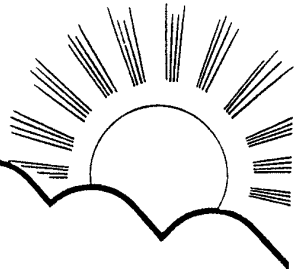


Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Vladivostok Russia St Paul Minnesota

Issue Number Forty Two November 1, 2001



Here and There with Benefactors

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



Dear Rev. Myron Effing,
My sister's softball team, the Baseliners, let us set up this stand at their tournament to earn money for the missions. We earned \$20.45. Here is a check for you to help the poor people in Russia.
Love,
Matthew, Sarah, & Elizabeth Stucke

Congratulations, Kids! God bless you.

Half of our mission work goes on in the United States. That is because a mission in a foreign country depends upon the folks at home--for prayer, for moral support, for financial support, and for the next generation of missionaries. A lot of work goes on all across the country to keep us at our mission work.

From St Jude's Parish in Jacksonville Arkansas

Our group at St. Jude's in Jacksonville, Arkansas, recently tried a little fund-raiser that turned out to be really successful for the amount of work we invested.

We sent invitations to all our parishioners, and each invitation included a reply envelope and a tea bag. Here is what the invitation said:

***The Russia Mission Group of St. Jude's
Invites You To Stay at Home
and Have a Cup of Tea!***

That's Right....

You have plenty of other things to do. So we're not holding any special event and we're not asking you to show up. Ya don't have to buy a new outfit, get a baby sitter, wear a necktie or high heels, bring a covered dish...nada.

But Here's the Deal....

We are raffling off 10 great things:

- A truly unique and beautiful set of two hand-lathed and finished ballpoint pens

- *A queen-size hand-crocheted bedspread in an array of pastel colors*
- *Two sets of 3 porcelain ornaments with depictions of the Nativity from Bradford Editions*
- *A porcelain set of 2 collector's ornaments with hummingbirds by Lena Liu*
- *Two separate pairs of framed prints of the Blessing before Meals in Russian and in English (try to find that somewhere else!)*
- *A Thomas Kinkade collector's edition desk or bedside lamp*
- *Two separate gift certificates to that snazzy Greystone Golf Course. Each certificate includes one round of golf, green fees for two, plus a cart!*

How to Get in on This....

While you're enjoying your cup of tea, fill out the form below. Put the form and your donation of any size (that's right—any size) in the enclosed envelope. Then either mail it to us or just drop it in the collection basket at St. Jude's. You will be entered into the drawings for all the items. The drawing will be held on April 15, so don't dawdle.

Why We Want Your Money....

We're helping to support the Catholic Church's projects in and around Vladivostok, Russia. Funds go to help Fr. Myron and Fr. Dan start AA groups, buy catechetical materials, print hymnals, support seminarians, feed the elderly who have no families or income, bring volunteers to the handicapped children's hospitals, assist mothers choosing not to have abortions, continue their church renovation, start lunch programs for abandoned children, and so forth. Got any questions? Call us.

It took a dozen of us about 2 hours to fold invitations and stuff envelopes.. Our expenses were a bunch of envelopes and 900 tea bags. Fr Keller, our pastor, had the parish pay for the mailing. All the raffle prizes were donated. Everything was donated--the prizes, the postage, the envelopes, the teabags, everything. At one time we had discussed putting a particular price on each raffle ticket. Good thing we didn't do that, because we would have limited our income drastically.

The first two Sundays, we got \$600 each week in the collection. The last Sunday we got another \$500, and what with follow up donations I'm sure we will go over the \$2500 mark. A number of parishioners have told me they really liked the idea and they appreciated not having to DO anything.

It'd sure be nice if some other parishes would pick up on that idea of mailing teabags and asking for donations. The tea bag thing amazes me. You can't beat a project like that. I'm constantly amazed at the things that work.

