



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Fifty Two March, 2020

Vietnamese Deacon for Vladivostok

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

Archbishop Pierre Phêrô Trần Đình Tứ, Emeritus Bishop of Phú Cường, Viet Nam, **ordained our Brother Mark Dao, C.J.D.** to the transitional diaconate on January 20 in the chapel of the Vietnamese Foreign Mission Society in Ho Chi Minh City, in the presence of his family members, home parishioners, friends, and three of our C.J.D. priests, Fr Daniel Maurer, Fr Jose Unlayao, and Fr Inosensius Hetu.

It was a happy event also for our Vladivostok Vietnamese community of 50 parishioners who will be served by Deacon Mark while we wait for his priestly ordination. Most of our Vietnamese parishioners do not yet speak Russian, so confessions and catechetical classes and marriage preparations are waiting for Brother Mark. Meanwhile it is expected that Brother Mark will be ordained a priest later this year in Vladivostok by our Bishop Kirill Klimovich. Then he will have his Mass of Thanksgiving in his home parish of Ben Cat in Ho Chi Minh City before returning to Vladivostok.

Bro Mark studied at a minor seminary and then joined the Missionaries of St Charles Borromeo. He decided to join the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord in



It was the first ordination ever in this chapel.



Russia during a visit to America and a meeting with our first Vietnam priest, Fr Luis Van Dam, C.J.D. in Las Vegas.

A Busy Russian Weekend!

by Rev Daniel L. Maurer, CJD

On the last weekend in December 2019 when the Catholic Church celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family we three Catholic priests residing in Vladivostok, all members of the Order of the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord, found ourselves working overtime to serve parishes near and far. Among the three of us we celebrated 10 weekend Masses at 7 different locations!

#’s 1-4: On Friday, on his way to his outlying parish in the city of Lesozavodsk, Fr Myron drove eight hours by car from Vladivostok to the village of Orekhovo to celebrate **(1)** Christmas Mass for an isolated Catholic family who lives there. Then he drove three hours back to Lesozavodsk for **(2)** the 11:00 Saturday Christmas Mass in the Lesozavodsk Parish of the Visitation, which no longer has a resident pastor because of the shortage of priests in our diocese. Fr Myron founded the parish in 2000 and served as absentee pastor there for several years before our bishop gave it over first to the care of a priest from the Korean Mission Society, and later to the care of the OFM Franciscans until they too no longer had enough priests to staff it. Fr Myron has been its absentee acting pastor again for several years, going there once a month for Mass, confessions, catechism and visiting the homebound.

Returning to Vladivostok on Saturday night (a five hour drive), Fr Myron was able to celebrate **(3)** the 2:00 PM English Sunday Mass. After that he drove 50 minutes by car to the suburb of Ugolnoe on the northern edge of Vladivostok to celebrate **(4)** the monthly 6:00 PM Mass at his small parish of Saint Joseph.

#’s 5-7: Meanwhile Fr Daniel was the celebrant at our main parish in Vladivostok, Most Holy Mother of God, for **(5)** the 8:30 AM Saturday daily Mass; **(6)** the 12:00 noon main Sunday Mass in Russian; and **(7)** the 8:30 PM Sunday Mass for our Vietnamese parishioners.

#’s 8-10: On the same weekend, Fr Nikita was the celebrant of **(8)** the 7:00 PM Saturday vigil Mass at our student parish on Russian Island, Vladivostok. On Sunday, because Fr Sebastian flew home to India on December 26 for his annual vacation, Fr Nikita got up early to drive from Vladivostok to Nakhodka (three and a half hours on “bombed out” roads under construction) to celebrate **(9)** the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass in the parish of Our Lady of the Pacific, and then on the way back to Vladivostok, he stopped in the village of Romanovka to celebrate **(10)** the 4:00 PM Sunday Mass in the Parish of the Most Holy Trinity. Fr Sebastian is pastor of both of those parishes, and while he is away until mid February,

we three priests in Vladivostok will take turns going to his two parishes for the weekly Sunday Masses.

