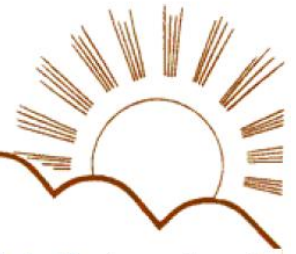




Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia
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Thank You, Russia!!!

By Brother Yohanes Marinus, C.J.D.

When I was a little boy I never dreamt that one day I would become a missionary in Russia. Nevertheless God has His own plan for me. He invites me to come and be a missionary in Russia even though it was just for one and a half years. God invited me to work with His people in Russia through the generosity of Father Myron Effing, C.J.D., and Father Daniel Maurer, C.J.D., two priests who already work in Russia for 23 years and who established a religious Community there, the "Augustinian Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord". And also the generosity of Father Inosensius Ruben Hetu C.J.D., our superior in Indonesia. I was a little bit afraid at that time when I decided to come and work in Russia, and so were my parents and family. But within myself I put my faith in God who invited me to work there. I believed that He would always guide and bless me as He already guided and blest the works of Father Myron and Father Daniel.



Brother Yohanes with Abbot Clemens of the Orthodox Monastery on Russian Island.

Big Events in Indonesia

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

Besides my annual trip to America, now I have to make an annual trip to the Philippines and to Indonesia to keep up with all our seminarians and sisters, and to meet with bishops and seminary rectors. It is amazing what developments I see.

With the permission of his Bishop Jaucian, SVD of Abra, Philippines, **Fr Inosensius Ruben Hetu, C.J.D.**, 37, took his **solemn final vows** as a member of the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord on December 8, 2014 in Surabaya, Indonesia where he had been ordained a priest

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The seminarians in Surabaya, Indonesia gave me a rousing welcome in native costumes!



With his fellow students at the university from many nations.

I decided to take part in this mission because I saw the necessity that the Catholic people and even some others in Russia needed some missionary to work with them. They need somebody to show them how to become a believer in Jesus Christ? how to become a Catholic? This fact reminds me with the writings of one of the great Theologians in our church, Saint Augustine. He wrote *“But how shall they call upon One in whom they have not believed? Or how shall they believe without one to preach?”* This phrase of Saint Augustine gave me strength to answer God’s invitation. As a Augustinian brother, I felt that I also have that kind of responsibility to introduce Jesus to the whole world especially in places that not know Him yet.

Culture shock was the first thing I experienced like many other people experience when they go to a new places or countries for the first time. There were some things that I needed to adjust to, like weather, food, and also how to communicate with people. But I never bother myself much with this kind of things. I believe God will help. And in fact I really enjoyed my stay there. This situation of course changed my former understanding, my earlier assumptions about Russia. There were some



Playing soccer with the kids at Parus Nadezhdi

problems that appeared, but I thought it was normal as a foreigner. Sometimes there were misunderstandings from Russian people about with our presence there. Some people thought that we were spies. Some people shouted at me “kunfu” or “judo”, because of the white cassock and black belt that I was wearing. According to me it was understandable, because it was very seldom for them to see a catholic brother or priest in their life. I saw in it a golden opportunity to explain to them about our catholic faith. Based on this experience I thought that walking through the city with our white cassock and black belt was a kind of “silent apostolate”.



Brother Yohanes working in the Hospice

I had many chances to visit the orphanage, hospital for children, and also the hospital for the dying. Being with the orphans and children in the hospital was a great moment for me. Playing, smiling, and singing together made me understand that they were great children for Russia and a great gift from the Lord for me to be friend with them. In the hospital for the dying, I often listened to their stories, the stories about their youth. Just be there and listen to them, and they will be very happy. Helping them eat and sing some old Russian songs was another happy moment they were waiting for. I had also many opportunities to visit our parishioners and also the sick people outside of Vladivostok, like Lesozavodsk and Romanovka. I also want to thank the generosity of so many people who always support our mission in Russia. I am sure that without your support we can do nothing. May the Lord always guide and bless each and every one of us in all our good deeds for the glorification of His name.

For me personally these experiences really had a great influence for my vocation. They gave me an idea about how to become a priest. What kind of a priest am I going to be? Thank you Russia for these experiences. Thank you very much. Praise to Russia!



