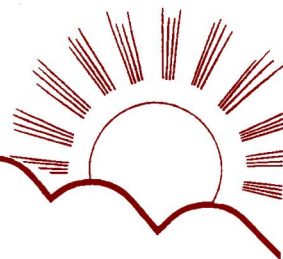


# Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society and Vladivostok Mission

Issue Number Ninety Nine May 1, 2011



## Brother Patrick's First Vows

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

We celebrated Brother Patrick Napal, C.J.D.'s first vows on the Feast of St Joseph, March 19. We were happy that some of his teachers from the university came to the mass. Of course, he is one of their star students. It is amazing how quickly and correctly he mastered the Russian language! Now he has been accepted into the St Francis Xavier Seminary in the Philippines for the school year beginning in June. He has one year to go to finish his B.A. degree so he can go on to the higher seminary. We are



*Fr Daniel Maurer, C.J.D. celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 5.*

grateful to the Benedictine community near the seminary has invited him to live with their seminarians while he is in school. He plans to work in Russia after ordination. Two more seminarians need your prayers and support.

## The Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

After the revolution of 1917, Siberia became a showplace of the new Communist era, a land without churches and without God. Under Stalin, all Catholic churches were confiscated, and many were turned into the most degrading uses imaginable.

Two American priests, Fr. Myron Effing, CJD, and Fr. Daniel Maurer, CJD, arrived in Vladivostok in 1992 to help re-establish the Church in this region. **They founded or re-founded 11 Catholic parishes in an area covering over 500,000 square miles.** With the foundations laid, additional priests and sisters are joining the work, and parishes are slowly growing and multiplying.

## Summary of Situation at Children's Hospital #3 in Vladivostok

The Hospital was founded in 1940. It is located in an inaccessible part of the city (Smeinke) where it has been without hot water for 15 years, which gets reflected in the health of the kids and the work of the personnel. A new part of the hospital began to be used in 1987. The Hospital serves as a clinical basis for the pediatrics department of the #2 Vladivostok Government Medical University. There are 155 beds, including 50 beds used for a hospice for abandoned children under 3 years old. 30 beds are used as a special unit for AIDS positive kids from one month old through their 4<sup>th</sup> year.

The Hospice unit was founded in 2002 in connection with the greatly increased number of abandoned kids. 250 kids go through the unit in a year. As this is a hospital, kids are received who have not been carried to term, underweight kids, kids with delayed development, kids suffering from problems of the urinary tract, aneurisms, underdeveloped kidneys or bladders. Often their problems serve as the reason they are refused by prospective adoptive parents because these problems have to be diagnosed and treated at early stages, but there isn't the proper necessary modern equipment at the hospital for this work. Currently the All-Russian program providing updated equipment applies only to the public (walk-in) polyclinics, and not to hospitals.

To help the hospital, Caritas has already provided:

1. 15 new wooden beds and 30 metal beds.
2. water heaters at sinks so that there is hot water for washing and laundry
3. air conditioners for six rooms under the roof which were too hot for babies in the summer.
4. Complete repair and replacement of the large commercial-sized laundry equipment.
5. Approximately \$2000 per month of infant formula
6. Collections of diapers, as available.
7. the Grandma Program, in which about 7 volunteers work directly with the children in recreational projects, like taking outdoor walks or playing on the swings, or playing ball. This is meant to provide greater socialization for the children, so that they see and relate to people and places besides their usual caregivers and rooms, including, when possible, men.

### Our Parishioners:

#### Leopold Kulga

*By Tatyana Shaposhnikova*

On September 20 our parishioner Leopold Yevdokimovich Kulga was 90 years old. All his children, grandchildren, students, and colleagues gathered to

congratulate him on that day. His wife Alexandra Nikolaevna was on hand to greet the guests, and she herself will celebrate 90 year this summer. Leopold has led an interesting life and still keeps up with what is going on, so he is an interesting conversationalist. He has definite opinions, and isn't afraid to let you know about it.



*Leopold Yevdokimovich Kulga*

The family name "Kulga" means "lame horse", and the family started among the serf cossacks of Zaparozhiye in the Ukraine during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. His grandfather and father were already freed serfs who lived in Lyubartsi near Kiev. The family was very pious and kept everything in good order before God. All four sons were hard workers, but the eldest son was called to serve in the Tsar's army and he served in Poland guarding the Russian-German border. There he got acquainted with a Polish officer Slivovsky who was later sent in exile to the Russian Far East as punishment for his participation in an uprising. He wrote enticing letters home about the great beauty of the Far Eastern lands, the riches of the fields and the great lives of the grain producing peasants.

