



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia
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Nakhodka parishioners with Fr Myron, Fr Sebastian D'Silva, Pastor of Our Lady of the Pacific Parish in Nakhodka, Bishop Cyril, and Fr Christopher Terepka, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Romanovka, the neighboring parish.

Groundbreaking for the New Church in Nakhodka

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

It was an historic day for the Our Lady of the Pacific Parish in Nakhodka--the **groundbreaking for the new church**. Bishop Cyril Klimovich blessed the site and then dug the first shovelful on November 17. Thank you, benefactors, who are contributing to the construction of the church! As a parishioner said at the event, "We have been waiting 20 years for this day!"

Fr Sebastian, Pastor in Nakhodka, wrote me, putting it this way: "Hurrah! Praised be Jesus Christ! November 17th was great day and an historical day for the parishioners of Nakhodka Russia. Our beloved Bishop Kirill paid a visit to our parish. *(Continued on Page 2)*

An Amazing Gift The New Diego Cera Pipe Organ, Opus 25

by Fr Daniel L Maurer CJD

On November 15, when our Bishop Kirill Klimovich visited our parish for the sacrament of Confirmation, he also blessed our new pipe organ, which was installed in May, June and July. We waited until November so that Bishop Kirill could do the blessing and also attend one of the four inaugural concerts. Ours is the first pipe organ in the Russian Far East which has traditional mechanical action between the keys and the pipe valves, so it was a historic event for the parish and for the entire city.

To help celebrate it we invited four organists to play at the inaugural concerts: Marina Omelchenko, formerly of our parish, who is now the chief *(Continued on Page 2)*

(Continued from Page 1, column 1) At three o'clock, he concelebrated Holy Mass in our parish chapel. Some of our guest priests who came to join in our celebration and joy are, Fr Myron Effing, along with some seminarians, sisters and parishioners from Vladivostok Parish. Fr John Gibson along with Bro Stephanus and sisters from Ussuryysk parish and Fr Christopher from the Romanovka parish. During the Holy Mass, our Bishop Kirill specially prayed for the new small church where we can easily come together for prayer. He also made a point to thank all the people who love our small church community, and especially through financially contributions for the construction of the church.

“After the Holy Mass, most of us went to the new church site and for the blessing of the new church land and ground breaking ceremony. You can see more photos and a video on

<https://www.facebook.com/sebastian.dsilva> ”



Parishioners and guests gathered for Holy Mass in the current small apartment-chapel of the parish.

Major Projects for Major Donors:

1. A permanent **house for our seminarian** community in Maumere, Indonesia.
2. A permanent **house for our seminarian** community in the Philippines.
3. Repair of the **building on Russian Island** for the convent of our Sisters in Jesus the Lord who are working at the Far Eastern Federal University here in Vladivostok, Russia.
4. Funding to purchase space for our proposed Assisted Living Center for the **elderly in Lesozavodsk**, Russia.
5. Funding to purchase additional space for working with **poor children** in Lesozavodsk.
6. Repair of the way our **bells are hung** in the steeples in Vladivostok.

(Continued from Page 1, column 2) organist at the Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Moscow; our own Sr Maria Stella, C.J.D., who received her bachelor and master's degrees in organ performance from Emory University, Atlanta, GA; and two special guests: Dr Jennifer Pascual, Director of Music at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, NYC, and Fr Johann Trummer of Graz, Austria, a major benefactor of the new organ. Unfortunately Fr Trummer had to postpone his trip.

The musical program of the concerts was chosen to showcase how the new organ sounds when playing a wide range of liturgical and sacred music, duets with other instruments and also accompanying a choir. The first concert, free of charge for all parishioners, was packed and the other three concerts were all sold out in advance, for a total attendance of over 1100 people.



In addition to the guest organists, we were privileged to have with us for the occasion the master builder of the organ from the Philippines, Mr. Cealwyn Tagle. On Saturday evening before the first two concerts Cealwyn fine-tuned all the 986 pipes on the organ, giving special attention to the highly

Bishop Kirill blessing the organ.

sensitive reed pipes played on the lower keyboard and the pedals.

Press coverage of the blessing and inaugural concerts was extensive, including Sr Tatiana Avdokushina, MSC director of the KANA Catholic Television Studio in Novosibirsk, Russia, which covers major Catholic news in Russia. She recorded two concerts and interviewed all the organists, parish staff, organ builder Cealwyn Tagle and also myself as the parish director of music programs. Four local TV stations, two radio stations and three newspapers also covered the events.



The design of the organ case fits the design of our church.

