



# Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia  
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*Vladivostok kids present their Christmas program.*

## Kids! Kids! Kids!

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

It is no secret that in most developed and second world countries the birthrate is below replacement levels. It is said that it's because people want to enjoy life now, and without the burden of children. They say that in undeveloped societies people need kids as guarantees to care for them in old age. But nowadays people have the socialist governments to care for them, so who needs those pesky kids! (But it isn't clear just who will pay the taxes--Or will euthanasia become the norm?) But we Christians have another viewpoint: Kids are not just for this world, but also for the next! As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them!" (Matt 19:14) So we

are happy to have lots of programs for kids. Here are nine of them for you to consider.

**1. Parish catechism.** Each parish has its program for kids. The Vladivostok parish kids did a really great job this year at Midnight Mass. Every year they give us a little play about the birth of Jesus, and this year's was a wholly musical performance. They were very disciplined by a parishioner who professionally directs choirs. See photo above.

**2. Baby Hospital #3.** The orphanage in Vladivostok has warmly welcomed the Sisters in Jesus the Lord to teach Montessori to the 3-year-olds. Sr Faustina Marie, who recently completed her Montessori teacher training in Kansas City, Missouri, arrived in Russia in January. She and Sr Catherine Marie have already begun Montessori lessons with the orphans, and the kids are really interested! Meanwhile, volunteers from Caritas and our own seminarians visit the orphans regularly.



*Orphanage life.*

**3. Kids 2 Kids.** Here American and European kids can get involved! They can have projects during Lent or Advent, or just anytime, to provide help to a child in Russia. For example, a child in Lesozavodsk urgently needs an insulin pump. Wouldn't that be a great Lenten project for some kids in America?

**4. Trapinka.** On November 16, 2013 the Sisters of Charity of Saint Ann hosted the blessing and official opening of their much larger "Tropinka" (Pathways) Children's Center in the village of Romanovka, 75 miles from Vladivostok by car. *Sunrise* readers will remember that the first "Tropinka" Center was founded in the Fall of 2009. The new Tropinka is located

on the first floor in the same building complex as the old two-story center, but has more interior space. The new center, with 18,000 square feet of space is ten times the size of the first center location!



*Blessing of the new Tropinka by Fr Christopher Terepka, Pastor of Romanovka*



*Tropinka boys learning how to chop firewood.*

For the blessing and grand opening all the walls of the corridors and main activities rooms were completely covered with myriad large, colorful, action-packed photographs of many of the children the center serves and of the volunteers who generously give their time to lead the various classes and activities that the center offers. The effect of these photos was to create a bright atmosphere of the care and commitment these children receive and of their great worth as human beings and members of society.

When the ceremonies were complete, there was a delicious meal for all served by several of the older children show their appreciation to the benefactors and center volunteers for making this unique children's center a reality. We are happy to help the Sisters of St Ann and Tropinka with donations and documentary and legal support for their work.

**5. Lesozavodsk.** The Parish of the Visitation in Lesozavodsk, six hours north of Vladivostok by car, has been looking out for neighborhood kids for ten years already. These are mostly kids from the "projects" with single or often absent parents. Every Saturday they can get a free meal at the parish. It used to be about 40 kids, but with the higher birthrate in Russia now, the number has swelled to 60 mostly very young kids. Besides the meal, when possible, the children stay for singing, and learning about God. All three of the Sisters in Jesus the Lord travel once a month with Fr Myron to the parish. In January, the children each received a Christmas present donated by a benefactor in France, beautifully wrapped by the Vladivostok young adult group. The kids are already looking forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> annual summer camp at the end of July when we have a weeklong retreat for them every year conducted by the Sisters in Jesus the Lord and FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. It would sure be great to have a permanent priest and sisters in Lesozavodsk!



*A Christmas present, just because God loves the children.*

**6. Adopt-a-Birth.** Donors provide \$25 to help a poor mom at birth. Usually it goes for the first diapers and

other urgent things. Here are pictures of all the Adopt-a-Birth kids we helped in 2013.



