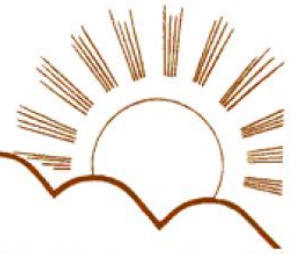




Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia
Issue Number One Hundred Twenty Two March 1, 2015

It finally happened!!

Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord Become Official

By Rev Daniel Maurer, C.J.D.

We Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord have finally become an official religious community, thanks to Bishop Kherubim Pereira, SVD of the Diocese of Maumere, Flores Island, Indonesia! Here is a photo of our Fr Inosensius with Bishop Kherubim holding the official decree! We thank God and Bishop Kherubim for this wonderful step. All our seminarians are rejoicing. It happened on December 23, so it was a great Christmas present to us all!



Fr Inosensius Hetu, C.J.D. and Bishop Kherubim Pereira, S.V.D., Ordinary of the Diocese of Maumere, Indonesia with the decree of approbation

This is one of the greatest events in the 27-year history of our community. I must also say this: Bishop Kherubim would not have done so if he were not favorably

impressed with all of the members of our community whom he has met. In his letter he writes very clearly about this: "...having observed your students and priest Fr Inosensius...". Thank you, dear brothers in Maumere and Fr Ino, for your witness of strong faith and charity, and for the fidelity with which you live the beautiful charism of our canonical tradition. I also hope someday to be able to thank Bishop Kherubim in person for his warm welcome and hospitality to you into his diocese and for the great act of hope, which is his official approbation of our order. This is an answer to years of prayer!

2014 was a great year for our still-fledgling order of the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord. Not only did we receive an official approbation in Indonesia, but we also had 2 young men profess their solemn perpetual vows, 6 young men make first vows, and 1 brother renew his temporary vows. We have five major seminarians studying in two different seminaries in Indonesia, and three major seminarians studying in three different major seminaries in the Philippines. We have three novices here in Vladivostok now, and we may have 10 novices here in 2015. We have 8 resident candidates in Indonesia and several candidates in the Philippines and in the USA.

- Q. What is a Canon Regular?** **A.** We are the temple clergy of Christianity.
- Q. What do Canons Regular do?** **A.** We serve in big parishes or institutions where we can live in community to serve the needs of the local Church.
- Q. How do you do that?** **A.** First by prayer, especially by the Liturgy of the Hours in public, and then being available for the needs of those around us, and by being examples of a Christian community.
- Q. Are you a religious community?** **A.** Yes, we are professed to the Evangelical Counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience.
- Q. How can I become a member?** **A.** Speak to one of our priests, brothers or sisters, or write us!

I always remind myself that it is not the numbers that are important. It is the vocation of each young man that is a precious gift from God – however many there may or may not be. I am so grateful to God that He has seen fit to send us each member of our order. They are all serious Christian men who love the Lord and who are convinced that He is calling them to the canonical life of liturgy, fraternal charity and service in the Church. They are talented, happy, intelligent, well-adjusted and flexible. Five of them will be ready to be ordained to the transitional diaconate this year.

2014 also brought two other great blessings of religious life to us: With many difficulties and trials (to be expected in the Russian Far East) our Sisters (Canonesses) in Jesus Lord (C.J.D.) from Kansas City established their first resident community here in Vladivostok. For many years two of them had been coming here as often as visa restrictions would allow; and this year all three of them received or were approved for temporary residency permits, allowing them to buy apartments and establish a permanent community. With all they have gone through, they have shown themselves to be highly intrepid, fortitudinous, hard-praying, hard-working, courageous, charitable and humble! (I could go on much longer with this litany, but I do not want to overly embarrass them, as they are on this mailing list.)

Also in 2014 a new group of Canonesses of Jesus the Lord have begun their community religious life and apostolate in the Archdiocese of Jakarta in Indonesia. The leader of this new foundation is Sr Marthina Tongli, C.J.D. She spent several months with our CJD sisters here in Vladivostok last winter. They have the permission of the archbishop to live together, accept vocations and to serve orphans in an orphanage that they have founded near Jakarta. Fr Myron visited them during his trip to Indonesia in December and celebrated their profession of private, temporary vows.

