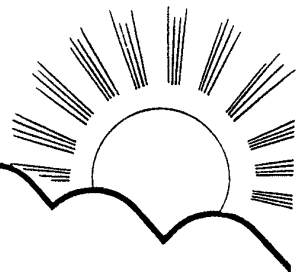


# Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Vladivostok Russia St Paul Minnesota

Issue Number Sixty Five September 1, 2005



## Brother Oleg Takes Final Vows

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

**August 17 was an historic day for us.** Brother Oleg Yelchaninov took his final vows together with Fr Myron Effing and Fr Daniel Maurer. They thus became lifetime members of the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord. The Assumption, August 15, or the Feast of St Augustine, August 28, are the traditional days for vows, but because of Fr Daniel's and Brother Oleg's travel schedules, we had to move the date. Father Sebastian, the assistant pastor of our parish presided at the ceremony. This means that we now ask our bishop to formally establish our religious community, with Rome's approval. So we have prepared all the documents that are needed to send to Rome (English) and Irkutsk (Russian). Luckily we have a

former seminarian on our staff who knows the theological language in both English and Russian—Victor Anisimov. He did the translations. Hopefully our formal establishment as a religious community will encourage more young men to join us.

Our sister order—Sisters in Jesus the Lord—had the **joy of their first profession.** Sr Marie Stella made her first vows on August 6 at St Agnes Parish in St Paul, MN. Several other candidates are visiting the community to discern their calls, and two candidates were here visiting us in Vladivostok this summer. A small group of the sisters and candidates went to Germany for the World Youth Day with Pope Benedict, and then they toured some monasteries of canonesses in Belgium and The Netherlands, and in England while they were in Europe. If you know of anyone interested in these new religious communities, just let us know. Pray for vocations!





*The setting for the conference was a beautiful countryside near the City of Arsenyev where Annunciation Parish is located.*

## **2005 Catholic Russian Far Eastern Youth Conference**

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

The Youth Conference was a big success this year. The topic of the Youth Conference was “The Holy Eucharist” which reflects the Vatican’s theme of the year and the Holy Fathers trip to Germany. Our young people had told us that our conferences are maybe too abstract and theological, so this year we made a special effort to make them more concrete and real. So, for example, my first “talk,” which was supposed to be on the theme of “The Eucharist as Sacrifice,” was not a talk at all--I wrote a play, and it was performed during my hour. (If you’d like



*Getting ready for the Seder meal like on Holy Thursday.*

a copy of the script for the little play, let me know—you might be able to use it with a youth group yourself. It is called “The Sacrifice of Isaac”. Five actors.)

Every evening we tried to make the various aspects of the Eucharist real by turning the evening supper into a play, so we ate and learned at the same time—“theater at the dinner table”. The first supper was the Jewish seder service, which Jesus ate with his disciples on Holy Thursday during which he consecrated the apostles priests and shared the first Eucharist with them. It was the Passover Supper that Jesus ate with his disciples. (Of course, we didn’t do a consecration at supper, we just did the seder.)



*Jesus breaking bread.*

Another supper was about the time when the sinful women came and anointed his feet. Other diners complained that he was letting this sinful woman touch him. It was fun to act it out at supper, with all the shouts and accusations.

Another supper was about Jesus’ supper with tax collectors and sinners. Another was the wedding feast of Cana. It was so much fun, and gave such an amount of reflection about the Eucharist, that I would recommend this approach for Americans, too. Your parish youth group could do one supper each week of Lent. Charge admission for our mission. Members of the audience have to come in a period costume, or you get thrown out like Jesus’ story of the man without a wedding garment. (Have somebody come in a regular suit and plan the reaction!)

I did give one talk at the Conference, however, and so did several others. My talk was about the “Eucharist as a Wedding Banquet”. I used the “Theology of the Body”





*The marriage at Cana. Not enough wine!*



*"Why do your disciples eat without washing their hands?"*

*The distribution of fishes when Jesus fed the multitude.*



*If you are Jewish, you have to marry under the canopy.*



from Pope John Paul II to talk about this, as well as ideas from "The Supper of the Lamb" by Dr Scott Hahn. The talk generated a lot of excitement and discussion.



*Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners.*

Our thanks to RENOVABIS, an organization of the German Bishops, for offering financial support for the Youth Conference.

## Dear Family, Friends, and Benefactors,

We are happy to announce a weekend conference and Saint Nicholas Gala with Fr Dan Maurer. Please accept our invitation to join us on **Dec 2-4 in St. Paul, Minnesota**. Saturday evening is reserved for the St. Nicholas Gala, an event called "Feeding the Street Kids" which will fundraise for the street kids in Russia.

The conference itself will highlight the current activities and recent events in Vladivostok, as well as an overview of the mission. There will be ample time for questions with Fr. Dan as well as a chance to get to know other supporters of the mission.

Kids 2 Kids are also very welcome, and encouraged to attend. Last year at the conference they wrote their mission statement and clarified their goals of helping their peers, the street kids and orphans in Russia. This year they will be able to help fundraise at the St. Nicholas Gala, as they will have a special role in the event.