Long-time *Sunrise* readers may remember that our parish has had several organs since it was re-established in 1992, the year that we priests returned to the parish to stay. Three months after arriving, we purchased a small electric Casio tabletop keyboard with only 3 organ voices to begin the parish choir. Two years later we upgraded to a Technics keyboard with 6 organ voices.

With the return of the historic Catholic church to the parish in 1994, we were given the gift of a large, vintage (1973) Rodgers analog electronic organ by the Epiphany of the Our Lord Parish in Coon Rapids, MN. Besides liturgical use, we began our successful organ concert program with it. From 2003 until 2015 we have been using the large, digital electronic *Stella Maris* organ (Rodgers Trillium 927 (170 stops) donated by members of Stella Maris Parish, Sullivan’s Island, SC. Since 2008 we also have had the “Saint Ambrose Pipes” (7 stops, with

electro-magnetic action), which are played from the *Stella Maris* organ console together with the digital electronic stops.

Why did we get a new pipe organ when we already had a large digital electronic organ and even a small set of real pipes for it? Since we arrived in Russia in February 1992 our parish has become a leader in the development of Roman Catholic liturgical music in Russia. A mechanical-action pipe organ is the best kind of organ to continue to develop our liturgical music program. And it was an amazing gift!

In 2004 we had the good fortune to meet Fr Johann Trummer, the founder of the Musical University in Graz, Austria. Before we met him he had started an annual summer seminar in Moscow to help teach the organ to Catholic parish musicians in Russia. Our parish organist Marina Omelchenko had met Fr Trummer in Moscow, where she first participated in his summer liturgical music seminars in 2003. When Fr Trummer learned that Vladivostok had become a center for Catholic liturgical music development he wanted to come to Vladivostok to see our work. On his first trip here in 2008 he told us that if we really wanted to make progress in the development of liturgical music and especially organ music, we would need a traditional MECHANICAL-ACTION pipe organ for musicians to learn how to play the organ well.



Fr Trummer thinks that electronic organs, and even pipe organs with electric action (electro-magnetic connections between the keys and the valves that open and close the air channels to the pipes) do not help musicians to become excellent organists. A mechanical action pipe organ is required so that an organist can feel in his fingers the opening of the

Cealwyn Tagle the master organ builder



Dr Pascual and Marina Omelchenko experimenting

valves rather than using electric action with which the exact moment of contact cannot be felt. All the moving parts of the Diego Cera, Opus 25, except for the air compressor are mechanical, just as they were in all organs from the time the organ was invented in Egypt before the birth of Christ until the harnessing of electricity in the last half of the 19th century. Our mechanical-action organ has over 13,000 moving parts, all made by hand!

In 1994 Fr Trummer helped to found a pipe organ company in the Philippines, the Diego Cera Organbuilders. As a first step he sent two young Filipino students to Europe to learn all the skills necessary to become a true master organ builder. Cealwyn Tagle of the Catholic Parish of Saint Joseph in Las Piñas near Manila was one of them. He is now the president of the company. He says that their main goal is to build medium sized mechanical-action pipe organs that are financially accessible to normal size parishes. He explains that a real pipe organ positively affects the kind of liturgical music that parish organists choose to play. It is much different than the sounds from the ubiquitous table top keyboards, most of which have rhythm automatic, percussion sounds (drums, whistles, etc.) and highly romanticized and artificial sounding strings, horns and other gadgets that change the tradition of Roman Catholic liturgical organ music for the worse. And Diego Cera organs are much less expensive than other brands of pipe organs. A new pipe organ made in Europe of the same size and quality as our Diego Cera organ would cost 4 to 5 times more than ours. When we learned that Fr Trummer wanted to donate to us over one-third of the total cost of the organ, we agreed in principle to proceed with the project. Another one-third of the cost was donated by Vladivostok

parishioners, and the last third by special benefactors in the USA.

With advice from Fr Trummer and in consultation with us, Cealwyn designed every detail of the Diego Cera organ for our church. He measured the acoustical characteristics of the church interior; photographed the exterior of the church building and the reredos in order to incorporate some of their design elements into the design of the organ case.

The organ's 986 pipes comprise three divisions (great, positif and pedal) with 17 stops, enough for the liturgical and concert needs of the parish but not too much that it would make the organ too loud in volume, nor so large that it would obscure any stained glass windows.

17 stops is much smaller than the 170 stops of the *Stella Maris* Rodgers Trillium 927, which is now located upstairs in the choir loft; but 17 are enough to be able to play 95% of all organ music that has every been written. Our organ is ideally designed to play baroque and classical organ music and to accompany choirs and congregational singing during Mass and other liturgical services.

