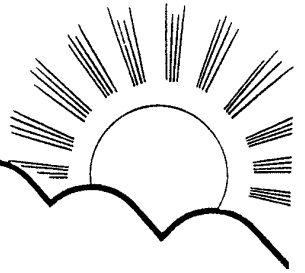


# Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Vladivostok Russia St Paul Minnesota

Issue Number Fifty March 1, 2005



## How We Get it Done in Russia

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

People say that they can't believe that we get so much done. The secret is our Russian staff. I'd like to give you a glimpse of the talented people who help us. But you could come and meet them yourself!



1. **Yuri Byelozorov** just returned from a six day assignment in the public schools of Nakhodka and Arsenyev. He gave lectures on chastity and pro-life. He is my special assistant for evangelization, and he and his wife Viktoria are our NFP teachers. He helps us prepare adults for baptism, and he usually leads our pilgrimages and children's camps, too. He and Viktoria have five children.

2. **Kristina Pavlova** produced the first issue of a new Russian newsletter called "Love and Smarts" (rough translation) which is meant for university students and upper high school students. The newsletter gives advice and statistics concerning chastity and against promiscuity, abortion and pro-life, condoms and NFP, pornography and real love. The first issue is a hit with teachers and students alike, and we hope to go on to the second issue when we can afford it. We also want to send the first issue to as many schools as possible. This is not only our reaction to the current permissive attitude, but also an antidote to the flood of American and German pornography which is now being all too successfully also produced now by Russians.



The internet is full of photos of Russian group sex, since the age of consent here is only 14! If you pay \$5 to poor street kids, I suppose they will pose for anything. Kristina is also a volunteer at the first Women's Support Center, and the main trainer of volunteers for the WSC's. She also edits the regular newsletter "To Receive Life", which is a professional journal in Russian for WSC staffs.

3. **Miroslava Efimova** is completing her book about Bishop Slivovsky after having returned from her factfinding trip to Poland and Belorus. It is already laid out for the printer. As parish Archivist she is busy collecting documents and affidavits from all those Catholics who lived through the Revolution and Stalin's camps.





4. **Kirill Voitsel** is expanding his courses at the Vladivostok Technical University to include Introduction to Christian Theology. It is wonderful to have a professional theologian on the staff who is Russian. He coordinates all our programs to train trustees and catechists, and teaches in those courses, too. He also teaches a Bible study for the parishioners, and is a teacher in the diocesan catechetical program.

the Russian, you can see what we will offer. Otherwise he is the teacher in our Catholic Faith by Mail and our Internet Program, and our best English-Russian interpreter.



5. **Andre Udovichenko** is working on the camp in Sod-Gorod. He just dug a well, and is preparing to lay a new electrical cable so that the camp will be ready for summer retreat programs. He also has contracted for the completion of the façade of our church, and hopes to let a contract for the rectory building, although funds are still short for this project. He is in charge of all our physical plants, which is enough stress for anyone, considering the shortness of funds and the troubles with finding workers who remain sober.

6. **Viktor Anisimov** is working on opening our webstore for Russia. We will offer communion breads, good candles, and religious articles which we have produced. We'll give you the address when the site opens. Even if you won't be able to read



7. **Elena Andreevna** has just expanded our Catholic regional library to be more accessible and have more materials available for borrowing as well as for purchasing. Whereas a few years ago getting religious books in Russian was a big problem, now more and more are available, thanks to the Russian Bible Society and the Conventual Franciscans in Moscow. Her two volunteer helpers are pictured with her, Tamara Pavlovna and Galina Romanova.

8. I love to cook, but I almost never have time to make anything except occasionally a “wacky cake” from my mother’s recipe. And especially I never have time to shop for anything. So **Nadezhka Valentinovna**, our neighbor, does it all for us. I’m overweight, but it’s not her fault!

**Remember**  
**“Mary Mother of God Mission Society”**  
**in your will.**



9. **Nicolai Dorodnov** is my personal secretary, who helps me make all my travel arrangements and ticket purchases and helps organize my activities at the parishes which are not located in Vladivostok. There are many small tasks that need to be done, too, from researching information that I need to make decisions, to writing official letters and screening visitors.

10. Our mailing department is always busy with the materials that we have to send to our parishioners, volunteers, and, soon, our webstore customers. **Igor Peter Lyukin** has taken care of this work for several years already. He used to mail the “Thank you” letters to American benefactors, but these are now mailed from St Paul, MN after I write them. **Larissa Kalaninchenko** helps him part time. Her main work is in CARITAS’s program to help feed and care for street children.

