

O, Pioneers!

by Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

Did you ever feel like pulling up stakes and striking out on your own? Feel the freshly tilled soil and admire the beauty of nature in its raw glory? If so, you're a pioneer like our parishioners Yuri and Nastya Kolomeitsev. Sick and tired of city life, they've staked a claim in the country north of Vladivostok in a village called "Lubyanka" in Michelovsky County. There they built their own log cabin, dug their own well, made their own tractor for tilling the soil, and planted a garden for their growing family. They have their own chickens for eggs, and enjoy the rich dairy products which they make themselves from the milk of their cows. How did it all come about?

They both were city children. Yuri was very interested in religion and became a member of our parish several years ago. For a while he worked in the evangelization department of our parish, writing and critiquing brochures that we use in our mail evangelization program. But his mother had a piece of land in Lubyanka, and could not manage it herself. She invited Yuri to come help, especially in the spring, and Yuri fell in love with the beauty of the woods and hills of Michelovsky County. But it was a rather lonely place, so he took to heart the words of Genesis, "It is not good for man to be alone."

He returned to Vladivostok to look for a wife and, in what must be one of the shortest courtships on record, he married Nastya after proposing that she join him on the farm. She is a very happy wife and homemaker for their two children, and her health is much better in the fresh country air she now enjoys.

Yuri, a real worker and creative genius with tools, was quick to build a new cabin for the family. He had to fell his own trees, and--there not being a sawmill in the area--had to build a mill which he designed from old combine parts. He needed a tractor, too, but there is no money on a pioneer farm, so he had to build the tractor with his own hands.

Several neighbors have cows, so Yuri and the neighbors work together to take care of the combined herd of milkcows and beef cattle which graze in the countryside during the day, and are brought home at night. Each neighbor has his day to be in the fields to watch the cattle. That's the day when Yuri can relax in the sun and grass, or in the shade of a handy tree, and think about philosophy and religion. Yuri is working on a critique of some of Paul Tillich's articles which have become available in Russian. He also continues to critique our brochures, and tries to understand church teaching with a Russian mind so as to write about it all more clearly from the perspective of Russian culture.

When they visit Vladivostok they come by train. They attend church for holy days when they can, but soon they will

be part of the new parish in Arsenyev, which is about 25 miles from their cabin. It will allow them to be more active in parish life again.

The future? The kids will probably be homeschooled for the first years, and then perhaps the children will be old enough to attend school in Arsenyev. Yuri hopes that he will be able to eventually own the land he works, as the Russian laws change to allow regular land ownership. He doesn't need all the trappings of modern society--he doesn't have a car or a TV. His children sleep peacefully in the homemade beds he made for them which swing from the ceiling of the log cabin. At meals there is plenty of homemade cottage cheese, fresh milk, a bit of coffee, some homemade bread, fresh vegetables, and conversation. This isn't the typical Russian lifestyle, but the Kolomeitsevs aren't typical Russians.

New Stage of "Windows" Project

by Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

Our "Widows" Project, which we announced in the May, 1996, issue of the *Sunrise*, has entered a new stage. We have completed the list of sponsors for individual windows, and are now producing the frames in Jamaica, NY at the Sussman Company. Then we will order the outer two layers of insulated glass. The proposed designs for the third, inner layer of glass is being prepared by our artist in Belorus. We have received the first samples for our approval, and show the Annunciation window here. Thank you, donors. You made it possible for us to repair our windows. Photos of your windows will be sent to donors as each window is completed. At the last minute several sponsors applied at once, and we hope that those who were too late will agree to have their donations applied toward the new front doors of the church. Donors, in addition to the major grant from RENOVABIS of Germany, are:

Window Donor
Visitation: Mr and Mrs Robert Ozburn

Assumption of Mary:
Ms Paula Smith in honor of Rita Krieger

Our Lady of Sorrows: Mrs Julie Shepard

Pieta: Mr and Mrs Robert Flynn

Scourging at the Pillar: Mr Timothy Higgins

Crowning with Thorns: Mrs Marian Makoutz

Three Kings: Mr Alex Martini

Holy Innocents: Pat and Chuck Pelletier
in memory of aborted children

St Joseph: Mr and Mrs Robert Ozburn

Tree of Jesse: Mrs Virginia Murphy in honor of James
Vincent and Virginia Marie Murphy and their families.

