



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Forty Four November, 2018

Ordination of Bro Nikita Kushnaryov

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



Our big excitement was Sunday August 19 when Bishop Kirill was here to **ordain our brother** and parishioner Nikita Kushnaryov, C.J.D. to the diaconate! It was a big event for both Bro Nikita and for Bishop Kirill, because it was the first ordination that Bishop Kirill was able to perform in his 19 years as a bishop, because he had been an auxiliary bishop for several years. Here is a picture of the “golden moment” for you. As I tell the brothers, you don’t know if you have a vocation until the hands are on your head, and after that you have no excuse to doubt! After the Ordination Mass, the parish served dinner out-of-doors to celebrate the event.

Deacon Nikita is from Rostov-na-Danu in the south of European Russia, and completed his seminary training in Poland in Polish. He completed his novitiate here in Vladivostok, and then taught the RCIA classes here to prepare people for baptism and confirmation. He also provided an on-going education program for Catholic students of the Far Eastern Federal University where there are about 200 Catholic students, and for parish university students. He also worked on the committees for the Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conferences in 2017 and 2018.

Deacon Nikita will continue to live and work with us here in Vladivostok, taking charge of the RCIA program, as well as continuing in the university student program. Naturally he will also be helping with Sunday and Feastday masses, especially with preaching. He also enjoys garden work, making sauerkraut, and preparing mushrooms. He is our

regular Friday cook, and we look forward to a variety of meatless dishes that he prepares.

As he is a transitional deacon, we hope for his ordination to the priesthood in 2019. Thanks for praying for vocations, and for our vocations in particular!



News Notes

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

● August 15 was the first vows of **Brother Pradeep Mulupuri, C.J.D.** (behind the girl in the orange blouse in the picture). August 15 is also Indian Independence Day. He had to take his vows in India rather than with our community in the Philippines because the Philippines is not giving student visas to Indians just now.

And **Brother Rajnal Rehmat, C.J.D.** took his vows in Pakistan on August 16. Same problem with visas. We are working on the visa problem, but we are happy that our seminarians want to continue in spite of these administrative problems. Thanks for helping to support our seminarians!

● The theme color for this Advent issue of the *Sunrise* is from a flower in the garden of our parishioners in Orekhova, Primorsky Krai, Russia. It is a *Mirabilis Jalapa* or “4 O’clock Flower.”



(News Notes continued on page 6.)



Brother Pradeep’s first profession of religious vows with his family and parish priest and Brother Kumud.

Brother Rajnal took his vows at the Franciscan Monastery in his home town in Pakistan



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.

--Lyubov, Women’s Support Center, Trudovoye

Annual Catholic Youth Conference of the Russian Far East

29 July to 5 August 2018

By Br Vicky Samuel CJD, participant

The Conference was held at Immaculate Conception Parish in Khabarovsk. There were Russian boys and girls, as well as people from other countries who took part, including America, Indonesia, Pakistan, Brazil and Spain.

The theme of the week was “Prayer”. After lunch each day, one of the missionaries from the FOCUS team gave a talk divine reading (*lectio divina*). It is a discipline that intuitively and effectively dwells on a biblical text as a means of seeking communion with Christ, so as to grow in faith, hope and charity it is based on Bible teaching. There are five main points about Divine Reading.

1. **Read:** It begins with the reading of a text, which leads to a desire to understand its true content. In other words, reading and listening to the Word of God.
2. **Acknowledge:** The second stage is where we think about the text we have chosen and ruminate upon it so that we take from it what God wants to give us.
3. **Relate:** it is to relate the text to my own life, how it helps me to understand my weaknesses, and how to overcome on them.
4. **Receive:** What does the biblical text say to us? Here, each person, individually but also as a member of the community, must let himself or herself be moved and challenged.
5. **Respond:** We leave our thinking aside and simply let our hearts speak to God. This response is inspired by our reflection on the Word of God.

After the opening session we were divided into five groups for divine reading each group was given the passage from John 1:1-7 to reflect on according to the points which were given in the session. Almost all the group members shared their valuable comments on that passage.

