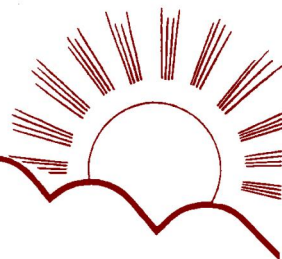


# Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society and Vladivostok Mission

Issue Number One Hundred Five May 1, 2012



## Christ Our Light!

At the **Easter Vigil service** on April 7 five adults completed their RCIA preparations and were baptized. Six others also completed their instructions and were received into the Catholic Church. The vigil began at 9:30 with the lighting of the new fire inside the church near the entrance. Fr Daniel Maurer, C.J.D., sang the Exultet, and then the vigil continued with all the readings and then Easter Mass. We finished at 12:15. As usual, the blessing of the Easter foods brought the service to a close.

A highlight of our vigil is always the singing of the antiphons for the responsorial psalms. Fr Dan wrote the melodies for these psalms during our first Lent in Russia, as there were no melodies for the Russian available at that time. He did a really terrific job, and the parish looks forward to these responsorial psalms every Easter vigil. They really belt them out!



*Those joining the Church and those to be baptized.*

### 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.

For those baptized, the next step is the Sacrament of Confirmation, scheduled for May 20 when our Bishop Kirill Klimovich will be visiting us from Irkutsk.

*If you look closely you can see a server who fell asleep during Fr Myron's sermon.*



*The choir is a vital part of the vigil service.*

*Elena Andreevna had Easter breads available for sale in the parish library.*



*The blessing of Baptismal Water*



*We baptize adults by pouring.*

# The “Lost Requiem” of Alexander Kastalsky

by Fr Daniel Maurer CJD

On March 22-23 our parish hosted 2 performances of the so called “Lost Requiem” by the famous Russian Orthodox composer of church music, Alexander Kastalsky (1856-1926).

The official name of the piece is “Requiem – Remembrance of Brothers in Arms”. It is called “lost” because of its complex history. It was written in 1915 during World War I to commemorate the allied soldiers of the “Triple Entente” (England, France and Russia) who were killed in the war. It has the distinction of being the last large scale choral work to be composed in Tsarist Russia, and is now considered to be the greatest masterpiece of a great composer. At the time of its composition the composer was already famous, but for reasons yet to be fully explained the work was never performed during his lifetime, and not until 2005.

Kastalsky first composed this grand work in the capital city of Saint Petersburg for large choir and organ. Because the Requiem was in memory of fallen soldiers of three different countries, in each of which predominated one of the three major branches of Christianity, he used different musical styles and languages corresponding to each country and religion for the various parts of the work: Gregorian chant in Latin for the predominantly Catholic French; Anglican chant and hymns in English for the predominantly Protestant English; and Byzantine chant in the Old Slavonic language for the predominantly Orthodox Russians. No one knows exactly why this original version for choir and organ was not performed when it was composed. Perhaps the few organs available in the city at that time were not being maintained well because of wartime shortages and rationing. The score of this original version was never published, and the one existing manuscript was lost until 2005.

In 1916 Kastalsky decided to re-make the composition into a gargantuan production in the open air at the Russian “Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers” to include choirs, symphony orchestra, soloists, and even actors, and also to compose new parts in more of the languages of the belligerent nations taking part in the war, including Japanese. Of course it was necessary to eliminate the organ from this plan since there were no portable pipe organs in Russia at that time. This version, too, was never performed because of the huge scale of the endeavor.

Finally, also in 1916, Kastalsky completed a third version, this time in the form of a much more manageable *a cappella* score for small choir to be performed as a simple Russian Orthodox “Panehida” or memorial service for the deceased. This form of the work gained some circulation in Russian Orthodox parishes until the great persecution of religion ushered in by the militantly atheist Communist Party after the Communist Revolution of 1917, when it too was forgotten.

Kastalsky, son of an Orthodox priest, was forbidden by the Communists to have any involvement in sacred music and ordered to work only in the field of historical studies of Russian folk music. He died in 1926.



“Requiem” was performed during Lent.