With the acquisition of the Diego Cera Opus 25 our parish music program has taken another huge step. We think we will be able to increase the number of concerts of sacred music from 4 programs of 10 concerts to around 8 or 9 programs of 20 concerts annually, making this program an even more effective way to reach people with the Good News of Jesus Christ through sacred music. It is also the perfect instrument to accompany the canonical Liturgy of the Hours and expand it to include more parishioners.



The Vladivostok Catholic Concert Choir and Fr Daniel, trying out the new organ

News Notes

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



That's a statue of St Pope John Paul II in the background in the picture of our brothers. He visited Maumere himself, which the Flores Islanders fondly remember!

• Brothers Agustinus Brusen, Filipus Lasa, and Yohanes Marinus, C.J.D. were entrusted with the **ministries of Lector and Acolyte** by Most Rev Gerulfus Kherubim Pereira, SVD, D.D. at St Peter's Major Seminary in Maumere, Indonesia, on October 15. They continue their studies toward their master's degree in Theology. Hopefully, ordination to the diaconate isn't too far in the future.

Baby Talk

From the Women's Support Centers



Mom said she met a man in a fog—We've been in a fog ever since!!

[Anton born Jan 21 2015]

• Congratulations to **Fr Vitaly Kostyuk**, OFM for his ordination to the priesthood on the feast of St Francis, October 4, 2015. He is a son of Nativity Parish in Ussuryysk which Fr Myron founded in the jubilee year 2000 which is currently being served by Franciscans. Fr Vitaly celebrated his **First Mass in Ussuryysk** on October 24 with representatives

of all the parishes in Primorye present. He is the second priest to be ordained from the native Catholics of our state since the reopening of parishes. He is being assigned by his superiors to work in Almaty, Kazakhstan.



Fr Vitaly presided in front of a Franciscan mural.

• In September our parishioners Victor and Natasha Anisimov were among the two families chosen by the bishops of Russia to represent Russia at the **World Meeting of Families** in Philadelphia with **Pope Francis**. They have been parishioners since the beginning of our parish in the 1990's, and they were featured in our first video presentation where it notes they adopted the first child available from our newly formed Women's Support Centers. They have adopted another child, and then even gave birth to their own child. Victor has been working for our parish as the Trustee for 20 years, and as a translator and interpreter for our guests, and also now as editor of the Russian language "*Vladivostok Sunrise*". Natasha managed our Women's Support Center in St Joseph's Parish for several years.



Russian Federation representatives at the World Meeting of Families: (l to r) The Legostaeff family from Rostov-na-Danu, Bishop Joseph Werth, S.J., bishop of Novosibirsk, Fr Michael Netskovsky from Moscow, and our Natasha and Victor



Victor and Natasha in Philadelphia at the Pieta.

Victor wrote, “On the whole our trip was a big success. We got a lot of food for thought at the Meeting, and it was fun to meet with so many people who had earlier been guests of our parish in Vladivostok through the Mary Mother of God Mission table at the Meeting.”

- Our Bishop Cyril Klimovich came from Irkutsk in Siberia for the **Sacrament of Confirmation**, which was held on November 15 at Sunday Mass. It was a big group, with 12 parishioners from Vladivostok, 3 from Lesozavodsk, and 4 from Romanovka receiving the sacrament. Congratulations all!

- On November 17 Bishop Kirill Klimovich announced that he is going to appoint Fr Sebastian D’Silva to be also the **pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Romanovka**. The current pastor, Fr Christopher will be moving to the Moscow Archdiocese. Romanovka is about 60 miles from Fr Sebastian’s Nakhodka parish, and is where the Sisters of Charity of St Anne have a very successful after-school program for the children of Romanovka. So Fr Sebastian will look after two parishes beginning February 14th, while he is also building the new church in Nakhodka.

- Sr Marthina CJD reports about the activities of the Guardian Angel orphans in Jakarta, Indonesia. Have a look: <https://guardianangelfoundation.wordpress.com/>

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“Receive the seal of the Holy Spirit!”

- Brother David Branco and Brother Hubert Yakobus, C.J.D., were the first place winners in the skit contest for Russian language students at the Far Eastern Government University of Economics and Services on Wednesday, November 11. **Their skit, “The Lion and the Turtle”**, done completely in Russian delighted the audience which gave them a rousing applause. They both have worked very hard to master the Russian language, and they show such great success. Of course, I told them to save the cup for their First Mass!



The team with their first place cup, their Russian language coach, and Seminarian Pradeep Kumar.

- **The ordination to the priesthood** of our Brother Ferdinandus Pale Pele, C.J.D. is scheduled for January 8! It means there will now be four of us C.J.D. priests. And we are expecting five more ordinations in 2016, God willing!

