



# Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Forty Three September 2018

## To Russia With Fear

By Katie Hermann, FOCUS, Cincinnati, OH  
Photos by Fr Tom Lankeau

When it comes to discernment, there needs to be action. Little did I know or expect how God would use my “Yes” to His call. He answered through financial provision. He directed my steps through prayer. He exceeded all my expectation because His plan is more extraordinary than anything I could have planned for myself. I feel speechless when trying to describe my experience in Russia. During the final week, while in Khabarovsk, I began to pray for words. These words barely touch the tip of the iceberg, although, it’s a start.



What? Afraid of them? Ever hear of the Little Rascals?

### IMMERSIVE

Attending daily mass, a scheduled holy hour, morning and evening prayer; before this mission trip my prayer life did not include consistency. God needs consistency, though, to be able to reveal himself. In every form of prayer, God moved in my life revealing wounds that needed healing, revealing situations that needed to be released, revealing new potentials for the future. I learned – and still am learning – to be fully open to the movements of grace, mercy and love that God wanted to show me. I need to be willing to receive. It all begins with

prayer. I have begun to understand and encounter Him more deeply through the mass as it is the source and summit of our life; it is our foundational prayer.



*I don't think this is the kind of immersion she had in mind.*

### HUMBLING

As a student studying Speech Language Pathology, I am aware that only 7% of communication is based on physical language. However, stepping into an environment where we are stripped of physical language, communication presented itself as a challenge. Yes, there were multiple translators which were invaluable to the experience. To build personal connections, I began to view myself through the lens of a potential client – one who cannot communicate through language; this is how they would feel. Communication through actions and body language became a primary source of interacting with the children. It required patience – a lot of patience. Love, though, knows no boundaries. We loved these children by fully being present in the moment, making arts and crafts with them and for them, engaging in sports, giving hugs, high fives and piggy-back rides. It’s not about knowing the language, it’s about being present and allowing the Holy Spirit to move.



*It's humbling when the kids show you how to do it.*

### **INTENSE**

The willingness of people to share their stories as well as the history of Russia – especially that of the Far East – shatters my heart. For all that they have endured, many people feel hopeless. Their hope has been stripped away due to the suppression, repression, and oppression under communism. Many individuals who had a strong faith were imprisoned and martyred. Yet to see thirty years later, the youth of Russia, they are hungry for spiritual food. They desire to grow in their faith – through prayer, through the sacraments, through vulnerability. Amid hopelessness, there can be joy!



*Love can be intense if you've had no dad.*

### **TEAM**

There is no way that I could have endured this trip alone. The team – including the CJD Sisters, brothers, and Father Myron – have become family. Each and every one of us have an entire team of people who have been praying for us and this trip, for which we are beyond grateful. Thank you for being a part of my journey. And, continue to pray for the conversion of Russia, for “the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matt 9:37-38).



*The FOCUS team always helps!*

### **Baby Talk**

**From the Women's Support Centers**



**This belly is bad enough, and then they had to add the ears!**

[Alina April 3, 2018]



## **We are Different but One in Faith— FOCUS in Indonesia, 2018**

*By Brother Justino Marques, candidate for novitiate*

The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) from the United States came for the fourth time to be with the young people in Indonesia. The total number of the Focus team this year was 20--14 women and 6 men. This is greater than the number of Focus members that came in previous years. Not only is the number of members increasing, but the agenda of Focus team activities this year was also slightly different from previous years. This year the Focus group worked with the Augustinian Canons C.J.D. We had programs with the students in four schools and also with the young people in the Holy Spirit Parish of Nelle.

On July 16-19, 2018 the Focus team visited St. Gabriel Senior High School. For three days the Focus team shared their faith and love for Jesus with teachers and students. In this time they also had "Lectio Divina"--sharing the Scriptures and sharing about the dangers of drugs, free sex and alcohol. The entire three day event was closed with mass, a meal, photos, and a native dance together. On July 19-21, 2018 Focus visited St. Mathilda Catholic Senior High School. The programs in this school were the same as in the previous school.