The original manuscript of the first version (for large choir and organ) was discovered in an archive in St Petersburg in 2005 and was immediately recognized as a lost masterpiece of the famous composer. It was performed for the first time in Glasgow, Scotland by a Scottish choir and Russian organist. Later in 2006 it was performed two more times, once in Moscow and once in Yaroslavl, Russia in conjunction with celebrations of the 150 anniversary of the birth of the composer. After that the Vladivostok performances of March 2012 are the only other known performances of the work to date.

We are grateful to the musicians from Glasgow and Yaroslavl for sharing the musical score with us, making possible the performance of this beautiful and moving Requiem as our Lenten concert for this year. We are also grateful to our organist Marina Omelchenko, who learned of the existence of this work in Austria, where she just completed her Master Degree in organ performance, and to our Vladivostok Catholic Concert Choir for their beautiful and powerful performances of this historic and moving musical masterpiece.

## The Talko Sisters

[Originally published in the Russian edition of the Vladivostok Mission newsletter, *Zarya Vladivostoka*, No. 4, June-August 2010. Part of a series on the lives of the parishioners of Most Holy Mother of God Parish, Vladivostok, Russian Far East. Written by Parish Archivist, Tatyana Shaposhnikova, and translated by Geraldine Kelley]

The story of the Talko family is like that of many others. The family was bound together by traditions, upbringing, and the faith. Their hands were for work, their hearts for God.

Felix Pavlovich Talko, the father of the family, came from the petty bourgeois of the small village of Chudrov, Volhynia province [today in Ukraine near Poland], and served his military service in Vladivostok on the steamship *Rurik*. The mother, Malgashata Seminskaya, came to Vladivostok from Lublin with the family of a railroad engineer for whom she worked as a maid. Felix and Malgashata met at Polish House on Aluetskaia Street, where there were often festive gatherings, concerts and magnificent holiday celebrations. Modest, hard-working and deeply devout, they caught each other's fancy and in the early summer of 1905 they were married at the Catholic church. The young couple settled in a room on Pushkin Street and a year later moved to the Zharikovskii Ravine district.

### *Reminiscences of Olimpia Talko (1915-1995)*

Above our house on the hill was a long one-story wooden building, Most Holy Mother of God church. Later, when the church moved to a new building, a children's shelter was opened in the old building. We all studied at the Polish school – a one-story building next to the shelter on Portovaia Street. At the beginning of the 1920s there were more than 100 pupils and teachers. We studied there until 1924, when they closed the school and transferred the students to the public high school (now School No. 9). They still allowed us to attend Mass in the church for approximately another year. My brother Eugeniusz (b. 1911), my sisters Jadwiga (b. 1916) and Kazimira (b. 1918) and I spent time at the Polish shelter and joined the Scout troop organized in the 1920s by the American Red Cross. Scout camp was held in the summer on Russian Island – how well I remember our khaki uniform with a yellow tie and large panama hats! In the spring of 1923 the shelter was disbanded and they sent the Polish children abroad. They photographed us with numbers on our chests and prepared to send us off. I

know that a lot of children left at that time – some went to America or Japan, others to China or Poland. The children received an education and many of their parents later went to join them. Our parents decided not to send us away alone, so we remained in Vladivostok. In 1926, after a lengthy preparation, I was confirmed at the church. I remember the solemn atmosphere and my dress – a white wedding dress from America that my godmother, Maria Kovalevskaja, got for me. Until the 1930s my parents were considered Polish citizens and it was only in 1934 that they received Soviet passports.



*Kazimira and Olimpia with Fr Myron from Vladivostok Sunrise #11 (June 1, 1995), pg 5.*

### *Kazimira's Memories (b. 1918)*

My parents' lives were tragically cut short – they were very honest, hard-working and devout people. Papa worked as an electrician at the shipyards and Mama looked after the home and children. All nine children were baptized Roman Catholic at the church in Vladivostok. Praying together, reading the Bible, going to church, respecting our parents, and work – such were the foundations of our upbringing. The morning began with prayer long before sunrise and the day came to a close with a prayer of thanksgiving. The family grew. On the outskirts of Vladivostok at that time there was a naval settlement; later they gave the streets naval names. Our family began to build a house out there. Everyone helped us. Life was hard – sometimes there wasn't enough clothing. It was passed down from the older children to the younger ones, all carefully cleaned and taken care of. The younger children went to the "brown" school, which was on the corner of Svetlanskaia and 9<sup>th</sup> Sailor Streets. It was especially hard in the winter when the children's feet were often frostbitten because of their worn out boots.

