

# Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society and Vladivostok Mission

Issue Number Eighty Four November 1, 2008



## Sixteen Years of Charity; Ten Years for the Women's Support Centers

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



*The Caritas volunteers assembled for a special blessing after Sunday Mass on October 12, 2008.*

On Sunday October 12, as we celebrated Thanksgiving in Vladivostok, we decided to celebrate the 16 years of work of our charitable organization Caritas, and especially because it was also the tenth anniversary of the Caritas Women's Support Centers. There are already 1000 babies who have been helped by the Adopt-a-Birth program, and that is just the tip of the iceberg as far as the charity that has been performed by the remarkable symbiosis of our donors and of our volunteers. I just thought I'd list some things that have been done: Adopt-a-birth, Adopt-a-Mom, Adopt-a-Family, Hospice for the Dying, Elderly Home Visiting Project, Hope Medical Project, Street Children Project, Medical Center, Vladivostok Water Crisis Project, Primorye Flood Aid Project, Renovabis Anti-Crisis project, Alcoholics Anonymous, Just Say No to Narcotics, WSC's seven Centers, Children's Diabetes Project, Boy Scouts, Soup Kitchen Project, Fruit and Milk Orphans Project, Grandma Mentoring Project, Save the Children

Project, Women Prisoners' Project, Children's Back-to-School Project, Children's Facial Correction Surgery Program, Sunday Club Program, Children's Diabetic Program. Of course we haven't included programs of evangelization, education, spiritual growth, and support for parishes in this list, even.



*Adriana Michaelovna, received a special award as the most committed volunteer.*



*Volunteers Elena Andreevna, Regina Yurievna, and Lilia Timofeevna. Lilia Timofeevna Silina is the Director of Caritas for the Vladivostok Parish, and has her hands full keeping track of all the volunteers and financial details.*

*Volunteers and local sponsors had a dinner in the parish center to celebrate after Sunday Mass.*



*There was a display of photographs from the years of volunteers work in various programs.*



*Ludmila Anatolievna, Director of the Hospice at Dalzavodskaya Hospital congratulates Caritas with flowers and a certificate. We've worked there many years, bathing patients, providing food, medicine, and consolation. Also hot water, washing machines, and a shower for patients.*

*Lilia, Galina Gregorievna, and Dr Valentina Nikolaevna. Dr Nikolaevna is the Director of Children's Hospital #3 where we have helped with the Fruit and Milk Program and the Grandma Mentor Program. Galina is the Director of the orphan department of the hospital.*



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



*“Babba Masha”—Maria Egorevna—with her “grandchildren” charges at Baby Hospital #3, with Lilia Timofeevna.ri*



*Dr Yelena Turgovitskaya, Lead Doctor at the State Women’s Consultation Service #7 congratulates Caritas on ten years of work with crisis pregnancies. To her right is Julia Fidenko, who heads the Women’s Support Center whose offices are at the Service.*



*Lubov Sadovnika, Tatyana Djekaeva, and Olga Merkulova, in charge of Women’s Support Centers in Artyom, Arsenyev, and Nakhodka, respectively.*

*Ludmila Brinkina who is the hostess for the Caritas Sunday Club every Sunday after Sunday Mass.*



What about the future? We can say that we will open the next Women’s Support Center this year—we are still deciding where to open it, Khabarovsk, Comsomolsk, or another one in Vladivostok on Churkin where we have been invited to open one in the birth hospital. There is a proposal to begin a battered women’s shelter. We need to begin further work with the Boy Scouts in Lesozovodsk. And there is always the dream to open a family support center where we can offer even legal advice and a variety of counseling to families in need. Naturally,

nothing is possible without our donors, which include Renovabis in Germany, Juan Bonal Foundation in Spain, Lynch Family Foundation, Benedictine Sisters of Duluth, Mercy Works Foundation, St Vincent DePaul Society of Ohio, Catholic Charities USA, Sisters in Jesus the Lord, Immaculate Conception Parish of Dayton—all in America—and our sister parishes, and most of all, our daily mail and internet donors whose charity and prayers continue to bless our work. Thank you, Donors and Volunteers!



