



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Thirty Nine January 2018



The Women's Support Centers

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

Here in Russia there has always been the great need to help women in crisis pregnancy situations and with other problems. Because of the history of serfdom, like slavery in America, and because of World War II when millions of Russian men were killed, Russia has become a matriarchal society at the family level, with rampant abortion and divorce rates and few men at home. But Russia is a patriarchy at the national level, so there is very little understanding of the problems of women from the government side. Add to this the 70-year lack of religious and moral teaching which also took a toll. Soon our six crisis pregnancy centers will celebrate their 2500th saved baby, and 20 years of excellent work with women and men, boys and girls. So we are dedicating this issue of the *Sunrise* to the Women's Support Centers of our state of Primorye. Packed with this *Sunrise* is a brochure giving more details about the Centers, and asking your prayers and financial support.

From the Women's Support Centers

Recently a 15 year old girl came to us and asked for help for her child. She told us her story. When she was 14 years old she was raped by a 38 year old man. When she became pregnant she didn't do an abortion because her doctors recommended against it. As a result she gave birth to a healthy baby girl, and the court gave the man only a suspended sentence! She loves her daughter and takes good care of her, but she doesn't have the monetary means to care for the child. Our Center is providing her help.

--Olga, Women's Support Center, Nakhodka

Priesthood Ordination of Reminus Hambur, C.J.D.

The latest good news is the priestly ordination of our brother Reminus Hambur, C.J.D. which was held in Maumere, Indonesia on November 26, the Feast of Christ the King. Bishop Cherubim presided, and I was happy to be able to attend. It also gave me the chance to check up on our community in Indonesia which is getting stronger and more independent with all the young vocations. Fr Reminus was born in Malang, Flores Island, Indonesia in April 1954 and was baptized at St Arnold Jansen Parish in Ruteng. Fr Reminus will be working with our novices in Indonesia and helping (*Continued on page 6.*)



The 2017 Young Adult Conference in Ussurysk: God's Forgiveness across the World

by Hannah Greb

In August we held the 21st. annual Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference at the Franciscan Monastery in Ussurysk, as part of the FOCUS team's mission trip to Russia. Our theme for the week was "Forgiveness" and each of our speakers had a unique approach. Sister Maria Anastasia, a Ukrainian from the Society of the Incarnate Word, even gave a talk on Fatima and what the Blessed Virgin had said then, a perfect way to tie in the 100-year-old miracle with our conference theme.

On a Monday afternoon, we all gathered into the conference room on the upper floor for opening ceremonies and introductions. Someone suggested we play the "name game" as a way of getting to know one another; we had to go around the room and say everyone's name up to ourselves until everyone had spoken up. Within only a few minutes, we realized that people were here not just from Russia and America but from many other countries around the world. Our final "country count" was 15, with our three main languages being Russian, English and Spanish: USA, Russia, Poland, Armenia, Ukraine, Argentina Columbia, Spain, India, Korea, Pakistan, Peru, Brazil, Vietnam, and The Philippines.



*FOCUS and friends on picturesque Russian Island.
Hannah is third from left.*

Later in the evening, after dinner, we gathered back in the conference room for another game—"musical chairs"! We had to make it a rule that you couldn't run until after both languages had been given, but in spite of whatever minor problems that came up, it was a great time for everyone—the high point of most people's day as we found out later—and a wonderful way to break down all of the language and other barriers--we had lay and

religious, young and old, introverted and extroverted all running around together.

Throughout the week, we listened to different talks in the conference room every morning after breakfast. Following the talks we broke into six different small groups, in our three main languages. We were allowed to pick which group we wanted to be part of, depending on how fluently we spoke the language. Every morning we prayed morning prayer together in the tiny chapel on the second floor, strategically alternating Russian and English. Whenever some of the Incarnate Word sisters and I sat close together, we would share the same Liturgy of the Hours book. Every afternoon, we celebrated Mass together and every evening, we prayed Evening Prayer. Our last "spiritual gathering" of the day would be adoration. The first night of the conference, the lights all across the city went out and, as many of the participants pointed out, it made it impossible not to focus on God as He stood there in the monstrance, the candlelight gleaming on the gold fixture. We had four different priests—one American, one Polish, one from Argentina and one from Colombia—and they all took turns alternating as the main celebrants.