**7. Guardian Angels.** Everybody needs a guardian angel, some more than others. And some poor Russian kids get a special human “angel” to help them. Currently we have about 50 Russian children who are being helped monthly by donors from around the globe. Here is a picture of a child who is still waiting for help. His name is Vadim.



*Triplets need three more guardian angels!*

**8. Albatross Children’s Home.** Fr Sebastian in Nakhodka says: “I am sending you photographs of some of the children at the Albatross Children’s Home. These children were left behind because their parents did not

## News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D

come to take them home for the Christmas-New Year's holiday. Our presence brought them happiness with our Christmas gifts. While talking with the children, I could feel in them the sense of coldness to life and to the world. Most of the children have parents who are either alcoholics or drug addicts. So the children are not allowed to meet their parents, or go home. We hope our presence brought them happiness and hope. God bless these little children!" Thanks, benefactors, for providing the gifts for these social orphans!



*Somebody cared and remembered us at Christmas!*

**9. Parus Nadezhdi (Sails of Hope).** During the summer our seminarians go to Parus Nadezhdi to play football with the kids who are temporary refugees from problem homes, but this year we were so happy to have a long term volunteer to go there every day for three months to work with the small children. Rachael Jones of Detroit wanted to improve her Russian anyway, and this was really a great way to do it! The kids were grateful for her loving care, and the administration wrote a letter to thank her for her help as she was returning home. Anybody else want to come and try it?



*The joint choir at the end of the Festival*

- Our most recent big event was the 16<sup>th</sup> annual **Festival of Christian Choirs**, which was a huge success, and I'm happy to say that all the choirs were better than they were last year. The Methodist choir was quoted as saying, "We wouldn't miss this for the world! We practiced twice a week for three months!" Here is a photo of the joint choir which ends the Festival when all the choirs sing together:



*The seminarians also sang in the Festival.*

- Yet another big event! **Sr Marthina Tongli, C.J.D.** was invested in the Canonesses habit in Indonesia. She will be the leader of the founding group of our sisters in Indonesia.



They already have two candidates and a place to live for six months free of charge. An Indonesian benefactor even donated a motorcycle to them! (That's the most common form of transportation in Indonesia!) Here is a picture of Sr Marthina in her new C.J.D. habit.

- On December 3 we had a great **meeting in Surabaya, Indonesia** of our Indonesian benefactors for our Indonesian project. Fr Inosensius Hetu, C.J.D. and I were

able to speak and show a video of our plans. It is a great blessing to already have benefactors in Indonesia to help with the foundation of our Indonesian C.J.D. communities.



*Benefactors with some of our Indonesian seminarians in the Our Lady of Vladivostok Chapel*

## Opportunities

- ♥ Hooray it's here! Check out our **new redesigned website** at [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org). Many thanks to Jim Weatherly, Daniel Heinrichs and Susan Gray for their many hours of help redesigning and maintaining our website!
- ♥ Do you know of a **Catholic Conference** coming to your area? One of the ways we help spread the news of the mission is to attend Catholic Conferences and distribute literature about our mission. Please let us know if there is a conference in your area. We'll send our nearby reps or you can join our bureau and attend for the mission! It's a fun way to connect with faithful Catholics!
- ♥ **Priest speakers** needed for weekend parish mission talks. Contact the Modesto office for more information.
- ♥ Fr. Myron and Fr. Daniel will be in the USA for their **annual speaking tours** in July and September. If you'd like to invite our priests to your parish to speak on the weekend or weekday, please contact the mission office for scheduling.
- ♥ The SHARES program is going strong. Thank you **SHARES card** users! You earned **\$3,131** for the mission last quarter! Anyone in CA or NV who shops at Save Mart, Food Maxx, Smart Foods and Lucky's grocery stores can help. Contact the mission office for your FREE SHARES card. It costs you nothing to use. Present the card at the grocery checkout. Save Mart will donate up to 3% of your grocery bill to the mission! Hand out cards to your friends and family to use!
- ♥ Mission **hooded sweatshirts** are still available! They're warm and cozy! Pullover hooded sweatshirts are made with the words VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA silk-screened across the front. The lettering is in the Cyrillic



alphabet. Material is 50/50 and medium-heavy weight. Sizes range from Youth Med. to Adult 3X, Colors are Black, Navy, Maroon and Red with contrasting letter colors. Contact the mission office for cost. [usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org)

- ♥ People love our new Vladivostok international recipes **cookbook!** *Abundant Blessings.* See Page 8.
- ♥ Only 19 more years until the 2033 year **Jubilee Year of the Redemption!** We are still hoping that there will be reunion between the Catholics and Orthodox before that time so that we can celebrate it together. We pray for reunion, too.