The Crucifixion: Mr John Bold

Flight into Egypt: Mr John Mahoney

Most Holy Mother of God: Mr and Mrs Paul Hasselbrinck
in memory of Fr Myron Effing's 25th ordination anniversary

Queen of the Holy Rosary: Mr and Mrs Bill and Jean Smith

Martyrs of Vladivostok: Blessed Mother Church
Owensboro, Kentucky

Vladivostok Exiles: Mr and Mrs Jim and Inez Yarbrough

Coronation of Mary:
Coronation of Mary Parish, Grandview, Missouri
Mrs Rose Barbarossa
Mr and Mrs James and Elizabeth Hildebrand,
in honor of their children.
Mrs Juliet Shepard in memory of John and Eva Bolduc.
Mr Steward Laird in memory of
John and Irene Sullivan and Harry and Clementine Laird.

Nativity of Jesus: Nativity of Our Lord Parish, St Paul, MN

Presentation of Jesus in the Temple: Mrs Mary McDonald

Finding of Jesus in the Temple: Mrs Mary McDonald

Annunciation: Mr and Mrs Terrence Kopp and Family

Mary, Mother of the Church: Benefactors of the
Seraphic Mass Association, Pittsburgh, PA

Immaculate Conception: Sisters of Charity of St Ann
of Zaragoza, Spain

Marriage of Joseph and Mary: Mr and Mrs Robert Ozburn

Church Doors: Holy Trinity Parish, Ehrenstein, Germany
Mr Michael Zhmurko
Mrs Aileen Gallo

News Notes

by Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

- Our oldest seminarian, Yevgeny Peregudov, who is studying in the seminary in St Petersburg is making progress toward ordination. Last year he was invested in the cassock, and could begin to wear the Roman collar. This year he was admitted to the ministry of Lector. He still has two years before ordination to the diaconate. This summer he is helping us with our summer projects, the Youth Conference and the Children's Camp, as well as helping Fr Dan in Romanovka. Pray for him and for the other seminarians of Russia, and for vocations.

- The Union of Siberians is an organization of Poles who had spent time in Siberia either as displaced persons, exiles, or prisoners of the Soviet regime. A year ago the Union in Poland donated bells to the new cathedral in Novosibirsk. Now they have heard that we are hoping to have bells again in our church in Vladivostok, so they have begun a collection for us. So far they have raised \$243 from their members in Elk, Poland, from the labor union, Solidarity's office in Elk, and from the Union of the National Army in Elk. They are planning to extend their fundraising efforts further in Poland for us. They asked us how much money WE have raised for the bells. We were embarrassed to say that we have to build the steeples first! Does anybody want to help? The Siberian bells are to be cast in Poland, and then sent on the TransSiberian Railroad. We have to name them. We suggested Ss Ann and Joachim, St Gabriel, and St Joseph. But maybe they should be St Stanislaus, St Hedwig, St Maximilian Kolbe, and John Paul II. Who would like to dedicate a bell?

- Six major activities are scheduled for this summer, besides our usual events: 1. The Children's Camp. 2. The Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference. 3. The training program for children's catechists of all our parishes. 4. The training and establishment of a pro-life women's consultation service in Vladivostok. 5. The diocesan conference of priests in Novosibirsk. 6. The meeting of the Bishop's Senate of Priests in Novosibirsk of which Fr Myron is a member. Fr Dan will take part in some of these events, but he will travel to the U.S. for mission preaching in parishes, as well as hopefully get in a few days of vacation.

- The Protestant churches here in Primorye decided to join the Day of Fast and Prayer for North Korea, April 25. My parish borders on North Korea. The first I heard about the special day was when we were invited to join in. The Catholic bishops of South Korea had officially joined the day, and so had Pope John Paul II, so we took part, too. It was my first opportunity to meet some of the Protestant pastors, many of whom are Korean. The meeting took place in the newly built Baptist church.

There are about 12 new Protestant communities in the city, mostly founded by South Korean missionaries (Presbyterians, Methodists, Assembly of God). Several of these have already built new church buildings, and they are all optimistic about the future. Most of these groups had parishes in Vladivostok before the Revolution, since there were so many foreigners here, so they haven't been too restricted by the "New Law" about religion. Some who have been bothered have solved their problem by joining other historical religions, like the Evangelical Baptists, who existed here before the Revolution. They don't seem to bother too much about doctrinal differences, since they are all "Bible based".

Altogether we raised \$3000. Then the question arose how to get the money to North Korea, and especially into the hands of the hungry children, and not to the army? We remembered that we had a contact at CARITAS Hong Kong, which is now part of China which has diplomatic relations with North Korea. By electronic mail we made contact, and it turned out that CARITAS Hong Kong is the coordinator for foreign humanitarian aid in North Korea. We were able to transfer \$3000 from Anchorage to CARITAS Hong Kong for use in feeding programs for children in North Korea.