With all of this sacramental and religious educational work to do in a large geographic area, we are very dependent upon our automobiles, and we are hoping and praying for the diaconal and priestly ordinations of our two brothers who have completed all of their seminary and spiritual formation studies and who want to work with us in Russia, Br Vicky Samuel, CJD from Pakistan and Br Mark Dao, CJD from Vietnam, both of whom have studied Russian in Vladivostok for more than one year already. Pray along with us that it will happen!

25th Anniversary of Caritas of the Vladivostok Parish

“Caritas” (“Charity”) is, of course, the international Catholic charity, and it has regional and parish affiliates. Our parish affiliate in Vladivostok is celebrating 25 years! Every jubilee is a time to look back at our accomplishments, and a time to plan for the future.

The rebirth of our parish in 1992 corresponded with a crisis period in Russia, a time of social and government changes, and great poverty. There were new problems in society and in our families. Caritas did not ignore these problems, as its goals are the furthering of charity and justice where they are is needed most of all.

Even today the big social problems of Russia are:

- The number of children who become “orphans” even though they have living parents, kids who go without supervision or discipline, and rejected kids;
- Elderly folks, often abandoned or living alone;
- Problems involving refugees and migrants.
- and now a new problem: drug addiction.

In 1992 we formed “Caritas Primorye”, a state-wide Caritas for dealing with wider social problems, the chief activity of which was and still is the six Women’s Support Centers which struggle against abortion. The first volunteers were active members of the Vladivostok Parish. In 1995 we founded our parish Caritas specifically to deal with problems locally, and subsequently Caritas opened parish departments in Lesozavodsk, Romanovka, Arsenyev, Ussuryysk, and Nakhodka.

The Dean of the Vladivostok Deanery, V. Rev Myron Effing was the leader of Caritas Primorye, in spite of his constant work of founding parishes. Besides his volunteer work and 60 lectures in state schools about the theory of alcoholism, he was also busy with finding funding for our various projects.

The Director of the Vladivostok Parish Caritas is Mrs Lilia Silina (and her “main volunteer” is her husband Albert). From the first our Parish Caritas was busy with work with orphans, rejected children, children from multi-child families, and children with physical and mental handicaps. We worked with the special children’s home in Zavodskoi and in Ussuryusk. We worked with elderly whose pensions did not cover their minimum needs, and we helped the handicapped and cancer patients.

The accuracy of our decisions were confirmed by the local authorities and the health authorities that we worked with, including the Hospice at City Hospital #3, the Children’s Hospital #4, cancer patients at Hospital #6, and at the hospital on Popov Island. Besides our regular work, we also received grants for special projects. Here is a description of what Parish Caritas has been doing.

- 1, **The Soup Kitchen.** The program was begun in 2009 and continues in various forms until today. The goal was not only food, but also social activities and even entertainment for those who live alone.
2. **The Hospice.** Begun in 2000 until today, we are of major help, not only to the dying and seriously ill patients at the hospice, but even to the medical personnel who tend to be overworked and underpaid in this difficult work. We have provided water heaters, electric beds, and furniture, in addition to foods and various kinds of therapy for these patients.



3. **The Social Program.** Begun in 1992, as various kinds of humanitarian aid become available, we organize and distribute these things to the needy. Food, clothing, shoes, garden seeds, bread, canned vegetables and sea foods have been donated to us for distribution. Nothing goes to waste. Tea and coffee after Sunday Mass is also furnish by the Social Program, and its volunteers help in the parish when we have a big celebration, like an ordination dinner or a wedding. Since 2013 we have been working with the government “Service for the Poor”.
4. **The Boarding School Program.** There is a correctional school for children from around the state need a broader sense of society than just their fellow pupils and teachers. Our volunteers go regularly to play with the kids, and socialize with them. Outdoor sports are especially important for exercise and vitamin D.

Another boarding school is for children who need temporary shelter, so they are feeling the loss of their regular family, at least temporarily, because of family illness or incarceration. For them especially summer outdoor activities need volunteers.