There were a lot of Chinese nationals living in Vladivostok at that time. They cultivated gardens, made delicious and inexpensive sweets, and helped with housework. We are indebted to their friendship for many things.

Often after classes at the high school we would go to the church. We went up to the Crucifix, blessed ourselves with the holy water in the font beneath the crucifix and kissed the hand of the pastor, Karol Slivovskii. I well remember that on his hand, that was kind and powerful at the same time, he wore a heavy, expensive ring. The choir sang beautifully.

We children all began to work at an early age, approximately 14 or 15. My sister Jadwiga worked as a bookkeeper at Dalzavod (the shipyards) and I, upon finishing school in 1932, went to work right away as a timekeeper at Dalzavod. My older brother Sigismund, after finishing technical school, went to the mines and in 1930 he was electrocuted in a mineshaft. My other brother, Eugeniusz, went to sea on a steamer.

There was always faith and love in the family. The children learned morality and mutual support in difficult situations and bore responsibility for their behavior.

August 28, 1938 – I will remember that day all my life. It was a peaceful family evening. Mama was bathing my newborn daughter, Papa was reading the paper. The dog began to bark. Papa and I went out – near the gate stood a car. My heart stopped beating. Fear swept over me like a wave. Terrified, I immediately knew that it had come for us. What followed I remember as if in a dream. Red Sailors came into the house with rifles and showed an order for three of us – Papa, Mama and my brother Eugeneusz, who had just returned the day before from a sea voyage and had dropped by to visit our parents. Mama began to cry, Papa silently began to dress. They were allowed to take food and clothing for about two days. We never saw them again.

No one at the GPU would talk with us, nor were their names on any lists. We went to the prison all through the winter, standing day and night in the frost and wind to find out something. Once some people told us that at night a large group of prisoners had been taken to a side of Patrokl Bay where there were mass executions by firing squad. It wasn't until 1956 that my parents and brother Eugeniusz were rehabilitated.<sup>1</sup>

### *Olimpia's Memories*

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<sup>1</sup> Translator's Note: "Rehabilitated" means that the authorities cleared their names of any wrongdoing. They of course were not given back their lives! Nor was there any other kind of reparation to the family for what had been done to it.

After our parents' arrest we children were all sent to Astrakhan – my sister Kazimira spent six years in Irkutsk. Before the war they sent us by convoy to northern Kazakhstan. Those were times of an endless series of days of hunger, fear, indignity, and cold that froze every living thing together. Whole families died, but the Lord saved us.

We returned to Vladivostok in 1946. Along the way, at endless train transfer points, everything was stolen from us – our documents as well as anything of value that we had saved of our parents. Upon arriving in Vladivostok another blow awaited us – we learned that strangers had long been living in our home. For a time, friends gave us shelter – Poles who had returned from exile and had been able to get housing. We put all our efforts into the return of the home that our parents had built, in which we had spent our childhood and youth. It was our family home. After a year, upon a court decision, we finally moved into our home, with empty walls and iron cots. We were still reestablishing our household when, in 1952, they once again exiled us as "enemies of the people" – this time we were sent outside the city limits to Ugolnaia Station. Prior to 1954 we weren't allowed to enroll in school or have a job. I would go to the GPU for a pass and sometimes they would keep me waiting the whole night.

My brother Victor (b. 1919) served in the army; he was discharged in the 1930s but before the Great Fatherland War (WW II) he was called up again – he went as far as Berlin and returned an invalid. Another brother, Stanislaus (b. 1925) was drafted into the army during the war and died at the front.