11. You’ve heard that Russia is full of bureaucracy. I’ve never seen any place worse as far as bureaucracy is concerned. How do we manage all that paperwork? **Sergei Potopenko** tries to stay astride the mountain of visa applications, residential registrations, affidavits, parish incorporations which repeat themselves about every year. In his “spare time” he helps us manage and edit our Russian newsletters and parish bulletins. He is the Russian grammar expert on our staff, too.

12. When you are a big parish at the end of the TransSiberian Railroad, you get lots of guests. And then there are those who come to visit from America, and those who gather here for studies for the catechetical programs and meetings related to the Vladivostok Deanery of our diocese. So we have to have a guestmaster who helps to make travel plans, meets people at the airport and train stations, orders

taxi, hotel rooms, translators, and meals. That is **Dimitri Kamil**.



someone is always attuned to those parishioners who need material or spiritual help or the sacraments. Lilia has wonderful organizational skills, and organizes our 40 volunteers who care for the poor and sick, in the soup kitchen, in the hospitals, at home, and in places of temporary detention by the police. She is shown in the photo with one of her young volunteers, Masha, who helps in the gerontology department of the hospital.



13. Nothing is more important in Russia than a good bookkeeper! In fact, according to Russian law she is just as responsible for any corporation as is the president. **Marina Belikova** has served us as bookkeeper many years now, not only for our parishes, but for the Russian Mary Mother of God Mission Society and for CARITAS. It would be enough to get anyone down, but Marina's books are always in shape (and she likes to be in shape too, just now taking a course in kick boxing) and the tax inspectors have no complaints. People call her from other parishes to get advice. She keeps up her standards by attending many bookkeeping and banking courses as the economy and laws of Russia are constantly being westernized away from the Soviet system that she learned as a student.

14. There is a special place in our hearts for our elderly and sick parishioners. **Lilia Timopheevna**, as director of the parish department of CARITAS, is constantly on the lookout for their welfare. It is a big help to the priests to know that



15. The Russians have a saying that two things about Russia never change: the fools and the roads. Here let's talk about the roads. **Anatoly Stashko** was our first worker who began driving and taking care of our car as soon as Fr Fessio donated the first one to us 12 years ago. By profession Anatoly is a deep sea diver now retired, and he was a victim of the siege of St Petersburg as a child. Roads in Russia are always under construction, which means that the cars are always broken and dirty so Anatoly takes care of them, and soon the very first road from Vladivostok to Moscow is expected to be completed. By the time I get in the car I'm usually so pooped I sleep all the way.

Of course, I didn't add to this list yet our seminarians, our sisters, our music program workers, our more than 40 volunteer helpers who volunteer for CARITAS, nor those who work in our parishes in Nakhodka, Second River, Romanovka, and Lesozovodsk. Those will be topics for another time. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all our workers!

## News Notes

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

- On December 26, 2002, the Youth Group of the Catholic Parish of the Most Holy Mother of God primiered Paul Claudel's play, "The Tidings Brought to Mary". The play is about a young lady who sacrificed to God her chances to have a happy marriage with her beloved. She took upon herself the sufferings of leprosy so as to save a leper and offered her share in the sufferings of France divided by war. The original play was lengthier than time on the stage would allow, so the youth shortened it somewhat. The second presentation was on January 12.



*Masha confides in Cyril, a soldier just returned from war.*

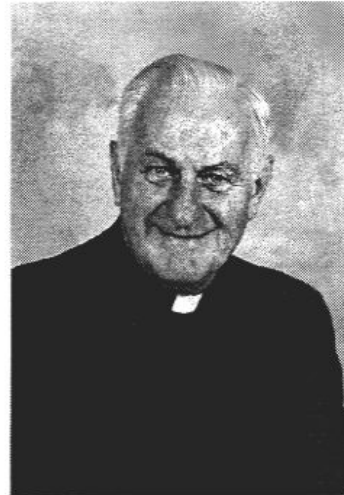
*The "deceased" leper will still have a lot to say.*



- On February 7 we heard of the death on February 4 of one of our earliest benefactors, Father Patrick Francis ("Frank") Prendergast, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Turlock, California. Yearly he invited us to his parish for fundraising. He was a remarkable missionary himself, having come from Ireland to serve the people of central California. He was

known for his no-nonsense orthodoxy, his generosity, and his constant care of his parishioners, especially the sick.