Another site is the orphans’ hospital where we have helped by buying new professional laundry equipment and where we provided air conditioning for an entire floor which suffered from summertime heat.

Of course none of this would have been possible without our benefactors! Thank you, benefactors, we have been able to help all these people in great need! It is only through your generosity that we can do it! God bless you!!

Just another day at the Women’s Support Center

A 21 year-old girl came to the Center saying that she got married at 20 and her husband was a good man, but she wanted joy and fun. At her friend’s birthday party she met a young man who was active and jolly so she decided to divorce and go with that one. Her mother stopped talking to her after that.

Soon she gave birth to a girl, but the new husband said he wasn’t ready for family life and disappeared, leaving her without means for a living nor a place to live. The government Social Services Department gave her a room in the orphanage to live there with the baby, and they told her to visit our Women’s Support Center.

When she came she was in a deep depression, cried a great deal and suffered a lot. Our volunteers gave her material and moral support for a whole year, including food, diapers, and clothing. They helped her apply for child support, and when it came she rented a room with a lady friend which was cheaper for her.

Her life started to come together, but in a year the former husband and father of the baby appeared again, and they decided to be a family, but they had no place to live. They decided to have a second child in order to receive the government aid for a second child with which they could buy a room, but in her third month the father announced he was leaving again and left. The girl was again without means of support and no place to live and she once again fell into depression.

This time her sister allowed her to come live with her in her 13 ft square room. She got a job at a bakery, and she took the hard jobs so that no one would know that she was pregnant, carrying the heavy bags of ingredients, but she was fired in her eighth month, which was allowed by law because she did not officially work for the bakery but only informally, so she received no compensation.

A boy was born, but after the birth her depression increased, and the hospital staff were rough with her, maybe even because in maternity hospitals here you have to bring all your needs and the needs of your baby along with you, but she had nothing.

When grandma heard that her daughter again gave birth she took them in, but it means they live in a private small house without facilities: no sewer, no water, and they heat by burning wood. Grandma didn't work because she had an aneurism which could erupt at any moment, but now she found work to help support the grandchildren.

Three months after the birth mom was still in depression, saying that all that time she simply lay in bed with the child and cried. But caring for the children required her to live further. She applied for child support, but was refused because she did not have proof of the father's lack of income. So she was again without a way to live, and the social department could have taken her children.

So she again came to our Center to tell her tale, and she was always crying. We gave her moral support, and some financial support, and sent her to our volunteer lawyer.

Our Center is very important in these cases. Our volunteers always pray for our sponsors, and we hope we can continue our work.

Opportunities

- ♥ Please pray for our mission!
- ♥ The mission office in Modesto is looking for a group of volunteers to help process our bi-monthly *Vladivostok Sunrise* newsletter. If your parish or group is interested, please contact the mission office in Modesto.
- ♥ Volunteers are needed to distribute mission information at **Catholic Conferences**. Have fun and help the mission! Please contact the mission office for more details.
- ♥ May we send 5 copies of our bimonthly newsletter, the *Vladivostok Sunrise* to your parish or group? We will be happy to send the number of copies you need to keep your group informed of our work. Call us 209-408-0728, email usoffice@vladmission.org or text 209-613-8121.
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ Ever thought of taking a **mission trip**? You may visit Vladivostok and serve in the mission. Short or long term

volunteers welcome! Contact the mission office at usoffice@vladmission.org.

♥ Please help us keep the Women's Support Centers open. **Adopt A Baby** or **Adopt A Mother**. Your gift of \$50 to the **Adopt A Birth** program 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. Over 2900 babies have been saved from abortion to date! Your \$125 gift to the **Adopt A Mother** program will provide help to the mother and baby in the first weeks supplying them with nutritious food, formula, diapers, baby clothes vitamins and medical aftercare. General donations to the Women's Support Centers will help us continue to serve women in crisis pregnancies, children, and men and women suffering from post-abortion syndrome, and many other services offered to families.

