



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Fifty Nine May, 2021



Bishop Kirill Klimovich of the Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk, Siberia, lays hands on Bro Vicky Samuel, C.J.D. for his ordination to the diaconate on March 21.



The Brothers Choir sang at the Saturday Ordination Mass in Vietnamese, Russian, and Latin.

Deacon Vicky Samuel, C.J.D.,

Brother Vicky finished the seminary in Pakistan before joining us. He especially loves working with the children in Lesozavodsk, especially the annual Children's Retreat. He has been going regularly with Fr Myron to Lesozavodsk for the monthly mass. His first homily was there for Palm Sunday. He will need to return to Pakistan to get a new visa, and then be ordained a priest here in the Fall and continue his work with us. Brother Vicky's family watched the whole ceremony via internet!



Most Holy Mother of God Pray for Us

Our brother Vicky Samuel was born on February 25, 1986, in the small village of Sialkot, Pakistan. His native parish is St Mary's at Jamke-Cheema, Sialkot, Pakistan. There are nine siblings, eight brothers, and one sister who all live in a joint family. Four brothers are married. He received his initial education at St Mary's High School. Later, he did his matriculation (10th grade according to the British Education System) from Government High School (July, 2005). He did his philosophy studies in a Franciscan friary and four years of theological studies at the Catholic Institute of Theology in Karachi, Pakistan

Fr Daniel's 70th Birthday!

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

March 5 was **Fr Dan's 70th birthday!** The parish celebrated it on March 7 with presents and speeches after Sunday Mass. Parishioner Christina Pavlova said she tried to find one word which would characterize Fr Dan, and she settled on "aristocratic". All agree that she was right! The City of Vladivostok administration also awarded Fr Dan with a medal for his contributions to the culture of the city by his administering the parish concert program. One condition under which the city returned the church to us in 1994 was that we have organ concerts for the public, and Fr Dan has magnificently helped the parish fulfill this obligation.

Fr Dan was born a fraternal twin of David Maurer in Hart, Michigan, and attended grade school at Saint Joseph's Parish in Saint Joseph, Michigan. He graduated the valedictorian of his minor seminary class and then earned his BA in the Department of East Asian Studies at Michigan State University *magna cum laude* and subsequently studied Chinese in Taiwan. Reentering the seminary, he studied at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and eventually entered the Order of the Augustinians of the Assumption (Assumptionists, A.A.) where he earned his MDiv degree.

He was then sent to Mexico City to study Spanish and work at Our Lady Empress of the Americas Catholic Parish where his duties included: Director of Catechetical Programs for all age levels; Youth Ministry; Vocations Ministry; and Liturgical Music (adult choir founder/director). In 1987 he was sent to the graduate school at the Pontifical University of Santiago, Chile to study Biblical Theology and Canon Law--all courses conducted in the Spanish language.

It was at this time that the idea of beginning a new religious community came to fruition, and as yet "Brother

As a former Franciscan, he still had a desire to serve in the church as a priest, and he found contact with the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord in Russia and wrote a letter to Fr Myron Effing, CJD to join the order in 2018. He was really inspired by the work and the mission of Fr Myron. When his letter was accepted, he joined us on March 22, 2018 in Russia. He took his simple vows on the feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 2019, and was ordained a deacon on March 21, 2021. God bless you, Deacon Vicky!

Daniel" joined Fr Myron Effing to found the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord. In 1991 they received approval from Bishop Joseph Werth of Novosibirsk to begin their work in Russia, and they arrived in Russia in February of 1992. To prepare for that, Daniel Maurer was ordained a transitional deacon by the Most Reverend Paul Donovan, D.D., Bishop of Kalamazoo, Michigan. On September 21, 1992, he was ordained a priest in Vladivostok by Bishop Werth.

Besides his work as associate pastor of the Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Parish, he is the founder of Holy Trinity Parish, Romanovka, and of the Russian Liturgical Music Society of Saint Augustine, which composes, translates, collects and distributes liturgical music in the Russian language for the Roman Catholic Rite. It is also instrumental in importing and installing organs for parishes in the Russian Far East. He is also chaplain to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne, and assistant novice

master for the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord in Vladivostok, and one of the fundraisers for Mary Mother of God Mission Society. Happy Birthday, Fr Dan!



