



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia
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Celebrating Sacraments...

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

“First Communion” in Russia

On the Feast of Corpus Christi six of our parishioners made their First Confession and then First Communion. Since it was the last event of the kids’ catechetical year they also did the readings at Mass, led the psalm, and the Prayer of the Faithful. Congratulations, kids!



Under the careful eye of the Director of the Catechetical Program, Marina Malinina, the first communicants were really well prepared. Others of their teachers look on.

Kristina and Anya leading the Responsorial Psalm



Diaconate in Indonesia

Brother Ferdinandus is a favorite of just about everybody, with his winning smile and great personal concern for people. Fr Dan called him “Skorii Pomosh” (First Aid) for his quick response to any need. He was born in Ende, Flores Island, Indonesia, but spent a lot of time on Sulawesi Island and Borneo. I especially like his stories about being a street ice cream salesman when he was just a boy. Besides English, Russian, and Indonesian, Brother Ferdi speaks several local Indonesian languages. He finished the seminary at the Theology Faculty in Jogjakarta. He took his first vows with our CJD community in Vladivostok on May 8, 2015.

Deacon Ferdinandus Wale Wele, C.J.D.



On June 7 he was ordained to the transitional diaconate at St Paul Interdiocesan Scholasticate in Maumere, Indonesia by Bishop Fransiskus Kopong Kung, Bishop of the Diocese of Larantuka.



Bishop Kung, Bro Ferdi's parents in native costumes, Fr Inosensius, our superior in Indonesia, and our brothers who attended the ordination, (from l) Jose, Augustine, Louis, Yohanes, and Lefi.

Family and friends gathered to congratulate him.



In all, eleven deacons were ordained, and the number of the faithful who attend the mass was 2000, including 40 priests who concelebrated. The Bishop's assistants during the ceremony were Fr Edwarld Sebhu, Rector of St Peter Diocesan Scholasticate, and our Fr Inosensius Hetu, CJD. Now, besides his preparation for the priesthood, Br Ferdi will be of great help as assistant to Fr Inosensius, our Superior in Indonesia, where we have so much activity and so many vocations. Congratulations, Br Ferdi!

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Vietnamese parishioners with the 2015 Easter candle.

News Notes

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

- We were happy to have four **adults baptized** at the Easter Vigil here in Vladivostok, and three more who joined the Church. The Easter Vigil is everybody's favorite service of the year. This is partly because of the fantastic music that Fr Dan composed for the responsorial psalms after each reading—And he is not even a musician!! (We read all 9 readings!) The psalms were accompanied by Sr Stella on the harp! Another special thing this year was that one of the readings was done by one of our Vietnamese parishioners in Vietnamese! We keep adding more foreign parishioners, and we want to be sure they feel welcome and at home! The reading was printed in a handout in Russian.



Traditional Easter End-of-Fast foods to be blessed at the Easter Vigil

- We are getting more and more **foreign parishioners** as Russia develops its relationships with other Asian countries. Beginning on June 14 we will be adding another Sunday Mass in English and Tagalog, at 4pm.
- May 8 was a great day for us! **Brothers Louis Van Dam and Ferdinandus Wale Wele** finished their novitiate and took their **first vows**. Then six candidates began their novitiate. We did it all in one ceremony!

Even earlier on May 1, because of a family emergency, Brother **Jose Unlayao** took his **first vows** for three years, and promptly left for his family’s home in Lucban, Philippines. He finished Theology studies at St Alphonsus Seminary in Lucena City in 2008, and has been working as a Theology teacher and school chaplain until he came to us. It was he who discovered that many Filipinos are now coming to Vladivostok for work opportunities, so he began to invite them to come to Sunday Mass, organized tea for them, and encouraged them to be part of the parish. His pastoral skills became very evident, and we are looking forward to his ordination to the diaconate.



Brother Jose taking his first vows for three years, on the Feast of St “Jose” the worker, May 1.



Brother Louis after his vows

Brother Louis is from Hai Duong, Vietnam, and has a long history of familiarity with parish work, as his home was next door to the parish church with a gate in the fence, so he was often

involved in helping out at a moment’s notice. He received his bachelor’s degree in the English Language in Vietnam before entering the seminary at Tagaytay, Philippines where he graduated before joining our novitiate in Vladivostok last year. We nicknamed him “The Church”, as he always will remind us of the proper orthodox teaching on any theological subject. He was a great favorite here and at the Hospice where he took good care of each patient. We are looking forward to his ordination to the diaconate.



Nine of our novices as of May 8—from Russia, Philippines, and Indonesia. There are still several more to come.

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



Bro Yohanes and his students

- Our seminarians in Indonesia have their **apostolates** to perform in addition to studies. Bro Yohanes Marinus is studying at the St Paul Seminary in Maumere. He recently had an assignment to teach catechism at a distant chapel where the people almost never have mass. He enjoyed it, and so did they!