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The parishioners, left without pastors, firmly kept their Catholic faith. They waited for a time when the gates of the church would once again be opened and their children and grandchildren would come to the faith of their fathers. Among the first to come to the Mass said at the gates of the church in 1992 were the Talko sisters. They told Fr Myron and the parishioners what the church had been like – about the sacraments celebrated there and the priests who had served. With special respect the sisters recalled Bishop Karol Slivovskii.

May we revere those who carried and kept their faith and love for God through all those years. January 17, 1995, Olimpia departed from this life. In our prayers may we always ask God to grant her soul eternal life. [Fr Myron alone was present at her death. 93 year old Kazimira passed away on January 27, 2012. She received all the sacraments for the dying from Fr Myron.]

## Background Notes and Suggested Reading

In the summer and autumn of 1937, the Communists cut a broad swath through the Far East in their efforts to purge the Party and the populace of real and imagined threats to power, and the Talko family was one of several thousands caught up in the nightmare. The following are excerpts from John J. Stephan, *The Russian Far East: A History* (Stanford University Press, 1994). "Polish, Finnish, and Estonian communities were thinned out by arrests, executions, and deportations. Entire settlements vanished, and it was rumored that peasant-filled barges were towed from the Amur to the Sea of Okhotsk and sunk." (pp. 211-212) . . . "The precise magnitude of the human toll in the Far East during 1937-38 is unlikely ever to be known. . . . Vladivostok old-timers recall how each night corpses were dumped into mass graves near Egersheld Cemetery. A Far East Katyn awaits excavation at Glukhaya Hill near the Ussuri Line." (pp. 220-221).

## News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D

- Fr Sebastian D'Silva, Pastor of Our Lady of the Pacific Parish in Nakhodka asked me to deliver some goods and funds to a woman on the way, as I drove from Nakhodka to Vladivostok. She is the mother of **triplets**. I met her on the side of the road and delivered two bags of formula, some baby porridge, and rubles equal to \$134. She had tears in her eyes. She said that when the babies were born, everybody rejoiced and even the mayor promised them a new apartment. Now that the new has worn off, everyone has reneged on their promises. She said that only our Women's Support Center in Nakhodka has been of continual support. She said she didn't know what she would do without us, as she can't work with three children at home. Soon they'll need a triple stroller. Anybody want to help?



Mom and the triplets soon after birth.

- "I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Fr Myron, Vicky and all the benefactors who helped to buy medicine for me. I am **suffering terribly from Asthma**. I am a parishioner of Nakhodka's Our Lady of the Pacific Catholic Parish. I was born in Kazakhstan in a Catholic family. My mother and my sister too suffered from Asthma. It all happened during the time of Perestroika, during the fall of Soviet Union. They all died in their early age because of lack of treatment and non availability of medicine. My mother died at the age of 53 and my sister at the age of 39. I am the only one surviving in my family. I am suffering from asthma for about 14 years. Since I am handicapped, I am supposed to get free treatment and free medicine. Since the last month of August the hospital is not providing me any medicine because of "lack of financing." That is the answer the hospital authorities give to me. One inhaler here in Nakhodka costs three thousand rubles and that is over \$100, but you bought it for me at \$27 dollars on the internet. I am not able to buy it for this amount here in Nakhodka, as I have to buy other medicines for allergy from which I am suffering. I feel your help came to me at a time, when I was just barely living and breathing without any lifesaving medicines. In fact I already started to feel the asthma attacks. A big and heartfelt thanks to you all because you help those who need help most. Your help gives us the courage to fight and get treated. I wish you all a very bright New Year, good health, long life and all the best. Yours truly, --Galina Adamovna" Then Fr Sebastian added: "I must add to this letter one more sentence. When I gave her the medicine packet, she was in tears, tears rolled down out of happiness. She was so happy to get this gift from you and from your friends and benefactors. She said she did not think that you could organize this so fast and get the much needed medicine for her so soon. She also told me that she always remembers how her sister and mother died due to unavailability of medicine. She said that you gave her a gift for an unknown person: It is indeed great and God bless you all and she is praying for you all. So God bless you all for all the help. Happy New Year to all of you. --Fr Sebastian, Pastor in Nakhodka.