We had lots of fun too. We split into two large groups, a liturgy group and a theater group. The liturgy group, a choir, prepared songs to sing at different masses throughout the week, and at the talent show on Saturday night. The theater group prepared a short play, a performance which preceded the talent show. These performances, the talent show especially, broke down once more all of the language barriers. It didn't matter that we couldn't understand every word of every song, poem or skit; we could still feel the emotions and see the expressions on peoples' faces.



Participants before the Franciscan monastery in Ussurysk

On Thursday, we took the train to a small village called Terehovka to spend the day at Vladimir and Faina's dacha; Vladimir and Faina, like so many Russians, were some of the most joyful, welcoming, and generous people we had met. At their dacha, we had our usual talk, celebrated mass with five priests in the living room, and ate delicious food. In the afternoon, we went to a lake, prayed a rosary on the walk back, and then spent a very exuberant thirty minutes or more singing

joyful songs together in our three languages before heading back to Ussuryk. And all of this happened the day before we went on silent retreat, except for praying and singing, a spiritually fulfilling experience for those who had never done it before.

But the most fun of all were the dances that the Russians and Fr Cyprian taught us. It was on Saturday before the performances and talent show. With the speakers of someone's car blasting a lively song at full volume, we all gathered outside in front of the monastery so that we could learn the dances together. By the time we got done just practicing the dance together, we were all laughing and out of breath but ready to dance again. The icing on the cake was that the customers at the cafe on the property were watching all of us!

It was a very happy, spiritually productive, and fulfilling week for all of us. During testimony time on Saturday and Sunday, everyone said something along the lines of, "Thank you!" and "I will never forget you all!" We are all waiting with joy to see what next year's conference will be like. Maybe we will have just as many countries as we did this year!

Meanwhile, our thanks goes to *Renovabis* of the Bishops' Conference of Germany for financial support of this program.

How to Communicate with Us

Internet

Russian language: www.catholic.vladivostok.ru

English language: www.vladmission.org

Sisters in Jesus the Lord in English: www.cjd.cc

Office in Russia: Phone and FAX: +7-423-226-9614

mvron@catholic.vladivostok.ru

daniel@catholic.vladivostok.ru

Office in California: Phone and FAX: +1-209-408-0728

Mary Mother of God Mission Society

1736 Milestone Cir

Modesto CA 95357

usoffice@vladmission.org

Sisters in Jesus the Lord: +1-816-353-2177 or 7049 Blue Ridge Blvd, Raytown, MO 64133 www.cjd.cc

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

News Notes

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

- More good news is the **ordination to the minor orders** of lector and acolyte of our seminarians Bro Alberten Kaidu, C.J.D. and Bro Desideratus Amdingsaputr, C.J.D. in Maumere in October, and their taking of first vows on November 27 when I was there for visitation.



- Our long-time parishioner and parish worker **Evgenii Balanyov** was ordained to the transitional diaconate on October 29 in Minsk, Belarus by Archbishop Thadeus Kondrusevich. He was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Minsk-Mogilov. He continues in the seminary program toward the priesthood. Congratulations, Deacon Evgenii!



The new deacon assisting the archbishop

- Fr Daniel Maurer, C.J.D. celebrated **his 25th anniversary** of ordination on November 19 with Bishop Joseph Werth, S.J. who ordained him present. The photo shows our parish trustee Victor Anisimov presenting a portrait of St Augustine while Bishop Werth looks on. Bishop Kirill Klimovich is hidden behind Victor.



- In early December our church of the Most Holy Mother of God in Vladivostok had the honor of being chosen by Polish government and cultural leaders to host the first in a series of special events in preparation for the **100th Anniversary of the Liberation of Poland** in 1918.

With the first “Partition of Poland” in 1772, the country of Poland ceased to exist and was wiped off the map. Some of the occupying countries even tried to wipe out the Polish language. Polish independence was only regained in the devastation after

World War I (1914-1918).

Before the persecution and total suppression of the Catholic Church by the Communist Party in Russia (1917-1991), our Far Eastern parish, numbered more than 15,000 members before it was closed, most of whom were Polish. An integral part of parish life was the Polish Cultural Association centered in the parish. All the clergy of the parish were Polish. Many of our families had been citizens of the Russian Empire for over 150 years (5-6 generations).

