

The neighborhood children loved the visit of their American friends. Here is Donna Fong with our cook Nicolai Gribachof, Igor Davydov our translator, and Brother Dan. That is our Russian Jeep, too, back from a trip to the far village of Dalnigorsk.

Roxanne Lumm made a hit with the children using her routines, here with John Clauder, Father Joseph Fessio, and Tatyana Yankelevich, an engineer who is working for the return of our church.

Our mission crew was happy after visiting our church building for a tour of its current condition. From the left, Roxanne Lumm, John Clauder, Father Fessio, Architect Gary Nolen from Los Gatos, and Donna Fong.

Our good friend Father Valentine, pastor of St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, with Father Effing and Father Fessio.

The newly baptised stand with their sponsors as they are welcomed to the parish. I to r: Anna Gafureva, Katerina Yankina, Igor John Mozayev, Ludmilla Gafureva. For the second baptismal class we were able to get a picture only of Tatyana Yankina, Katerina's twin sister. Those baptised were, Igor Peter Lukin, Miraslava Efimovna, Tatyana Yankina, Akim Bandarev, and Alla Kozko.

Balshoi Kamen in the back ground. Our taxi driver, Brother Dan, and our friend Genadi, whose wife Olga just gave birth to a baby boy.

Brother Dan without his head modelling the chasuble made by Father Joseph Terra.

News Briefs and Mission Needs

So much happens, and we don't even have time to write it all up! Here is a sample of events:

Father Effing has had several meetings with the Ukrainian Cultural Society, and now also with the German Cultural Society, many of whose members are Catholics. However, many still don't know there is now a priest here, and that they can again come to mass.

Father Effing and Father Valentine, pastor of St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, shared a dedication service for a new memorial which has been placed over the spot where the mass graves of those killed during the Revolution are located. So many of both religions died together, and we prayed they will come to life together.

Father Joseph Terra of Modesto, California, has finished a complete liturgical vestment set for our mission. The color scheme is white and violet, with gold trim, done in a very classic style. Thank you, Father!

Brother Dan has been doing a lot of work in the city of Balshoi Kamen, across

the Ussuriski Bay from Vladivostok. English teachers there are anxious to practice, and there is a new course in religion beginning this fall in the school. We will be helping with the part of the course on Christianity. An Orthodox parish is trying to organize there, but as yet they do not have a church or pastor. We have the first request from there for Catholic baptism. Remember Balshoi Kamen when you pray!

A cable television company has offered us free air time for a regular program. We are in the process of finding program materials, and have received some Russian tapes from Lumen 2000, thanks to The Way Home of Dallas, Texas. This is a wonderful opportunity for evangelization and teaching the basics of the Christian faith even to Orthodox believers whose pastors are simply too busy to teach classes.

The mission has printed its first booklet, entitled "The Words and Actions of the Parishioners at Holy Mass". There is no official Russian translation of the mass yet, and most prayerbooks we have found have different translations. So we decided to print our own "missalette" so that all our people can answer the prayers of the mass. Next we are translating a book of prayers for the home, and a wonderful booklet about the teaching of the early Church concerning abortion. This booklet, "The Early Church Fathers and Abortion" by Dr Larry Crutchfield and is available from the American Life League in English. Igor Davydov works at our translations. Does someone want to support this printing project?

Baptisms and confirmations continue as our parish grows. On Pentecost we had four adult baptisms, and on July 19, five. Four people have joined the Catholic church from other Christian denominations. Brother Dan and Father Myron have been taking turns instructing the catechumens. We are looking for someone who can be a full time catechist, working with the young and the elderly, especially. Speaking Russian is necessary!

Recently Father Valentine, our Orthodox friend, introduced us to a Catholic lady to whom he had been ministering for some time, because there was no Catholic priest here in Vladivostok. Her name is Tamara, and for 16 years she has been paralyzed from the neck down, and spends all her time in bed. Her sister has cared for her all these years. She lives on the seventh floor, and her apartment looks out on our church building. She will be right next door when we move there. She lives in very austere circumstances, not having even a crucifix, a prayerbook, or a holy picture. She can't use a rosary because of her paralysis. Our Bishop Werth went to anoint her and pray with her. She needs someone to read to her, because she can't hold a book. It seems to me she needs a television set, and even a video player, so that we can show her religious videos. Would someone like to give her a TV or Video? Your donation with a note should be sent to: Vladivostok Mission, 225 Cordova Street, Anchorage AK 99501

When Bishop Werth was here he asked us about baptismal register books for the parishes of Russian Asia. These special books made from archival paper cost about \$80 each in America. Would your parish like to donate one of these registers to Russia? Ask your parish to send a note with the donation to Vladivostok Mission, 225 Cordova Street, Anchorage AK 99501. Or, if you prefer, these books can be mailed directly because no one would steal these books which are useless for resale. Send us a note to get an address of a parish that

doesn't have a baptismal register. Consumer products are stolen from the mail, so don't send these, please!