On July 22, 2018 early in the morning, the team, together with priests and our brothers went to visit the parish of the Holy Spirit in Nelle. For two nights and three days, the Focus team was with the parishioners. The Focus team, priests, and brothers C.J.D. divided into

parishioners' homes. While in Nelle, the Focus team also visited several schools, Bethlehem Prayer Park, and also met and shared their faith experiences with the children and young Catholics of Nelle parish. The entire activities at Nelle parish were closed with mass and recreation together at Koka beach. The Focus team really enjoyed the beauty of Koka beach with sea water so clean, so no wonder when we arrived at Koka beach they immediately went for swimming. They not only enjoyed the beauty of Koka beach, but we all really enjoyed the beauty of our lives as brothers and sisters in faith. That is the beauty that we have and too bad it isn't shared with all others. On Wednesday, July 25, 2018 FOCUS went back to America via Bali.

Through this faith experience, the focus team has taught us how we have to live our faith amid the increasingly uncertain globalization and how we must build an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. The experience of meeting with the Focus team gives us a special color in living our faith in Jesus Christ. Although the time was very short, the experience of faith they have shared will always be remembered in every step of our lives. Thank you for the experience of faith that you have shared with us. We will always remember it and try to live it in our daily lives. Thank you for the togetherness and the sense of brotherhood that we cultivated for a few days in our community. Distance may be able to separate us but in faith we are always united. We pray that the Focus team will be growing in quality and quantity from day to day. We pray for each other and hopefully at another time God will bring us together again.

# News Notes

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

- The Women's Support Centers are celebrating their 2500th saved child! With our five Centers and our literature we hope we have been part of the demographic improvement in Russia. Recently when I had to fly to Kazakhstan for Brother Patrick's ordination I was pleased to see how many whole families were travelling, and how many children were on the planes and in the airports. What a different from just a few years ago! Even so, the Women's Centers are struggling with funding difficulties.



*Baptism of little Cyril Aliyev, held by his godparents. Mom and dad looking on from the background. May 20, 2018.*

- Brother **Hubertus Jacobus**, C.J.D. was ordained a deacon on June 10 in Maumere, Indonesia. He is an accomplished musician whose composition and solo



performance of a great song about Vladivostok won a prize in a contest at the intervarsity talent show a couple of years ago here in the city. We are hoping he will be able to return to Vladivostok after ordination to the priesthood. Besides playing the organ and keyboard he is an accomplished composer of religious music, too.

- On June 23 our longtime former parishioner and my former secretary **Evgeny Balanyov** was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Minsk-Mogilev, Belarus. He began in the seminary as our parishioner, but took some time out to do business in St Petersburg. Now we are waiting to see what his assignment will be in Belarus. He has always been entrepreneurial—When he was young he organized and ran a wholesale ice cream concession when this was still the Soviet Union! He gave lots of work to elderly folks during the bad economic days of the '90's.



- Here is a picture of our **four new novice C.J.D. sisters** in Indonesia, with Fr Inosensius Hetu who was there to bless their clothing. Sister Angel (left from Fr) and Sister Rosa (right from Fr) were present, too. The event took place in Jakarta, but the sister-novices then travelled to the Ende Archdiocese on Flores Island for their novice year. The sisters operate the Holy Angel Orphanage near Jakarta.