General Consul Kshishtov (Christopher) Sviderek of the Polish Consulate in Irkutsk knows well the Polish history of our parish. He visited us here in Vladivostok in late October to plan the first preparatory event for the 100th anniversary year.

It was decided to organize two special events in our parish: an evening organ concert by the most famous living Polish concert organist, Prof. Marek Stefanski of the Krakow Music Conservatory, featuring baroque and modern organ music mostly by Polish composers; and a Christmas “Vigilia” dinner with the typical Polish custom of breaking and sharing the Christmas bread called “oblatki” and with homemade pre-Christmas dishes keeping the custom of abstaining from meat until after Christmas Midnight Mass.

The concert on Saturday evening, Dec. 9, was a huge success, with all 250 tickets sold out well in advance.

After the concert, Prof. Stefanski said that he fell in love with the beautiful sound and responsive touch of our Diego Cera Opus 25 pipe organ, insisting that it is a very rare, high-quality instrument.

On Dec. 10, the “Vigilia” dinner was a wonderful occasion, held as a group event in Vladivostok probably for the first time in 87 years, after all parish buildings were closed and confiscated in 1930.

Winter Dates in History

January 1, 1994 The church building was returned to the Parish of the Most Holy Mother of God by the state legislature.

January 5, 1933 Death of our Bishop Karl Slivovsky, D.D. from natural causes.

January 11, 1890 Russian Holy Synod moved the Catholic center of the Russian Far East from Nicolaevsk-na-Amure to Vladivostok.

February 2 1902 The first Catholic church in Vladivostok burned down at night.

February 2, 1923 Papal bull establishing the Diocese of Vladivostok.

February 3, 1937 Five parishioners were shot by the KGB, having been accused of counterrevolutionary religious and political activities: Anton Gerasimuk, Valery Gerasimuk, Sigismund Brzhesinsky, Jan Strudzinski, and Martin Malinevsky.

February 13, 1992 Pastor Fr Myron Effing, C.J.D. and Deacon Daniel Maurer, C.J.D. arrive.

February 18, 1866 Emperor Alexander II erected the first Catholic parish and appointed the first Catholic priest for the Russian Far East, Ss Peter and Paul Parish in Nicolaevsk-na-Amure and pastor Fr Kazimir Radzishevsky.

February 18, 1923 The Vladivostok Minor Seminary was closed by Soviet authorities.

● **Construction Projects in Indonesia** continue, including three projects at the moment: A chapel building, an enlarged dormitory for seminarians, and a grotto to the Blessed Virgin. The grotto is being funded by friends in Indonesia, and it is expected to become something of a pilgrimage site. There are already people who come there to pray to the Blessed Virgin. The grotto is designed to be added to as Indonesians donate for that purpose.

Mass can already be celebrated at the outdoor grotto.



The second floor of the dining and kitchen building waiting for new walls for a dormitory for seminarians. Donors?



The kitchen and dining building is designed as a multi-use building, and the roof against the rainy season has

already been installed higher up so that walls can be added for seminarians' rooms and bathrooms on the second floor. A stairway is already in place.

The project also underway is the Our Lady of Vladivostok Chapel. The foundation has already been laid, and it is hoped that the building will be done by June to replace the present temporary chapel on the porch of the temporary dormitory building. The chapel is being fully funded by the Papal Foundation.



The chapel foundation

● **St John the Evangelist Student Center**, Russian Island, Russia. The Sisters in Jesus the Lord and Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Parish have been working to open a Catholic student center near the Far Eastern Federal University on Russian Island, part of Vladivostok. The Center will be on the first floor of the sister's convent building, and, according to Russian law, must be an official parish, to be named St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish. To prepare the space for meetings, lessons, and social events, we need to do the following:

1. Remove interior non-supporting walls
2. Repair the walls
3. Create new restrooms
4. Retile the entrance area
5. New floor
6. New doors throughout
7. 5 New windows and frames
8. Install radiators for heat
9. New lighting fixtures
10. Simple seating

Expected costs are:

Windows \$1396

Materials \$4832

Labor \$2060

Seating \$900

Total Expected Cost: \$9188

You can contribute to the St John the Evangelist Catholic Student Center Project.