So in 1906 the eldest son himself, with his wife and kids, volunteered to serve in the Far East, and they arrived on Russian Island in 1908. Leopold's father, Evdokim Illich Kulga, served in the great military fort surrounding Vladivostok. His four years of education in a church school in Kiev made him ready to be a military scribe; he



was also a great shot, and was awarded a silver medal for marksmanship by the navy department. “My dad always loved knowledge—He served in the military and at the same time studied, finishing high school, and then entering the law school of the Eastern Institute in Vladivostok. At the same time he worked as a tutor, which is how my parents got acquainted. He was tutoring a young lady Stanislava Kushlenko in her bid to enter high school. They fell in love, but marriage was almost out of the question, first because papa was quite older than Stanislava, and then because he was Orthodox, but Stanislava was a Catholic.”

Stanislava was a descendent of a poor but noble Polish family who lived in Lithuania, the Stalingas. The third child in the family, Yelena Felixovna Staliga married Stanislav Kushlenko, a Lithuanian. They had six children. Stanislav worked at the imperial harbor at Port Libava. At the beginning of WWI there was a long bombing of Libava and the family decided to leave for the Far East, to live with relatives who worked in the port of Vladivostok, but during the long trip Stanislav died, leaving Yelena with the children. After arriving in Vladivostok she settled in Pigeon Roost where many Poles lived on Turgenev Street not far from the church. They had a lot of trials in their lives, including two revolutions, the military intervention, religious repression, but they always kept their Catholic faith.

When Stanislav’s eldest daughter decided to marry, it was under the condition that Evdokim would become a Catholic, and so it was done. The young couple married in the Catholic church of the Most Holy Mother of God, and their sons were baptized in the parish, as their names are in the baptismal records of the church. Leopold remembers his first Confession, his Confirmation with the bishop’s hand on his head, after which Leopold remembers that everything seemed so easy and joyful.

“In the 1930’s there was always an atmosphere of fear in the family. They were terrified when their near relatives and the parents of my friends were arrested. I especially remember one night in 1937 when I was suddenly awakened. It was dark in the room late at night but momma and papa were not sleeping but standing by the window opening on Abrekovskaya Street looking at the street below. There were lots of cars and the sound of motors, flashing of lights, and people knocking at doors. So you can understand what my parents lived through. [The “last five parishioners” of the Vladivostok parish were martyred in 1937.]



*His wife Alexandra Nikolaevna*

“During the military intervention until 1929 papa worked in the Vladivostok Military Department as an investigator and finger print expert. The work involved a lot of research and papa loved it. In 1927 on the tenth anniversary of the October Revolution he was awarded an engraved golden watch. I remember that evening very well. Several years later he left his work with the authorities, maybe because mamma insisted or maybe not, and he finished a course in bookkeeping and for the rest of his life worked as a bookkeeper in various organizations. He was everywhere valued. I’m thinking that if he had continued his work with the authorities during those years 1936-7 he would have been a victim, too. During those years of repression mama and us kids ran away to the city of Kirov with false documents in order to avoid arrest—thus our friends advised us.

“My grandmother Yelena Felixovna remained faithful to God through all her life. When she was 60 my mama fulfilled her request to travel to her homeland in the Baltics to pray. The trip gave grandma new energy and she died only when she was 92.”

Leopold graduated from City School #28 and, following his dad, entered the Eastern Institute, at first in the Merchant Marine section, but soon switched to the new Electrical Faculty. He was the first graduate of the new department—The country had a huge need for specialists to fulfill the big plans for rural electrification. He is proud to show his medal received for his work. The family still reflects the tradition for work that they received from their grandparents. Although he labored at several very responsible government jobs, he still found time to teach at the Eastern Institute, which already changed names to Far Eastern Polytechnical. He was a professor in the Electrical Faculty, and chaired the Department of

Economics of Energy. Now he is Honorary Professor of Education, with the appropriate medals. As a reader in the organization “Knowledge” he has presented many, many lectures throughout the Far East. “Study everything always,” could be his life’s motto. When he was 70 he began studying English, and at 73 he studied computers. He is still sharing his knowledge and experience with the young generation. We hope he can do it for years to come.



Son, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren at his birthday party.