Susan Gray

News Notes

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

• Let me first express to our benefactors condolences from Russians on the sad events in New York. Our many Russian parishioners and friends who have called us, mailed us, and e-mailed us their pain and sorrow. There is really heartfelt sympathy in all of Russia for all the plane crashes. The Russian bishops called for a special Day of Prayer on Sunday, September 30, to pray for peace and an end to terrorism. There was a Day of Mourning throughout Russia, and even the Russian Duma stood for a minute of silence to commemorate the deceased. Russian TV always used the word "revenge" in relation to the American actions in Afghanistan. Of course revenge is not a Christian word, but we can hope our governments will find ways to deal with terrorism.

• A major project is underway in our diocese to help support and heal family life. In Russia 75% of marriages end in divorce during the first four years of marriage! The main reason it seems to me is promiscuity before marriage--which also means promiscuity after marriage! The second reason is the poor situation of men in a society where "white slavery" existed for so long, only to be replaced by Communism and socialism, and all of that linked to alcoholism. You will find women in almost all positions of authority and work in Russia--bricklayers, plasterers, teachers, doctors--but you will find very few men as teachers or doctors. Each deanery will have a conference to make decisions about how we can effect changes in those family patterns in Russia. Our deanery meeting will be in Khabarovsk during November 28 to December 1. It will be difficult to help, but God wants to work through His Church! Little by little it will happen. This summer we helped with the first 12 step AA rehabilitation program in Vladivostok. We have to take a lot of other initiatives, too.



Our deanery Commission on Family Life, which is charged with preparing for the Family Life Conference in December.

As a symbol of our work with the family, we have selected the beautiful icon of the Holy Family to be present at all our events having to do with the Year of the Family. It first appeared as one of the items brought up at the Preparation of Gifts at the ordination of our new priest, Fr Yevgenie Peregudov. We asked if we could bring it home, and the pastor of the cathedral in Irkutsk agreed.

2001st Anniversary Christmas Present for the Lord.

Mission Office Project for Mary Mother of God Mission Society in Vladivostok, Russia

Consider donating for our new mission office and rectory in Russia! Or consider dedicating something from the list below to your friends or departed loved ones for this Christmas! We will provide the memorial notice on the object in Vladivostok. Maybe your parish or parish organizations would like to help—please ask them.

Father McGuire's Mission Share of Kentucky and the Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation of California helped us to buy land, and an anonymous donor has provided the architectural work and the funds for the foundation of the new mission building.

The new building will house Fr Effing, Fr Maurer, Brother Oleg, and our seminarians. It will include all the parish offices and classrooms. It will be used for conferences, workshops, training programs, and parish events.

Thank you for your gift for the needs of the Church in Russia. God bless you.



Projected Costs for New Mission Office

Land

Land adjacent to church building	\$50,000	RECEIVED!
Plants & landscaping	4,200	RECEIVED!
Gates & fencing	11,850	
Total for land		\$66,050

Basement/Storage

Laundry Room with plumbing & built-in cabinetry	\$18,750	
Heavy-Duty Washer & Dryer	1,200	RECEIVED!
Ironing board & iron	40	
Total for Laundry Room		\$19,990

Garage Space	\$18,000	
Metal lockers (4 x \$70)	280	
Basic auto maintenance & repair tools	460	
Total for Garage		\$18,740

Workshop for all building, equipment, and furniture repairs	\$13,500	
Metal lockers (4 x \$70)	280	
Work bench with drawers & pegboard	585	
Basic hand tools	220	
Basic power tools	240	
Total for workshop		\$14,825

Half-bathrooms (two available @ \$2,440)		\$4,880
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Remaining storage areas with shelving		\$66,000
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Main Floor