Now it is 2015, and the year dedicated by Pope Francis to consecrated life. We hope it will be a great year for all religious and for the Church in general!

The Foundation of “Guardian Angel Orphanage” in Jakarta, Indonesia:

Bringing Hope and Love to Our Neighbors

By Sister Marthina Tongli, C.J.D.

At 6:30 in the morning of September 25, 2014 three children were brought to our community house in Jakarta because they had no place to go. We kept them for ten days, but finally entrusted them to a regular orphanage

because we just didn't have room for them in our house! On October 1 the kids were back with us and on November 4 they were picked up by their parents, only to be returned to us on November 15! They had been dangerously acting out, maybe because they really wanted to be with us! With all our limitations of space and the feeling that we weren't ready for this yet, we strove to accommodate them. We believe that these children have been a channel of blessing to our community, because when the number increased to five, we were challenged to think and act for the immediate establishment of an actual institution.

So the “Guardian Angel Foundation” was established on December 17, 2014 by official state registry and approved by the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights No. AHU-11142.50.10.2014 dated December 24, 2014!



The kids already at Guardian Angel

The Guardian Angel Foundation was established to provide service activities based on love for the poor, the displaced, for elderly and special needs people, and for pregnant women with an emphasis on the human formation of the person: to be of faithful, good character, honest, and with independent living skills.

For our symbol and seal, the Foundation took an angel-shaped logo with open arms in blue and red, with the Jerusalem Cross (from our C.J.D. seal) resting in Noah's ark, and with two human footprints. The open angel wings represents religious life that is always open to be a channel of God's grace and blessing, a promise that we sisters will serve anyone who needs help. The blue color with two footprints symbolizes the Pro-life movement, the participation with Divine Providence and God's love. The Red is a symbol of the heart of Jesus who always loves.





The Board members of Guardian Angel Foundation

The Jerusalem Cross means that the Good News must be communicated to the four corners of the world, culminating in the message of salvation that the Cross is not only seen as a source of sufferings but especially as a source of salvation.

So the Guardian Angel Foundation is a non-profit organization that is imbued with the spirit of the CJD Sisters, and organized by us CJD sister and other volunteers who are committed to our work.

This is what we hope to do:

- Collect and provide decent shelter and education for orphans, and abandoned.
- Create an atmosphere of brotherly love that brings people to an attitude of faith, worship and glory to God, and to respect and love others and life.
- Restoring the dignity of our wards, especially to help women to free themselves from ignorance, promiscuity, underdevelopment and injustice.
- Provide advocacy and self-empowerment for the needy.
- Providing services and vocational training towards a more independent life.
- Provide assistance and services to the elderly, broken families, victims of trafficking, and women trapped in a forced marriage.
- Provide counseling and assistance for people with psycho-spiritual problems.

Besides us sisters, our Board of Directors includes wonderful lay volunteers. We already opened our doors on January 10, 2015, when we had a great celebration with our C.J.D. brothers from Surabaya. Our orphanage now has a total of 20 Children already. 15 children came from the very remote island of Nias. They are children whose parents are victims of the great flood, mostly children from families living below the poverty line. Now the challenge for us is the cost for school children, as they all are of school age. Due to space limitations, they all still live one home with us. The rooms are used for everything: prayer, meals, study and sleep. If you feel moved to help, contact Mary Mother of God Mission Society.

Our brothers prepared the building and joined the fun.



Indonesian benefactors cutting the cake

Native dancers lead the opening celebration



Some of the guests who gathered for the event



News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing and Rev Daniel Maurer, C.J.D.

- “**Christmas Midnight Mass**” was really full, as Christmas is on a workday in Russia, so most people can only come to the night mass. Of course there is still Orthodox Christmas on January 7, but frankly, the Russians celebrate New Years more than Christmas. Of course there were three Christmas Concerts in our church, which are the most popular of the year.



The Monastery crèche

- This year the **Christmas concerts** were as good or even better than ever. Our main organist Marina Omelchenko came from Moscow for all Christmas liturgies and the three sold-out concerts on Dec 26, 27, 29. I was afraid that, with a very full schedule of holiday classical music events at the new Civic Opera House (with 1600 seats), the competition would be fierce, but our concerts were all sold-out one week before the first one. People seem to enjoy our combination of the best Christmas music in the city and our Christmas meditations between the musical selections. The concert goes responded with very warm applause and demands for encores each evening. We hope and pray that these productions help stimulate them to grow in their Faith or even inspire them to begin their journey with the Lord.