## How to Communicate with Us

### Internet

Russian language: [www.catholic.vladivostok.ru](http://www.catholic.vladivostok.ru)

English language: [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)

Sisters in Jesus the Lord in English: [www.cjd.cc](http://www.cjd.cc)

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**Vladivostok Sunrise** gives you up to date information about the Church in Eastern Russia. Contact our office for your free bi-monthly copy.

## News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D

- I'd like to introduce one of our new helpers, Sister Gloris Fransis, SCSA. She is from India, and is scheduled to begin working with the children in Romanovka at Tropinka. She is currently studying Russian at the university.



- We finally received permission from the state cultural department to house the marble crucifix permanently in our church, as soon as we have the fire safety equipment in place. It continues to be considered an important cultural object for the state archive, so the law does not allow it to be simply returned to our possession. (It is the same situation as the church building itself.)

- Thank you to the many benefactors who helped us reach our goal on the fundraising drive for our Fire Safety Project. Now we are waiting for the final third to be donated by a foundation as work begins.

- Our soup kitchen for the elderly poor was saved by an American benefactor who donated support for the program for the whole year! So we spent some time



reorganizing the program to make it more effective and useful. The folks are so grateful that somebody cares for them! You know, probably, that the Russian pension is so low that most elderly people have to continue to work. A parishioner recently told me that she happened to be on a very early morning bus, and it was full of elderly, sometimes handicapped people who were returning from work as night watchmen. She was amazed.

- Maybe our benefactors are tired of hearing about birthdays already, so one last item or two: Fr Myron celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> on February 20, with Bishop Kirill Klimovich coming from Irkutsk for the occasion. Fr Daniel celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> on March 8.



*Fr Myron reading the gospel at the birthday mass*

- When Bishop Klimovich was here on February 20, he confirmed 5 adults who were baptized last Easter. Here is a photo for you. He also blessed the new parish library space.



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



- I heard this story from one of the pastors: A parishioner with several children was pregnant, and had some complications, so she was in the hospital for tests and a check-up. After several days an old doctor came to her at night and said, “Dear, are you reading what medicines the doctor is giving you?” “No, why should I?” “If I were you I’d read those packages before I took them!” Being forewarned, she read and found out that the doctor was setting her up for a miscarriage! Naturally, she stopped the medicine and went home. I told the pastor to find out the contact information for that old doctor, and I’d find some way to acknowledge that she saved a baby’s life.

- We are trying to gear up to open the Newman Center at the new Far-Eastern Federal University, with its 100,000 students to be opened in 2014! We have a lawyer working on clarifying the ownership situation of the building on Russian Island where we have an apartment, with the hope to buy several other apartments there to make room for the Sisters in Jesus the Lord who will be coming to work with university students. Naturally, we don’t know where the funding will come from, but we are counting on God to provide if he wants us to have this program at the university.

- Meanwhile the church is still a popular tourist attraction here in the city with tour groups every week. We have to plan better for summer when there will be a lot more

tourists. Our American tourists complained that we didn't have some souvenirs that they wanted to buy. We are working on it. Here is a photo of our new canvas bag, for example, handmade in Vladivostok by parishioners.



- News from Kansas city: Pastor Fr Stephen Rogers gave to the Sisters in Jesus the Lord the opportunity to have a sacred music concert at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on Sunday, February 27. We did extensive promotion of the concert, and were happy that the number attending was around 160, even though the foggy weather was not a plus. Those who attended our concert were generous in their appreciation of the event, and donated \$1,450.00 for the parish. The sisters enjoyed every aspect of the project. We were grateful to Father Rogers for concluding the concert with some gracious remarks.

- This seems to be the time of year that many parishes and groups hold vocation fairs. The Sisters in Jesus the Lord were able to participate in some of them, the one at St Gabriel's Catholic Church (Kansas City, MO), St Patrick's Catholic Church (St Charles, Illinois), the O'Hara High School (for 5th graders for two days --Kansas City, MO), Pius X High School (Kansas City, MO), Our Lady of the Presentation (Lee Summit, MO), and Notre Dame de Sion High School (Kansas City, MO). Sister Maria Damiana also had our CJD display at the Bishop Helmsing Institute's special family conference on Saturday, March 19. Sister Stella says, "We keep working on being faithful and happy religious of regular observance, as we know how important that is for new vocations."

- With March's thaw and April's winds our phone cable got waterlogged, and we lost all electronic contact with the outside world. So we had to install a new temporary phone cable to restore phone and internet service. Now we are back on line, but we'll have to make a more permanent repair soon.