We are looking forward to receiving our church building back, hopefully by January 1, 1993. We will then need to tear out the floors which were built inside and prepare the church for worship. Can you help with this project?

Thank you to our wonderful co-missionaries who are helping us from around the world. While we are here making a new beginning in Russia we are dependent upon help from outside. In addition to our friends who are making personal donations, here are some organizations that have helped us:

Thanks to Father Fessio and the many friend of Ignatius Press of San Francisco for a jeep, a van, mass wine for the whole diocese, a copy machine, a computer for the pastor of Krasnoyarsk so that he can receive electronic mail, and for their work on the road here in Russia as evangelists in the small villages.

Thanks to the youth of Holy Trinity Parish in Ehrenstein Germany for working and saving to get us a car. After Ignatius Press purchased a car, it was essential that we have a garage (we were not able to use the car for several weeks because the battery and a tire were stolen, and gasoline was stolen twice), so the Holy Trinity contribution was used to buy a garage. Thanks to these young people who care about the mission and about Russia!

Thanks to the Archdiocese of Anchorage for supplying our banking and mailing facilities. Thanks to the Catholics of Turkey, who paid our travel expenses; to the Altar Society of Livingston, CA; To Our Lady of Fatima Russian Catholic Church of San Francisco; To the Knights Ladies of Modesto, CA; To Sacred Heart Church of Dos Palos, CA; To the Canons Regular of Grand St Bernard, Switzerland; To the Catholic Campus Community of Turlock, CA; To the Catholic Community of Castle Air Force Base, CA; To the Society for the Propagation of the Faith of the Diocese of Arlington, VA; To Corpus Christi Church of San Francisco, CA; To the St Vincent De Paul Society of Turlock, CA; To Our Lady of Miracles Parish of Gustine, CA; To Mahoney Exports of San Francisco; To the Capuchin Friars of the Renewal of Larchmont, NY; And to many individuals who have made gifts to make our mission possible. God bless you all! --M.E.

Crucifix from Church Found

In February, Victor Obertas, the chairman of the Committee on Memorials and Historical Places of the Primorye Krai, told us that there was an old crucifix from our church which had been discovered when there was some digging for utilities nearby. He said it was currently located in the Art Institute where it was used as an example of religious sculpture. Thanks to Oleg Igorevich Grigorev of the Art Institute, we were able to see and photograph this crucifix. It has been damaged somewhat, but still a wonderful relic of the former furnishings of our church. We decided to allow the crucifix to remain for now at the Institute until we have a place for it, because it has been safe there for many years. Maybe it will make a centerpiece for a special memorial within our church building to commemorate these 70 years when the church was suppressed and its members

martyred.

The marble crucifix from our church as it is today. Standing nearby, Tatyana Valyayeva.

Wheelchairs for Elena and Irina

It was May, and Elena hadn't been outside since November! Her apartment is on the 8th floor, but her old wheelchair wouldn't fit in the elevator. Her mother and father simply couldn't carry her any more down all those flights of steps. In fact, she was so out of practice using the wheelchair that she was afraid to even try the bright, shiney new one we brought.

First she screamed that she was afraid. Perhaps you would be afraid too, if you lived all your life on the floor--chairs are high when you can't steady yourself with your hands. Then she was determined to try it. She broke out in perspiration as she struggled to bend to fit in the chair. Then when she relaxed, she noticed it would be fine, and she began to see if she could rotate the wheels herself. Then we showed her father how to tip the chair to go down the last four steps which lie beyond the elevator on the first floor. Then her father pushed her to the elevator--it was a perfect fit!

We met her laughing on the first floor. As she went out into the spring sun and saw the greenery, the flowers and the children playing, it was like being born again into a new world for her.

Who do we thank? We aren't sure, because so many people tried to answer our call for some wheelchairs for Russians, including friends in Anchorage and in California. We never really heard exactly from whom we received these wheelchairs. We know we can thank Mr Sae Hoon Lee of the American Consulate staff, also Mr John Bold of San Diego, which is the sister city of Vladivostok, as well as Aeroflot airlines. They worked together to bring the wheelchairs to Vladivostok. We can also thank the Adventist Church for bringing the need for these wheelchairs to our attention. But others were involved, too.