At the Far Eastern Catholic Youth conference

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on August 15, 2013 for the Diocese of Abra (See *Vladivostok Sunrise* 114) The ceremony includes the community praying the “Come Holy Ghost” before the vows, a solemn blessing after the vows, and the singing of the Te Deum to thank God for this vocation.

Fr Ino is from Holy Cross Parish in Maulo’o, Sikka, Flores Island, Indonesia and is the son of Emanuel Lado Wora and Yuliana Mina. He has been assigned as the C.J.D. superior in Indonesia, working with our seminarians and sisters in Indonesia. That makes four of us now who are permanent members of the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord, including myself and Fr Daniel Maurer, Bro Patrick Napal, and now Fr Hetu. Meanwhile, besides his work as superior in Indonesia, Fr Hetu is working toward his doctoral degree in Development.



At the same Mass of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, **Bro Filipus Lasa, C.J.D.**, finished his novitiate which began in Russia and concluded in Indonesia. He took

Fr Inosensius receives the blessing after pronouncing his solemn life vows.



his first vows for three years. He will continue his studies in Maumere, Indonesia, toward the priesthood.

Bro Filipus in his new habit. His nickname is “Lefi”.

Also at the same ceremony two **Sisters in Jesus the Lord of Indonesia** took their first vows with us

in Surabaya. Sr Dany Sartika Angelin, C.J.D., known as Sr Angeline, and Sr Dafrosa Felisia Agustine, C.J.D., known as Sr Rosa, were very happy to at last become religious. They are sure many more young women will want to join them.



Sr Rose, Sr Marthina, and Sr Angeline in their new habits of canonesses. This is their formal habit. Their work habit is the same color as the American sisters’ habit.

They, and the C.J.D. sisters’ superior in Indonesia, Sr Marthina Tongli, C.J.D., have already formed an Indonesian corporation together with lay people with the goal of caring for orphans, of which they already have five in their care. The new corporation will be called “Guardian Angel” if the government gives approval.

During our meeting with the CJD sisters in Jakarta before the ceremony, we visited an unused building which is

proposed for the orphanage. The building is near a new parish and church where the sisters can also work and pray. The church is about 80% complete. This parish will be split off from the parish of Bekasi where our sisters now stay in a vacant home loaned to them. Rent for the new building will be about \$5000 per year, and there is hope to eventually buy the building.

On December 7 six **Indonesian seminarians** received **their candidate's cassock** from my hands, which means that they are planning to join our C.J.D. community and enter novitiate as soon as they finish their college degrees.



Six candidates in cassocks and seven postulants in grey shirts gathered with us in “Our Lady of Vladivostok” chapel in Surabaya on December 7. Three Sisters in Jesus the Lord of Indonesia also were with us. The seminarians are great singers with booming voices and really enjoy a rousing musical performance. They have founded a children’s choir here in the city of Surabaya, too, as well as a soccer team.

News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D

- I made my **annual trip** to America. The flight from New York to Moscow was so full that it was a miserable flight for 9 hours. Actually I did get a good rest at my sister Marilyn’s home in Evansville, Indiana. Now I’m back in the saddle. Many thanks to the volunteers and parishes that opened their doors to me while I was travelling and preaching in America.

- Here is a map of Russia showing the **diocesan boundaries**. You see that our Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk (yellow area) has more than half the territory of Russia! The other three dioceses are much smaller. Our poor bishop has to travel over all this territory. Glad I’m not the bishop! As the dean of the Vladivostok Deanery, my territory is about ¼ of our diocese, which is still huge.



- We’ve added three **more seminarians** in Vladivostok. One an American from Omaha, NE, one from Leyte, Philippines, and one from Rostov-na-Danu, Russian Federation. They are fine men, and we are expecting a lot from them. They will be studying at the university in Vladivostok for a year.



Those flat beds are not good for eating liquids, but Bro Jose tries to help.

- The good news is that the Franciscan Mission Warehouse in Independence, Missouri is ready to ship us 41 used **electric hospital beds**! We have to buy new mattresses for them, and we have to pay for transportation and customs expenses. It is a wonderful opportunity, so we can’t pass it up. We are looking for funding for our part of the expenses. Actually 25 beds will go to the Hospice, and the rest to the general city hospital in Lesozavodsk where our Women’s Support Center is located. They also don’t have proper beds! Both places have only flat beds currently, so you can imagine how difficult it is for sick elderly folks to eat the usual Russian soup without getting it in their lungs. That is a cause of dangerous lung infections. So we are hoping that the “new” beds will making eating and feeding a lot better. Chances are good we’ll have to upgrade the electricity at

the hospice, as they currently have only two single receptacles in each room! They need those for fans and other medical equipment.