## *In Loving Memory of Father Patrick Francis Prendergast*



*~ May his soul and the souls of all the faithful  
departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace ~*

*~ Amen*

- St Valentine's Day is becoming quite a holiday in Russia, just as is Halloween. And they are celebrated on the same day as in America, not according to their Orthodox date. All the schools really play up both holidays, and so do business men. Here it is called "St Valentine's Day", not simply "Valentine's Day". The internet is full of things for kids to do on those days, and teachers eat it up. I don't know of many men named Valentine in Russia, but Valentina is still a very popular name. Strange that just when Russia begins to celebrate St Valentine's day, the Church puts the Feast of Ss Cyril and Methodius on that day. Just as cars are becoming a big reality in Russia, and this year the first Russian transcontinental highway will be completed, the Church dropped St Christopher's feastday, too. All the drivers want St Christopher medals. Hindsight is better than foresight, I guess.

## How to Communicate with Us

**In Russia:** E-mail: [myron@catholic.vladivostok.ru](mailto:myron@catholic.vladivostok.ru)

**In America:** Phone and FAX: (651)227-0208 and (651)690-5139 E-mail: [usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org) Internet: <http://www.vladmission.org> Donations of money and letters should be sent to: Mary Mother of God Mission Society, 1854 Jefferson Ave, St Paul MN 55105-1662

# Men...

## Would you like to dedicate your religious life to work and pray in Russia?

"The Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord" is a new religious community dedicated to live, pray, and work in the marvelous country which suffered so much—and continues to suffer—from the devastation brought by atheism and Communist socialism. Currently we are working at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Mother of God in Vladivostok, Russia where we serve seven parishes and have formed two charitable organizations, which carry out a variety of activities. Our members are Americans and Russians so far. The Cathedral is a natural place for canons because there is plenty of opportunity to live, pray, and work together while helping to replant the Christian faith in this land in which it was almost completely destroyed.

For canons, the first order of the day is liturgical prayer, which we do in the Russian language, and then comes our work and charitable activities. Our loyalty to one another is also important for living and working together in this troubled country. We need practically every trade and skill to reestablish the Church here. Those prospects who are considering the priesthood should have at least some years of college behind them before candidacy and novitiate. Our novitiate lasts one year, and simple vows three years.

Concerning our spirituality, let us first remember the great prophet Samuel who dedicated himself to the service of the Lord in the temple at Shiloh (See *1 Sam* in Bible). He lived in the temple day and night to serve the Lord, to offer praise and sacrifice. The Lord called him in the middle of the night to be His prophet, giving an example for future vocations. He was the one the Lord used to guide his people through the troubled times of the transition from pastoral life to city life, from the time of the judges to the time of the kings. It was he who anointed David, who was to serve as the great precursor and foreteller of the Christ, Jesus the Lord.

Let us also remember Saints Simeon and Anna whose constant presence in the temple in prayer and works of mercy give us Canons Regular today an example of the Lord's worthy servants, who recognized Him and proclaimed Him, giving thanks to God and rejoicing to be witnesses of the great historical events of the salvation of humanity. (*Luke 2:22-38*) Jesus, when he remained in the temple in Jerusalem as a child, answered His mother with, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (*Luke 2:49*)

The apostles went to the temple to pray, and there they taught the new Christian community to sing hymns of praise, to break bread, to hold all things in common, and to live in brotherly love and mutual support. (*Acts 2:42*) They gave an example that the Canons Regular follow to this day: a life in the church, with prayers and songs, sharing property in common, laboring for the Gospel and for the people, and striving to give an example of Christian life to others.

Saint Augustine followed the example of the apostles and formed a religious community of the clergy who wanted to live in the church, to pray together, to contemplate and understand the actions of the Lord for the salvation of the world, and to be of service to the Gospel. He was a gifted preacher, a fierce lover of the truth, an example of brotherly love, and a model of pastoral service. For this community he wrote the *Rule of St Augustine*, which has been used ever since by the religious life he founded, the Canons Regular.

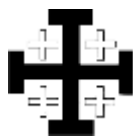
The historical record is full of the great men who were Canons Regular and the works which they performed. The Canons Regular were the first to adopt the three evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience as the standard for religious life. So we are vowed religious men who form a community of prayer and common life in the church that we serve.

The chief characteristics that a candidate must have to consider joining us are, love for Jesus the Lord and for his Church, an ability and desire to live in community, a preference for the liturgy above other forms of prayer, and enough good health to withstand the rigors of life in Russia. Most candidates will want to serve as priests or deacons.