Elena isn't the only one who was helped, but also Irina, whose old, broken wheelchair also didn't fit in the elevator. Her situation wasn't quite so difficult because she only lives on the third floor!

Elena Kozlova and friend. In the back, her father, Adventist pastor Yuri Bochko, Father Effing, Adventist member Paul, and Elena's mother.

Irina Albitskaya and her mother.

Ignatius Press Comes to Visit and to Work

by Brother Daniel Maurer, C.J.D.

A group of five extraordinary people visited us during the month of July, and by the time they left, they had greatly enriched us and our mission, and they themselves had been enriched by the Russians they met. Leading the group was Fr Joseph Fessio, S.J., founder and editor of Ignatius Press (IP). His fellow travelers were Roxanne Lumm, design editor at IP; Donna Fong, managing editor

of IP's monthly magazine, *Catholic World Report*; Gary Nolen, an architect from Los Gatos, CA specializing in church restoration; and John Clauder, a rock/jazz drummer, who is a full-time lay evangelist at St Francis Church in Vista, CA, and father of eight (soon to be nine).

Our acquaintance with them, I am convinced, is due to God's good providence, one of those occurrences too timely not to be something of a miracle. A few weeks before we came to Vladivostok in February, we met with Fr Stephen Armstrong the Jesuit pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Russian Catholic Church in San Francisco. He happened to mention that Fr Fessio, another San Francisco Jesuit, was planning a two-month working visit to Bishop Joseph Werth, S.J. in Novosibirsk, Siberia. I took the name and number, hoping to be able to call, but thinking that I might not have time in the flurry of details involved in moving abroad. But the process of obtaining our visas took longer than we thought, so one day I called. When he heard of our plans to go to Russia, not only did Fr Fessio make time in his busy schedule to see me immediately, he also invited Fr Myron and me to stay with him in San Francisco during the final stages of preparation. The first day I met him last January was the day he received his winter down coat and fur hat for his proposed March-April trip to Siberia.

He made the trip to Novosibirsk a month after we arrived in Vladivostok, and was able to give valuable help to our bishop by celebrating Holy Week and Easter services in German for many German-Russian Catholics in a small Siberian town who had not seen a priest in over 70 years. A cancelled Aeroflot flight on his return to San Francisco at the end of April gave him the unexpected opportunity to visit us for three days. After two months in frozen Siberia, he lightheartedly referred to Vladivostok as the garden spot of Asian Russia. At that time he set up our electronic mail system that gives us error-free access to the rest of the world within hours. He was so impressed with Vladivostok and the compelling needs of our mission that he started making plans to return with a group of friends in July. Roxanne and Donna, whom we had gotten to know and love in January, worked late nights at IP finishing projects during May and June so that they would be able to make the trip with him.

Through the Catholic grapevine, others heard that Fr Fessio was involved in helping the Church in Russia. Architect Gary Nolen, from Los Gatos CA, had earlier learned of a group of Russian architects renovating churches in Novosibirsk. He got in touch with Fr Fessio, and was enlisted in the expedition to Vladivostok to give us professional advice on how to restore our church, the former Catholic cathedral. During his last week in Russia, he also had the opportunity to fly to Novosibirsk (farther than from San Francisco to New York) to consult with the architects involved in the construction of the new Catholic and Orthodox cathedrals there.

Catholic evangelist John Clauder had dreamed of helping to spread the Word of God again in once-holy Russia, but had met with caution or disinterest. Just days before the group was to leave, he heard about the proposed trip, called Fr Fessio, and signed on.

Americans are known throughout the world for our optimism and our ability to get things done. Our five American visitors took once-closed Vladivostok if not by storm at least by surprise. Through interpreters engaged by Fr Myron for the

occasion, and with the limited but quite respectable Russian of Fr Fessio and Roxanne, the group got to work with true missionary zeal. Gary and Fr Myron met with representatives of the city government and got permission to make a thorough study of the church building. Day after day, with the help of our friend, engineer Tanya Yankelevich, Gary went to the church to record every detail of its current condition in order to take back to the States the necessary information from which plans could be made by a group of American architects and construction consultants. Gary's work will be indispensable as we proceed to remove the 1935 addition of interior floors in the nave, and to restore the entire building to its original design. He took a brick and other samples of the building back to America for scientific analysis.

Roxanne Lumm had more foresight than most Americans. She has been studying Russian in her spare time for a number of years while waiting for religious freedom to make its comeback in Russia. Perhaps one day she will be a resident missionary here. If so, IP's loss will be the children of Russia's gain. Among them she quickly became the most popular of all our visitors, not only because she could speak their language, but also because she cleverly thought to bring with her a huge box of toys and candy.

