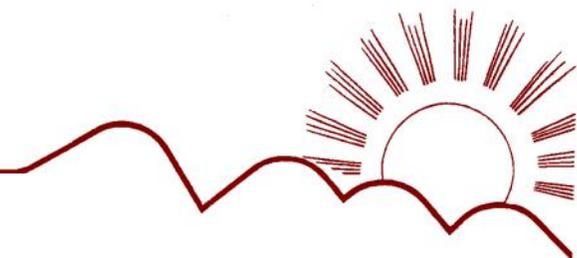


Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society and Vladivostok Mission

Issue Number Eighty Three September 1, 2008



2008's 12th Annual Catholic Far Eastern Youth Conference

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



Youth from Khabarovsk and Nakhodka participated.

Small group working on a drawing. Kirill Voitsel, Conference leader in the background.



In the Year of St Paul, in our church which carries the permission for the special indulgences of this year, we held our 12th Conference, and the theme of the Conference was, naturally, St Paul. Morning sessions focused on the theology of St Paul, and afternoon sessions focused on the participants themselves, and their hopes, fears, and prayers as being young Catholics in Russia. There were 28 youth participants from as far away as Blagoveschensk, Khabarovsk, and Nakhodka. If you add the chaplains, helpers, and presenters, the total number of people involved was about 40 people, all of whom lived in various rooms and corners of our new rectory.



Dima Kamil, fresh from theology studies in Austria, was one of the presenters.

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

The Conference has been more work and no play compared to some previous conferences, so we



Burning off youthful energy by working in the garden.

A day at the ocean and a picnic is always popular.



are hoping for good spiritual fruits. We had several first confessions, and even a first communion! Several of the guys are talking very openly about the priesthood, so, with the prayers of our benefactors, things should go well. They are all high school graduates already, and are of course thinking about their future. It is great that these youth from parishes all over the Far East get to know each other and share their faith and prayers with each other. Sometimes the youth feel lonely in smaller parishes where there are more kids and elderly that youth. We believe in this “quality time” which they can share with each other, and where they have

time to talk to the priests, sisters, and dedicated lay people of our mission.



One of the small groups singing their conclusions.



Some of the participants with psychologist Katherine who provided the afternoon sessions, second from right.

Thanking our cook, Nadezhda, who fed the Conference in her usual tasty style.



A letter: “Dear Fr Myron, Thank you for the possibility that you gave me to feel the power of the Holy Spirit! Before I went to the Youth Day in Poland I was someone else—I can’t say of course that I am totally changed—that would be impossible—but somewhere deep in my soul things have been seen and heard that have made me different. Meanings that I didn’t understand before have been opened up to me. It is sad that in Nakhodka we don’t have a church so that when you are talking to your friends

and acquaintances and inviting them to join us, and they ask about our church, and I have to answer that our parish is in an apartment! New people are too shy to come to a small place like an apartment. How many churches there are in Poland! And how pretty they are! But still I’m glad that we at least have our little parish of Our Lady of the Pacific.”

(Signed) Dima Dermanovsky

Anybody want to build a church in Nakhodka?

Another “At Last” for Vladivostok

by Fr. Daniel L. Maurer, C.J.D.

At last the vast area of the Russian Far East, the large city of Vladivostok and our Catholic parish have a real pipe organ!



The pipes for the organ showing above the installers, Yuri Belozorov, Fr Daniel, Dennis Davis and Pavel Komov

For a full week in July, Dennis Davis of Etude Keyboard Service of Glencoe, MN worked day and night to install the 7 rank, 6 stop pipe organ made by the famous Italian organ building firm of Fratelli Ruffatti in the Catholic Church of the Most Holy Mother of God. (There are very many Fratelli Ruffatti pipe organs in the United States. Two of the most famous are in the Catholic Cathedral of St Mary in San Francisco, and in the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, CA.)

Working beside Dennis were his wife Christine Davis, Vladivostok parishioner Pavel Komov and this author. The installation took many more hours than expected because one of the parts that had been remade after it was destroyed by water during shipment and storage had to be re-remade on the spot. When planning flights to Vladivostok, Dennis allowed one full week to complete the work, and with his unstinting labor, the deadline was met. He completed a few last tasks of re-voicing the



Pipes were laying everywhere.

organ on the morning of the day that he and Chris flew back home to Minnesota.