- The **Christmas Festival of Christian Choirs** drew one less choir than last year because one of the Baptist congregations has a new choir director who did not think that his choir was well enough prepared. I suppose he does not realize that the event is “just us Christians” having a good time, sharing with one another the music we prepared for our own Christmas celebrations and then gathering with all the members of all the choirs to sing several carols together. For me it is very heartening to hear all of the carols; and the feeling of unity in Christ is high. After the yearly festival I try to get some rest from all the activities!



Br Ferdinandus Patwa, C.J.D., did a solo of a Christmas song in Indonesian at the Festival



The Choir from the Presbyterian Church

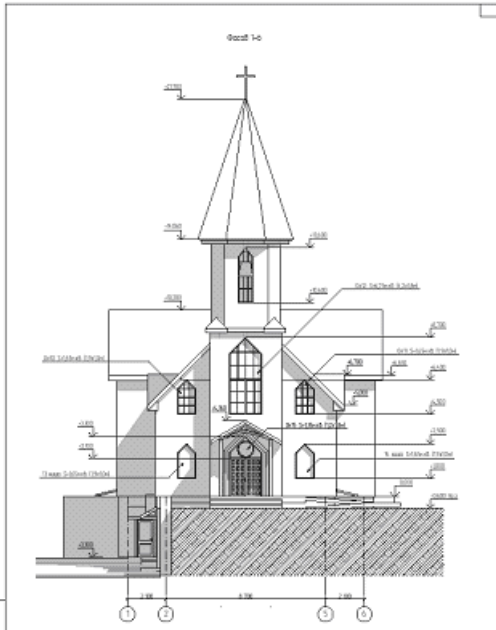
- Our **Diego Cera pipe organ** arrived from the Philippines on January 13. We have to wait until April for



Fr Dan looking at the boxes and boxes that came from the Philippines

the two master organ builders to arrive for the assembly of the organ. Attached is a photo taken on the day of arrival. Before it was actually released from the Vladivostok port authority customs house (where it was in limbo for more than two months), we could not decide the dates of the official blessing and the inaugural concerts. Now that it is actually in the church and can be assembled in May, we are hoping that all these events will take place at the end of May. We are very grateful to all of the people – in Europe, East Asian Russia, the Philippines and America – who are involved in obtaining for us this wonderful gift.

- Fr Sebastian D'Silva continues to make good progress on building the church of **Our Lady of the Pacific in Nakhodka**. After received the final decision from the city about the land, and after the surveyors got finished, now the architect is doing the final plans for the building. (The previous plans were preliminary in order to ask for the land.) Here is a final plan for the main façade.



- There are some small signs that more **Russians** are practicing their Christian faith. Some polls show that about 2% of the baptized Christian population attended Church on Christmas. This is at least twice as high as it was in the past, but it is still the lowest of any country in the world. We are so grateful to all of our benefactors and to all who support us with their prayers for the continuation of our parish work and our evangelical and charitable outreach.

- “The **Papal visit to the Philippines** last Jan 15-19 was so exciting and I had wonderful experiences during those days,” says our Brother Harben Forte who is studying in the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay. “I got to see the Pope three times. I feel so blessed seeing the Holy Father and I am happy to experience it with my family, friends in

our parish, and with my seminary classmates. He really was the presence of God in our midst during those days.”

- Way back in 2004 I had an accident on the ice that pretty well ruined the car and sent me to the hospital and sickbed for two months. The **poor car** was replaced by its twin and still has been our mainstay ever since! But her time is running out and she gets very feeble when we try to accelerate. I can't tell if it is the carburetor or the automatic transmission. But clearly it was time to get another car as this one is pretty well falling apart at the seams. Thank you, **Lynch Family Foundation** for our new used car! I hope it serves and lasts as long as the old one!



The “new” 2011 Toyota Wish, 4-wheel drive, seats that lie down for baggage, and mostly electronic everything. The old one was a Toyota, also. Great cars!