- We have collected the goal for the **building of the Church of Our Lady of the Pacific** in Nakhodka (and we hope there won't be cost increases!) Wow! What a step forward that is! (See the latest architect's plan below.)



- We have purchased **land and are putting up a building** for our seminarians in **Indonesia**. (We'll need help with that!) Fr Inosensius: "It took three days for the Indonesian seminarians and I to work to put all the materials to build our temporary home in Maumere into the big dump truck to send it all by ferry from Surabaya to Maumere. The dump truck finally went to Maumere on Monday night, April 13, 2015. It just arrived in Maumere this evening April 15, at 16.00. Here are some pictures of our seminarians working to put the material into the truck. In Maumere my brother in law Yoseph and Mary my sister arranged to receive the load and to decide where it should be put down on the building site. Meanwhile our seminarians in Maumere have begun to plant papaya trees in our land after Mr Yoseph brought 100 papaya trees". After we have the temporary building made of bamboo to use just one year, we hope to begin to construct a permanent building. Plans are already on the drawing board. We don't have a cost estimate yet—working on that!



Seminarians loading the truck to move from Surabaya to Maumere

All ready to go. It was sad to move from good quarters that benefactors loaned us for these several years. But now it will be a new day for our C.J.D. community in Maumere. Thank you, Surabaya for giving us a home for 3 years!



● From Indonesia, Fr Inosensius writes: “It is really a blessing of God that on April 25, **three of our brothers Ignatius, Hubertus, and David graduated** with their Bachelor of Philosophy degree which took place at the auditorium of the Major Seminary of St Paul, in Ledalero [Maumere].



Graduation ceremony. Fr Ino with Bros Hubertus and David, and two of our candidates.



Brother Ignatius Rino also graduated with his Bachelor's in Philosophy.

“Then on April 27, we carved out a new road to our land which we are purchasing for our House of Studies. On April 28 in the morning it was the blessing of a foundation for our new semi-permanent house there near the seminary.”



The bulldozer making a road to our land.



Brothers and volunteers having lunch together at the construction site.

The site having been selected and the size measured, Fr Inosensius blesses the place of the construction.



The new road begins to take shape, with seminarians Bros Hubertus and Marsel, and candidate Inokent.

● On May 2, the **Sisters in Jesus the Lord of Indonesia received two new novices.**, Sister Mardiana Lumban Gaol from Batak, North Sumatra, and Sister Maria Gabriella Loe, from Kembata, Flores Island. The ceremony took place at St Servatius Parish in Bekasi, Java where the sisters have their orphanage.



Sister Mardiana and Sister Maria Gabriella

Opportunities

♥ It's time for our **priests' annual visits to the USA** to help raise funds. If you are in driving distance of parishes on their stops or would like to invite our priests to speak at your parish, ministry group, school or university, they'd love to visit! Radio interviews are also gratefully accepted. Here are their schedules to date:

Fr Daniel Maurer, C.J.D.

June 20/21 – St. Ann and Holy Cross Church, Porterville, CA

June 27/28 – St. John the Baptist, Hot Springs, AR

July 4/5 – St. Vincent DePaul Church, Elkhardt, IN

July 11/12 – St. Barnabas Church, Arden, NC

July 18/19 – St. Mary's Parish, Eugene, OR

July 25/26 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Las Vegas, NV

August 1/2 - St. Joseph Parish, Modesto CA

Fr Myron Effing, C.J.D.

September 12/13 - Open

September 19/20 - St. Pius X Church, Mt. Pleasant, PA

September 26/27- Open

October 3/4 - St. Joseph Parish, Scottsdale, PA

October 10/11 - Open

October 17/18 - Open

♥ The mission office accepts **used and worn out priests' vestments** to revitalize into bible and prayer book covers, book totes, rosary cases and prayer book markers. These make sacred gifts. If your parish has vestments or altar cloths that are too worn to be used, we would be very grateful for them. Used vestments still in wearable

condition are sent to Russia or passed on to other mission churches.

♥ 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. 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.

♥ Our Vladivostok international recipes cookbook, **Abundant Blessings**, makes a very special and unique addition to your home or as a gift. This beautifully arranged cookbook celebrates our mission's many blessings. Recipes are from the many cultures and countries of our priests, seminarians, sisters, and families. Patrons have placed 2nd and 3rd orders once they read the great recipes and see the beautiful layout. **Proceeds from our cookbook go to our seminarians' education and help mothers and children in our Women's Support Centers.** This month's peek comes from our **South and Central America** section.

