elements of the church. We'd be totally lost without him!

He has been busy with other projects, too, besides his main work. He has an article, "Incarnating the Mass: Rediscovering the Liturgical Beauty of Christian Architecture" published in a special "Spirit of the Liturgy" issue of *The St. Austin Review (StAR)*, May/June 2007. He published architectural reconstructions in Michael Rose's *In Tiers of Glory: The Organic Development of Catholic Church Architecture*. And an article "Youth in Formation" published in *Touchstone: A Journal of Mere Christianity*, April 2007. He produced liturgical illustrations for missalettes for the 2007 National Convention of the Knights of Columbus. And many other projects. He won the 2006 Rambusch Prize for Religious Architecture for his Senior Thesis at the UND School of Architecture. There is an old saying: If you want to get something done, ask a busy man! Thanks, Matt! Maybe you'll want to come on October 7 to see your creations in the flesh!



Matthew Alderman

Working on our church building is partly like doing archeology. Several years ago, when a workman was putting down new baseboards in the vestibule he heard suspicious hollow sounds in the floor. We removed the tiles and the underfloor to discover a big cornerstone with the date "1908" written on it. Naturally we cleaned it up and showed it to visitors, but we never knew if it might be hollow and contain a "time capsule". June 12 we had to take up the whole floor in the vestibule to prepare for the new one, so it was the perfect opportunity to find out if the old cornerstone had any surprises for us waiting inside. First, with witnesses present, we dug under the stone, only to find just rubble there. Then we split the cornerstone down the middle, and we found nothing, not even an air space. So that is the end of that. We are determined to place a new cornerstone on October 7, with a time capsule. It will be dated "1908, 2007."



The split cornerstone with nothing inside.

In the middle of the floor of the vestibule we found some old terrazzo with some crosses, which might explain the old rumors that there were mosaics in the church. The terrazzo was in too poor condition to save, no matter how we thought we might try, but here is a photo at least.

The old terrazzo we found in the vestibule.



How to Communicate with Us

Internet

Russian language: www.catholic.vladivostok.ru

English language: www.vladmission.org

Sisters in English: www.cjd.cc

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Donations and letters:

Mary Mother of God Mission Society
1854 Jefferson Ave
St Paul MN 55105-1662

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.

Donations in kind. If you have items that you think we can use, please contact Mrs Sandra Sonnen at the Mission Office in St Paul giving a complete list of items.

Office in Canada: Phone: 1-(807) 597-6052

gnivall@shaw.ca

Donations and letters:

Mary Mother of God Mission Society
PO Box 868
Atikokan Ontario Canada P0T 1C0

Sisters in Jesus the Lord: Phone: (651)230-3337

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

Five Make their First Communion.

It was the Feast of Corpus Christi. Because we were in the temporary chapel and the church was still under repairs we could not have our traditional Corpus Christi Procession this year. But we certainly had a wonderful celebration of the feast anyway with five of our young parishioners receiving their First Communion. They had prepared all year for the event under the careful tutelage of Sister Marina of the Sisters of Charity of St Anne. They made their first confession on Saturday so they were fully prepared. Their parents confirmed their readiness so everything was in place.



Sister Marina.

At the Mass Fr Myron spoke about how the natural qualities of bread and wine already show our relationship to Christ. The grains and the grapes have to be crushed and mixed and squeezed, and then the bread was to be tried by fire and the wine has undergone a kind of death in the brewing process. But in the end they both become something better than they were: food and medicine which Jesus makes into his own Body and Blood to be spiritual food and spiritual medicine for us all. Likewise, through our pain and suffering, together with the sufferings and death of Christ, we are made into food and medicine for the world. So we should not forget our vocation to be Other Christs for those around us.

Schedule of Events

July 14-15 Fr Daniel at Coronation Parish, Grandview MO

July 21-22 Fr Daniel at St Cecilia Parish, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Sept 8-9 Fr Myron at St. John Parish, Lincoln, NE

Sept 15-16 Fr Myron at St. Peter Parish, Omaha, NE



It's hard to take a formal picture when you are so excited! First Communion class of 2007. (l tor) James Pomersheim, Anton Belozorov, Theodore Fidenko, Darya Kucharova, and Veronica Anisimova.

“Alyona Maria”, the new daughter of parish trustee Victor Anisimov and Natasha Anisimova, was baptized on June 10, the same day as Veronica’s First Communion. Alyona’s hyper-energetic brother Kirill was no where to be seen.



Sept 22-23 Fr Myron at Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish, Redmond, OH.

Sept 29-30 Fr Myron at St. Peter Church, Jupiter, FL

October 7 Reconsecration of the Church

Blessing of the Our Lady of Fatima Rectory

October 19, 20, 21 Conference in Las Vegas

News Notes

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

● In the *Sunrise* I asked if anyone would like to translate **Miroslava Igorevna Efimova's** book on the history of the Catholic Church in Far Eastern Russia. On May 15, 2006, I was happy to get a letter from Denver Colorado, from Dr Gerri Kelly, who worked as a professor of Slavic languages at the University of Utah and the University of Colorado-Denver. She received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin. She wrote, "I would like to translate the history book recently completed by Miroslava Efimova. I would be honored to be entrusted with this project. Please let me know if you would like



Dr Gerri Kelly

me to take it on and, if so, how we should proceed." Now it is 2007 and we are in the process of producing the book both in Russian and in English, thanks to Dr Kelly! The books will be ready for the reconsecration of the church in October (fingers crossed!)

● .Monsignor Richard Schuler, Pastor Emeritus of St Agnes Church in St Paul MN, died on April 20. He was a great church musician and a great fan and generator of vocations to the priesthood. It was he who invited Mary Mother of God Mission Society to make its home at St Agnes. We are very grateful to him. Please remember him in your prayers. The Sisters in Jesus the Lord are also resident at St Agnes.