(Continued from page 1.) the Dean of Students at our seminary. He also has been asked by Bishop Cherubim to help at the diocesan minor seminary. He has a dream someday to go to Rome for training as a diocesan exorcist which they say is sorely needed in Indonesia, so recently evangelized. Congratulations, Fr Reminus!



Windows and Doors for the new Our Lady of the Pacific church in Nakhodka

The construction of the **Church of Our Lady of the Pacific** is nearing completion (see page 4), so we can think about offering benefactors the opportunity of buying and memorializing the stained glass windows and doors! Here is the list. God bless you! Call the office to reserve your window before someone else gets it! (209-408-0728). The cost includes frame, thermopane outer glass window and stained glass inner window.

#	Description	Sq Ft	Cost \$
1	Over altar, Rose Window: Our Lady of the Pacific	30	1054
2	Main Sanctuary wall: Last Supper	48	7062
3	Main Sanctuary wall: Sermon on the Mount	48	7062
4	Transept Window: Pentecost with St. Mary	97	26972
5	Transept Window: Holy Family with St Joseph	97	26972
6	Midsized nave Windows: St Theresa of Lisieux	48	7062
7	Midsized nave Windows: Ss Cyril and Methodius	48	7062
8	Choir loft windows: St Nicholas	20	1289
9	Choir loft windows: St Cecilia FUNDED	20	1289
10	Main Façade Window: Baptism of Jesus	20	1289
11	Main Façade Window: Nativity	20	1289
12	Main Façade Window: Resurrection	81	11170
13	Main Façade Window: St John Paul II	20	1289
14	Main Façade Window: Jesus & Children FUNDED	20	1289
15	Above main entrance: Our Lady of the Pacific	20	1289

Church		
16	wooden door, sacristy room	20 560
17	wooden doors store room	20 560
18	Aluminium frame doors	30 1051
19	Aluminium frame doors	41 1388
20	Aluminium frame doors	41 1388
21	Aluminium frame doors	41 1388
22	Main entrance steel door Holy spirit	41 4286
choir loft		
23	Aluminium frame doors	23 839
24	door anti fire ventilation room	20 631
25	door anti fire to the belfrey	20 631
26	wooden door	23 519
ground floor		
27	Aluminium frame doors two	30 2103
28	wooden doors eight	20 3774
29	wooden doors four	18 1741
30	steel door	30 1729
31	steel door	20 1201
32	steel door anti fire two	20 1071

Baby Talk
From the Women's Support Centers

What!? You forgot to make a donation to the Women's Support Centers?
[Anna April 25, 2017]

Opportunities

♥ We are deeply grateful God is blessing us with many vocations in the order of Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord. Our world needs more priests! With 12 novices (young men discerning joining the order and before taking first vows) coming on board, bringing our number of seminarians to 39, we are in great need of your help to support our young men to ordination. You can become a **Guardian Angel** for one of our **39 seminarians**. Might you please consider a one time, monthly, or yearly sponsorship of one of our seminarians? You can receive personal email news and communication from your seminarian. Each one 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 approximately **\$10,774**.

♥ Fr Myron and the Sisters In Jesus The Lord have been developing the **St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish on Russian Island**. (See November 2017 Sunrise Issue #137) With a parish established the Catholic Student Center can open to serve the nearby university students. To date you have helped raise \$965 of the \$9188 needed to make the necessary renovations. Thank you for your continuing support!

♥ We wish to purchase the land on which the **Our Lady of Fatima Rectory** is built. Currently, we are only renting the land (See November 2017 Sunrise Issue #137). We've raised only \$1950 of the \$41,100 necessary to make the purchase. To help us, Terry O. from Nevada has pledged \$1000 towards the project and is sending out a challenge for 38 other benefactors to come forward with a \$1000 donation so we can purchase the land. Thank you Terry and all benefactors who will meet Terry's challenge!