♥ Give an eternal gift. Remember loved ones in this special way: Masses celebrated in Russia may be requested. **Mass stipends** support our priests. 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.

♥ 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 will provide the supplies you need, including beautiful items just in time for Easter, 1st Communion and Confirmation. Contact Vicky or Jessica at the mission office in Modesto, CA for more details. 209-408-0728

♥ Ask your employer if they have a matching gifts program. Your donation can go twice as far!

News Notes

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

- We received the **19-year report of our six Women's Support Centers**. Some interesting facts from the report: Nearly 28,000 women came to us for help, and, of those, 9,000 were trying to decide whether to have an abortion or not. 13,000 received teaching and training about NFP and the bad aspects of contraception. 11,000 were taught about the reasons and proper methods of breastfeeding. More than 1000 made use of our one ultrasound machine. 15,000 received material help, like diapers and baby nutrition. Thanks for your support, benefactors!

News Notes continued on page 7

Needed: Donors for the remaining stained glass windows for the Nakhodka Church of Our Lady of the Pacific

Cost, including double glazed outer windows and all frames	
2 Main Sanctuary wall: Last Supper	\$7,062
3 Main Sanctuary wall: Sermon on the Mount	\$7,062
4 Transept Window: Pentecost with St. Mary	\$26,972
5 Transept Window: Holy Family with St Joseph	\$26,972
6 Midsize nave Windows: St Theresa of Lisieux	\$7,062
7 Midsize nave Windows: Ss Cyril and Methodius	\$7,062
12 Main Façade Window: Resurrection	\$11,170



Pentecost

The Resurrection

Window designs by Brother Philippe Le, C.J.D.



Sts. Cyril and Methodius

Holy Family

Last Supper



Sermon on the Mount

St Theresa of Lisieux



2019 Adopt-a-Kids.





“Thanks, Benefactors, for helping these kids be born and have good health!” from our five Women’s Support Centers for 2019. Pray for an end to abortion!

News Notes *continued*



- *Brother Rajnal Rehmat, C.J.D. receiving the eucharistic elements during his appointment as acolyte by Bishop Indrias Rehmat in Pakistan, December 11.2019*
- **The Christmas Festival of Choirs** was held in our church on January 12. The Festival is our main ecumenical event of the year, with our choir, the Lutheran choir, the Methodist choir, and a Presbyterian choir singing.



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

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The color theme of this issue is from the decorations of the chapel at Brother Mark’s ordination as a deacon.

Baby Talk

From the Women’s Support Centers



“I’m as shocked as you are!”

Olga November 11, 2019

Vladivostok Mission
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From the development desk...

Dear Friends, Lenten blessings to you.

Most of our readers are unaware Mary Mother of God Mission Society is listed in the *Official Catholic Directory*. The *Official Catholic Directory* (OCD) includes information about dioceses, parishes and clergy in the USA, and also listings for authentic religious orders of men and women, missionary activities and foreign missions. An application to the OCD must be submitted and approved for inclusion by the diocesan attorney and the USCCB's general counsel's office. It is a privilege to have our organization listed in the OCD. We are deeply grateful to Bishop Myron Cotta of the Diocese of Stockton, CA, and his office for their recognition and approval.

Here are updates on your help for some of our needs as of February 9, 2020.

Tuition for seminarians. Due end of February

Amount Needed: \$18,850
Donations Collected: \$5,773

Rectory Land

Purchase land so we can register to live here.
Amount needed: \$41,100
Donations collected: \$12,796

Six Women's Support Centers

Monthly Operations
Amount Needed: \$5,486
Donations Collected: \$1,150

Church Bells Repair Project

Amount Needed: \$10,000
Donations collected: \$1,205

Soup Kitchen – January

Amount Needed: \$12 for 1 monthly food packet
Donations Collected: \$182 = 15 food packets

Thank you for your prayers and donations to help keep us going in our work!

God bless you. Sincerely,
Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Coordinator
209-408-0728 usoffice@vladmission.org