- **Judge Gerald "Jerry" Alfveby**, 82, a long time benefactor of ours and chairman of our sister parish committee at Nativity of our Lord Parish in St Paul, Minnesota for many years, died on January 3, at home. He was retired after many years as a Ramsey County Family Court Judge, and was especially known for his work with families in the divorce court. “Loved ones, friends and colleagues admired him

for his kindness, honesty, integrity, fairness and patience,” says his obituary, and we admired him because of his commitment to our mission, too. His wife Lucy is also a member of our committee. They celebrated 54 years of marriage. Our condolences go to Lucy and to his children, and to the other members of the sister parish committee who will miss him, too, and to Nativity Parish who lost a great parishioner. Eternal Rest grant to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him!

● Once in a while we get a surprise! Our archivist Tatyana, who studies and writes about the history of our parish, brought me a new picture she found showing the temporary church that the parish used after the original Vladivostok church burnt down and while the brick church was being built. What surprised me is that it seems that the previous photo we had of the front of the building was **printed backward!** Tatyana confirmed that it was backward by studying the coats of the parishioners pictured, as women's coats and men's coats close in opposite directions! (Why didn't I think of that?!) You can see for yourself!



The recently found picture that made the difference



Pierwsza Komunia św. dzieci we Władywostoku.
X. Biskup Sliwowski

The picture as we found it in a European archive printed long ago.



Pierwsza Komunia św. dzieci we Władywostoku.
X. Biskup Sliwowski

The picture reversed so that coats close in the right direction, and the small building to the right is properly placed, according to the newly found photo. Incidentally, the five boys in front in black holding their First Communion candles were all brothers, sons of one of the builders of the Vladivostok forts which were no longer needed after the era of nuclear weapons, and which are now being developed for tourists.

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The land has been acquired and registered to the church. The architects are currently working on structural plans. We hope to have at least 50% of the budget by the time the plans are complete so we may begin building. We're \$56,804 from the 50% mark.

- **Liturgical Music Concerts** are an extraordinary way to reach the people and spread the news of our Faith. Christmas and Easter concerts, ecumenical choirs and special performances presented the gospels through music and its oral introduction to 3421 visitors in 2014. The music concerts continue to be an important means to proclaim the gospel.

- **Sisters In Jesus The Lord** have moved into their convent on Russian Island. They are doing remarkable work among the people within the children's programs, conferences, Women's Centers, nursing home, music concerts, teaching catechism, sponsoring catechumens, and more!

- **Home Front** Our stateside representatives attended 43 **Catholic conferences** and events in the USA and Canada. \$2467 direct donations were received at the conferences and thousands of pieces of mission literature were dispersed. Gifts sold at the conferences paid for all fees to attend and provided additional funds for the mission. Our priests and other presenters spoke during weekend masses at 50 different parishes throughout the USA. Second offerings are forthcoming.

- We opened a mission **Gifts of Faith store** adjacent to the mission office. Earnings have funded all office space overhead and 1 staff person, as well as proved to be a supplementary means of income for the mission.

Thanks for your help! Gratefully Yours, Vicky Trevillyan,
Mission Desk 209-408-0728

Opportunities

♥ You've helped us raise **\$140,165**, that's 36% 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.

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

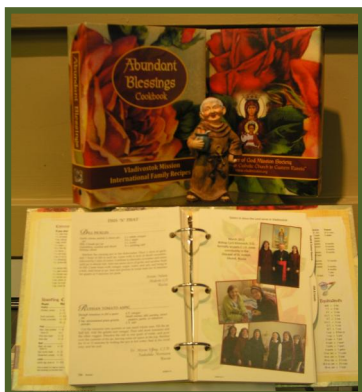
♥ The adventure begins in Vladivostok! Organize a **mission trip** to Vladivostok with your parish or university. Contact the mission office for details.

♥ 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.

♥ Might you consider sponsoring one of our **seminarians**? You'll receive personal email news and communication from your seminarian. We have been blessed with many faithful men to our order of Canons Regular of Jesus The Lord, as well as women in our sister order who have answered the call to religious life. Each of our seminarians is in need of individuals or groups who can sponsor them through prayer and financial support while in the seminary. The annual cost for 1 seminarian for education, books, transportation, and humble living expenses is \$10,774. Julianne Immordino from NY is so kind to provide exquisite hand crafted **Swarovski crystal rosaries** to all who donate \$500 or more for our seminarians.