Small Chapel/Vestibule/Entryway/Hallway.....	\$9,000	
Artwork, statuary	395	
Table	255	
Total for Small Chapel/Vestibule/Entryway/Hallway.....		\$9,650
Fr Myron's Office	\$5,760	
Desk & Chair	455	
Computer & Printer	1,800	RECEIVED!
Three additional chairs	330	
Bookcase	145	
Table	85	
File Cabinet	90	
Total for Fr Myron's Office		\$8,665
Fr Dan's Office (Same items available as for Fr Myron's)		\$8,665
Office 3 (Same items available as for Fr Myron's Office)		\$8,665
Office 4, 5, 6, and 7 (Similar items as Office 3) @ \$6,765		\$27,060
Common Area	4,320	
Photocopier	3,800	
Fax machine	120	
Color Printer	1,200	
Folding machine	180	
Binding machine	345	
Typewriter	235	
Two tables (\$38 x 2)	76	
Shelving	290	
Total for Common Area		\$10,566
Half-bathroom		\$2,440
Conference Hall/Parish hall.....	\$24,000	
Long folding tables (12 x \$48).....	576	
Stackable chairs (150 x \$29).....	4,350	
Microphones, cables & speakers	620	
Podium.....	175	
Total for Conference Hall/Parish hall.....		\$29,721
Kitchen with built-in cabinetry, shelving, countertops, sink, etc.	\$19,500	
Dish towels, dish cloths, etc.....	24	
Plasticware, storage containers, etc.	65	RECEIVED!
Cooking & serving utensils	80	RECEIVED!
Eating utensils for 150 people.....	900	
Dishware for 150 people	1,350	
Pots, pans, soup kettles, all cookware	680	RECEIVED!
Ovens (2 x \$430).....	860	
Microwaves (2 x \$135).....	270	
Large-capacity refrigerator	790	RECEIVED!
Large-capacity freezer	890	RECEIVED!
Miscellaneous items, cutting boards, measuring cups, etc.....	100	RECEIVED!
Large work table with storage area.....	595	
Total for Kitchen.....		\$26,104
Dining Room.....	\$7,200	

Four tables (4 x 120).....	480	
Twenty-four chairs (24 x \$39)	936	
Cloth table coverings & cloth napkins	200	
Metal cart.....	75	
Total for Dining Room.....		\$8,891

Remaining storage areas with shelving \$5,880

Second Floor

Common Area & Hallways.....	\$12,600	
Artwork, statuary.....	395	
Total for Common Area & Hallways.....		\$12,995

Fr Myron's Bedroom & Bathroom.....	\$14,000	
Twin bed	210	
Dresser	150	
Chair.....	95	
Desk & chair.....	350	
Bookcase.....	125	
Total for Fr Myron's Bedroom & Bathroom.....		\$14,930

Fr Dan's Bedroom & Bathroom (same as Fr Myron's)	\$14,000	
Twin bed	210	
Dresser	150	
Chair.....	95	RECEIVED!
Desk & chair.....	350	
Bookcase.....	125	
Total for Fr Dan's Bedroom & Bathroom		\$14,930

Seminarian's Bedroom #1	\$4,320	
Twin bed	210	
Dresser	150	
Chair.....	95	
Desk & chair	300	
Total for Seminarian's Bedroom.....		\$5,075

Seminarian's Bedroom #2, #3, and #4 (same as #1), @ \$5,075 \$15,225

Seminarians' shared bathroom (2 @ \$3,900) \$7,800

Guest Bedrooms #1 and #2 (@ \$5,075) (same as Seminarian's Room #1)..... \$10,150

Two guests' shared bathroom..... \$3,900

Sitting/Meeting Room	\$6,480	
Table.....	225	
Chairs (6 x 75).....	450	
Total for Sitting/Meeting Room.....		\$7,155

Library with shelving..... \$21,000

Miscellaneous Items

Telephone System.....	\$3,770
Electronic security System	6,200
Security and Outdoor lighting.....	850
Gardening & lawn maintenance tools.....	335

Padlocks for all storage.....	445	
Heavy-duty vacuum cleaner	430	
Small office items (stapler, hole punch, scissors, etc)	245	
Electric Fans (4 x 24).....	96	
Pillows, Blankets, Bedspreads, Sheets & Pillowcases.....	595	
Towels.....	192	
Lamps (24 x \$35)	840	
Wastebaskets (24 x 4).....	96	
Large garbage cans (2 x 16)	32	
Total Miscellaneous Costs.....		\$14,126

How to Communicate with Us

Office in Russia:

Phone: (011-7)-4232-26-96-14

FAX: (011-7)-4232-26-96-16

E-mail: myron@eastnet.febras.ru

daniel@eastnet.febras.ru

CARITAS@mail.primorye.ru

Internet Russian language: <http://www.catholic.ru>

Please do **not** send any **donations** of any kind directly to Russia. For donation information, see below.