- Our parish was happy to participate in actions for those suffering from the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. As far as I know we were the first local organization to offer a way of sending funds, which was through Caritas Japan. We raised about \$1200 specifically for Japan from the public and from parishioners. Russia itself was happy to send some special rescue teams to help out. They have since returned. Meanwhile we held a daily prayer service in the evenings after the earthquake, praying for those who suffered, asking for delivery from further radiation damage, and in general praying for Japan. Although it is pretty close by us, we did not feel the earthquake, nor has there been any additional radiation here.

## Opportunities

- ♥ Helpers needed to share the news of our mission:
  - Pass out our bi-monthly Vladivostok Sunrise newsletter at your ministry and apostolate meetings. Ask your pastor to place a small number in the back of your church.
  - Priests and lay speakers needed to speak about our mission in parishes on weekends.
  - Locate Catholic conferences and schedule booth representatives.
  - Booth representatives needed to pass out our mission information at Catholic Conferences.
 Call Vicky Trevillyan at the mission office, 209-408-0728 for information.

- ♥ May -The Month of Mary! - Come to know our Blessed Mother more intimately through two books found in our mission gift shop on our website, [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org). The recent release of *Fatima For Today*, by Fr Andrew Apostoli, Ignatius Press; and *Holy Mary, Mother of God* by Fr. John A. Kane, Sophia Institute Press.

- ♥ California and Nevada Save Mart, Food Maxx, Lucky, and Smart Food shoppers using their SHARES cards are now raising over \$800 per month for the mission! This is a grant program sponsored by Save Mart Corporation. Up to 3% of your grocery tab is donated to MMOG. Please call the mission office for your SHARES card. It's FREE to get and FREE to participate! Pass them out at your apostolate meetings, friends and family. Proceeds are stretched to help support the women and newborn children of our Women's Support (Pro-Life)



Centers, our four seminarians' education and food, winter heating for our priests, grandmas to go to the orphanage to interact and play with the orphans, and further. Thank you!



♥ Hooded sweatshirts available. Vladivostok, Russia in Cyrillic lettering on front. Sizes S-3X. \$30-\$35. Contact our mission office in Modesto for emailed details.

♥ Here is a simple idea for you: When you get foreign stamps on letters, cut them out and put them in your Mary Mother of God donation envelop. We'll be collecting them as we get your donations!--even Fr Myron's Russian stamps from the thank-you letters that he sends.

♥ We continue to get requests for Guardian Angels. Here is a photo of a home where a single mom lives with her child. She lives in the lean-to, as the rest of the house has other residents.



Zachary



Alexei



Dmitri



Nikita



Angelina



Christina



Ivan



Anastasia



Nikita



Olga



Polina



Sasha



Sophia



Veronica

**Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners!**

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## From the Development Desk...

Dear Friends,

- In the month of May we honor our mothers and their great love for us. We give thanks for the blessings of motherhood and all its joys, and we honor all women in single and consecrated life as they are mothers to us all. May is especially appropriate to be the month we honor our Heavenly Mother Mary, too, and all she has done for us as she guides us to her son Jesus. The feast day of Our Lady of Fatima is May 13. Many may remember the Fatima prayer asking for our Blessed Mother's help for the conversion of Russia which was prayed faithfully for so many years with the Rosary. Please pray this prayer again for the faithful to multiply in Russia. Today more than ever before, we need this prayer for the conversion of souls. Please pray for the priests, religious, and laity serving God and His people throughout Russia. Above all, with our prayers, God will provide.

### ***Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima***

*Most Holy Virgin, who has deigned to come to Fatima to reveal the treasures of graces hidden in the recitation of the Rosary, inspire our hearts with*



*a sincere love of this devotion, that meditating on the Mysteries of the Redemption recalled therein, we may obtain the conversion of sinners, the conversion of Russia, and the favors we ask you now for the greater glory of God, for your own honor, and for the good of souls. Amen*

- On June 3, four riders will begin their 6 week bicycle ride from California to Washington, DC in an awareness and fundraising marathon for our mission! Follow their progress by GPS! If you live along Hiway 50, our riders would be grateful for the warm hospitality of a shower and bed, and perhaps a meal to give them strength for the miles ahead! More details and ways to donate to the mission can be found on our website. God bless them and keep them safe!

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have mercy on us! Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for us! God bless you,  
Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Desk, 209-408-0728