



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Forty Seven May, 2019

Two More Priests Ordained!

Thanks be God and to the Virgin Mary!



The moment of ordination of Brother Patrick Napal, C.J.D. to the priesthood by Bishop Odelio of Karaganda, Kazakhstan. Fr Patrick will serve in the Apostolic Administration of Atyrau in Kazakhstan.

Brother Patrick is from the Philippines, but has also lived in America, Italy, Russia, Armenia, and now Kazakhstan. He speaks at least six languages. Frankly, he is best known by us as a guy who loves the poor and the handicapped, and even a variety of animals. We have many stories to tell about his escapades with cats and dogs, but probably he is most famous for working with needy people. In the

Philippines he organized the "Apostles of Compassion" to work with needy people, of which there are plenty. He travelled to distant mountain villages where there was practically no medical help, and tried to do what he could. He answered the call to the seminary and priesthood, and joined us in Vladivostok for the novitiate. When he worked at the hospice he called me to say that a lady there was dying and was asking for baptism. I said, "Brother, baptize her!" He wasn't even a deacon at the time, but it was an emergency. The following day I confirmed her and anointed her before her death, and I'm sure she isn't the only saint that Brother (now Father)

Hand painted copy by Lydia Nam, our parishioner, of Botticelli's painting



Patrick has in heaven. I'm sure he will have many, many more. He finished the seminary in Karaganda, Kazakhstan *summa cum laude*, and the Rector told me that the seminary was very grateful to Patrick because it was he who taught the other seminarians how to approach working with the poor! Congratulations, Father Patrick!



The moment of ordination of Brother Nikita Kushnaryev, C.J.D. to the priesthood by Bishop Kirill of The Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk. Fr Nikita will serve in Vladivostok.

Father Nikita Kushnarev is the third priest to be ordained from our parish, but the first one for our order. How wonderful it is to have a Russian priest now, and especially one as capable as Fr Nikita! He came to us from Rostov-na-Danu in south European Russia, the son of a university professor of Philosophy and of a music teacher. He answered the call to the seminary in another order, and was sent to Poland for studies, so he speaks and writes Polish and English as well as Russian. But as a rare person, a Russian Catholic seminarian, he was concerned that his future be in Russia, not Poland where there is no special need for priests. He spent his

novitiate with us, then his diaconate. Our parishioners appreciate his preaching, as it is full of learning and historical facts, and, of course, they hear Russian without our American accents! Besides his liturgical work, he also serves our community as our purchasing agent, and regularly works with the youth of our parish, including the Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference and programs for Catholic students at the Far Eastern Federal University, of which there are quite a few. At this ordination, parishioners asked us to sing a special hymn to the Blessed Virgin Mary to thank her for a new priest, an *alter Christus* in the place of Her Son, until He comes again.

News Notes

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



- We've been busy with ordinations and vows. Here is a picture of our five Indonesian novices who took their **first vows** on March 22, Brothers Geraldo, Octavianus, Yohanes, Edy, and Ofedius. Also Brother Vicky from Pakistan took his simple vows on March 26. Our next group of **novices has arrived**--Eight new novices, and we already have five here, for a total of 13! Our house is full! Isn't it a great problem to have? So many young men wanting to become priests!





New novices from Vietnam, Pakistan, India, Philippines, Canada, Indonesia, and Africa, with Bro Vicky and Bro Nikita.

- We have three **Vietnamese novices**, two of whom have completely finished the seminary. They are very apostolic, and began to look up Vietnamese people here, and suddenly we find that we have about 20 Vietnamese parishioners in St Joseph's Parish in Artyom, and maybe as many here in Vladivostok! They have begun organizing them, and will have a weekly Sunday Vietnamese mass! Also, some need to prepare for baptism, for first communion, and some even to regularize their marriages. They also need catechetical teaching, especially the kids. Of course we don't have a Vietnamese priest, so the novices will be helping me, Fr Dan, and Fr Nikita to minister to them. They are mostly young married couples, raising their children in Russia. Only several already speak Russian, but the children are already bilingual. Vladivostok is becoming more and more international, so we now have masses in Russian, English, Spanish, and Vietnamese! What is next?? Chinese?



The Vietnamese parishioners who attended the first Vietnamese mass on January 13, with translator Br Peter

- On February 17 Fr Daniel Maurer held the **first Spanish Mass** for Catholic students of the Far Eastern Federal University who come from Spanish-speaking countries. Students come from South America for the medical school, language school, and other programs of the university. Here is a photo of those who attended the first Spanish Mass.