♥ We are a registered charity with **Smile.Amazon.com**. When you shop through Amazon/Smile.Amazon.com, select Mary Mother of God Mission Society as your charity of choice and 0.5% 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. A great way to help the mission when you shop online!

♥ Easter and Mother's Day is just around the corner. Our Vladivostok international recipes cookbook, **Abundant Blessings**, will make a very special and unique gift. Our book celebrates our mission families and many blessings. Recipes



were submitted from the many cultures and countries or our priests, seminarians, sisters, and families. Many have already placed 2nd and 3rd orders. **Sales from our cookbook go to our seminarians' education and our Women's Support Centers.**

Here are some of the great features in our cookbook.

- 498 international recipes tab divided into 9 geographic areas of the world
- 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)

This month's recipes' peek is from our **Mexico and Caribbean** section.

- **King Ranch Chicken Casserole**, Mexico, Donnita Whittier, VA
 - **Fried Ripe Plantains**, Jamaica, Kristie Nelson, Modesto, CA
 - **Green Chile**, Mexico, Matt Werner, Denver, CO
 - **Barriguitas de Vieja ("Old Lady's Belly", Pumpkin Pastry)**, Puerto Rico, Chef Victor M. Collazo, San Juan
- Please email us to share your thoughts about our cookbook and recipes. usoffice@vladmission.org
BONUS! Receive a free copy of *The Joy of Christmas in Vladivostok* CD with your cookbook as our thank you.

♥ CA and NV call us to get your free **SHARES card!** This program is going strong and greatly helping the mission. Thank you current SHARES card users! You earned **\$2503** 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. It costs you nothing to participate. 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, too. Please contact Vicky Trevillyan or Jessica Hoke at the mission office, 209-408-0728 or usoffice@vladmission.org for more information or visit www.vladmission.org

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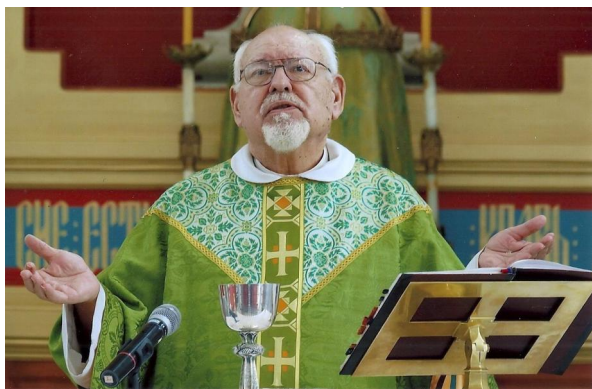
Return Service Requested

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From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

A Blessed and Holy Lent to You and Your Families, From your many prayers and financial support, the mission is constantly a buzz with efforts to bring the Eucharist to the Catholics in Eastern Russia, develop new places of worship, cultivate a climate of charity to aid the poor and needy, especially the children, educate and form new priests and sisters, and so much more. It can be mind boggling to comprehend all the activities under the leadership of our pastor, Fr Myron Effing, C.J.D. He inspires us all. We thank him for shepherding us on this wonderful journey of faith and hope. Fr Myron celebrated his 74th birthday in February. (Happy Birthday Fr Myron!)



We thank God for his many blessings and for Fr Myron's grace and energy to resuscitate and make vibrant once again, our Catholic faith in Russia.

Here are some highlights on just a few of the many labors of the mission.

- **Five Women's Support Centers** Counsel women and families, pro-life education in schools, provide aid to babies and mothers who choose not to have abortions, Rachel's Vineyard retreats, and more. Over 1500 babies have been saved from abortion to date. The cost to operate our centers and provide the help to families averages \$880 per month, per center.
- **Vocations** – Fr. Inocensius Hetu was ordained last year. We have 28 seminarians in formation (25 from Indonesia, 3 from Philippines) with 2 others from Vietnam and the USA discerning their vocation. The budget for 1 seminarian is \$10,774 per year. 5 of our seminarians received Guardian Angel benefactors who are sponsoring them for 1 year. 6 seminarians received partial support through their Guardian Angel's help. We've received additional donations for seminarian support from benefactors in the USA and Indonesia. We continue to pray for additional Seminarian Guardian Angel sponsors.
- **Our Lady of the Pacific Church, Nakhodka** You've helped us raise \$140,165 or 36% of the \$393,938 budget. (Continued on Page Six)