- In late June the Canadian Navy ships, H.M.S. Protecteur and H.M.S. Vancouver made a visit to Vladivostok bringing with them humanitarian assistance and items for our mission. There was so much to bring and so many offshore volunteers and crew members involved that this project even had its own code name. It was dubbed "Operation Holy Ghost" by the officer in charge, ships' chaplain Lieutenant "Padre" Mike Brown, a Roman Catholic permanent deacon and navy diver. Before the ships left their British Columbian home port of Victoria, they took on a cargo of hundreds of "Coats for Kids" collected by Canadians of all faiths. By electronic mail they arranged for our local chapter of CARITAS to distribute these winter coats to needy children. This winter they will provide much needed warmth to children from the orphanages and disadvantaged homes with whom CARITAS works. The sailors themselves collected and brought many bags full of clothing for the teenage boys in the Youth Prison in Vrangl near our parish in Nakhodka. Thanks to an initiative of the ships' medical officer, Capt. Dr. Debbie Pestell a children's home received a number of large boxes of much needed medical supplies. *Vladivostok Sunrise* readers are aware of how difficult and expensive it is to find even simple medicines in the Russian Far East. "Padre" Mike also brought with him many items specifically requested by Fr Dan, including a 36' aluminum step ladder that will be indispensable for the church *Windows Project*, many cases of copier paper, enough altar breads for at least a year, many boxes of self-lighting charcoal for incense, and over-the-counter medications for our unofficial parish pharmacy. Thank you, officers and crew, for your generosity, time and initiative.

In Vladivostok the sailors did maintenance work in the Canadian section of the Vladivostok Marine Cemetery where are buried Canadians soldiers who died for the freedom of Russia during the Communist Revolution and civil war (1917-20). They also cleaned the neighboring graves of Czech soldiers who were part of the same operations. American graves have been removed to American soil.

The Canadian Ambassador to Russia, the Honorable Anne Leahy, flew to Vladivostok from Moscow to welcome her compatriots and to lead the goodwill mission of Canadian military, business and cultural representatives. Ambassador Leahy, a Catholic from the city of Quebec, made time in her busy schedule for a visit to our church and presented us with a beautiful icon of Christ *Pantocrator* (Lord of All). In exchange we gave her a copy of our icon of the *Mother of God of Vladivostok*. After a tour of the partially restored church and a visit with members of the pastoral staff she expressed her admiration for all the hard work and progress accomplished in our missions during the past six years.

- Thanks to the pastor, Fr Tim Kelleher, and the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish in Dayton, Ohio who raised \$6000 for needs as their Lenten Almsgiving Project. Their fund-raising technique was to urge at least 500 parish families to save \$2 per week during the six weeks of Lent. Their slogan was, "A small sum per family grows into a large sum for the Vladivostok Mission". The children in the parish parochial school contributed nearly \$1000 of the total. An IC parishioner who makes vestments for the bishop also contributed sets of white and green vestments and a cope and humeral veil. A Daytonian who had visited our mission last year was invited to speak about Russia and Vladivostok to each of the eight grades. Large posterboards with photos of Vladivostok and our parish were used in these talks and were displayed in the church entry as a reminder of the Lenten project. Perhaps these details will encourage other parishes to consider a similar fundraiser during Lent of 1999, or during Advent. The entire project was coordinated with the Archdiocesan Mission Office so that the parish would receive appropriate credit for mission support.

Our heartfelt thanks to Immaculate Conception Parish and their Project Hope Committee which spearheaded this operation. The proceeds will be used to supply clothing for Vladivostok orphanages, to provide start-up funds for the new CARITAS Pregnancy Support Center, and to provide improved altars and furnishings for the churches in Vladivostok and Blagoveschensk.

Bolshoye Spaseeba (Great Big Thanks) to Very Special People

by Rev Daniel Maurer, C.J.D.

Writing and publishing are hard work. Just ask the editor of this newsletter. But seeing the finished product roll off the press brings a reward unlike any other. The sense of accomplishment; the thought that one has made a small but real contribution to the deposit of knowledge or to the understanding of an important idea or historical event; the satisfaction of producing a useable and practical resource to help people in a particular endeavor.

For a person who never set out to be a writer, I find myself having to write every day of my life. Often it is simply letters (many, many letters!) but also it includes homilies, lessons, articles, pamphlets, liturgical leaflets, posters, and grant proposals. Less often but regularly this newsletter must get onto the printed page and out to you, our dear readers.