*Certificates of Gratitude for the work of Caritas, the left one from City Hospital #4, and the right one from Vice Governor A.V. Norin for all the work of the parish and Caritas throughout Primorsky Krai (Seaside Territory).*

## Religious Professions in St Paul

*by MaryAnne Frank  
North Minneapolis Serra Club*

On August 15, at the Mass celebrating the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary became a landmark moment for Sisters in Jesus the Lord. Emily Theresa Lee was received into the novitiate, Sister Catherine Marie made her first private vows and Sister Maria Stella renewed her private vows.

Emily received the name Sister Maria Damiana (after St. Damien of Molokai—in the Russian language, names are always given a feminine suffix.) Father Elmer Torborg blessed her habit, scapular and crucifix: “O Lord, Savior of the entire body, bless with Your right hand this habit which will clothe Your handmaid in the likeness of Your Blessed Mother, the ever-virgin Mary...” As members of a private association, the sisters wear their habits in the

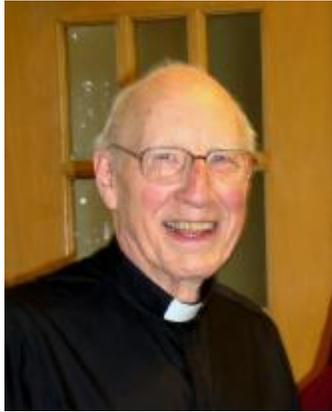
convent and anticipate the day when their order is recognized as a religious institute and they are able to wear their habit in public.



*Sister Julia, Sister Maria Damiana, Sister Maria Stella, Sr Catherine Marie, and Fr William McCarthy of Sioux City*

After the homily, Sister Catherine Marie came forward and was given a special blessing by her mother and grandmother. She was invited into the sanctuary and lay prostrate as the Litany of Saints was sung before she made her private vows: "With the help of the Most Holy Trinity and the Blessed Mother I vow for 3 years to you my God, to live a life of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience, faithful to the magisterium of the Church, with the Sisters in Jesus the Lord." She received a burgundy veil, blessed by the priest, to be worn as an outward sign of her vows.

As Mass was completed, Sister Maria Stella was called forward and renewed private vows for two years. The firm "Amen!" of the celebrant's prayer "through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pour out your Holy Spirit upon her, so that the promise she has made here and now may be confirmed by her unflinching dedication to You and Your Church."



*Fr Elmer Torborg, a great mission volunteer, was the celebrant for the Profession Mass.*

Inspired by the beautiful Profession Mass, we were swept away by the reception! We met so many young women who have been mentored by the sisters. As the sisters are discerning and responding so generously to their own vocations, they are providing a rich community to draw other to more fully love the Lord.

## How to Communicate with Us

### Internet

Russian language: [www.catholic.vladivostok.ru](http://www.catholic.vladivostok.ru)

English language: [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)

Sisters in English: [www.cjd.cc](http://www.cjd.cc)

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**Letters** without donations:

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## Opportunities

♥ 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](mailto:BarbaraHouplinGarcia@aaawin.com)

♥ **Do you have time to spare for the Mission office?** Volunteers needed to help research and arrange attendance and speaking engagements at Catholic Conferences and clubs throughout the US. Please contact the mission office.

♥ **Mission Speakers needed!** We provide all the information you need to present our work in parishes and at Catholic conferences! My call to help the mission in Vladivostok began by picking up a Vladivostok Sunrise and answering an ad just like this one calling for mission speakers! You can do it too! Is God calling you?

♥ **Do you enjoy sewing?** You can help our mission with your talent! We have begun a wonderful project sewing rosary pouches, book markers and book covers from Priest's discarded vestments! These very special and unique items can be used for fundraising at parish activities or craft boutiques. All proceeds help our mission! If you wish to give of your talent to sew for us or time in fundraising, contact the mission office for more details! Old vestments needed too!

♥ **Harsh Vineyard: A History of Catholic Life in the Russian Far East** by our parishioner Miroslava Efimova with translation by Dr Gerri Kelly is available from the publisher at [www.trafford.com](http://www.trafford.com) Or you can order it from our office in St Paul, or go on line to [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org) or to [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) or order it from any bookstore. A great Christmas present!