Spanish-speaking students from Columbia, Peru, and Africa



- **St Anthony of Padua** is one of the favorite saints of Catholics, but few realize that before he was shipwrecked on his way to Africa and wound up with the Franciscan in Italy, he was a canon regular in the cathedral of Coimbra in Portugal. Today he is still remembered there as a canon regular with his statue in the habit of the canons regular, and wearing a surplice. Here is a photo of his statue in his home Church of the Holy

Cross in Coimbra.

- On January 22, our Indonesian Sisters in Jesus the Lord opened a new Community in **Palopo, Sulawesi Island**, about 270 miles from Makassar. There they will work for a boarding school for junior and senior high school students who attend the school operated by the Brothers Servants of Christ, a Makassar diocesan congregation. The dormitory building has been built since 2010 with a

capacity for 50 girls but has never been developed because there was no one to manage it. Our sisters Sr Pascaline and Sr Lusy Faustine will live in the dormitory, and now there are already 20 children with them there.



The dormitory building on Sulawesi with Sr Pascaline

- A photo of Sr Marthina Tongli, C.J.D. with the Archbishop of Jakarta, **Ignatius Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo**, and the orphans cared for by our sisters in the Jakarta Archdiocese. It was a Christmas celebration held by the National Army Headquarters of the Republic of Indonesia. The archbishop specially advised us to continue our work and develop well the children of the orphanage.



Sometimes "orphans" are simply children rejected by their parents.

- Recently we had a celebration for our archivist, Tatyana Shaposhnikova on the occasion of the publication of her **new book**, *The Polish Diaspora of Vladivostok*. It is full of interesting pictures of times past, and some of the parishioners who made history here before the Russian Revolution, many of whom were shot

by the Communists. Today she guided a tour of the church and other sites in Vladivostok for a group of Japanese tourists who wanted know about and follow the path of the orphans that our Bishop Slivovsky and his parishioners saved along the railways during the Revolution. Japan was a big element in their salvation, as the kids were removed by Japanese ships to Japan to save them from death. They were later sent on to the U.S.A. The story would make an interesting movie!

- It is great to have more priests in our community, but it also means we have a need for more **mass stipends**. You can send your intentions to our office in Modesto for transferal to us.

- Our parish in **Lesozavodsk** continues to take care of the hungry children that live in the three 9-storey buildings around the parish. They mostly have single moms. They can eat at school during the week, but on Saturdays they are hungry. We are now up to about 70 kids each Saturday that the parishioners feed, with help from our benefactors. We don't have a cooking license, so we have to give them ready to eat foods, like fruit, bread, ramen, and even a candy bar. They really look forward to it, and line up, sometimes hours in advance!

- Our brothers regularly enjoy going to one of the **boarding schools for children** here in Vladivostok to play soccer on Saturdays. They also provide a variety of activities, depending on the interests of the children. Chalking on the sidewalk has become popular.



- Our Bishop Kirill Klimovich was very busy on his recent visit to us. He had not only the ordination of Fr Nikita, but also the **Chrism** Mass for all the priests and parishes of the Russian Far East in our church on April 9. There was also the Day for Religious on April 10 when Fr Myron, then Bro Nikita, and Sr Catherine gave talks and a program for the religious of the Russian Far East on the topic of "The Vow of Chastity", certainly an important topic for today. Fr Myron dealt with



psychological aspects of chastity, Bro Nikita with chastity in the scriptures, and Sr Catherine's talk was about strengthening our commitment to chastity in times of stress and trouble.

News Notes continued on Pg 7.

**How to Communicate with Us
Internet**

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 English language: www.vladmission.org
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*Bishop Kirill presides at the Chrism Mass on April 9.
 Bishop Kirill and Confirmations on April 7. Confirmandi below.*



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The color theme of this issue is taken from candy at Visitation Parish, Lesozavodsk, Russia—pink and blue to honor the Blessed Virgin.



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

Opportunities

♥ Would you consider donating your **air miles** to help our priests and seminarians with their travel expenses? Please contact the mission office. 209-408-0728

♥ Have you ever thought about **traveling to our Russia mission** in Vladivostok? It is a extraordinary experience to immerse yourself in the work you read and hear about and meet the people whose lives have been changed through our Faith. If you are interested in forming a travel group or going on your own, contact the mission office. The schedule is open most all the time at the mission but September or October is the best time to plan on going.

♥ Become 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 a few copies every two months.

♥ Thank you for sending us news about a **Catholic Conference** in your area! Your eyes and ears help us a lot in extending our outreach to more and more Catholics. We still get comments from people who don't know the Catholic Church is alive in Russia. Let's get the word out! Want to "man" a booth for us at the conference? Let us know.

♥ **Priest and lay volunteers** needed to speak at parishes and/or attend our table at Catholic conferences one weekend. You can help us spread the news of our work in Russia. Travel, food and accommodations covered. Contact the mission office in Modesto.