Letters without donations can be sent to:

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

Office in America:

Phone and FAX: (651)227-0208 and (651)690-5139

E-mail: RussianMission@juno.com

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

Or you can donate from your credit card through our web site. Your donations are tax-deductible. You will receive any required receipt for IRS tax purposes by return mail.

Donations in kind. If you have items that you think we can use, please contact Mrs Sandra Sonnen at the Mission Office in St Paul giving a complete list of items.

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Icon of the Holy Family for the Year of the Family.

- The school year opened with catechism classes in all our parishes. Congratulations to the catechists and students of the new parish of St Joseph in Second River who are beginning the first classes for the new parish. Thank You, to *Our Sunday Visitor* who has provided funds to help buy new books, videos, and other materials for our catechism classrooms and for the children's libraries in each parish.

- On October 2 we celebrated the 80th anniversary of the dedication of our Church of the Most Holy Mother of God. The restoration of the church is not complete, but so many people want to see our beautiful windows that we decided to plan a mass, reception, and mini-concert for guests from the various government and charitable organizations with which we work. We are hoping to begin work on the facade of the church soon, repairing the broken brickwork and repairing those cracks which have appeared in the course of the years. Fortunately there are no cracks in major supporting structures. The project of insulating the attic of the church has been completed, so we hope we won't see our breath in church this winter!

- So far we are still on hold as far as building the rectory. The problem has to do with the fact that Russian federal authorities fear that the former state administration approved many illegal building projects, and so the state put a hold on building projects until all documents could be again reviewed. Naturally that is a big project for the whole state.

We hope we get our approval again soon so that we can proceed with at least the foundation before the weather is too cold for pouring concrete.

- The five Women's Support Centers are proceeding with their new budgets as of October 1. Thanks to wonderful benefactors in Ohio and Washington State, we have more resources to offer young women who find themselves in difficult situations. Especially interesting to me is the "Adopt-a-Birth" program where benefactors can pay \$20 to buy all the medicines which a poor woman needs to give birth. When "their child" is born, we send the benefactors of that child a birth announcement. Over 250 moms and babies have been helped so far, and here are just a few pictures:



- I was happy to receive special congratulations from the Khabarovsk state Department of Corrections for all the work that we have been able to do for prisoners of that region. Real thanks, of course, goes to benefactors who have taken an interest in this part of our work, especially Catholic Charities USA. See photo of the diploma on page 8.

Mary Mother of God Mission Society
1854 Jefferson Ave
St Paul MN 55105-1662

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*From the Department of Corrections.
See Page 3.*

From the development desk...

Dear Mission friends,

- We are approaching the missionary cooperative time when diocesan mission offices assign mission cooperative speakers to each parish in the US. This is a once a year opportunity for a missionary to speak at the parish level for a second collection. Can you ask your Pastor if we might be that speaker for your parish? This is a sure way our mission society might help the church grow in the Far East of Russia.
- Please be a lay missionary for us. We have 3 priests, a deacon, a religious sister, 17 men and 3 women willing and able to speak for us. Many have been to Russia, in fact two are there now. If your Pastor consents to invite us, we are happy to arrange it with the mission office. Quite often we have someone in your area of the country.
- On-line credit card donations are a great way to make a donation for the building fund. Write in your item and sign up on-line. Please indicate if it is to be a memorial for someone living or deceased.

- Just think, from the parish in Russia, parishoners will be praying for your loved ones. Please send prayer requests for your needs. I will e-mail them on to the parishes in Russia. Please pray for the family of a 16 year old boy who recently drowned from our parish.
- Please pray for the success of the Newman Center Project that is being developed. We need funding for this as well as the alcohol treatment center in-patient program being developed.
- We need to finish funding the guest house we are developing in Vladivostok. We have the first \$25,000, borrowed on a long term loan. We need at least \$10,000 more to get it going. It will be a bed and breakfast for our visitors, travellers, and parents coming to Russia to adopt children.
- God love you and your family,

Sandra and Dave Sonnen
National Coordinator and National Chairman
russianmission@juno.com