



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

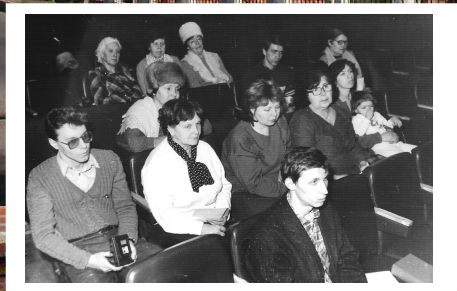
Then:



Now:



Then:



Now:



Letters from the Past

Dear Friends, In November of 2002 I was in your church of which I have warm memories. My relatives on my mom's side lived in Vladivostok from 1910 to 1932, and were your parishioners. After having been in Vladivostok and having returned to Novosibirsk I was able to cheer my mother and aunt by giving them your calendar, news-papers, and magazines. My aunt Helena has a great memory in spite of her age. She was happy that you are interested in historical materials and that you are writing the history of the parish. I'm enclosing her input to your work. (signed) Irina Vladislavovna

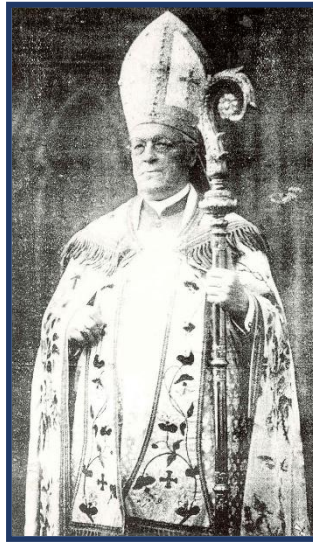
Hello Dear Friends, I am Helena Cherepanova who was born in 1916 in Vladivostok, so I'm now 86 years old. I was baptized in your church about which I have a document signed by Bishop Slivovsky. My parents Anton and Anna were born in Poland, were pious and from childhood taught me and my sister to pray. The whole family went to church. As I remember, when I



was 5 or 6 years old the pastor was Jerzy Yurkevich [arrested December 1, 1931], a handsome man with a beautiful voice. I remember how he climbed the stairs to the pulpit which was located above the left side of the church, and he preached from there. On the left side of the church by the wall

there were benches with backrests. On the right side by the wall was a big "chair", the sides of which were closed with screens. The priest sat in the middle cell and those confessing knelt at the sides of the chair.

The bishop was Karol Slivovsky, a very aged person. He had a large ring on his finger with a large violet stone which we kissed. Upstairs was the choir where the organ was located, and the organist was always a very elderly man with the surname Radzievsky. He was a wonderful musician and taught the children piano lessons. Before Christmas they gave out Christmas bread, and before Midnight Mass there were always a lot of different types of food on the table, but all without meat. The family gathered at the table which had a white tablecloth under which was placed some straw. They broke bread and sang songs, and then everybody went to church. We returned home when it was nearly morning. Then there was meat on the table and every kind of delicious baked goods. It was nice at home, with a decorated fir tree and



gifts from our parents. At Easter I remember we went to get sweet loaves and colored eggs blessed.

I also remember the feastday "Holy Green", or Trinity. We girls were all dressed in white fancy dresses. We walked with baskets of flower petals in front of the procession around the church and scattered them at the feet of the priests who followed us. [This was the custom for the Feast of Corpus Christi on Thursday after Trinity

Sunday, but perhaps the Corpus Christi procession was celebrated on Trinity Sunday at that time.—ed] The older girls carried pillows having attached to them four ribbons at the corners. On the pillows something was written or sewn. In May we also went to church in the evenings.



On the right side of the church, just a little lower on the hill, was the one-floored little house where the bishop and pastor lived. An elderly lady took care of their house, and all the parishioners referred to her as "sister". After the church was closed, the bishop and sister lived in Sedanka. He was already very sick at that time. He was buried there. They arrested the pastor and sent him

to the north to Dudinka [concentration camp]. Our acquaintance also was sent there for punishment, and when he returned he told us that he saw Fr Yurkevich there, sick and with only one eye. In 1932 my dad was arrested (he died ten years later), and mamma, my sister, and I were sent to Novosibirsk. They gave us only 72 hours to gather our things.