In printing thousands of copies of something as large as a multi-page newsletter it always comes as a surprise to me how many people are involved in the process. The *Vladivostok Sunrise* is a good example. Besides the people involved in its production here in Russia (editor, writers, translators), there are many people in the United States who have essential parts to play. First and most important are the benefactors because a newsletter of a financially struggling religious mission (with no advertisements) cannot pay for itself. The costs of printing and mailing the *Vladivostok Sunrise* are born by three major groups of benefactors. Two of them are familiar to our readers: Mr and Mrs Terry Kopp and family of Plymouth, MN (whose picture has appeared twice in these pages) who donate money for the printing; and the members of our sister parish committee at Nativity of the Lord Parish in St. Paul, MN (whose picture has appeared once) who gather six times a year to address, sort and mail the *Sunrise* to you. But between these two, another group plays a very important, but until now unphotographed role: the Missionary Sisters of Saint Peter Claver of Saint Mary's Mission House, Saint Paul, MN who print thousands of copies of the *Vladivostok Sunrise* at no profit, charging the Koppes for the bare cost of the printing. This amounts to a savings to us and our mission of thousands of dollars a year.

To thank these dear sisters for their generosity, we priests from Vladivostok try to visit them as often as we can. The high point of each visit for me is the celebration of early morning Mass in the convent chapel. But on my most recent visit I also asked to be taken on a tour of their print shop. Mother Superior and Sr Susan Wal, S.S.P.C., who directs the printing, showed me through their modern, CLEAN, and well appointed facilities. It was hard not to be jealous. I found myself dreaming, "If only we had access in Vladivostok to the kind of printing equipment that they have here!" Perhaps

some day in the future we will have our own printing capabilities.

The charism of the Sisters of Saint Peter Claver is evident from their legal title: The Sodality of Saint Peter Claver for the African Missions. As part of their own mission work they publish a number of periodicals in various languages at their St Paul, MN printing house to inform people around the world of the needs of the African missions. Happily for us they do not confine their apostolate to Africa. Vladivostok is a long way from Africa, and yet they graciously share with us their time, expertise and equipment. Here, in the newsletter that they print for us, we want to let them know how much we appreciate their generous gift. Without this newsletter that they do so much to make possible, our Russian Far East missions would have had to close long ago. We also want to assure the sisters of our daily prayers for them, especially that the Lord will call many young women to missionary vocations in their congregation.

Thank you, Sisters of Saint Peter Claver, from the bottom of our hearts! In large part through your generosity, we can keep informing our benefactors and the world at large of one of the most needful and unique missions in the Church today.

How to Communicate with Us

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World Wide Web:

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Phone: 011-7-4232-26-9614

Money cannot legally be sent by mail to Russia. Donations of money should be sent to:

Vladivostok Mission
225 Cordova Street
Anchorage AK 99501 USA

Your donations are tax-deductible. You will receive the required receipt for IRS tax purposes by return mail.

Letters without donations can be sent to:

Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Parish
Volodarskovo 22
690001 Vladivostok RUSSIA

Please do not mail packages directly to Russia, since every package mailed to Russia costs us \$50. If you have items that you think we can use, please contact us by electronic mail or fax giving a complete list of items. If we accept your offer you will need official inventory information from:

Mrs Joan O'Rourke
P.O. Box 266
Hanford CA 93232
FAX (650)871-2856
Phone (559)582-4112

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324 Prior Ave South

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Remember
"Vladivostok Mission"
in your will.

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- 11 - - 12 - - 13 - - 14 - - 15 - - 16 -

Dear Sister Susan,

Please send the photos, when you are done to:

Mr Jeff Lang
2095 Morning View Dr
Eugene OR 97405-1633

Thanks. God bless you. --Fr Myron

Father Christopher Zuger (front) and his deacons and parishioners in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, who gave us many liturgical items for use in our parishes.

Kids, staff, a Japanese guests at our summer camp of 1997.

Our seminarian Evgeny Peregudov, after his investiture in his new cassock.

Sister Susan Wal showing Fr Dan the folding machine.

Nastya and Yuri digging the well together. Spring 1998.

Yuri, Nastya and daughter Sveta in front of the homemade tractor in 1996.

Son Alexander and Yuri in front of the homemade planer. June, 1998.

Yuri demonstrating that it takes two hands to run the plane. June, 1998.

North Korean worker preparing rice from CARITAS Hong Kong for distribution.

Vladivostok Parish CARITAS worker, Lilia Selena, helping fit kids with new winter coats at the State Children's Cancer Hospital. The coats were donated by Australian businessman Ross Kennedy.

Cafeteria at last year's children's camp on Lake Hanka. This year's camp is scheduled for August 12 to 19. We just didn't have time to write an article about last year's camp. We'll try again this year!