Fr Nikita presents the award from the city

The 500th Anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines

By Brother Edwin Intan, C.J.D.

Five hundred years ago, a Portuguese under the service of the Spanish king led a fleet of storm-battered ships composed of varying nationalities to a land populated by Malays, bringing with them a faith proclaimed first to the Jews, and then to all nations. It is a faith that is open to all. It is Christianity.

The upheavals of history have molded those Malays encountered by Magellan into the Filipino people. What stands out from this people, among others, is the way the Christian faith has taken deep roots among them. Religious fiestas honoring the patron saint is an event that brings together the State and the Church in celebration.

This level of rootedness, even if the commandments of the Faith aren't followed to the full, is what is being highlighted this year as the Philippines celebrates 500 years of Christianity. That the Faith gifted to my ancestors is something that has become part of me, a part of my heritage and inheritance. And this part of who I am is to be shared to others in my mission as a member of the Canons

Regular of Jesus the Lord.

The way that this Faith is shared by the Spaniards was a difficult one. That is why the great missionary efforts of friars such as Pedro Bautista in the early years of Spanish colonization resonate and are significant in my life of faith. The

Br Edwin near the site of the first mass in the Philippines in Cebu



early years were marked with energetic and enthusiastic preaching. The immediate yields were low, but the missionaries weren't discouraged. They explored and studied everything, from customs to language. I can learn a lot from these historical missionaries in my own mission as a Canon Regular.

This Faith that I am sharing is a Faith that has been shared to me. It is a Faith that promised eternal life after the trials of earthly life. To celebrate the 500th year of Christianity in the Philippines is to be reminded of how the Faith has been gifted to us, a Faith that has shaped the Filipino people. It is a Faith that has shaped us Filipinos into who we are today. Our diverse responses to that Faith is part of who we are as a people. Now, as a member of the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord, this celebration is reminding

me of another thing: just as the Spanish missionaries carried the Word within them and shared it to us, so too must I carry the Word in me and share it to others.



Br Edwin's graduation from the seminary picture

News Notes

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

- **First Death Among C.J.D. Members: Sister Odilia Sri-Suwarni, C.J.D.** served in Pare Pare on Sulawesi Island, Indonesia, as the local sisters' superior because she was a nurse and a midwife. She was transferred to Kupang, Timor Island, because in Kupang the apostolate needed her talents, although she was dealing with breathing problems. After moving to Kupang, her illness continued to increase and she was hospitalized at St Carolus Hospital for two weeks. After being diagnosed by a doctor and declared cured, she returned to the community to rest for two weeks. After that it was decided that she should go to the C.J.D. community in Toraja, Sulawesi to rest there with the intention that if she was again sick she could rest and be treated at the hospital where the C.J.D. sisters work as nurses. But arriving in Rantepao, north Toraja, Sister Odilia asked permission from the superior there of St Teresa's community to go for treatment at her family's home in Solo, central Java. In Solo, she was examined by doctors and they found malignant cells in the lungs. Our Jakarta sisters went to Solo in turns to look after her as she could not be returned home because of the Covid pandemic. Her situation got worse and finally on Wednesday at 17.15 Western Indonesia Time, Sr Odilia Yustina Sri Suwarni, C.J.D. breathed her last. "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken



away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” (Job 1: 20b). Born in 1959, Sister Odilia made her final vows on December 8, 2018. Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord!

Sister Odilia with facemask

- The Nakhodka Church of Our Lady of the Pacific is built on a hill, so the government is requiring paving for access for cars and handicapped people before the building can be officially opened for use. Here is a map showing the areas to be asphalted or concreted or stepped.



The **green** is grassy area including a retaining wall on the right, the **blue** is asphalt for cars, and the **orange** is footpaths for pedestrians and handicapped. Would you like to help with these projects? The words, “green” or “blue” or “orange” in the memo of your check would make clear your intention. Thanks!