♥ Planning for the future. Fr Myron and Fr Dan are getting older and will be incurring medical debts. As you may know, they took a vow of poverty so have nothing. You can assist them with their health and medical needs throughout their senior years and during retirement. Mary Mother of God Mission Society has set up a **Priests' Health and Retirement Fund**. If you wish to help, please send your donation to the USA office made out to *Mary Mother of God Mission Society* and note, "Priests' Health and Retirement Fund" on your check or online donation. At the end of 2017 you have helped Fr Myron cover his current medical bills. Thank you. The health and retirement fund has also collected \$6847 so far. Many thanks to all who are helping with our priests' health and retirement needs!

♥ You can give an eternal gift to your loved ones through Masses celebrated in Russia. **Mass stipends** support Fr Myron and Fr Dan. Please send your special intentions or Mass requests to the mission office. Mass cards will be sent to you or designated persons. Suggested stipend is \$15 per mass.

♥ **Thank you** to everyone who have contributed so far through the **2017 Vladivostok Wish List Catalog!** As of mid-December the catalog has helped raise \$48,158 for the children, women, families, seminarians, and our priests' aided by the programs in the catalog. We pray you will continue to refer to the catalog throughout the year as the needs of all the programs in the catalog are ongoing as we grow our outreach to ever more families, children and future priests. If you need another catalog, or would like to share one with a friend, please contact our mission office, 209-408-0728 or usoffice@vladmission.org.

♥ If you shop Amazon.com, remember to enter "**Amazon Smile**" in the search bar before you check out. Enter **Mary Mother of God Mission Society** as your charity of choice. It's that easy! Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to the mission. There's no cost to you! The mission has received \$1287 from Amazon Smile so far. Many thanks for remembering us on Amazon!

(Continued from Page 8)

mandatory regulation changes for the project were given to Fr Sebastian that hindered the building progress and required additional costs! These additional costs have nearly brought the project to a halt. Very slowly and with much prayer, the Nakhodka project is moving forward, but the entire interior, fixtures, and furnishing still need to be built and added. Completion can only happen with help from our benefactors. We come to you for help once again help us move **Our Lady of the Pacific Church** forward to completion. Fr Myron has published a list of stained glass windows that we wish to installed. You may purchase and dedicate a window to a loved one to help support the project. Please see our website for more **information and pictures about the progress of the Nakhodka building project at <http://vladmission.org/our-activities/construction-projects/>**. God bless you for your support!

Please read more about the progress on our church building projects in the *Opportunities* column page six.

We pray the joy and peace of our Catholic faith will bless you and touch others throughout the world. God bless you. Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Desk
usoffice@vladmission.org

Vladivostok Mission
Mary Mother of God Mission Society
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From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! With a new year comes renewed hope that our own faith will grow deeper in Christ, in the hearts of those we love and others around the world. Taking a step back to reflect on the work of the Vladivostok mission, we can see what can only be God's plan unfolding and our prayers being answered.

The Church is growing! Vocations are booming not only in the Canon Regular of Jesus the Lord, but other orders as well. God has sent so many vocations for Fr Myron and the Fr Dan to spiritually form, educate and support to ordination. God is providing for our seminarians through all of us working together (never more than we need!) so they may become shepherds to His flock. We are receiving vocations from all over the world, Indonesia, Philippines, Russia, India, and Vietnam, and those vocations are serving communities in all parts of the world! Fr Jose from Philippines and Fr Luis Nguyen from Viet Nam are serving in parishes in Las Vegas, NV and we hope a community can begin there soon. Fr Ino, Fr Ferdinandus, Fr Yohannes, Fr Jakob and Fr Reminus are all serving the people and communities in Indonesia. Fr Myron, Fr Dan and Fr Sebastian are serving in Russia with seminarians in formation there. We trust and hope in

God's plan for the young men discerning and answering His call to serve and help us deepen our faith. You can learn more about our **new priests and seminarians and see some of their pictures on our website <http://vladmission.org/vocations/meet-our-seminarians/>**. We have been blessed with Seminarian Guardian Angels (benefactors sponsoring individual seminarian's education and living expenses) in recent years but the sponsorships have been for 1 year only or the seminarians were ordained so are no longer sponsored. We are desperately in need of seminarian sponsors for current school year and future years. Can you help?



We are building and opening more churches thanks to our benefactors. While several years ago we thought we reached our construction goal for **Our Lady of the Pacific, Nakhodka** church, many . (Continued on Pg 7)