## From the development desk...

Dear Friends, Blessings to you this Lenten season!

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has responded to our Nakhodka building project appeal! We can't thank you enough for your help in rebuilding our Catholic church in Russia. To date we have collected \$28,471 in donations and pledges, of the \$388,939 needed to build the new church of Our Lady of the Pacific in Nakhodka. Thanks and glory to God. While we are excited for this progress, we have a long way to go yet. We continue to need and ask for your prayers and support to see this project through.

Our Lady of the Pacific parish was founded 19 years ago, but still does not have a church building. The parishioners meet for Mass in the small 4-room chapel apartment. One room serves as the chapel, the second serves as a parish hall, the third the Women's Support Center, youth center, religious education classroom, and the fourth as the Caritas office to serve the needy. The parishioners have thrived in this current building but now have well outgrown. They are working too, to raise funds for the new church building.

Here's a breakdown of the budget. Maybe you can gather a group to fundraise for one area or another of the building project? You may make a dedication or memorial to loved ones too. If you choose, we will place engraved plates with your dedication on the item donated. Those items in *cursive* below have already been donated. Thank you! You may follow the building fundraising project on our newly redesigned website!

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

God bless you and your families. Sincerely,  
Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Coordinator 209-408-0728

## A Beautiful Plan

We have two chalices in our chapel in Surabaya, Indonesia. One was given by my family as a gift for my priestly ordination and another I bought last year before Fr Myron came to visit our community in Surabaya. Temporarily we use one chalice as a ciborium which we put in the tabernacle with the Blessed Sacrament. Every Thursday when we have exposition and benediction we have to use a chalice to expose the Blessed Sacrament, as we had no monstrance either.

This morning, October 15, just before saying our morning prayer together with the twelve seminarians I was sitting in chapel in front of the Sacrament. I began praying to God asking Him to guide me so that I may meet someone who could give us a monstrance.

Later that day, I was asked by a benefactor Mr. Alfian to bless his relative's shop in Marina Plaza, Surabaya City. After the blessing we had lunch, and during our conversation I was talking about our small community. Someone asked, "Father Ino, what do you need so that we may help you?" Spontaneously I replied, "We need a monstrance." Mr. Alfian said, "But I have a small monstrance in my house that I brought from Rome. I will give it to you!" Hearing that, like Mary, I said in my heart, "Thank you Lord, thank you Lord. What a beautiful plan you arranged for us."

Later that day Mr. and Mrs. Alfian brought the monstrance for our community.



*Mr. and Mrs. Alfian in the Chapel of Our Lady of Vladivostok in Surabaya with the new monstrance*

**Church for Nakhodka** - 5,200 sq. ft.

- \* Land (includes clearing and grading) - \$23,500
- \* Architect's fees - \$6,300
- \* City fees, building permits, inspection fees, etc. - \$2,400
- \* Reinforced concrete slab - \$10,700
- \* Materials and labor for building - \$76,000
- \* Flooring (tile, floor preparation, delivery, installation, cleanup) - \$8,100
- \* Roofing & insulation - \$12,150
- \* Heating & ventilation - \$16,500
- \* Electrical & lighting - \$9,500
- \* Sound system - \$3,200
- \* Plumbing & hook into sewer system - \$7,300
- \* Security & fire alarm system - \$4,200
- \* Cabinetry in sacristy - \$3,700
- \* **Windows** (includes shipping, design, and installation:
  - \* 2 lg stained glass w/frames and outer protective covering - \$16,350 x 2 = \$32,700
  - \* 1 med-lg stained glass on front of building with frame and covering - \$14,100
  - \* 2 med stained glass on sides - \$10,000 x 2 = \$20,000
  - \* 8 med-small stained glass on sides and steeple - 5,200 x 8 = \$41,600
  - \* 4 small stained glass on sides - \$3,800 x 4 = \$15,200
  - \* 4 small clear on back of building - \$380 x 4 = \$1,520
- \* Pews, unpadded, built locally - 32 31x \$460 = \$14,720
- \* Electronic organ, Roland C-series with bench - \$3,200
- \* Altar - \$3,900
- \* Tabernacle altar - \$2,200
- \* *Baptismal font* - \$1,850
- \* Lectern - \$790
- \* Sanctuary chairs - \$950
- \* Priedieus - 4 x \$350 = \$1,400
- \* Tabernacle, brass - \$3,100
- \* *Monstrance, brass* - \$1,900
- \* *Sanctuary light, brass with red glass* - \$100
- \* Stations of the Cross - \$2,400
- \* Titles added in Russian - \$420
- \* Crucifix - \$1,250