On the second day we had Morning Prayer. After breakfast Br Nikita Kushnarev CJD gave the talk on the **parts of the Holy Mass**. The Catholic Church believes that the Mass is exactly the same sacrifice that Jesus Christ offered on the Cross at Calvary. In the beginning he gave a brief introduction how mass is important in Christian life. He quoted the famous sentence of

Sacrosanctum Concillium of Vatican II, “Liturgy is the source and summit of our life”. Liturgy is the work of the church. It is not only the work or production of the priest but it is the participation of the faithful. It is the work of God in which we participate. It is entering into heaven.



Working with foreigners requires interpreters. Victor Anisimov does English and Russian.

In the beginning of mass we all stand in the position of readiness, ready to enter into heaven. We participate in mass through words, action, singing, signs and symbols. The altar is the holiest place. It is the church’s focal point. It symbolizes Jesus Christ. It is anointed with Holy Oil. When the priest reaches the altar, he kisses it as a sign of reverence for Christ, our great High Priest, Who will again make that sacrifice of His Body and Blood present to us on this altar.

We begin our common prayer with the Sign of the Cross – a physical gesture reminding us of the bodily gift of Christ on the Cross for us. The Holy mystery of



Acting it out is a good way to get to the meaning of the text.

the Trinity invites us to participate. By saying “The Lord be with you” priest gives us the greeting and blessing of God.

In the **liturgy of the word** we experience God among us and open ourselves to God’s action through the word. It is also called “Anamnesis”--living memory. It is not a fairy tale but the living and active word of God. It is our salvation history which is not only read but lived. After

two readings, first from Old Testament and second from New testament, an alleluia is sung to greet the Gospel reading. This is a Hebrew word which means is to praise the Lord. The Gospel is the fulfillment of prophecy. After the Gospel, a homily is given. It is time to meditate and contemplate.

The Eucharistic Prayer: The long prayer which follows brings us to the very center of the Mass and the heart of our faith. While the words of the prayer may vary from Sunday to Sunday, the prayer always has this structure: 1) We call upon God to remember all the wonderful saving deeds of our history. 2) We recall the central event in our history, Jesus Christ, and in particular the memorial he left us on the night before he died. We recall his passion, death and resurrection. 3) After gratefully calling to mind all the wonderful saving acts God has done for us in the past, we petition God to continue those deeds of Christ in the present: We pray that we may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

On the fourth day we went to the sports complex where we spend our day talking about the Holy Eucharist. Sister explained the importance and a brief history of te Holy Eucharist. On the other hand we also played various Games on that day and we had a BBQ Dinner.

On fifth day “Friday” Sr Anastasia talked about prayer life and she gave five basic steps, how to pray.

1. Put yourself in God’s presence “act of faith”
2. Ask God “to help your prayer”
3. Meditate on the theme you have chosen
4. Apply it to your life
5. Make a resolution

Sister also explained how Jesus was punished and what kind of instruments were used through a power point presentation. After the session we had the Way of the Cross outside the church with great reverence. After supper all the participants did adoration for the whole night until Morning Prayer. Then we had mass.

On the sixth day, after breakfast Br Alexi SVD gave the talk about the **Liturgy of the Hours**, which is also called Divine office or “Breviary”. It is a specific manifestation of the public prayer of the Roman rite of the Catholic Church. It is “the daily prayer of the Church, marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer.” The five “hours” during which you offer praise to God in this prayer are (1) Office of Readings, (2) Morning Prayer or “Lauds,” (3) Daytime Prayer (divided into specific parts of the daytime), (4) Evening Prayer or “Vespers,” and (5) Night Prayer or “Compline”. At the end Br Alexi SVD gave his own life experience how Liturgy of the hour became the part of his life.

The fountain on City Square in Khabarovsk is refreshing on a hot day.

On Sunday, we did an evaluation of the past week. Almost all the participants liked the conference and said that it should go on every year. It was helpful to all the participants and broadened their minds to look at their own prayer life. It gave them some new perspective about Mass, Prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, Divine Mercy and



reading sacred scripture, and reciting the Rosary. The testimony of different people in the conference encouraged all to be faithful to God more and more.

The young generation is the future of our church; they bring new life in the church. I wish all the best to the participants to keep the spirit alive. I would like to thank the entire FOCUS team and all the organizers of this annual conference. I must say that it was the chance to seek the presence of God in all the universe and in oneself.

From the Women’s Support Centers

“Masha” became pregnant with her fifth child. She felt shame and fear and proposed to do an abortion. Her friends didn’t understand why she had this child, as she was already a grandmother! She came to our Center and we had several talks with her, and she decided not to do the abortion. A baby girl was born, though the birth was difficult as mom was already 40 years old. Thanks to help from our Center the family got through the difficulties, and we will continue to help and support mom and her new unexpected daughter.