Everyone in the parish, and especially Fr. Myron and I, are very grateful to Dennis for donating all of his expert installation work free of charge. It was very generous of him, amounting to at least 55 hour of highly specialized work that no one else in a radius of 4000 miles could have done. Dennis was very familiar with the organ that he installed. He was its curator for several years at the Catholic Church of Saint Ambrose in Saint Paul, MN where it was first installed around 1978. He was in charge of the dismantling and packing process of the organ before it was shipped to Vladivostok in 2006. He spent many hours converting its pipe controller unit from analog to digital electronics so that it could be played from our digital organ console here in Vladivostok.

In 1998 Saint Ambrose parish was merged with another Catholic parish by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul-Minneapolis, and the church building was sold to the New Hope Baptist Church. When the organ console that



Chris and Dennis Davis

controlled the pipes developed a few unspecified difficulties, the leadership of New Hope decided to look for a buyer of the entire organ. In late 2005 his author happened to notice their advertisement on an internet website devoted to the sale of used organs. I was struck by how low the price was (around 10% of the cost of a comparable new organ), so I wrote to ask to see the organ in the near future when I was planning to be in Saint Paul visiting our Mary Mother of God Mission Society.

At the New Hope Baptist Church in December of 2005 I learned that the instrument was made in Italy by the famous Fratelli Ruffatti Organ Builders, and that Dennis attested to the fact that it was in excellent condition, so I made arrangements to purchase it. It was a pleasure to meet the leadership of New Hope, and to be present for one of their Sunday communion services. They received me and other members of our mission very warmly. We are especially grateful to the pastor, the Rev Runney Patterson, Sr and to Trustee Wanda Emanuel-Woods for their warm reception and for facilitating the sale of the organ.

With a total of 539 pipes comprising six stops and seven ranks played on the great division, the pipe organ is not a large instrument, but it has an excellent sound that does much to augment and add depth to the 94 electronic stops of our beloved “Stella Maris” Rodgers Trillium 927 digital electronic organ. And although the pipe unit may be small, it is the first real pipe organ ever to be installed anywhere in the Russian Far East, an area of land one and a half times the size of the continental United States, so the installation is really a historic event for the city of Vladivostok. We have already had television coverage of the installation, which also acts as free publicity for our parish and also for our concert program of sacred music.

The installation will be celebrated by a mass and blessing on September 14, followed by a free inaugural concert for parishioners and special invited guests. Later that same week, on September 16-19, we will present four concerts by the stellar Russian organist Professor Alexei Parshin of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Music in Moscow. Professor Parshin has been to our parish twice before for six sold-out organ concerts, and he has developed a huge fan base in Vladivostok because of them.

The purchase of the pipe organ was made possible by donations from many benefactors over the course of the last two and a half years through our “Adopt-a-Pipe” program organized by Vicky Trevillyan, our National Coordinator. We are very grateful to all who adopted one or more of the 539 pipes, thereby giving their support to our liturgical and concert music programs. We continue

to be grateful to the parishioners of “Stella Maris” parish on Sullivans Island, SC for the gift of our “Stella Maris” organ which now also serves as the console for the pipes.

We are convinced that with the acquisition of this pipe organ our opportunities to evangelize non-baptized, non-practicing citizens of our city and state will grow and broaden. May God bless all those who have helped in any way to make this possible.



Chris Davis is also an artist, so we were happy she pitched in with the intricate paint job that our new wooden Pascal Candle holder and pulpit needed.

Opportunities

- ♥ We always need mass intentions for priests working in Russia. You can donate them on-line if you wish for fastest service. We can also send mass intention cards to those you specify. See our website or write us.
- ♥ Visitation Parish in Lesozovodsk needs a sister parish to help them. Has your parish considered being a sister parish to a Russian parish? Ask your pastor about it.
- ♥ Mary Mother of God Mission Society invites you to experience an unforgettable journey aboard Princess Cruise Line's Diamond Princess in 2009. You will cruise from Whittier, Alaska to Xingang, China. There will be a full day in Vladivostok, Russia where you will have the opportunity to visit the mission. More details to follow. For immediate information please contact Barbara Garcia toll free at 866 756-1049 or email Barbara at BarbaraHouplinGarcia@aaawin.com

How to Communicate with Us

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Or you can **donate from your credit card** through our web site. Your donations are tax-deductible. You will receive any required receipt for tax purposes by return mail. Please be assured that we do not sell our mailing list or any other donor information to other organizations.

Donations in kind. If you have items that you think we can use, please contact Mrs Vicky Trevillyan at the Mission Office in California giving a complete list of items.