All my long life I always remembered with love and pain in my heart my home parish church in Vladivostok. May God protect you!

Helena Antonovna Cherepanova

Dear Miroslava, Many thanks for the photographs. I look at them and can't take my eyes off them. It is as if the church were right before me, like it was in my childhood. We recognized my sister Yanina Karolkevich right away in the big (Continued on Pg 4)

CELEBRATING 25 Years

August 25, 1991

**The Second Founding of the Parish of
the Most Holy Mother of God
Vladivostok, Russian Federation
The first meeting of the parish in 1991**



The first baptisms, November 14, 1991, by Fr Ignasy Pavlyus, Salvatorian, from Irkutsk. The first entry in the new baptismal register is that of Sergei Pavlenko.

The second baptisms, January 3, 1992 by Fr Yan Gayek from Novosibirsk.



The first public mass, November 11, 1991. Assisting were Andre Popok, Trustee, and Igor Davydov, translator. Priest was Fr Myron Effing, C.J.D., shortly thereafter became the official pastor.

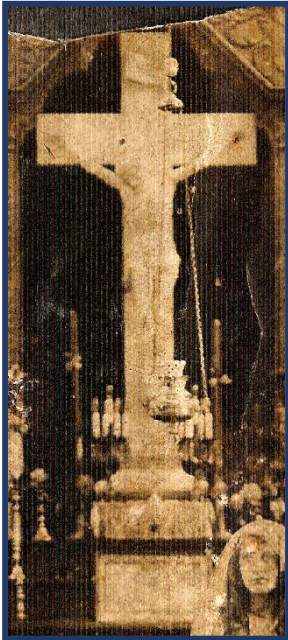
First time we were allowed to enter the church to have a mass (as it was still the archive) October, 1993.



(Continued on Pg 5.)

**Issue Number One Hundred Thirty One
September 1, 2016**

(Continued from Pg 2) photo taken under the cross (that was her maiden name.) She is the one to the right of the bishop, and a boy is sitting in front of her. When we showed the picture to my sister, she right away recognized herself and jumped with joy.



As far as the internal decorations of the church are concerned, I remember that near the entrance to the right side there was a little metal crucifix of Jesus Christ, with a dish below with blessed water. People dipped their fingers in the water and made the sign of the cross whenever they entered the church. The seat where the priest sat to hear confessions was of a dark red color.

I was born in 1916 and my sister in 1913. She had a stroke and lost memory, so she isn't able to help much in the way of memories about

the church in Vladivostok. We don't have a single photograph from those times. There were three searches of our family, so everything that might have had any connection with anything foreign, they destroyed. That is the way things had to be then. Maybe there were pictures of the church among the things that were destroyed, but we lived in those days in fear of the KGB. They arrested our father three times, and he was sent to a camp in the north—to Kolpashevo (Novosibirsk state). In 1938 they shot our father. After that they rehabilitated mom and us kids.

I am so glad that the church where I spent my childhood is being restored. Of course with the help of the parishioners. Many thanks to you for everything. To all the parishioners, health and good luck. May God defend you. Respectfully, Helena

The Old Photos on Pg 1:

The photo shows **the church as it was in 1922** when the parish was closed. You can see the side steeple, which was later removed when the church had four floors added inside and it was converted into the state archive. In the center front of the church you can still make out a small cross against the sky. The two-storey building to the right is the diocesan chancery and bishop's home. Next to it, with the gabled roof, is the "organist's home"—The family there not only served the musical needs of the parish (playing on the reed organ), but they also served as building-and-groundskeepers. Barely



visible behind the tree which hides the front door of the church is the stable where the bishop's horses were kept. When Bishop Slivovsky was exiled from the city, he was taken to Sedanka by horse and sled in the winter time, together with what belongs to him he could take along.



Some of those who attended **the first meeting of the parish** in 1991: Front row, Andre Popok, who organized the meeting and became the first trustee of the parish. Second row, from left: ?, Regina Pivitskaya, Tatyana Nellie's daughter, Nellie Artomovna who had been a prisoner of war in Germany, Anastasia Potopenko with daughter. Third row, from left: Lilia Timofeevna Silina, Sergei Potopenko, ?. Back row: ? Olga Yanovna, Yadviga Frantsevna.