Opportunities

♥ Ask your pastor to place a few copies of our bi-monthly *Vladivostok Sunrise* at your parish to share the news of the important work of the Catholic Church in Russia. We'll be happy to send them.

♥ Does your parish have worn out **priests' vestments** ready for recycling? Please don't discard them! If your parish has vestments or altar clothes you no longer use, we would be very grateful for them. Used vestments still in wearable condition are sent to Russia or passed on to other mission churches. Unusable vestments are made into prayerful gifts.

♥ Time to start thinking of a **mission trip** to Vladivostok! Mission work in Russia is a deeply moving experience. Staff from our USA office can assist you in forming a team from your parish or university or arranging for you to join one. We have one group traveling September 13 to October 1, 2016. Will you be part of the adventure? Contact our mission office for more exciting details.

♥ Might you consider **sponsoring one of our seminarians** for one year or part of a year? You'll receive personal email news and communication from your seminarian. We have been blessed with many faithful vocations to our order of Canons Regular In Jesus The Lord, and our sister order. 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. One of our benefactors from New York, Mrs. Julianne Immordino, is prayerfully handcrafting beautiful Swarovski crystal rosaries (\$100 value) and offering them to all who support our seminarians with \$500 or more. Thank you Julianne!

♥ **Seamstress volunteers** needed to create bible/prayer book covers and rosary cases for fundraising projects.



Mr Patrick Miner of Davenport, IA, speaks to conference attendees about our mission.

♥ We're gearing up for our 2016 **conference season**. If you enjoy meeting other faithful Catholics, we need you! Please join our volunteer pool to attend Catholic conferences and distribute literature and information about our mission. This is a very important way to spread the good news about our work and needs in Russia.

♥ 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.



♥ When shopping Amazon, use **Amazon Smile!** Designate **Mary Mother of God Mission Society** as your charity of choice. The mission will receive 0.5% of your purchase from Amazon. It costs you nothing to participate. Please see our website www.vladmission.org for more details on how to sign on. Thanks to you, we received our first Amazon Smile quarterly benefit of \$184.10! Thank you!

♥ CA and NV please use our free **SHARES card!** SHARES card users have earned an average of \$900 per month for the mission. 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.

♥ By popular request, we have an **on-line gift store!** We offer gifts that remind and teach us of our beautiful Catholic faith in every area of our lives. We will be adding more media and gifts regularly. Thank you for your interest and support in developing this project. All proceeds benefit the mission. Find our store at www.store.vladmission.org. Like us on **FACEBOOK Gifts of Faith/Modesto**

♥ Remember our ever popular **Abundant Blessings Cookbook** as part of your special giving! Diverse and beautifully arranged, our collection of international recipes comes from the many cultures and countries of our priests, seminarians, sisters, and mission families in celebration of our abundant blessings. \$25 per cookbook covers shipping in the continental USA. Proceeds go to our seminarians' education fund and our Women's Support Centers. Order from our mission website or store or contact our office.



For more information regarding any of our opportunities, please contact Vicky Trevillyan at our USA office, usoffice@vladmission.org, 209-408-0728

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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Groundbreaking for New Church	Page 1
An Amazing Gift: New Organ	Page 1
Major Projects for Major Donors	Page 2
News Notes	Page 5
Opportunities	Page 7
Development Desk	Page 8

From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

Peace to you!

The mission office is busy tending to the many developments of the mission. For one, Fr Myron will be retiring as pastor of Most Holy Mother of God Parish in Vladivostok on his 75th birthday on February 7, 2016. Fr Dan is expected to take over as pastor, if he is appointed by Bishop Kirill. While so much is yet to be decided, those who know Fr Myron know he will not completely retire but will keep very busy forming the many vocations emerging in the order of the Canons Regular in Jesus the Lord. Fr Myron will continue to fundraise and speak in the USA on a regular basis, as well as continuing as

Did you know?

The Christmas Tree is meant to memorialize the Wood of the Cross. The baby Tree and the baby Jesus will be nailed together in 33 years. Jesus gets the Star of Bethlehem at his birth, and the Tree gets a star on top, too!—unless the angel gets there first.

President of Mary Mother of God Mission Society, and pastor of the small parishes in Lesozavodsk and Artyom. We'll keep you posted!

Thank you, Happy Birthday and many blessings for you, Fr Myron! We all love you!



Fr. Myron Effing, C.J.D.

Dear Friends and Benefactors, **a very blessed New Year to you and your families!**

God bless you.
Sincerely,

Vicky Trevillyan
USA Mission Office
209-408-0728

Happy
New Year!