- We got a notice from our Bishop Kirill that Brother **Nikita Kushnaryov**, C.J.D. will be ordained a deacon for us here in Russia on August 19! (And there are still two more seminarians to be ordained deacons this year. I'm waiting for the bishops to assign a date. That will be six deacons this year (seven if we count Balanyov), which means six priests next year! Hallelujah!)
- Thanks be to God, Rev Vicar General of the Diocese of Maumere, Fr Ewaldus Martinus Penu, was chosen by Pope Francis to become the **next Bishop of the Diocese of Maumere** in Indonesia, where your community and seminary is located. He was born in Bajawa, Flores Island on July 30, 1959. He graduated with a Master's Degree in Education from the Salesianum in Rome. From 2001- 2009, he was a formation director in the Major Seminary of St Peter, the place where Pope John Paul II stayed overnight when he visited Maumere in 1989. Then Fr Ewaldus was elected Rector of the Major Seminary of St Peter from 2010-2015, after which he was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Maumere by Bishop Kherubim Paraira, SVD, our great friend who invited us to his diocese, and who is now retiring. It was Fr Ewaldus who blessed our temporary seminary building in Maumere in 2015, and who recommended a seminarian to join our community. He told him, "You join CJD, because their mission will help the local bishop." We will of help to the future Bishop Ewaldus! Praise God for He has chosen our new bishop and thanks for our Bishop Kherubim Paraira, SVD who really loved to have our CJD seminary present in his diocese.

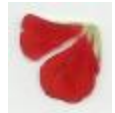


*Fr Ewaldus Martinus Penu during the mass of blessing of our seminary building in 2015 in Maumere, Indonesia.*

- I received a letter from **St Mary's Hospital in Seoul** to say that they have donated \$8398 to my health over the last two years. God bless them! It is a great hospital! I'll try not to get sick, but I'm grateful to these friends in Korea and to our friends in America who helped me through the medical crisis I had.

- **Seminarians Bro Rajnal Rehman, C.J.D. and Bro Pradeep Mulupuri, C.J.D.** finished novitiate in Vladivostok and took their first vows in their home countries of Pakistan and India. They will be attending the seminary in their home countries but they will studying in English. The plan was for them to study in the Philippines, but visa problems made that impossible. Guess what! They will probably recruit new members for our order where they are—God always has his plan. We already received three requests from India. We'll see what God wants. Thanks, benefactors for supporting our seminarians!

- The **theme color** of this issue is a geranium flower from the front entrance of our monastery in Vladivostok.



## How to Communicate with Us

### Internet

Russian language: [www.catholic.vladivostok.ru](http://www.catholic.vladivostok.ru)

English language: [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)

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**Facebook: The Holy Mother of God Vladivostok**

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## Opportunities

- ♥ Can you **sponsor a seminarian** in his journey to priestly ordination? In a few short years we have seen seven priests ordained in the order of Canons Regular of Jesus The Lord. We currently have 39 seminarians in various levels of education and formation in the Order. They need your help to continue their journey. Might you or your apostolate prayerfully consider sponsoring a seminarian? Please contact the California mission office for information.

♥ Masses celebrated in Russia may be requested for loved ones, living or dead. **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 all who are keeping our Women’s Centers open through your generous donations. We’re able to keep the doors open month to month. Our long running **Adopt A Birth** program within the Women’s Centers has now helped **save well over 2600 babies from abortion**. The number of babies saved can continue to grow as long as our Center doors can remain open. Mothers will receive the help they need to keep their babies pre- and post-delivery with your donation of \$50 to the **Adopt A Birth** program. With this, you will pay for the medical supplies needed in the hospital to deliver the baby. Often times, the cost of these supplies is the deciding factor for a mother to have an abortion or let her child live. Fr Myron will send you a picture of the newborn you helped save! \$125 to the **Adopt A Mother** program provides help to the mother and baby in the first weeks supplying them with nutritious food, formula, diapers, baby clothes, vitamins, and medical aftercare.

♥ Know of a **Catholic conference** in your area? Please let us know! Catholic conferences are one way we spread the news of our work in Russia. Here are some of the conferences we are attending

- 09/07/18 Eucharistic Congress, Charlotte, NC
- 10/11/18 University of Dallas Ministry Conf., Dallas, TX
- 10/31/18 Faith Formation, Santa Clara, CA

♥ **Bequests – A Lasting Legacy**

A will is the easiest and most effective means to ensure that your assets are distributed as you wish. Bequests, or gifts by will, both large and small, provide long-term support for the ongoing work of Mary Mother of God Mission Society and the mission in Eastern Russia.