♥ Want a way to involve your parish to help promote awareness of the mission and fundraise all the while having lots of fun? Ask your pastor if you can hold a **Russian Icon and Religious gifts fundraiser sale** at your parish! We provide the supplies you need. We will help you with this hugely popular event. Contact Vicky or Jessica at the mission office in Modesto, CA for more details. 209-408-0728

♥ Can you **sponsor a seminarian** in his journey to priestly ordination? In a few short years we have had 9 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 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

♥ 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 \$1848 from Amazon Smile.

♥ **Our Lady of Vladivostok Pendant**

with Most Holy Mother of God Cathedral on back of medal. Finely detailed! The 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 English

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

Prices include S/H in continental USA

Contact the mission office at usoffice@vladmission.org to order or visit our mission webstore, store.vladmission.org.



Baby Talk

From the Women's Support Centers



"Let's see, if I go to Las Vegas and..."

[Elijah June 20, 2018]



The path to our church

Confused by all the terminology

Questions by a Benefactor; Answers by Fr Myron

Q. “Congratulations on your many vocations, but I’m confused by all the terminology, like “novice” and “seminarian”. Please help!”

A. The confusion is because there are two things going on at the same time:

1. Preparation for the priesthood: seminarians.
2. Stages of religious life: novices, etc.

Let’s take them one at a time. Anybody studying for the priesthood is a seminarian. He could be a religious or a diocesan seminarian. End of story.

If a man wants to be a religious, he’ll probably go through most or all of these stages:

- Candidates are those intending to enter religious life, but are still under consideration, either by themselves or by the community they want to join.
- Postulants are those accepted by the community to at least temporarily live with the community so that each could make up their minds.
- Novices are those who have entered the community officially, and they may already wear the habit, but they

don’t have vows, so they can leave or be dismissed at any time.

- Simple Professed are those who have finished novitiate, and who publicly profess obedience, usually for three years.

- Solemnly or finally profess the Evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience are those who have finished novitiate and simple vows, and who now take lifetime profession of poverty, chastity, and obedience. This is the final stage of religious life.

So some seminarians are also religious preparing at the same time for religious life as they prepare for priesthood.

Q. “But roughly a year before their ordination as priests, seminarians are ordained deacons?”

A. Yes, but often it is a shorter time than that, sometimes six months.

Q. “And their solemn profession is some time after that?”

A. It depends upon where they are to be incardinated. “Incardination” means permanent sacramental status under a bishop or major superior. If they are members of a papal congregation, they can’t be ordained deacons until after their final or solemn profession. If they are members of diocesan congregations, they can be ordained any time the bishop and his consultants agree (which is our situation) regardless of their situation with vows.

News Notes continued from page 5.



Brother Kumud preparing kids for First Confession in Gary, Indiana

- We have enough vocations now, that we are wondering where else in the world God would have us serve. We’ve had inquiries from Kazakhstan, Iceland, Gary Indiana, Larantuka Indonesia, Ho Chi Min Vietnam, and the Philippines. While we are looking at our options, Brother Kumud Nayak, C.J.D. was sent to America to check out possibilities.

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147th ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS	
Two More Priests Ordained	Page 1
News Notes	Page 2
Opportunities	Page 6
Baby Talk	Page 6
Confused by the Terminology	Page 7
Development Desk	Page 8

From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

Happy Eastertide to you and your families!

●We want to purchase the land on which our rectory is built. Currently we 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. We're inching our way to our goal of \$41,110 to purchase the rectory land. You helped us raise **\$8855 for the land** so far. Thank you!

●Fr Dan will be coming to the USA in June. We have some weekday and weekend openings available for **Fr Dan to visit your area**. If your pastor would like to invite Fr Dan to come and speak about the mission at your parish, please let us know. Fr Dan speaks fluent Spanish. We will contact your diocese for permission and arrange the weekend. Here is Fr Dan's schedule so far.

June 22/23 St Peter the Apostle, Las Vegas, NV

June 29/30 TBA

July 6/7 Immaculate Conception, N Little Rock, AR

July 13/14 St Edward, Texarkana, AR

July 20/21 Angola, IN

July 27/28 Baltimore, MD

August 3/4 TBA

August 10/11 TBA

August 17/18 TBA

August 23/24 Ann Arbor, MI

●Fr Myron will be visiting the USA in the Fall. If your pastor would like either of our priests to visit for a talk, we'll be happy to arrange it.



An old picture of Fr Dan with the Gregoray family from St. Joseph's Parish, Artyom. The kids are old enough now, so they were confirmed by Bishop Kirill on April 7.

Thank you for your prayers most of all!

Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan Mission Desk
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