---WSC, Romanovka

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

Celebrating St Augustine's Day

By BroYohanes Anggur, C.J.D.

Every August 28th the Church commemorates St Augustine's day as an expression of gratitude for his services to the Church. His thoughts and teachings greatly helped the Church, including the development of doctrine of faith. Therefore, St Augustine is seen as one of the most influential fathers of the Church. For the CJD community, the commemoration of St Augustine is a solemnity because St Augustine was the father of Augustinian spirituality and the originator of the movement of Canons Regular. The CJD community takes his Rule as a guide to living in community.



[I don't know what "takraw ball sports" are either!- Ed.]

On St Augustine's day in 2018, the Maumere-Indonesia CJD community held various sports activities, such as footballs, volleyball, takraw ball sports. This sporting activity was first done not to be seen as a ceremony but to increase the sense of brotherhood among fellow members of the seminary community. We as CJD members are expected to be able to maintain and continue the work of St Augustine at this time--to love the Church and serve God through pastoral work every day.

On August 28 we had solemn mass together with the acceptance of 4 new aspirants and 4 postulant and 2 pre novices. We really thank God for the vocations that the Lord gives to our community. After the mass we had a dinner together with families and friends and also our beloved newly elected bishop, Mgr. Edwaldus Martinus. May the celebration of St Augustine's day enable us as Augustinian Canons to proclaim God's love for others according to the spirit of St Augustine!



Nothing like climbing the palm tree to stir up an appetite.



Bishop Elect of Maumere Msgr Edwaldus Martinus, SVD joined the party.

Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone!

News Notes (continued from Page 2)

● We received two large paintings for the new **Our Lady of the Pacific Church in Nakhodka**, Divine Mercy and Our Lady of Fatima. They were painted by Boguslaw Boba Colin and sent to us from Poland. Here is a copy of Our Lady with the artist.



● **St Joseph Parish in Artyom** has many new parishioners—Vietnamese families living and working in Russia. It is wonderful that we now have three Vietnamese seminarians in Vladivostok. They will be working with St Joseph's to prepare the kids for First Communion, helping with liturgical preparations, and helping out at Sunday Mass including music and readings. Fr Dan said that he preaches there in two languages, English and Russian, and now his sermon is also translated into Vietnamese.

How to Communicate with Us

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Vladivostok Sunrise Edited and produced in Russia by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D. Printed in Modesto, California by Parks Printing. Assembled for mailing by St Joseph Parish, Modesto, California, and Resurrection Parish, Evansville, Indiana.

Opportunities

♥ We're praying to meet the funding needs to purchase the land on which our rectory is built. We now rent the land from the city. Once we own the land we will be able to register the rectory as an official building and thus register to live on-site. The city has proposed an excellent price for the land of 1.436 acres. **So far we have raised only \$2900.** Can you help with this critical need? We need \$34,250.

♥ Can you **sponsor a seminarian** in his journey to priestly ordination? In a few short years we have seen 7 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, including 6 in their deacon year. They need your help to continue their journey. Might you prayerfully consider sponsoring a seminarian? Yearly costs are \$10,700 for each seminarian. Please contact the California mission office for budget information or see our website www.vladmission.org

♥ A generous benefactor has offered a beautiful free gift of a **Swarovski crystal rosary**, valued at \$100, for anyone who donates \$500 or more to our **seminarians' education**. Thank you!

♥ Give an eternal gift. 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.

♥ You are helping save lives. Thank you to all who are keeping the doors of our Women's Centers open through



your generous donations. 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 an important way we spread the news of our work in Russia. Join us November 30, 2018, at the Faith Formation Conference in Santa Clara, CA

♥ Our priests are getting older. We've set up a **Priests' Medical and Retirement Fund**. If you'd like to help care for Fr. Myron and Fr. Dan in their retirement years, please note, "Priests' Retirement Fund" on your check or donate online at www.vladmission.org

♥ Be a missionary right where you are and help spread the news of our mission in Russia. Ask your pastor to place our bi-monthly **Vladivostok Sunrise newsletter** in your parish. We'll be happy to send you 5 copies every two months. If you need more, just let us know.