Sisters in Jesus the Lord: Phone: (651)230-3337

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Vladivostok Sunrise Edited and produced in Russia by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D. Assembled for mailing by Nativity Parish, St Paul, Minnesota.

News Notes

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

● Thanks be to God, Fr David Otto, from St. Mary's Parish in Niles, Michigan wants to "twin" with the Nakhodka Parish of **Our Lady of the Pacific**. It will be the first sister parish for Nakhodka—a long awaited event! The details are being worked out, even though Fr Sebastian D'Silva, pastor in Nakhodka, is temporarily working on Sakhalin Island, due to the lack of priests. The Nakhodka parish is getting better organized and beginning to work at a variety of charity projects besides its Women's Support Center.



St Mary's Church in Niles

● Boy Scout **Troop 67** at our sister **Parish of the Nativity** in St Paul, Minnesota, invited two of our scouts to come to participate in their summer programs. For six weeks our scouts from Troop 1862, Roman Komov, 16, and Mikhail "Misha" Belozorov, 13, have been treated to American hospitality with parish families and are attending the Minnesota Scouts' camps. Naturally they've also seen the Mall of America, The Minnesota Zoo, Mill City Museum, the Cathedral of St Paul, the state Capitol, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and Valleyfair. But during their stay, the emphasis has been on the outdoors: camping in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area at the headwaters of the Mississippi River, on Lake Superior's North Shore, and at Scouting's Tomahawk Camp near Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

Andy Ubel at Nativity made all the arrangements, and parishioners pitched in with airmiles with help from Northwest Airlines to pay for the whole trip. Nine families from Troop 67 opened their homes to the Russians during their six-week stay. The local Northern Star Boy Scouts Council waived the \$1,000 fee for the two boys to attend the week-long Tomahawk camp and insured them during their stay. Andy said, "We obviously do some things differently here than they do in Russia. When they sent us pictures of their Scout camp, the boys were all peeling potatoes. Our guys would be peeling Pop Tart packages!"

Our "spy" Brian Roche, who visited the Scouts while they were in Minnesota, said, "They seem to be fitting in with no problems and their English is progressing. I was amazed at how well they interacted with the other scouts and their host families. We went in canoes down the St Croix River and Roman even had a hand in sinking my canoe! The boys said they had very little trouble in the airports, but just a little shock in Seoul due to the size of the airport and the crowds. Roman said he was surprised

at how big American hamburgers are and how many squirrels and rabbits there are the USA. He said that after a few weeks he had already acclimated. His highlight so far was the week-long camp at Tomahawk. He was able to rock climb and shoot rifles. I talked to most of the parents and they were all impressed at how well behaved the boys were and said that they were a delight to have in their homes. One couple jokingly offered to trade them for their own children! Some were a little worried that they were spoiling the boys---taking them sailing on the nicest lake in Minnesota and seeing million dollar mansions on the shores.”

Nativity planned a picnic for Roman and Misha on August 18, and the boys returned to Vladivostok on August 20. We haven't heard their stories yet. We hope their experience will help advance the cause of Scouting in Russia. Thanks and hats off to all our Minnesota benefactors who made the trip possible!



Scouts from Troop 67 getting organized.

Roman and Misha “at home” in Minnesota.



● Benefactors can be amazing! **Clotilde Duarte** has a great hobby—She makes dresses for little girls for the missions. She has done many hundreds already, if not

thousands, and she share’s them around the world to those in need. When our Modesto parishioners came this summer, they brought suitcases full for our orphans. Thank you, Clotilde! I even used you and your work as an example at the Youth Conference about how love finds a way of expressing itself. You are a good example of love expressing itself!

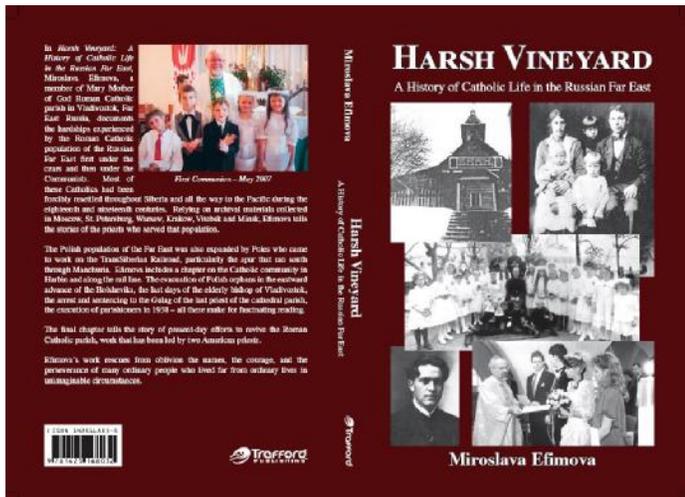


Clotilde in her sewing room with more boxes ready to go..