● On May 20 Sandie Sonnen, our main helper in the States, was taken to the hospital with symptoms of a heart attack. Thanks be God for good paramedics and their fast response, and to good doctors, and to God's grace that she was soon out of the hospital. She will have additional medical work, and she will surely appreciate your prayers! Her husband David Sonnen and her daughter Jennifer Sammons have been keeping up with mission needs. Jennifer says, "I know how important the mission is to mom!"

● Our volunteer from St Louis, Brian Roche, has been taking lots of pictures. You can view them at:

www.traveljournals.net/pictures/russia/vladivostok/
In addition to all his other activities, Brian has been teaching English. Here is a photo of the students who have been studying under him.



Brian Roche (l, front) and his English language students on the last day of class for school year 2006-7, May 30.

● June 1 is the International Defense of Children Day. The staffs from our Women's Support Centers took the time for an hour of prayer asking God for graces to defend children in danger of abortion. They held the event at St Joseph's Parish in Vladivostok. The parish prayer group "Mothers in Prayer" also participated. The government Women's Consultation Services held a "day without abortion" on that day to protest the number of abortions in Russia.



Olga Berdnikova, who organized the Day of Prayer. She is a board member of the Women's Support Centers.

● Our parishioner Galina Berdnikova is graduating from the Institute of Sewing and Design. As part of her graduation requirements she had to put on a show of her dress designs. Although she was among 40 graduates, all of whom put on a show in one evening, Galina came in first! She also received the grand cash award for excellence. Here are some of her creations. Critics said

that her designs were “practical, modest, and would a delight for any girl to wear.”



Winning designs by Galina Berdnikova.

● Spring is a time for weddings. Here are the photos of our latest couple to tie the knot, Mr and Mrs. Alexander and Yekaterina Suprun, May 26.



Alexander and Yekaterina finished our marriage preg course with flying colors!

● Speaking of designs, here are samples of our handmade baptismal garments, done by parishioners in Lesozovodsk, Russia. You can select and order them on our internet site, or by calling to Sandie Sonnen in our mission office: 651-227-0208. These beautiful handmade items are one-of-a-kind. The yarns may differ slightly as the knitters purchase from the market as they have funds. Most are made with cotton thread unless specified.

See our gifts from Russia on our web site for more samples. Soon many different styles and stitch patterns will be available on e-bay under “baptismal gowns”. Watch the site for new items. What you see on our site or on e-bay is what we have in stock.



This is a 1-piece jumpsuit with pearl opening for boys, size 0-3 months.

The model here is Sam, Sandie’s grandson.



Pink is available, too, but not for Sam.

Your donation towards these handmade Christening sets, baby hats and booties, blankets and sweaters helps a Catholic parish in Eastern Russia to continue its pro-life and social service efforts. This important work touches the lives of many desperate people every year.

- Michael Munguia, a carpenter from Las Vegas, came to donate a month of his time to help us with the church project. He'll have pictures and stories to tell at the Mary Mother of God Mission Society Las Vegas Conference in October! One man can't finish such a big job in a month, but Michael did put a big dent in it. Thanks, Michael!



Michael Munguia

Opportunities

We need:

- ♥ --local speakers for parish masses
- ♥ --local catholic conferences table attendees
- ♥ --“Front Page” program developers for our web page
- ♥ --experienced grant writers
- ♥ --someone to mother hen/manage travel to Vladivostok
- ♥ --Kids-2-Kids program director
- ♥ --some one to manage parish assignments for next calendar year (about 20 hrs a week for maybe 4 months)

Anything sound interesting? Contact Sandra at the Mission Office.

From the development desk...

Dear Vladivostok Mission supporters,

- I have successfully recovered my health. Thank you all for your prayers.
- Do you have extra Delta Airlines Sky Miles? Now you can transfer them to Fr Myron in increments of 1000 miles for use by our missionaries. There is a fee to transfer miles. Look at: www.delta.com/transferringmiles If you would like to make a donation, write or call to get Fr Myron's Sky Miles number to make the transfer. Thank you for your donation!
- The little Parish of the Visitation in Lesozovodsk has started the cottage industry of making baptismal gowns. I have over 70 different items. See our web site and also e-bay baptismal gowns. I really need someone to help me market the gowns on the internet.
- The consecration of the Church and the blessing of the Our Lady of Fatima Rectory in Vladivostok is Oct 7. Please join us.

God love you all, David and Sandra Sonnen
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The Crucifixion Window for the Chapel, gift of the late John Bold, Vista, CA

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Registration for Weekend Conference with Fr. Dan in Las Vegas, NV, October 19, 20, & 21, 2007

(Please register as soon as possible)

_____ **Yes**, I/we will be at the entire conference.

Donation amount for five meals: _____

_____ **No**, I/we will be attending only part of the weekend. ___ Fri. Eve ___ Sat. ___ Sun. Donation

amount for meals to be attended: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Accommodations needed with local supporter? _____

For **hotel reservations**, please make your own. Our host hotel for this year is: Holiday Inn Express West

8669 W. Sahara Ave.

Hotel: (702)256-3766 Las Vegas, NV 89117



St Joseph Husband of Mary Parish.

Rate: \$99/night Booking Code: MMG (Standard room with two queen beds, non-smoking) Note: In order to receive the group rate reservations must be made by 9/19/07. The hotel is 1.71 miles from St, Joseph, Husband of Mary Parish, conference headquarters.

If you wish to stay at a casino hotel, we recommend Suncoast Casino (866) 636-7111 or Red Rock Station (866) 767-7773.