♥ Visit our updated **mission store website!** You’ll find beautiful and unique items such as book covers, rosary cases and totes, many one of kind, crafted from out of use priests’ vestments, Russian icons and hand painted nesting dolls, ornaments and tapestry art from Greece, sterling silver Our Lady of Vladivostok medals, and more! Go to [www.store.vladmission.org](http://www.store.vladmission.org). Start your Christmas list and help the mission at the same time!

♥ Our two original priests are getting older. We’ve started a **Priests’ Medical and Retirement Fund**. If you’d like to help support Fr Myron and Fr Dan in their retirement years, please note, “Priests’ Retirement Fund” on your check or donate online at [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org). Remember you can donate through Pay Pal, Venmo or Square too! God bless our priests!

♥ **Fr. Myron** will be in the US speaking at parishes, attending the yearly MMOG Executive Board meeting, and visiting our priests in Las Vegas. If Fr Myron is near your area and you’d like him to speak at your school or group, contact us: [usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org)

- Sept 15/16 St. Mary’s Parish, Eugene, OR
- Sept 22/23 St. Joseph Parish, Salem, OR
- Sept 29/30 St. Mary, McHenry, IL
- Oct 4 MMOG Exec Board Mtg, Chicago, IL
- Oct 6/7 SS Peter and Paul, Haubstadt, IN
- Oct 13/14 St Joseph, Stringtown, IL
- Oct 20/21 Star of the Sea, San Francisco, CA
- Oct 22-26 MMOG National Office, Modesto CA
- Oct 27/28 St. Anne’s/ Holy Cross, Porterville, CA
- Oct 29-Nov 2 Diocese of Las Vegas, NV
- Nov 3/4 Our Lady of Good Cnsl, Plymouth, MI

[usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org) or [209-408-0728](tel:209-408-0728).

*Continued from Page 8.* Here is a list of the remaining available stained glass windows, including frames.

1	Item Description	Sq Ft	Cost \$
2	2 Main Sanctuary wall: Last Supper	48	7062
3	3 Main Sanctuary wall: Sermon on the Mount	48	7062
4	4 Transept Window: Pentecost with St. Mary	97	26972
5	5 Transept Window: Holy Family with St Joseph	97	26972
6	6 Midsize nave Windows: St Theresa of Lisieux	48	7062
7	7 Midsize nave Windows: Ss Cyril and Methodius	48	7062
8	12 Main Façade Window: Resurrection	81	11170



### **From the Women's Support Centers**

Raisa was from a difficult family which did not take care of the children well, some of whom became delinquents. Now she herself has five children, three of whom are in an orphanage. But she is learning how to be a mom, and is taking good care of the remaining two children who came with her to our Center. She was very grateful for the help and advice we provide.

--WSC, Vladivostok

### **From the Women's Support Centers**

A pregnant girl came to us for help; she was from an orphanage. Her father was in prison for drug abuse; her mother froze to death while drunk. When she graduated from the orphanage she didn't receive an apartment from the government because none were available. Now, pregnant, she had nowhere to live. Our volunteer brought the girl to her home as a temporary measure while we helped her to appeal to the local legislative deputy for help. When the girl gave birth to a healthy baby girl they gave her a room in a dormitory. Our volunteer continued to mentor her how to be a mother, how to diaper the baby, how to dress and feed her, and took care of the baby when mom needed time for rest or business. Now the "baby" goes to kindergarten and mom goes to work. And our volunteer is like mama and grandma to the little family.