If a life in and around the church building, a life in common with your brothers, a life of serving the spiritual and material needs of God's people interests you, you can start a conversation with us through the Internet. We can send you our current newsletter, and answer your questions. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you guidance and to show you which way you should take. You only have one life to live: Live it for the Lord!



For more information, see [WWW.Vladmission.org](http://WWW.Vladmission.org) or contact:



Mary Mother of God Mission Society  
1854 Jefferson Ave  
St Paul MN 55105  
(651)227-0208



## Women...

*Is the Lord calling you to be part of  
a new missionary order?*

Religious sisters are needed worldwide who, through a witness of heroic holiness in action, will strive to make Jesus, who said, "I am the truth," known, loved, and obeyed.

Please pray about making our Mother Mary's dream of reviving the Faith in her beloved Russia, as well as in the United States and other countries, a reality.

New converts, given the seed of faith, are capable of the great task of rebuilding the Church. The fledgling parishes in Russia are eager for religious sisters to come. The door is open. Now is the time.

Our order is in its earliest stages. We are dedicated to evangelizing through all types of work, among them prayer, teaching, care of orphans and elderly, offering retreats to youth and adults, and spreading the Gospel via use of the media. Those sisters called to a life wholly dedicated to contemplation interact with the active sisters to share the fruits of their prayer. All the sisters pray the Liturgy of the Hours with the laity in the local parish, the sisters' habits providing an unspoken reminder of mankind's call to union with God.

### ◆ VOCATIONS PRAYER ◆

O God, we earnestly beseech Thee to bless the world with many priests and sisters who will love Thee with their whole strength and gladly spend their entire lives to serve Thy Church and to make Thee known and loved. Mary, Queen of the clergy, pray for all who are discerning a religious vocation. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

## SISTERS IN JESUS THE LORD

*(Canonicae in Jesu Domini, CJD)*

is a new private association of religious:

*desiring and delighted to be consecrated*  
under the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience to  
live Christ, to live Love;

*embracing a life of*  
prayer in the name of everyone,  
reparation for the sins of the world,  
Eucharistic adoration, and  
service as filial handmaidens of Mary;

*aspiring to be*  
consumed in Our Lord's Will,  
faithful to His Magisterium, and  
fully contemplative in action;

*dedicated to*  
drawing mankind to know and believe in the Lord,  
and together with the faithful, devising ways of  
living out our Faith's essential work of proclaiming the  
Good News to all.

*Is He asking you,  
"Would you be Mine?"*



*Benediction for youth at St. Agnes Convent in St. Paul, Minnesota.*

For more information, please contact:

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Mary Mother of God Mission Society  
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## From the development desk...

Dear Friends of the Vladivostok Mission,

- Please copy page 6 and page 7 on religious vocations and give it to someone you know who might be considering a religious vocation, or send it to your parish, Newman Center, or where it might attract attention. Perhaps they will become missionaries in Russia!
- Would you like to send a Mass card to someone as a gift or consolation? We have made a Mass card with the face of Jesus from the old crucifix in Vladivostok. The inside reads: "The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_." Just send the mission office \$10 by mail or by the website along with the name and address of the recipient. These Masses are said by our priests in Russia.
- A wonderful helper, Sr Ramona Ewen, OSB sold the beautiful gifts made by our parishioners in Russia. She happily distributed literature to many visitors as well. Sister lives in St Scholastica Monastery in Duluth, Minnesota. Thank you, Sister.
- We have a new college graduate woman going to Romanovka for a year in August to help with the church

building project. She needs a companion, a woman who would like to help in the old folks home and orphanage in Romanovka. They will live in the parish apartment there. Romanovka is 1 1/2 hours by train from Vladivostok. A student from Romanovka is now in Gaming, Austria, studying English with the Steubenville University's program this semester. He should be newly arrived home by the time the two American women arrive to help as an interpreter. Romanovka is a safe quiet village and desperately in need of care.

- Amanda is a 14 year old paper route carrier who is sponsoring three Adopt-a-Birth moms. We received her donation of \$60. Way to go, Amanda!
- Sienna communications offers donations to our mission society by signing up for them to be your long distance carrier. Support totally Catholic communications and we can enjoy a dividend. The toll free number is 1-877-474-3662, or you can fax them toll free at 1-887-274-3662. Sienna Communications, PO Box 11643, Cincinnati OH 45211.

God love you and your family,  
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