- Another surprise! We recently **added** a lot of **foreigners** to our parish who are working in Vladivostok. There are more Americans. We've added a group of Filipino women who are working as housekeepers in the city, and we've added Vietnamese construction workers who are Catholics, too. It is really good to see the church fuller and fuller. We've also been visited by Filipino and Indonesian workers on cruise and freight ships. They complain that there isn't a seamen's club in Vladivostok, so they don't have wholesome ways to spend their time when they are docked here.

- Our Vladivostok Sisters in Jesus the Lord are excited about at last being able to hold **retreats in their Russian Island home** near the university. Here is a recent group of retreatants with Sr Catherine Marie, C.J.D. and Sr Mary Stella, C.J.D.



Nothing like a little Fall cleanup to peak the appetite.

- Every Fall on the Sunday before school starts there is the blessing of pupils and teachers in Vladivostok, and it wouldn't be complete without everyone getting an **apple!**



Just see if you can manage to save an apple for the teacher!

- This year **All Souls Day** was on Sunday. Parishioners like our tradition of naming our deceased and placing candles for them as we pray at mass.



- The **Gregorai twins**, Diana and Angelina, made their First Communion in October, together with their older brother Daniel. They barely survived a complicated birth and were baptized and received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at the same time in their hospital beds. Now they often pictured in "Twins" campaigns and advertising. Congratulations, kids!



Daniel and his sisters

● **Regina Stanislavovna**, a lifetime parishioner died this Fall. A dealer in fresh flowers, she always provided a beautiful bouquet for every Sunday and Feastday Mass. Eternal Rest grant to her, O Lord! May she enjoy in Heaven even more beauty than she brought to us on earth!



● Thanks be to God, on the 9th of September Fr Sebastian D'Silva signed the agreement with the City of Nakhodka administration regarding the transfer of land totaling about 32310 sq ft to the Catholic Parish of

Our Lady of the Pacific in Nakhodka. Immediately within three days, he collected all required documents and went to the registry office to register the land. But only in December did he manage to register the land! So now finally the process of acquiring the land is finished. He says, "Now I signed the contract with the architectural firm 'Nakhodka Project' and they promised to start working on the structural plan for the church as early as possible. According to the contract the structural plan and permission to start the construction work will be ready within 120 days. Meantime I have to conclude the contracts for electricity, water, and city heating system. The architects' fees are whopping \$16,000.00. A long way to go but things are moving in the right direction so we can start construction of our church. So I ask your prayers."



Planned church of Our Lady of the Pacific as seen from the busstop nearby.

Opportunities

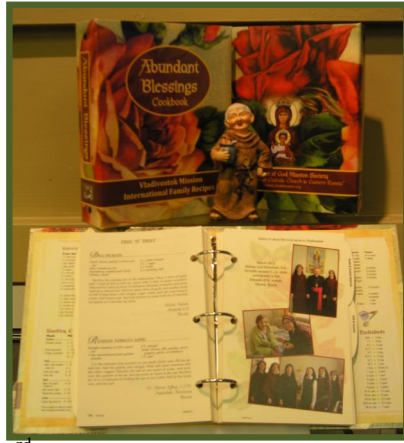
♥ The Sisters in Jesus the Lord of Indonesia have begun their **orphanage** in an empty home near Jakarta which was loaned to them for one year. Now the year is nearly up, and they have located a much larger building nearer to a parish church which they can rent for five years and which will hold a much larger number of children. The first year's rent is \$5000 or about \$415 per month. Anybody want to help the sisters and the orphans get a long term home?

♥ The growing number of our seminarians in Indonesia is a healthy sign for Russia and other places that need priests. On December 13 I met with Bishop Pereira of the Maumere Diocese asking his permission to increase the number of our students in his seminary and to **buy land and build a house of formation** for those attending the Ledalero Diocesan Seminary during their Philosophy years. He willingly gave his approval, and we have located a 4.4 acre piece of land near the seminary which would be very suitable. Anybody want to be a major donor on this project?

♥ Our **Vladivostok international recipes cookbook!**

Abundant Blessings celebrates our mission families and many blessings.