--WSC, Trudovoye

### **From the Women's Support Centers**

Natalya came crying that her husband rejected the idea of having a child and ordered her to get an abortion. Then he left for his job as a sailor. His mother took his side and demanded an abortion. Natalya came to our Center in tears seeing no escape. Our volunteers gave her emotional support more than anything, and promised they would continue to help. When the baby was born, mother-in-law fell in love with him, and called her son who was away on the ocean to tell how wonderful she felt to be a grandmother. The dad relented, and approved the name for his new son.

--WSC, Nakhodka

### **From the Women's Support Centers**

Not far from our Center lives a family "Tolstoy". Mother Valentina always wanted a big family, but she had only two. As the children grew she began to think of grandchildren. But unexpectedly Valentina discovered she was pregnant, and the ultrasound showed two boys! She wasn't sure she could manage at her age, but dad and the older kids were happy at the prospect. She came to our center for moral support, and one son became the 1000<sup>th</sup> baby helped by the Women's Support Centers!

--WSC, Trudovoye

### **From the Women's Support Centers**

When Eleanora came to us her son had just been born, and mom was in a very difficult situation because the dad left them. While she was pregnant her grandfather died, so she was able to go to live in his apartment which was in a different village. She had few acquaintances there, so we tried to keep contact with her to help her manage situations that arose with the baby. She even had trouble dialing the phone with a child in her arms. We went to her home, and gradually she was able to come to us at the Center. Now her son is a year old. She is a very attentive and careful mother. We are so glad that we were able to help her.

--WSC, Romanovka

### **From the Women's Support Centers**

A 16 year old girl came to our Center saying she was pregnant. Her parents refused to help her so she turned to her grandma who invited her to live with her. The parents of the young father forbade him to even speak to her, and moved him to a different city. A healthy baby girl was born, but how to feed and care for her when you are only in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and grandma's pension is too small even for one person. Feeling that her situation was hopeless, the girl decided on suicide and took an overdose. The doctors arrived in time to save her and she was sent temporarily to the psychiatric unit of the hospital. Meanwhile the Center volunteers were helping her and grandma, as well as the baby. Now mom is back in school in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and grandma is caring for the baby, but they continue to need our help.

--WSC, Lesozavodsk

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**143rd ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS**

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## From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

As I write, Fr Dan is finishing up his last week in the USA speaking in parishes about and raising funds for the mission before returning to Russia. In addition to his parish missions, Fr Dan has been working hard to help raise funds to complete the construction of the Our Lady of the Pacific church project in Nakhodka. A kind and generous donor has pledged \$40,000 if we can match that amount towards the Nakhodka building project. THANK YOU to the many benefactors who have responded to Fr Dan to help us match the pledge and move this church project along! The interior of the church is left to be completed. Almost there! (See picture) Fr Myron has made a list in this issue of the Sunrise of some of the windows that you may purchase and dedicate. If you wish to help us complete the Our Lady of Pacific Church, please note OL Pacific or church building on your check. You can donate through our website [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org), Pay Pal, Venmo or Square too, or send a check to our USA office. I'm including Fr Sebastian's recent update of the project for you. God bless you all!

Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Desk  
[usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org)

*By October 2017, walls and roof, the steeple and façade were ready and due to the shortage of money, we stopped the construction work. On May 2018, we again started the work inside the church building. Now the electric wiring work and cement plastering work is going on. Works that are remaining*

*are false sealing, flooring, ventilation works, heating system, painting of the walls and furniture, and landscaping is remaining.*

*Along with all our parishioners and benefactors here in Nakhodka, I want to thank Fr Myron and Fr Daniel and all of the benefactors of the Mary Mother of God Mission Society in the USA, who, through your heartfelt prayers and financial support, have made the construction of a real church here in Nakhodka not only a possibility, but now a growing reality! We would never have been able to think about such a project without your generosity.*

*We always keep you in our prayers, and I [will] keep you informed about further developments in the construction process. Thanks and God's blessings to all of you! Fr Sebastian*

*The interior of Our Lady of the Pacific Church needs to be completed. (back entry shown—See exterior view on pg 6.)*