### Statues:

- \* *Blessed Mother (approx. 42")* - \$925
- \* *St. Joseph (approx. 42")* - \$925
- \* *Pascal candle holder and stand* - \$450
- \* Altar candle holders - 2 x \$95 = \$190
- \* Processional candles - 2 x \$180 = \$360
- \* Processional candle stand - \$200
- \* *Processional crucifix with stand* - \$1,300
- \* Credence table - \$190
- \* *Altar linens* - \$390
- \* Pavement, sidewalks, steps - \$9,300
- \* Landscaping - \$560

### Miscellaneous:

- \* Wastebaskets, outdoor mats, extra shelving, holy water fonts, literature racks, small refrigerator, votive candle racks, etc. - \$10,000

TOTAL = \$371,640

Unforeseen expenses (6% of total) - \$22,298

**TOTAL = \$393,938**

(Equates to \$75.76 per square foot, which includes all furnishings and is outstanding by American standards)



*Proposed church design for Our Lady of the Pacific Parish, Nakhodka*

## **Fr Kazimierz Radziszewski – Roman Catholic Missionary for the Russian Far East**

*By Geraldine Kelley*

*Adapted from Miroslava Efimova's Harsh Vineyard: A History of Catholic Life in the Russian Far East\*.*

Kazimierz Radziszewski was only twenty-nine years old when he volunteered for an assignment that would take him to the ends of the earth in the service of the Gospel. He would remain there his whole life, dying unexpectedly at the age of fifty-five in Blagoveshchensk, Amursky Oblast, Russian Far East.

Born in 1838 in present-day Belarus, the young Kazimierz enrolled in the Mogilev-Minsk Seminary in 1858 and in 1863 was ordained a priest for the Mogilev Diocese, which at that time extended all across the Russian land mass out to the Pacific Ocean. Although other priests had served in Siberia, Fr Kazimierz was the first priest to serve in the Russian Far East. He was not sent to the Far East to convert an indigenous population, but rather to attend to the pastoral care of the thousands of Polish and Lithuanian Catholics who had been forcibly resettled in the Far East following the three-way partition of Poland at the end of the eighteenth century. The Russian czars would probably have been content to ignore the spiritual needs of these resettled Catholics – except for the threat of their contact with French Catholic priests serving across the border with China, where there had been French missions since the 1600s. Better to pay a meager stipend for Catholic priests from Belorussia than chance such contacts between “politically unreliable” Poles and French Catholic priests!

Russian settlement of the Far East had begun in the late 1500s with fur traders advancing to the Pacific in the mid-1600s. By the late 1700s, the northern Pacific had attracted the interest of a number of explorers from America as well as western Europe. Russia eventually had outposts in Alaska, with the ultimate reach of settlement extending even into northern California. And while the main theater of the Crimean War (1853-1856), fought by the Russians against the French, British and Ottoman Empires, was the Black Sea, the navies of the

belligerents battled in the north Pacific as well. In short, there was ample need for border patrols, soldiers and sailors to defend the Pacific interests of the Russian czars – and Polish men conscripted into the Russian Army and Navy would meet this need.