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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  
525 Thomas Ave  
St Paul, MN 55103

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## News Notes

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

- Imagine my delight when we discovered another parishioner who was baptized and made her First



Communion in our church before the Russian Revolution came here. **Evgenia Visotskaya** was 86 years old, born in 1922, the year our church was dedicated the first time! Evgenia said she remembered her First Communion well enough, but didn't remember if she was confirmed or not, so I confirmed her conditionally, gave her Communion and anointed her. She died in her sleep

several days later. She served as a medic in the Second World War and had lots of medals and awards to show. Later in life she worked as a dentist. It's always a royal day when we find one of our pre-Revolutionary parishioners, especially when we can give them the sacraments that they were for so long denied.

- Baby boom in Lesozovodsk.** The birthing department of the city hospital has asked us for a large amount of cloth diapers, saying that currently up to 17 babies a day are being born there! Maybe the 8-years of work of our Women's Support Center there is finally paying off. The Center regularly speaks in all the schools about pro-life and pro-family issues.

- Here is a photo of the poster announcing the first concert on the "new" used **pipe organ** that we installed from Minnesota. The organist, Aleksei Parshin, is



probably the best organist in Russia, and is a professor of organ at the Moscow Conservatory. He was scheduled for four concerts, and it was full houses as usual. Meanwhile Marina Amelchinko, our parish organist, had a free concert for parishioners and their friends so that everyone could hear the organ.

Fr Dan checking the tuning before the concert.



- On August 29 the new Catholic Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was consecrated in **Kazan**, Tartarstan, Russia. The church was completely paid for by the State Government of Tartarstan, the reason being that the historical church, which still exists, has for some time been a laboratory for aeronautics, and the government decided it would be better to just build a new church rather than give the old one back. The new one is built on the same plan as the old one, but in a different part of the city not far from the huge new sports complex. We are calling your attention to this event because our first Bishop of Vladivostok, Karl Slivovsky, was Pastor in Kazan for many years before he was transferred to Vladivostok. The rectory where he lived is no longer in existence there.



*The new Church in Kazan. Photo courtesy Ekaterina Krasutskoi from [www.tatar-inform.ru](http://www.tatar-inform.ru)*

*The old church, now an aeronautics laboratory.*



● While Fr Myron was in Cincinnati at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish (Reading OH) he was inducted into the Archbishop Elko Assembly of the **4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights** of Columbus. It is a pleasure to be in the company of faithful men who so care about the Church and our country.



*The welcome sign at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*



*Fr Ron Williams, Pastor at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Fr Myron, and Frank Kammer, Faithful Navigator*

● Do heights scare you? This brave soul is standing on the very top of the brick structure of our new **steeple**. The second steeple is visible at the left. He is Sergei Yakovlev who even swims to Russian Island from the mainland! Soon the metal spires will be added to the top of the brick steeples, and then metal crosses will be put at the very top. The metal crosses will cost \$2500 each. Donors anyone? You could memorialize them to a loved one.



*High over Golden Horn Bay, Sergei Yakovlev isn't afraid of heights. You can put the Cross up here for all to see*

● The heating season has arrived. Fr Sebastian on **Sakhalin Island** wrote to us to borrow money to pay for the heating of the four parish centers on the Island. It comes to about \$1000 per month. (Of course I have no idea how he will ever repay the debt!)

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

Dear Friends of Vladivostok Mission,

May the peace of Christ be with all of you!

We're coming into the very wonderful seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent. This time of year we meditate on the greatest gift given to us - that of Christ to the world! We give thanks for all His blessings to us. We think especially of the suffering of the hungry, the homeless, the sick, and those who are lonely and abandoned. We are one family in Christ, so when one suffers, we all feel the pain. We want so much for our brothers and sisters in need. You all have shared your gifts with others in Eastern Russia through your time, talent and tithe. Great and small, **your** prayers and gifts reach those in need. THANK YOU and may God bless you for your love and generosity.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and Advent Season!

Yours In Christ, Vicky Trevillyan  
209-408-0728



*What would Christmas be without children? Our volunteer Natasha Voitela hugs these orphans at Hospital #3. Their parents rejected them, but at least allowed them to live. Can we bring the love of Christ to these kids?*

# Happy Thanksgiving!