- **Sisters Maria Stella and Catherine Marie C.J.D.**, were here for three months over Christmas. It was a big event for all, but especially for the kids in Lesozavodsk who always look forward to the sisters' visit. Here is a photo taken when the sisters did a concert for the kids.

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

## Opportunities



*The Lesozavodsk kids like to sing along with the sisters.*

- “Yes! I made it...I made it to graduate tomorrow-- (March 16) I am so happy, and thankful to God and to you, for your support.” That was the message I received by email from Brother Patrick Napal, C.J.D. He finished his bachelor’s degree in the seminary in the Philippines! He’ll be at home here in Vladivostok until the major seminary school year begins so that he can continue in the upper seminary.



*Brother Patrick Napal’s Graduation Picture.*

## 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)

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♥ Thank you to priests, sisters and laity from all over the world who contributed 550 family traditions recipes for our Mary Mother of God Mission International **Cookbook**. We hope each one of you will order several copies for yourself and for gift! ETA – Summer 2012! You still have time to sponsor our cookbook with a personal memorial, dedication, prayer or ad. Each sponsor will have their submitted information appear in a special section. Our cookbook proceeds will benefit the Women’s Support Centers and seminarians. Please contact the mission office for sponsor information.

♥ Spend a fun day or two meeting other Catholics while representing us at **Catholic conferences** in your area. The mission needs reps to attend our booths and hand out literature to spread the news of our work. Please contact the mission office for more information.

♥ The **SHARES** program is going strong! The mission earned \$10,366.95 in 2011. If you shop at Save Mart, Lucky’s, Smart Foods, or Food Maxx grocers, please contact us for a free SHARES card. Simply present the card at the check stand when you shop for groceries and Save Mart will donate up to 3% of your grocery total to us! It adds up fast!

♥ **Roof repairs** update. We are almost there! We’ve collected \$54,046.02 for year 2 of our 2 year roof repair project. Thanks and all glory to God and many thanks to you! We continue to pray for the \$34,753 still needed to complete the year 2 final repairs. We are trusting God will provide. If you can help in this very important project, you may find a budget and breakdown of costs for the roof repairs on our website. Thanks to all for your kindness and generosity.

*(Continued from Page Eight.)*

history.) Marina has participated in masterclasses with such famous organists as Martin Schmeding, Ludger Lohman, Lorenzo Gilermi, Peter Planyavsky and Martin Baker. You can find Fr Dan’s speaking schedule and read more about Marina and our organ concert tour on our website. [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org).

Most Holy Mother of God, Pray for us!  
God bless you, Vicky Trevillyan,  
National Coordinator 209-408-0728

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## From the development desk...

We have a very special event coming up in July! Not only will Fr Daniel be visiting several parishes in the US to speak about our mission, he will during the same time host our very first organ concert tour to benefit the mission! Our very own Marina Omelchenko will be coming from Vladivostok to perform! We are blessed to have a musician of her caliber! Here's some of what Fr Dan writes: Marina has been the lead organist in Vladivostok since 1996. Brought up in a music environment, her mother a soprano and her father a flutist, Marina's formal study of music began at age six at the Central Music School (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Soviet Union), at first on the violin and later at age nine on the piano. In 1995, after 17 years of formal music studies in the unique system of Soviet/

Russian music schools, she graduated *magna cum laude* from Far Eastern Academy of Arts in Vladivostok, Russia with a double major in musicology and piano. From 1995 to 2003 she worked as an instructor in the department of music theory and as piano accompanist in the department of orchestral instruments. Marina studied organ at the Tchaikovsky State Conservatory in Moscow, under Professor Alexei Parshin. Afterward Marina completed three further degrees at the famous University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Graz, Austria: a combined Bachelor/Master of Arts degree in organ performance (Professor Gunther Rost) and a professional Master of Arts degree in Church music (including classes in choir directing/performing, orchestra conducting, Gregorian chant, organ improvisation, accompaniment, voice, liturgy, and Church

*(Continued on Page 7.)*



*May, the month of the Blessed Mother!*