During the first week of his stay, Fr Fessio bought a Russian military jeep and a Japanese van for our mission. After Gary finished his work at the church, and before the jeep was even registered properly (Russian bureaucracy can be a tangled web) four members of the group, Fr Fessio, Roxanne, John and Gary, with Tanya as interpreter, took it on the first of two missionary trips looking for Catholics and Christians in Primorya Krai, our local administrative region equivalent to a state. They traveled over axle-bending roads, and met some of the most hospitable people in the world. Four days later, bruised but intact from a close encounter with a pothole almost the size of the jeep itself, they reported back to Vladivostok that they had met some Orthodox, some evangelical Protestants, but no Catholics. They had, however, let many people know that the Lord loves them and that the Catholic Church is back in operation in the area. They also distributed many Russian New Testaments provided by the members of John's parish in Vista.

With four people away and the apartment relatively quiet, Donna proceeded to edit the full text of a 64-page magazine on a laptop computer in our living room. Each day, she received long transmissions of electronic mail from *Catholic World Report* editor-in-chief Robert Moynihan in Rome containing all the proposed articles for the next issue. It is interesting to know that Vladivostok is technologically ahead of the Eternal City. We have a number of electronic mail outlets here, but Mr Moynihan has to call long distance to Milan to connect to an electronic mail system there.

On Fr Fessio's second exploratory trip around the Krai, he and Roxanne felt comfortable enough with their increasingly proficient Russian that they did not take an interpreter along. With John and Gary they traveled north to the area's second largest city, Usurisk. There they were warmly received by the local Orthodox pastor and his parishioners who were in the middle of the major local religious celebration of the year, a feast that commemorates the tradition of Our Lady's having healed the arm of St John Damascene. Fr Fessio was so impressed by the friendliness of our Orthodox brothers, that he called here to invite the rest

of us to the feast that evening. Fr Effing found a way to join them for the service and the procession. There he learned that the Orthodox parish in Usurisk was never closed during all the long, dark years of communist terror and oppression, unlike the 28 Orthodox parishes in Vladivostok which were closed completely and every church building destroyed.

Following Sunday Mass on July 5, Fr Myron held an open meeting of the parish. Fr Fessio described for the people some of the ways in which he hoped he and his Ignatius Press community could help our re nascent parish of the Most Holy Mother of God. His remarks gave our people great hope and much to look forward to. At that time he told them that he had just talked by phone to Mother Theresa of Calcutta. With financial support promised from Fr Fessio's newly created "Fund for Apostolic Works," Mother Theresa has decided to open a community of the contemplative branch of her Missionary Sisters of Charity in Vladivostok. Fr Fessio reported that Mother Theresa said she had promised Our Lady one community of sisters in Russia for each mystery of the rosary, and that so far she only had been able to establish ten, so that left five communities to go. If the sisters arrive here soon, they will be the eleventh community, corresponding to the eleventh mystery of the rosary, the Resurrection of Our Lord from the dead. I consider that a very appropriate symbol indeed for the Russian Far East where religious persecution was practiced most fiercely. The Lord is being raised to life again here every day, in new conversions, in the growing reception of the sacraments, in a greater knowledge of His Word. Thanks to the spiritual vision and financial support of Fr Fessio our people will soon have the immeasurable grace of the presence of consecrated, contemplative, religious sisters. These particular contemplative sisters not only pray, but also pledge two hours a day to work among the poorest of the poor.

Rock/jazz drummer John Clauder contributed to the group's mission in his own very unique and talented way. In the United States, John has played drums for such famous singing artists as Frank Sinatra and the Mamas and the Papas. The notable Christian singer/songwriter John Michael Talbot has composed some of his music on John's kitchen table. Here in the Russian Far East John's visit coincided with the joint Russian/American celebration of the birthday of Vladivostok (July 2) and American Independence Day. No one knows how he managed it, but less than four days after he arrived in town, John performed a superlative drum solo on the main stage in the central city square at peak performance time during a rock concert organized to celebrate the renewal of Russian-American friendship. Two weeks later, John performed publicly again, this time in a crowded park overlooking the swimming beach at the bay downtown. With the help of Ruslan, his interpreter, he drummed and spoke a moving interpretation of the Incarnation from the prologue to St John's Gospel, and then gave a personal witness of his relationship with the Jesus the Lord. A sizeable crowd gathered for the event, and John was able to distribute to them the last of the Russian New Testaments from St Anthony's Parish in Vista. Throughout his stay in Vladivostok, John was helped by a group of Russian rock musicians who befriended him. They supplied the drums, the sound systems and transportation for his concerts and asked nothing in return except the chance to get to know a serious, committed Catholic Christian from America. Most of them said that they were either atheists or agnostics, but all of them are surely taking another look at the possibility of the existence of a loving God just because they met John whose warmth, smile and conviction of God's love are all very real.