The official organizational meeting of the Catholic Parish of the Most Holy Mother of God was held on August 25, 1991. The presider was Andre Popok, and participants were Yadviga Frantsevna Zilina, Anastasia Potopenko, Igor Davydov, Yadviga Leonovna, Mr and Mrs Valili Svitalsky. The articles of incorporation that they approved were those of St Alexander's Catholic Church in Kiev, Ukraine. (end of article)

(Continued from Pg 3.) CARITAS was founded in the summer of 1992, and it has continued to be the major charitable operation of the parish, including the Women's Support Centers. Here is the 1000th client who turn out to be twins. In 2016 we passed the 2000th mark.



First ordination to the priesthood, our parishioner Evgenii Peregodov. October 6, 2001.

Here the crew raises the old marble crucifix into its former position on the first floor of the church, a formidable task since it is so heavy!



March 3, 2010 Blessing of the new steeples in honor of Bishop Slivovsky and the Vladivostok martyrs.



We received the church back on January 1, 1994. Andre Popok, Trustee, oversees the demolition of the archive floors.



Bro Patrick Napal, C.J.D., first foreigner (after Fr Myron and Fr Dan) to take final vows in the religious community founded at our parish in Vladivostok— March 8, 2014. He is from the Philippines.

News Notes

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



● The **Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference** has finished here in Vladivostok. It was the 20th conference, and the 5th international one. Participants this year were from Russia, America, India, and Africa. The topic was God's Mercy. The translators are tired after working in two languages all week. I couldn't be there much, as I have parish work to do what with Fr Dan gone to America! I did give the major talk the first day, about God's mercy as expressed in the creation of Adam and Eve, and then what happened subsequently. It was fun giving the talk! **FOCUS** was again major players in the conference. I managed to get to Russian Island where the Conference was held for one evening, and the weather was perfect, and no insects. This is the time of year when tourists fill the island, and they set up tents and make barbecue everywhere! They feed the foxes, so they aren't hungry either! Here is a photo of the Sisters' convent on Russian Island where the event was held.



And then a view across the bay. It was rainy during the conference, but that one afternoon was just gorgeous! Thank you *Renovabis* for the financial support of the Conference! *Renovabis* is a charitable organization of the bishops of Germany.

● I can't believe it is **September** already! We've had a cold and wet first part of summer. The wild cherries are doing okay, although there was a virus attack on them in early spring. The fruit trees aren't doing well, as there was a late spring freeze. Potatoes and grains are doing okay, as well as leafy crops and root crops.

- We are sure grateful to Almighty God for our **vocations**. This year we have:
 - 4 Major seminarians studying in the Philippines.
 - 6 Novices studying in Russia.
 - 2 soon to be deacons in America
 - 1 soon to be a deacon in Russia
 - 2 priests in Indonesia
 - 2 deacons in Indonesia
 - 2 soon to be deacons in Indonesia
 - 2 Major seminarians in Indonesia
 - About 17 college seminarians in Indonesia.

Thank you for your prayers for our seminarians and for your financial and moral support!



Our C.J.D. community in Maumere, Indonesia, with the college level seminarians in the temporary chapel.

Remember Mary Mother of God Mission Society in your will.

Mary Mother of God Mission Society

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Opportunities

♥ Fr. Myron will be in the USA to speak in the following parishes and visit sister parishes and our seminarians in Nevada. If you would like Fr. Myron to visit your ministry, school or event during his tour, please contact our mission office.

Sept. 3/4 St Bernard/St Martin, Chrisney, IN
 Sept. 7-9 City of Modesto, CA
 Sept. 10/11 TBA
 Sept. 14-16 City of St Paul, MN
 Sept. 17/18 St John the Baptist, Edgar, WI
 Sept. 24/25 St Mary Immaculate Conception, Greenville, WI
 Oct. 1/2 St John the Baptist, Hot Springs, AR
 Oct. 8/9 St Peter the Apostle, Henderson, NV
 Oct. 15/16 St Ann, Porterville, CA



Our hard working seminarians cleared the jungle for the monastery mostly by their own manual labor!