Recipes were submitted from our priests, seminarians, sisters, and families from all over the world. Many have already placed 2nd and 3rd orders. Here are some of the great features in our cookbook.



- 498 international recipes tab divided by countries
- Beautiful rose cover design, thickly padded and washable.
- 16 pages of cooking helpful hints
- Space for your notes
- Sturdy three ring design
- Personal touch of our mission family pictures
- Cost: \$25 each (includes S/H in continental US)
- Benefits our seminarians' education and Women's Support Centers.

This month's recipes peek is from our **Mediterranean and Africa** section.

Akoho Sy Voania (Coconut Chicken), Madagascar, Kristie Nelson, Modesto, CA

Greek Chicken Pasta, Greece, Carla Specht, Annawan, IL

Currie Shrimp Couscous, Morocco, John Spiers, Seattle WA

Borekas (Phyllo and Cheese Pastry) Turkey, Vicky Trevillyan, Modesto CA

BONUS! Receive a free copy of *The Joy of Christmas in Vladivostok* CD with your cookbook as our thank you. Performed, produced and recorded by our choir and orchestra in the Most Holy Mother of God Parish in Vladivostok.

♥ FOCUS has helped us with our work with kids in Lesozavodsk for three years already. And it has been a very successful partnership which we want to continue.

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

Now the Diocese of Pontianak in Borneo is inviting **FOCUS** and our Indonesian sisters and seminarians to have a similar program for needy kids during the summer of 2015. What do you say, FOCUS missionaries? Pack your bags for Russia or Indonesia!

♥ Do you know of a **Catholic Conference** coming to your area? Please let us know about any Catholic conferences in your area. We spread the news of our mission by setting up booths at conferences. We'll send our nearby reps or you can join our bureau and attend for the mission! We'll train you. It's a fun way to connect with faithful Catholics and help our mission.

♥ **Priest speakers** needed for weekend parish mission talks. Contact the Modesto office for more information.

♥ Give an eternal gift. **Mass requests** celebrated in Russia may be sent to the mission office for your loved ones or special intentions. Suggested stipend is \$15 per mass.

♥ The SHARES program is going strong. Thank you **SHARES card** users! You earned **\$2301** 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! You can hand out cards to your friends and family to use.

♥ We are a registered charity with **Smile.Amazon.com**. When you shop through Smile.Amazon.com, select Mary Mother of God Mission Society as your charity and .5% of your purchase goes to our mission. This program costs you nothing! For more information go to Smile.amazon.com/about or visit our website under “Get Involved/Donate Painlessly. It's a great way to help the mission while you're shopping online!

♥ You've helped us raise **\$135,080**, that's over 1/3 the way to our goal of \$393,938, to build **Our Lady of the Pacific Church** in Nakhodka. Costs for much of the interior furnishings have been covered. We need to cover the “brick and mortar” and land expenses. Please help us pray to cover these costs.

Mary Mother of God Mission Society

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From the development desk...

Happy New Year to our Friends of Vladivostok Mission,

Our mission was blessed with so much last year with growing numbers of vocations, our sisters coming to stay on Russian Island, Our Lady of the Pacific Church building project in Nakhodka slowly becoming a reality, more parishioners in the pews, and so much more!

We are grateful to God, our Blessed Mother, and to all of you for your prayers and support to make all possible. We pray for our blessings to continue.

Amid your regular giving, there are ways to increase help to the mission where there is no additional cost to you. You can find details to "Donate Painlessly." on our website www.vladmission.org/getinvolved.

Here are some of what you'll read about,

- Shop **Smile.Amazon.com**. Amazon gives .5% of your purchases to Mary Mother of God Mission.
- **S.H.A.R.E.S. card**. Save Mart Corporation gives up to 3% of your grocery store purchases.
- Donate your **air miles** to Mary Mother of God Mission Society.
- Join our ink/toner, cell phone and technology **recycling program**.

- Participate in your company's **Matching Gifts** program.
 - When you **sell on Ebay**, you can designate a percentage of your purchase to the mission
 - When you use **Goodsearch.com** as your search engine the mission receives a penny for every search.
 - Shop online through **Goodshop.com** and the mission receives up to 15% of your purchase total.
- If you have any questions, please call our office at 209-408-0728. I'll be happy to help.
 Have a very happy and blessed new year! Gratefully
 Yours, Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Desk



Sisters home at last on Russian Island