Asphalted areas	\$34,615
Preparing stone walls including adding soil	4,616
Preparing grassy areas	13,410

Preparing soil inclines with plastic netting	987
Concrete	492
Paving Stones	18,380
Total	\$72,500

• **My One Story. We are asking for your stories.**

Over the years, thousands of people have come to Vladivostok and joined us in prayer and various activities. Most leave with dozens of stories, including a few that were especially eye-opening or made deep impressions. If you could encapsulate for us just one especially meaningful story about your visit, what would it be? Tell us in no more than 350 words and we might publish it in a future *Vladivostok Sunrise*.

- When planning for the stained glass windows of the Our Lady of the Pacific Church in Nakhodka, I was pleasantly surprised that we now have a quality window manufacturer here in Vladivostok, which would make things easier than when we produced the windows for the Vladivostok church in Brest, Belarus. I was even more surprised to learn that one of our new brothers, **Philip Le, C.J.D.** from Vietnam, was an experienced window designer and maker himself! We put him to work and he quickly produced the designs which we really like. The church building itself is a traditional structure with a modern cast because of using modern materials. Brother Philip used the same idea in designing the windows:

traditional images in modern dress. Now the windows are in production. Here is his design for the Holy Family window, one still awaiting a benefactor to purchase it. People have remarked how well Brother Philip he represented St Mary’s face.



Brother Philip

● March 23 was the happy day of Bishop Kirill's celebrating the **Chrism Mass** with us here in Vladivostok. Priests attended from the whole Russian Far East. It is a once in a year chance to be together and share our experiences and learn the news. (The Chrism Mass is when the bishop blesses the holy oils that will be used all year by himself and the priests and deacons for the various sacraments.)



Some of the priests who attended, including Khabarovsk, Nakhodka, Blagoveschensk, and Ussuryysk.

The new deacon read the Gospel.



My One Story

In August of 1996, I visited Vladivostok to give an organ performance and to demonstrate the church organ to some college-level music students. The parish had recently received and installed its first church organ—a second-hand electronic instrument with two keyboards and full pedalboard. It was time to introduce the organ around.

We first had a day—open to the public—with some basic hymns and organ pieces, showing the range and capacity of this “new” church organ.

Our second day was just for music students. About a dozen or so students came. We talked about the different sounds you could get with the different stops; how organ sheet music looked different from that for piano; and how to play the pedals. These students were not shy. They had plenty of great questions and a few tried out the instrument for themselves. Fr Dan was our interpreter. The session went on for about two hours.

As the students were leaving, one young man lingered behind. He had the most baffled look on his face. All I could think was that I had explained things too quickly or he hadn't been sitting where he could see very well. I went over to him and asked if I could explain something again. Did he want to come over to the organ and get a better look? He still had that puzzled expression, and he said to me in English, “I don't understand...” There was a long pause. “I don't understand why you came here and did this for us.”

I was floored. How do you answer something that unexpected and deep in a few words? I gave him some sort of brief, numb-skull answer. It was the best I could do. That question, though, made an impression on me. In a nutshell, it showed how seventy-something years of communism had totally burned away the concepts of Christian charity, of responding to a need, of helping someone else without expecting a reward.

I think of that man from time to time. Wherever he is, I hope he can answer that question for himself now.

--Susan Gray

How to Communicate with us

Internet

Russian language: www.catholic.vladivostok.ru
www.catholicvl.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 chasuble of Bishop Kirill at the ordination of Deacon Vicky on Page 1.

It's Mary's Month of May!

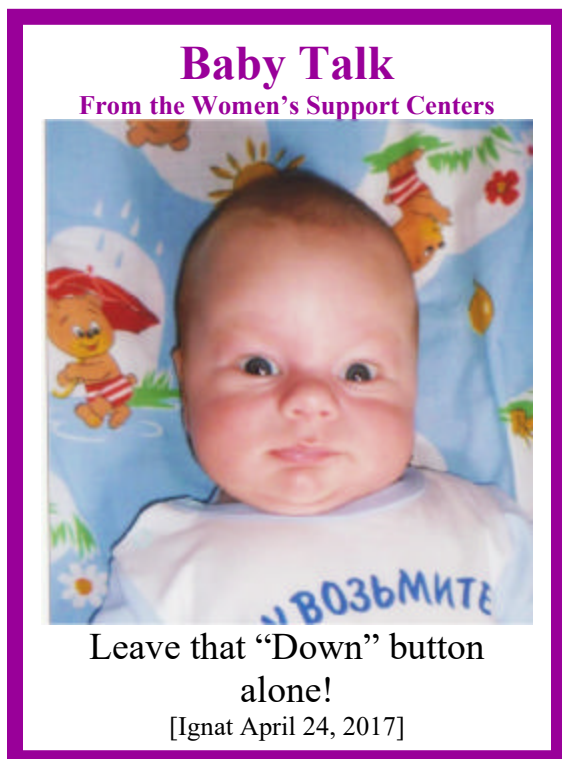
An Explanation of the Icon of Our Lady of Vladivostok