♥ Some unique gifts for Christmas giving! **Our Lady of Vladivostok Pendant** with Most Holy Mother of God Cathedral on back of medal. Finely detailed! Text reads, *Our Lady of Vladivostok, Pray for Us* 3/4" Sterling Silver medal w 18" stainless chain \$65

3/4" Pewter medal w 18" stainless chain \$35

1" Sterling Silver medal w 24" stainless chain \$79

1" Sterling Silver medal w 24" stainless chain with text in Russian \$79. Prices include S/H in continental USA

Abundant Blessings Cookbook. 494

International recipes submitted from the many cultures and countries of our priests, seminarians, sisters, and mission families. Whether a beginner our gourmet, you will love this beautiful cookbook! \$30 includes a FREE Vladivostok Ecumenical Easter Concert CD and S/H in continental USA. Proceeds benefit our **seminarians' education and Women's Support Centers**.

♥ Visit our updated **mission web store**! You'll find beautiful and unique items such as book covers, rosary cases and totes, crafted from priests' vestments no longer being used, Russian icons and hand painted nesting dolls, ornaments and tapestry art from Greece, and more! Go to www.store.vladmission.org. Complete your Christmas list and help the mission at the same time!

♥ Shopping on Amazon? Type in **Amazon Smile** in the search bar and select Mary Mother of God Mission Society as your charity of choice. The mission will receive 0.5% of your cart from Amazon at no cost to you! To date the mission has earned \$1714 from Amazon Smile.



(Continued from Page 8) becoming one family in Christ with Catholics living far beyond our borders.

We send our gratitude to all our sister parish families. We depend on your prayers and outreach to help spread awareness of our mission and bring needed support to the mission. Most importantly your work is helping spread the gospel.

We are thankful to Archdiocese of Cincinnati and Fr Frank Amburger, pastor of our newest sister parish, Holy Angels in Sidney, OH. Their very enthusiastic sister parish coordinator, Fran Holthaus contacted us recently to begin a twinning program. The parish has already sent clothing, medical supplies and vestments to the mission and will be hosting one of our speakers this month to introduce our mission work to parishioners.

If you would like to know more about becoming a sister parish, I would be delighted to answer any questions and help get you connected. Please contact me at the mission office in Modesto, 209-408-0728, usoffice@vladmission.org.

God bless you. Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan



Baby Talk

From the Women's Support Centers

You don't really think these bars will stop me, do you?!

[Alexander March 8, 2017]

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144th ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS	
Ordination of Bro Nikita	Page 1
News Notes	Page 2
Catholic Youth Conference	Page 3
Celebrating St Augustine's Day	Page 5
Opportunities	Page 6
Baby Talk	Page 7
Development Desk	Page 8

From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Advent to you and your families.

Fr Myron is completing his tour in the USA, visiting friends and family and speaking to parishioners about our mission.

Each year Fr Myron and Fr Dan include visits to some of our sister parishes to update parishioners about the mission. Becoming a sister parish to our mission allows parishioners from both the USA and Russia to cultivate a friendship and grow together in faith. Typically, sister parishes in the USA send aid to their "twin" by way of in kind donations for the children and poor or special offerings to help with financial needs.

During his September visit to Oregon, Fr Myron visited three of our long time sister parishes. St Phillip Benezi, Portland, St Joseph, Salem and St Mary's, Eugene. Fr Myron concelebrated Masses and updated parishioners on the latest from the mission. After each of the Masses, parishioners were able to meet and talk with Fr Myron and ask many questions. Volunteers at the parishes sold Russian icons and gifts sent from the mission office as fundraising events and truly became missionaries right in their own back yard. We are deeply grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Lang, from St Mary's parish

in Eugene and Mr. and Mrs. Al Lyons from St Joseph parish in Salem and all their volunteers for the wonderful dedication in accomplishing very successful icon sales events. Their labors brought fellow parishioners closer to the mission and provided needed fundraising. Sister parishes can be involved in active ways, such as an icon sale or parish dinner, or in more quiet ways such as simply keeping parishioners informed about the mission through distribution of our bimonthly newsletter or a parish bulletin article. In any and all cases, sister parish communities are participating in spreading the gospel to all corners of the world and *(Continued on Pg 7)*



Sister parishes are creative in their involvement. Among other activities, long time sister parish, Coronation of Our Lady in Grandview, MO, hosts a plant sale each year to raise money for the mission.