



# Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

## Travelling to Russia

*By Jane Wabiszewski*

It was never in the plans for my husband, Steve, and I, to go to Russia. Then in March, our son, Mark, informed us that God told him we were to go to Russia and bring his small security nest egg to help the poor. With no direction on where to go we searched the internet for missions in Russia and found Mary Mother of God Mission Society. We contacted Vicky in the Modesto office and she was extremely encouraging about coming to Vladivostok to visit the mission church and see their work.



*Steve and Jane with Fr Daniel, Br Louis and Br Ferdinandus*

When we arrived we immediately were made to feel at home. Father Dan, the brothers, and sisters were all extremely welcoming. The Sisters in Jesus the Lord took us with them on many of their daily activities. We were able to visit the hospice twice and two of the orphanages. During the visits with the elderly and children we could see that the sisters are love in action. Steve was able to go to Romanovka and see the Trapinka Children's Center there. The Sisters of Charity of St Anne have really given the children a place to go for love and support. We were also blessed to meet Nadia from Lesozavodsk after mass. Her testimony and the work she and her husband Vladimir are doing with the very poor in their town, as well as the pro-life centers is very inspiring.



*Sister Stella helping a patient to read one of the books that we brought.*

*Kids in Romanovka doing what kids didn't used to do.*



We have always known that our church is worldwide and it was awesome to find our church family on the other side of the world. We attended daily mass. Meals were a very enjoyable time to get to know each other while cooking and eating. While we were there we were made to feel like everyone was part of a family. We heard so many stories about the history of the church and how they got it back as well as all the work done to get where they are now. What a miraculous story!



*With Nadezhda Morozova, the Director of Caritas Women's Support Centers*

We learned a lot on our trip to Russia but the biggest thing we took away was that knowledge about the word of God is desperately needed. It is not the Russian peoples' fault that they don't know the word of God. The communists did such a complete job of killing or imprisoning anyone who had anything to do with religion. In many ways without God a society becomes dysfunctional. The selfless work the religious and other members of the Mary Mother of God mission is critical to the people of their area. Our new family has a special place in our hearts and we will continue to pray for all of them and support them in any way we can.



*Such a comfort to have caring people around.*

## **Q's and A's** Do your Women's Support Centers get any government aid?

No, no direct financial support. Three of the centers are located in government buildings, so that is like rent support, but we usually do things for them in return, too, and they are grateful for what we do for women.

In Lesozavodsk our Center is in a small room in the main city hospital. We will soon be donating used beds to that hospital that we got free from America. That will be quite a cost savings for the hospital.

In Vladivostok the Center is in the government Women's Social Services building. We help them by offering NFP classes and Breast Feeding classes to all women who want to attend, and they use one of our ultrasound machines.

In Artyom we are located in one of the government office buildings. They see that we help many women in that poor city.

In Arsenyev we are located in a private women's goods store. They are glad that we attract women to their store.

In Nakhodka we are in the parish apartment, so we don't pay rent.

On Russia Island we are in a parish apartment, too, near the university.

Each Center needs a budget each month of \$400, and they also need at least \$300 a month for supplies, especially for the new moms who decide against abortion. The Guardian Angel program has specific sponsors who help specific kids in poor families. We find sponsors for these kids, so their funds don't come out of the budget for the Centers.

Thanks for asking!

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

# 2014's Adopt-a-Birth Kids

Thank you, Donors, for caring about these needy newborn children in Russia!



**St Mary, Pray for us this May!**



## News Notes

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

● February 20 was a great but difficult day, rather, night! The **container full of beds** was delivered to us to unload at 8:00 on Friday night from Russian Customs. It was great that the novices were here, and they worked until 12:30 unloading and storing them. We don't have a large warehouse, so we had to put them temporarily in the church. Thank you to the Franciscan Mission Warehouse in Missouri for sending the beds to us. They will be a great help to the dying folks at the Hospice, and for patients at the Lesozavodsk City Hospital. We still have the job of sorting them, attaching spare parts, checking on their electrical requirements, and delivering them to their destinations. Thanks, Donors, who helped provide the means to do all of this!



*We had a crane to remove the heavy beds from the semi.*



*Blistering cold as a front rolled by in the night was the setting.*



*The novices really worked as a team to get the job done.*



*Even with a crane, it was a tough job.*

*Unloading at the Hospice*



We were already able to send the beds to the Hospice here in Vladivostok, and soon to the City Hospital in Lesozavodsk. Here is a photo for you from the Hospice. The patients can now push the button and sit up or elevate their feet. Of course we and the patients will be forever grateful to those who made it possible.



*A volunteer at the hospice by a new reclining bed.*

- This year the **Chrism Mass** was held by Bishop Kirill in Yakutsk, in the Sakha Republic, near the Arctic Circle—the coldest continuously inhabited city on earth. It was interesting to be there for the first time. (All us priests were required to go.) It is a rapidly developing city with all the oil and gas production in the Arctic, and production of deer meat. The Salesians have been working in the Sakha Republic for over 20 years. It is a nice city, but strange that all buildings are built up on stilts, and all hot piping is above the surface. The reason is that the land is in permafrost. The building where we stayed was a modular building imported from Canada—It was nice and warm!