By Father Damien Higgins

The icon of the Most Holy Mother of God of Vladivostok was painted in the 1993 at the request of Fr Myron Effing, C.J.D., Pastor of the parish in Vladivostok, Russia. He had sent me a graphic design that the Mission was using for its official parish seal. It was a black and white line drawing that included an image of the Mother of God enthroned with Our Lord and both of them had crowns.

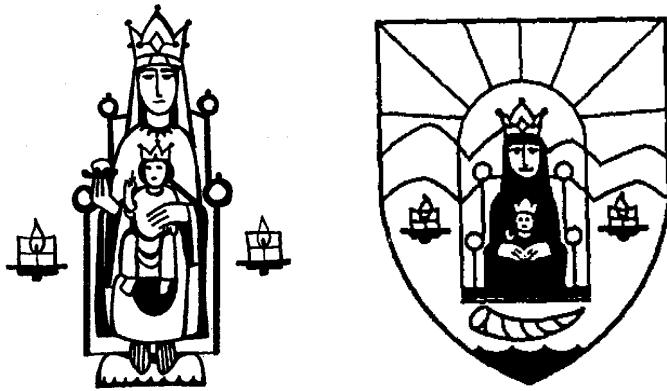
The icon was painted while I was living at Holy Transfiguration Monastery of the Monks of Mount Tabor of the Ukrainian Catholic Church-Chicago Eparchy in Redwood Valley, California. It was painted (or "written", which is the official way to speak about icons) on wood that is from church pews taken from the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Northern, California--St Mary's in Lakeport. The wood was prepared in the traditional manner soaked in rabbit skin glue, covered with a piece of fine linen from an old altar cloth and then coated with layers of gesso (crushed marble and rabbit skin glue). A fine layer of bole (red clay) was placed over the areas to which 23k gold would then be applied. The paint itself is egg yolk imbued with various natural pigments and after drying the entire work was then coated with a layer of olifa (Linseed and Stand oil with some drier added.)

The icon is modeled after a prototype from the Cretan School of Iconography in the 14th century. The Mother of God is presented in a solemn manner with Christ directly seated in front of her while her arms wrap around Him. She is not so much holding as presenting Him. The child is presented in the model of the Pantocrator (Byzantine title for the ruler of the universe). The iconographic type tends to emphasize not the emotional relationship between mother and child but rather the theological. The Mother of God is cloaked in a deep red robe that symbolizes the participation in the divine mystery of incarnation giving flesh and blood to this reality. Her under garment is a rich blue that reveals the glorious nature of relationship with her Divine Son. It has however been taught that the blue represents her humanity while the red represents her participation in the Divine Plan. Christ is dressed in the colors not of His earthly ministry (red and blue) but rather in the colors of heavenly glory and eternal light. Both white and gold represent these realities. The throne upon which she sits is green to reflect both the color of the earth where this mysterious relationship between Mary and her son takes place as well as that in the Slavic tradition--green is the color used for Pentecost and the coming of the



Giver of Life. The letters surrounding the figures indicate Mother of God, Theotokos and Jesus Christ. Without the names, the icon would not be authentic. They are both crowned with wooden crowns that are set with jewels.

[The icon was blessed by Bishop Joseph Werth S.J. of the Apostolic Administration of Asian Russia on June 13, 1997. The idea for the seal was taken from the book of Gertrud Mueller Nelson's illustrations (*Clip-Art for Celebrations and Service*, Pueblo Publishing Company, Inc., 1987, pg 66.) Mrs Mueller Nelson was a parishioner at our sister parish of the Nativity in St Paul, Minnesota. The seal was designed by Fr Myron, and the pen and ink version used on our stationery was done by Susan Gray of Cabot, Arkansas—ed.]