- **Ceviche De Camarones**, (Shrimp Ceviche) Ecuador, Familia Espinosa, Quito, Ecuador
- **Empanadas (Savory Beef Turnovers)**, Argentina, Rosa Castro, Argentina
- **Xipa (Guarani Indian Bread)**, Paraguay, Kristie Nelson, Modesto, CA
- **Portobello and Porcine Soup, Chile**, Tono Marquez, Chile

BONUS! Receive a free copy of *The Joy of Christmas in Vladivostok* CD with your cookbook as our thank you.

♥ Our **updated mission DVD** is out! See it on our website www.vladmission.org. It's beautiful! We need volunteers to help burn hard copies of the DVD for distribution to promote the mission. Please contact the mission office.

♥ CA and NV residents! Contact us to get your free **SHARES card!** SHARES card users earned \$2,289 in the first quarter this year! Thank you! 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.

The Indonesian Connection: A Retreat for Senior High School Students

By Seminarians Reminus and Hubertus, C.J.D.



Sharing the results of our spiritual reading

One of the Catholic schools in Surabaya City, Indonesia, is run by Ursuline Sisters. They offered a chance for us seminarians to lead a retreat for the students of St Mary Senior High School. It took place three hours from Surabaya. It was given in two groups: the first from August 11-13 and the second group from August 15-17. Both groups were guided by us seminarians Reminus and Hubertus.



Quiet time alone

It was truly interesting because the students came from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds: Javanese, Chinese, Floresians, kids from Borneo, and even from Papua. They also came from different religions: Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism.

The theme for the retreat was *Growing up to be honest, wise and loving persons for others*. The students were invited to be open for others by doing honestly and wisely the activities of their lives because life today is influenced by secularism and individualism and we forget the situation around us, especially that the needy and the poor need to be served as Jesus Christ demanded from his followers.

During the retreat the students not only heard the talk but also actualized it by doing adoration, spiritual reading, and bible sharing. We spent time in meditation, praying the rosary, and conferencing in groups. As young people, they need to express themselves by worship, singing, and dancing.



Native dancing and a time for fun

One of the students said, "I am so happy to follow this retreat. Now, I am aware that the Lord so loved me through my parents, through my teachers, my friends and those who stay around me. Before that, I only thought about myself. But now, the Lord Jesus already opened my mind and heart to respect others and to love them, too. Thank you Lord."

Another student also shared his

experience: "I was aware that in my house, I am so lazy even though my parents ask me to help. I never thought that they wanted to work for me! I only thought that they HAD to do it for me." Meanwhile another girl student shared, "I want to love God more and more for God has created me." We all hunger and thirst for the Lord as St Augustine of Hippo said, "Because **God** has made us for Himself, our hearts are restless until they **rest** in Him."

The participants will long remember each other.



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From the development desk...

Dear Friends, Peace to you! The mission is humming with activity both in Russia and our stateside mission office.

- A **mission team** comprised of 13 college students from all over the USA will once again be traveling to Vladivostok at the end of July. These students belong to the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). During their nearly 3 week stay they will help our Sisters in Jesus the Lord and our seminarians with the summer children's programs, participate in the Summer Youth Camp, care for the elderly in the hospice, spend loving quality time with the orphans and much more. We are always grateful to the FOCUS teams and other mission travelers for their valuable help and many important roles during their mission trips. Thank you!
- Fr. Sebastian reports the plans have been approved for **Our Lady of the Pacific Church in Nakhodka**. One more hurdle down! Now he's waiting for the permit to arrive and that should be sometime in July.
- The stateside office in CA is very busy this time of year coordinating **mission speaking assignments** to parishes, including Fr Dan's summer tour and Fr Myron's fall tour in the USA, making arrangements for our attendance at **Catholic Conferences**, and helping coordinate mission travelers to Russia, just for starters! Many thanks to all our

volunteers who help at these conferences and speak for us at parishes. They are our lifeblood in spreading the news of the good work of the mission in the USA.

- MMOG will have a booth at the **World Meeting of Families Congress**, September 22 – September 25, 2016 in Philadelphia, PA during Pope Francis' visit to the USA. The Russian Bishops' Conference has asked our Vladivostok parishioners Mr and Mrs Victor and Natalya **Anisimov** to represent Russian families at the Congress!
- And what a welcome opportunity to reach thousands of faithful Catholics about the mission. Fr Myron will be speaking about the mission on the weekends in nearby parishes. We hope he can be present at the booth too. Would you like to help in our **Mary Mother of God Mission booth** during the week? We can use your help!

If you wish to have information about a mission trip to Vladivostok and Nakhodka or would like to help at any of the Catholic conferences where we have a booth, including the World Meeting of Families, we invite you to contact the mission office at usoffice@vladmission.org or 209-408-0728. I will enjoy speaking with you!

God bless all of you, especially all our volunteers who are so generous with their time and talent for the mission. Thank you all. Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan, National Coordinator