Missionary life in Russia is often not physically comfortable. For the first two weeks of their three-week stay, we had no hot running water in our area of the city, and no water at all for two days. Fr Fessio slept on chair cushions on the kitchen floor. (His 6' 3" frame just fit our 7' kitchen.) Donna and Roxanne shared a small bedroom in the apartment below ours that we rented for the occasion and where Roxanne too slept on the floor. In that same two-room apartment with one bathroom there lived three and sometimes four other people. But I think all our visitors would agree that the personal warmth and hospitality of the Russian people more than made up for any physical discomfort. Fr Myron's new Russian teacher Luda Yelchisheva and her husband and son gave up their nearby apartment and went to stay with Luda's parents so that John and Gary would have a place to stay near us. Luda came back every evening to cook supper for them. A number of people Donna met insisted on giving her their cherished possessions as remembrances of her visits with them. Many of our Russian parishioners and friends offered transportation and interpretation services. Everyone wanted to help in some way. Our American friends gained a valuable insight into how much the majority of Russians value and respect Americans despite decades of official propaganda that painted us as malevolent exploiters responsible for most of the evil in the world.

We thank our friends for their visit, their financial and spiritual support and their hard work. We hope they will come back again, often, to participate further in the work of our mission and to renew friendships. Until then, the apartment is quiet, I can get a drink of cold water from the refrigerator at night without stepping on anyone, and there is much to do to follow up on what has already been begun.

Crucifix from Vladivostok Church Found

In February, Victor Obertas, the chairman of the Committee on Memorials and Historical Places of the Primorye Krai, told Father Effing, the new pastor of the Most Holy Mother of God Parish in Vladivostok, that there was an old crucifix from the church which had been discovered when there was some digging for utilities near the old church building. He said it was currently located in the Art Institute where it was used as an example of religious sculpture. Thanks to Oleg Igorevich Grigorev of the Art Institute of Vladivostok, Father Effing was able to see and photograph this crucifix. It has been damaged somewhat, but still a wonderful relic of the former furnishings of the church. The crucifix will remain for now at the Institute until the church building is returned, because it has been safe there for many years. The parish is planning to make the crucifix a centerpiece for a special memorial within the church building to commemorate these 70 years when the church was suppressed and its members martyred.

(For photo:)

The marble crucifix as it is today, with teachers from the Art Institute.

Priest to be ordained in Vladivostok

Deacon Daniel L. Maurer, who is working in Vladivostok's Parish of the Most Holy Mother of God, will be ordained to the Priesthood for the Apostolic

Vicariate of Novosibirsk in Vladivostok on Sunday, September 20, by the Most Rev Joseph Werth, S.J. He was ordained a deacon in December in his home parish of Saint Bernard in Benton Harbor, Michigan, U.S.A., which is in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Deacon Dan, age 40, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Maurer, Sr. of Benton Harbor, Michigan, who plan to attend the ceremony in Vladivostok. He began his studies toward the priesthood in 1965, first at Our Lady of the Lake Seminary in Syracuse, Indiana, graduating as valedictorian in 1969. He continued his studies at Michigan State University, East Lansing, where he received his Bachelor's degree with highest honors in East Asian Studies in 1973. He entered religious life in 1975, with the Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross. In 1981 he transferred to the Augustinians of the Assumption, and completed his priesthood studies at the Jesuit Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, earning a Masters of Divinity degree in 1983. From 1983 to 1988 he worked in Assumptionist communities in the United States, Mexico and Chile. While in Chile, Brother Dan decided to return to the canons regular when he heard there was a proposal to begin a new community according to the ancient model first proposed by St Augustine. He worked on the Island of Guam in the Pacific as Dean of Students and taught Spanish at Father Duenas Memorial School, the Catholic college prep school. In February, 1991, Deacon Dan and Father Effing, the pastor of the parish in Vladivostok, applied for service to the newly-reborn Catholic Church in Far Eastern Russia and they have asked Bishop Joseph Werth to support the establishment of the new community in Vladivostok.

(For Photo:)

Deacon Maurer on the left, helping Father Effing with baptisms.