Fr Kazimierz established the first parish in the Russian Far East in 1867, in Nikolaevsk-on-Amur, the base of the Amur Flotilla. He named the parish in honor of Sts. Peter and Paul, and it served as the base from which he traveled extensively over a territory larger than the state of Texas. His diaries describe the difficulties of his travels – what with the Amur River being navigable only half the year, and having to travel to Sakhalin Island by dogsled.

In 1872 the naval squadron was transferred to Vladivostok and the military garrison to Khabarovsk and Nikolsk-Ussurisk, leaving Fr Kazimierz nearly alone in Nikolaevsk. He began the tedious bureaucratic process of trying to transfer the parish to Vladivostok, but met with resistance from the Russian Orthodox patriarch, who would not permit the building of a Roman Catholic church in Vladivostok until the Russian Orthodox church had been completed. Permission was finally granted in 1890, nearly twenty years later. The Vladivostok Catholics built a small wooden church dedicated to the Nativity of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in 1891, but Fr Kazimierz was not to enjoy his new residence for long, as he died unexpectedly in 1893 while on a routine pastoral visit to Blagoveshchensk. His body was buried by an Orthodox priest in the city cemetery, just where is still unknown today.

*\*Harsh Vineyard is available from Mary Mother of God Society, [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org) or call 209-408-0728.*



*Fr Radziszewski between Mr and Mrs Peters*

### **Mary Mother of God Mission Society**

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

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

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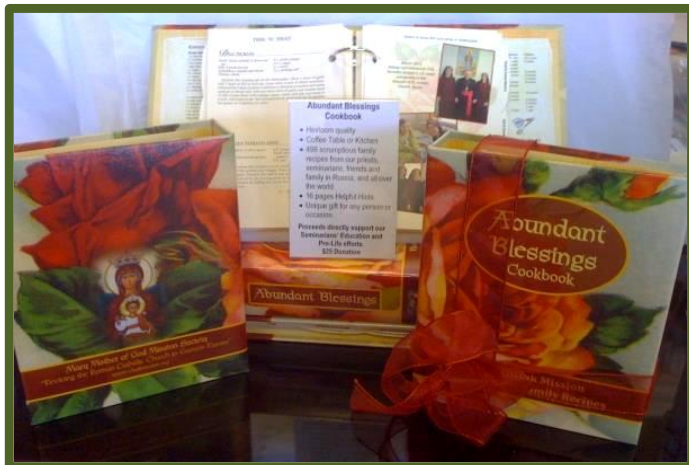
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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS	Page
Kids! Kids! Kids!	1
News Notes	4
Opportunities to Help	5
Development Desk	5
A Beautiful Plan	6
Church for Nakhodka	6
Missionary for the Russian Far East	7
Abundant Blessings Cookbook	8

## Abundant Blessings International Cookbook



Our *Abundant Blessings Cookbook* is beautiful heirloom quality, with 498 scrumptious family recipes from our priests, seminarians, friends and family in Russia, and all over the world.

**Wide variety of recipes! Here's just a sampling!**

- Vladivostok Sausage Soup (Russia)
- Knights of Columbus Award Winning Chili (USA)
- Pancit Sotanghon (Philippines)
- St. Christopher Soup (France)
- Lamb with Honey and Rosemary (Wales)
- Pierogi – Polish Dumplings (Poland)
- Barmbrack (Ireland)
- Barriguitas de Vieja - Pumpkin Pastry (Puerto Rico)

### More wonderful features!

- 7 ½ x 9 ½ x 2 ¼ Set in a wipe-able 3-ring padded hardbound cover.
- Recipes are separated by continents and subdivided by courses.
- Room to add your own family recipe pages.
- Divider pages are filled with pictures of our mission families.
- 16 pages of Helpful hints and cooking tips.

**\$25 donation**  
 per cookbook goes directly to support our Women's Crisis Pregnancy Centers and our seminarians' education fund.

### BONUS! BONUS! BONUS!

Receive a free copy of **The Joy of Christmas in Russia CD** with each copy of our cookbook as our thank you for supporting our seminarians and pro-life work. Produced by **The Russian Liturgical Music Society**, founded by Fr Daniel Maurer, C.J.D. Contains classic Christmas songs performed by the RLMS choir and orchestra. Recorded in the Most Holy Mother of God Cathedral in Vladivostok, Russia.