♥ You can help our seminarians to **build the monastery in Indonesia!** Get the details on our website.

♥ A new school year has begun! We have many seminarians to support. Please consider one time, monthly, or yearly **sponsorship of one of our seminarians.** 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 (www.vladmission/vocations) as well as our sister order (www.cjd.cc). 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.

♥ Please help our growing number of priests while giving an eternal gift! **Mass requests** celebrated in Russia and Indonesia may be sent to the mission office for your loved ones or special intentions. Suggested stipend is \$15 per mass.

♥ Ask your pastor to place a few copies of our free 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.

♥ 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 \$403.22 from AmazonSmile!

♥ CA and NV Important **SHARES card program changes!** The program is now Escrip/SHARES. The SHARES cards are no longer being used. Now all you do is enter your phone number at the checkout counter and the mission will receive up to 3% of your grocery total when you shop at Save Mart, Food Maxx, Smart Foods and Lucky's grocery stores. As always, no cost to you! Please continue with the program by registering your phone number online. Registering is a couple of quick steps. Please go to www.escrip/shares and follow the sign in prompts. Go to Advanced Find to select Mary Mother of God Mission Society as your charity. From then on, all you have to do is punch in your phone number at the check out counter in order for the mission to receive up to 3% of your grocery total! If you do not use a computer please call the mission office for assistance.

♥ What do Lemmony Hummus, Leche Flan, Cardamom Green Tea and Beef Rendang Indonesia have in common? You guessed it! They are just a sampling of the 498 mouth watering family recipes found in our ever popular **Abundant Blessings Cookbook.** Diverse and beautifully arranged, our collection of recipes is tab divided into 8 international geographic areas. The recipes were submitted from the many cultures and countries of our priests, seminarians, sisters, and mission families in celebration of our abundant blessings. The above recipes are found under the Asia and India tab. Interesting reading for your coffee table too! \$25 per cookbook covers cookbook and shipping in the continental USA. Proceeds go to our **seminarians' education fund and our Women's Support Centers.** Order from our mission website or contact our mission office. For more information on all our opportunities contact our USA office usoffice@vlamission.org, or 209-408-0728 and visit our website, www.vladmission.org.



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From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

- Our vocations to Russia are coming from all over the world as you have read from our issues of the Sunrise. The majority of our vocations are coming from Indonesia. Thanks be to God! Many thanks to those helping build our monastery in Indonesia. From your generosity and that of a Foundation, **we have raised \$53,160 of the \$231,969 for the Dorm and Kitchen Projects** and **\$45,227 of the \$187,500 to repay the Land Loan**. We are a long way from meeting our needs but we're just getting started! Keep praying for us and discerning your call to help.
- Please see our website for construction and fundraising updates on our Indonesia monastery and the exciting and blessed Nakhodka Church construction progress!
www.vladmission.org
- In 2017, the world will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the appearance of our Blessed Mother to the 3 children in Fatima, Portugal. Our Mother's messages foretold of the devastations and persecutions of the Church in Russia and the rise of Communism. She asked for prayer and penance for the salvation of souls and peace in the world. If your ministry group, parish, school or conference is

planning an event in honor of Our Lady of Fatima's appearance, we can celebrate with you! Mary Mother of God Mission Society has formed a team of 10 experienced and engaging speakers. Notable speakers include Fr Myron Effing and Fr Daniel Maurer, with 3 more priests, and additional honored mission speakers. They will be happy to do presentations regarding the Fatima appearances and the last hundred year's history and current issues of the Catholic Church in Russia. Please see our website for a list of topics and profiles of our speakers. Please contact the mission office to schedule a speaker!

- Some good resources about the story of Fatima and the fall of Communism can be found on our mission web store, www.store.vladmission.org **Fatima For Today: The Urgent Marian Message of Hope** Author: Fr. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R. \$17.95

The 13th Day (DVD) \$19.95 (Includes an excellent 1 hour commentary of Our Lady's messages by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R. in the special features.)

Liberating A Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism (DVD) \$19.95

Thank you! God bless you and your families. Vicky Trevillyan, National Coordinator