Angelina Zamoshina modeling a dress made with love.



● We’ve had one little bit of a setback regarding Deacon **Oleg Yelchaninov’s** ordination to the priesthood. He was supposed to be ordained, but he found that he couldn’t finish some of his academic papers in time before his Slovakia visa ended where he was in the seminary. So he had to take some incompletes and come home, and is hoping to finish those papers here and then submit them to the seminary faculty for approval. Then the ordination can take place. I fully understand how hard it is to do academic work in a language that is not your own! Otherwise, it is great to have him home with us again, after seven years in the seminary in Slovakia.



- At last, it's available in English!—Miroslava Efimova's book *Harsh Vineyard: A History of Catholic Life in the Russian Far East*. The paperback will be available from the publisher at www.trafford.com for \$20.78 plus shipping beginning September 15. Or you can order it from our office in St Paul, or go on line to www.vladmission.org or to www.Amazon.com or order it from any bookstore. Big thanks to volunteer Dr Gerri Kelly who not only did the translation, but took care of all the publishing problems! A big job well done by a professional.

- My secretary, **Nicolai Dorodnov**, besides being bogged down in Vladivostok's traffic jams and being bogged down standing in bureaucratic office lines, is a man of action. His favorites are motorcycling and sport-style ball room dancing. He was thrilled to have won his first "first place" ribbon in Latin American dance at the regional competition recently. Olympics, anyone?



After years of practice, Nicolai grins after winning first place in his sport.

- "Thank you for a blessed opportunity to once again serve in Vladivostok," wrote Vicky Trevillyan on behalf of the mission group which came to Vladivostok from our sister parish of **St Joseph's in Modesto**. "We gained so much in this trip and in working and playing among the Conference youth. For me, it was a gift to see again those who have become dear friends." The group came to help in any way they could. One delicious way was that they made and served a picnic for our parish on July 27. 80 people attended.



Picnic on the rectory grounds.

They were at the birth hospital and noticed the 1920's style intensive care unit, but they were also impressed by the great spirit of the doctors and nurses who are anxious that we begin a Women's Support Center in their hospital! We'll see what we can do—with the help of our benefactors, of course.

- It is great that we now have a place for meetings of various important community organizations. Especially I am glad that AA and ALANON seem to have taken off in our halls. Thanks, benefactors, for our new rectory.



ALANON meeting on Saturdays at 3pm.

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From the development desk...

Dear Friends of Vladivostok Mission,

Eight mission travelers from California, New Jersey, Colorado, and Minnesota, journeyed to work and help in Vladivostok last month. All those who answered this call, were greatly privileged to witness the endless needs in reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia and play a microscopic role in helping meet those needs.

The work of Fr Myron and Fr Daniel moves slowly but steadily forward thanks to the many loving hearts and hands of our all our benefactors. Thanks be to God for YOU! [Through God's grace and your generosity, the Catholic activity in Eastern Russia exits.](#) There are humble to magnificent parishes for people to worship in – We watched both steeples of the Church rising brick by brick. There are facilities for the abandoned poor and sick elderly to receive shelter – We carried over from the US and delivered wheelchairs. Orphans have clothes and toys– Our suitcases were filled to bursting from your generosity. Young mothers have a place to seek help when they choose life for their babies- We met with and spoke to Tatiana who, with assistance from the Women's Support Center, will keep baby Elizabeth. Young Russians have the yearly opportunity to come

from great distances to worship and study their faith together – Two from our team joined the Far Eastern Youth Conference. Liturgy is spread through the power of music – We were blessed to assist Denny Davis install over 500 organ pipes!

Yet, this is just the tip of the iceberg in moving forward with our very purpose: **to bring Christ to those who don't know Him.** May God greatly bless you for your all important prayers and continuing support.

You may witness for yourself and participate firsthand in the faithful work being done in Eastern Russia. If you, or your pastor and parish group would like to visit Vladivostok to be part of a mission work team, please contact our office at 209-408-0728, or usoffice@vladmission.org

God bless you and your families. In Humble Gratitude,

Vicky Trevillyan (209) 408-0728