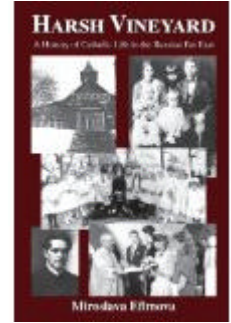
Left: Mueller Nelson's original model.

Right: The parish seal.



Opportunities

♥ *Harsh Vineyard* a book about the history of the Roman Catholic Church of the Russian Far East is available from our office or online store, www.store.vladmission.org. *Harsh Vineyard* was written by our church historian, the late Miroslava Efimova. For many years Mrs. Efimova worked to collect any information from the archives in St Petersburg, Moscow, Minsk, Warsaw, Lublin, Krakov, Khabarovsk, Blagoveschensk and Vladivostok connected with the activities of the Vladivostok Diocese. She used the historical documents and photos that she found to write *Harsh Vineyard*. Translated from Russian to English by Geraldine Kelley. Cost is \$16, plus \$2.50 Shipping/handling



♥ **Thank you Fr Myron!** In honor of Fr Myron's 80th birthday this year, our mission office has prepared a summary of Fr Myron's life. We will send a booklet to you in gratitude for your donation to keep Fr Myron's work going, or you may simply contact our office for your copy. While supply lasts. Please call 209-408-0728, or email



usoffice@vladmission.org

♥ We've set up a **Priests' Medical and Retirement Fund**. (Not that either of them plan on slowing down anytime soon!) 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.

♥ Thank you for responding to our call to help us keep the **Women's Centers** open! Well over 3000 babies have been saved from abortion since our 6 centers first opened. At our centers, men and women are counseled in Natural Family Planning and how to care for their children, mothers and babies are provided food, vitamins and clothing for healthy beginnings. Each of our six women's centers cost an average of \$800 per month to keep open. Monthly costs fluctuate with the number of visitors who come to the centers each month. Thank you for your support!

♥ A great big THANK YOU! to all our benefactors! We've collected enough to repair the shingles on our roof damaged by the recent typhoon. God bless you!

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From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

We have all weathered a tough year and we can all count many blessings as well.

While our yearly mission talks in the USA were postponed for 2020, and air travel was cancelled, our priests and seminarians remained in Russia working diligently throughout the year preparing and distributing food baskets for those who could not work and others in need throughout the local communities.

Now that travel is opening up somewhat in 2021, our seminarians are able to return to study in their respective countries. Fr Myron and Fr Dan will be able to make their annual visits this year to the USA for mission preaching. We are deeply grateful to the dioceses who have invited us to their parishes for mission preaching.

Our presentations may be somewhat different this year. Some preaching may be virtual or pre-recorded. Each diocese and parish we have been invited to will keep us informed of their current procedures as we approach the preaching. We are thankful to all of you as you "weather through" these latest adjustments for mission preachers. Here is Fr Daniel's parish mission preaching schedule. If

Fr Dan is coming to a parish near you, we will be grateful to set up a visit with you or your school or ministry group as time and local policies allow. If you have a favorite Catholic radio program that would welcome a priest with a thousand stories and insights into Catholicism in Russia, you might be the Holy Spirit's ambassador! Contact us first to learn about Fr Dan's schedule, then contact the radio station or host. Most have a phone number and "contact us" link on their website.

Thank you for helping spread awareness of our mission and for your continued prayers and support.

July 17/18	TBA
July 24/25	St Mary, Littleton CO
July 31/Aug1	St Mary, Rifle CO
Aug 7/8	Immaculate Conception, Denver CO
Aug 14/15	St Joan of Arc, San Ramon CA
Aug 21/22	Mary Star of the Sea, La Jolla CA
Aug 28/29	St Columba, Oakland CA
Sept 4/5	St Mary, Platteville WI
Sept 11/12	Queen of Peace, Madison WI

God bless you.

Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Coordinator
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