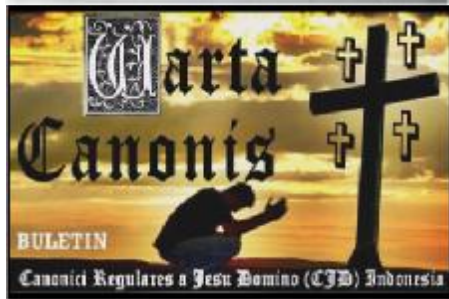


- On “Palm” Sunday, called “Herb” Sunday here, we had the procession with Russia’s version of palms: pussy willow branches. They are the first signs of Spring, so they are popular for decorations at this time of year, and for the **Passion Sunday Procession**. Here is a photo for you.

- March 3 was a big day for our Indonesian crew. The Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord were officially incorporated as a **charitable corporation in Indonesia**. It means that our bus, land, and other properties in Indonesia no longer need to be in the name of a private person. Here is a copy of the decree:



And here is more: The Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord in Indonesia are now publishing their own “Sunrise” for Indonesian language benefactors. Here is the masthead. It reads “The Canons’ News”.



• The **ordination to the diaconate** is scheduled on June 7 for our Brother Ferdinandus Wale, C.J.D., in Maumere, Flores, Indonesia. Brother “Ferdie” was born in Ende, Flores, but has lived also on Borneo and Kalimantan. He finished the seminary and took his priesthood qualifying exams already before novitiate. Hopefully his priestly ordination will be in the Fall. His help is really needed in Indonesia where we have so much activity and vocations.



Besides English, Russian, and Indonesian, Brother Ferdi speaks several local Indonesian languages. He likes to sing solos.

*Brother Ferdi’s famous smile*



*Brother Ferdi with ice skates, “walking on water” for the first time in the bay on Russian Island.*

- Our Indonesian and Filipino brothers were delighted with the **weather in Russia** this winter. It was the first time they had experienced snow. Well, they did get tired of shoveling!
- February 2 was the **celebration of consecrated life** throughout the world. Religious from our region got together to celebrate at the invitation of the Sisters in Jesus the Lord at their convent on Russian Island.



*Sisters from Russia, Korea, and America, with priests and brothers from America, Italy, Kazakhstan, Poland, the Philippines, Indonesia—all serve in our state of Primorye.*



# Opportunities

♥ The adventure begins in Vladivostok! Organize a **mission trip** to Vladivostok with your parish or university. Contact the mission office for details or go to our website [www.vladmission.org/getinvolved](http://www.vladmission.org/getinvolved).

♥ 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.

♥ Do you shop online at Amazon? Then please go to **Amazon/Smile.Amazon.com** and select Mary Mother of God Mission Society as your charity of choice and .5% of your purchase goes to our mission. It's that easy. This program costs you nothing. For more information go to [Smile.amazon.com/about](http://Smile.amazon.com/about) or visit our website under "Get Involved/Donate Painlessly. A great way to help the mission when you shop online!"

♥ May is the month of our Blessed Mother Mary. We celebrate all mothers this month! Our Vladivostok international recipes cookbook, **Abundant Blessings**, will make a very special and unique gift. This beautifully arranged cookbook celebrates our mission's many blessings. Recipes were submitted from the many cultures and countries of our priests, seminarians, sisters, and families. Many have placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> orders. **Proceeds from our cookbook go to our seminarians' education and help mothers and children in 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 sample comes from our **Russia** section.

- **Okoshka (Cold Soup, great for hot summer days)**, Russia, Fr. Myron Effing, C.J.D., Vladivostok, Russia
- **Russian Sour Cabbage**, Russia, Tatyanna Shaposhnikova, Vladivostok, Russia
- **Vladivostok Sausage Soup**, Russia, Br Arnulfo Undona, C.J.D., Vladivostok, Russia
- **Yummy Russian Borscht**, Russia, Sr Rose Walatka, Poland
- **Rye Bread**, Russia, Dr Geraldine Kelley, Littleton, CO

**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. 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 let us know about **Catholic Conferences** in your area! We may attend as an exhibitor to promote our mission. Please contact the mission office, 209-408-0728 or [usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org) for more information



*Lt: Margaret and William Shine are active volunteers promoting the mission at conferences.*

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Month of May: Month of Mary!

## From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

**Our goal for Lady of the Pacific Church in Nakhodka has been reached!** Our deepest gratitude to all who have made this possible. We surpassed our goal of \$393,938. In all, a total of **\$414,776** has been raised to build Our Lady of the Pacific! That's \$20,838 over our proposed budget. Thank you. This will greatly help with unforeseen fees and inflationary costs throughout the construction project

Though the parish is made up of mostly poor families and single moms, the parishioners of Our Lady of the Pacific will continue to fundraise as they can to help with the project, focusing on the construction of the foundation.

Plaques are available to purchase for stained glass window dedications or memorials to a loved one or group. Plaques will be placed at each window. Please contact the mission office or go to our website, [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org) for the list of windows and their proposed locations in the church.

Permits and permission have been granted for the electricity. Fr Sebastian and Fr Myron are now waiting upon the approval of the architect's model presented to the city.

Fr Sebastian DaSilva, Pastor of Our Lady of the Pacific, sends this heartfelt message: *"We the parishioners are praying for each one of you, for your contribution and love to our parish. May God bless you all.*

*Remembering you all in my personal prayer." Yours truly, Fr Sebastian*

We are all deeply grateful to all of you who help in so many ways to revive our Catholic faith in Russia.

God bless you and your families.

Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Coordinator,  
[usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org), 209-408-0728