During the weekend conference last year were able to provide many host homes thanks to many local supporters. This year should be the same, however we have also blocked off rooms at the Four Points Sheraton hotel. The Sheraton Metrodome Hotel is at 1330 Industrial Blvd., Minneapolis MN 55413 Reservations: 612-331-19800 or 1-888-627-8129 and mention MMOG. Rates are \$89. per night. Pool and sauna are available. If you are arriving by air we need to know your arrival and departure times, and if you are renting a car please indicate. The hotel does not provide a shuttle. We have reserved a van to accommodate travelers to and from the airport as well as to and from the hotel and St Agnes.

The Mall of America is very near to the airport. We are only several miles from both as well as the hotel. This hotel is 7.8 miles from St Agnes campus where we will gather for the weekend.

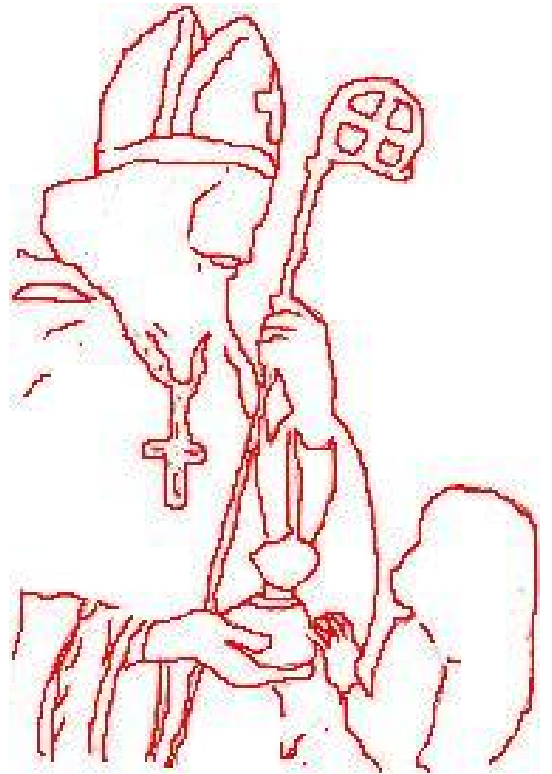
The cost for the weekend conference with Fr Dan is \$50 for 5 catered the meals at St Agnes. The Saint Nicholas Gala at the hotel is an additional \$50.

We are looking forward to see you at the weekend conference with Fr Dan and/or the Saturday evening Saint Nicholas banquet.

Call the office for any questions.

God bless you,

Very Rev Myron C Effing, CJD  
David and Sandra Sonnen



## Russian Organist Alexei Parshin Plays In Vladivostok to Great Acclaim

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

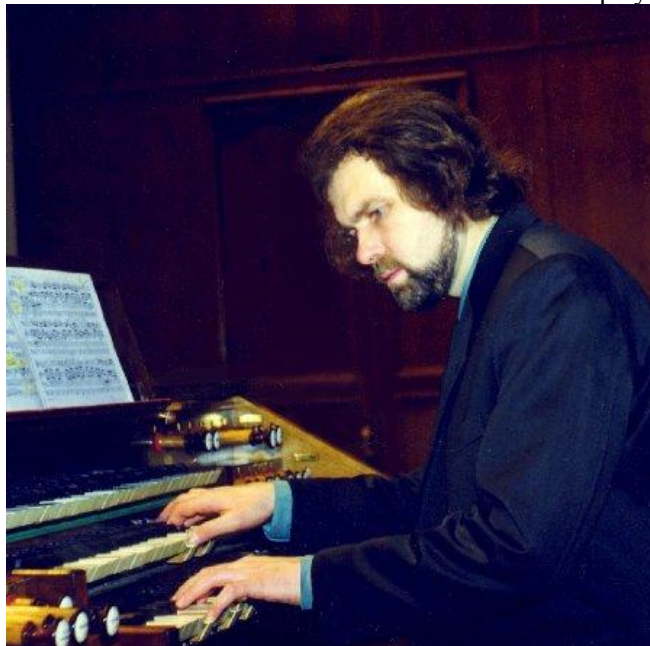
On June 8, 9, 10 our parish was again the host for three organ concerts by the greatest Russian organist, Alexei Parshin, dean of the organ department at the famous Tchaikovsky Music Conservatory in Moscow. It was his second time to travel to Vladivostok to play the "Stella Maris" organ. Professor Parshin is considered by professional organists to be among the top ten organists in the world. He has played in many of the major cathedrals and concert halls throughout Europe, but has only traveled to the United States twice for concerts.

For this year's concert program he presented mainly the masterpieces of post-baroque and 19th century organ literature by French composers such as Francois Couperin (1668 - 1733); Michel Corrette (1709-1795); Louis Nicholas Clerambault (1676-1749); Louis J.A. Lefebure-Wely (1817-1869); and Franz Liszt (1811-1886). The Vladivostok music world had never heard any of these works played live before. Last year on his first concert trip to our church his concert program was titled "Around Bach", and was comprised mainly of baroque works.

All three concerts were sold out in advance, for a total combined audience of almost 900 people, some of whom had never been in a Catholic church before. They were very receptive to the performances and gave Professor Parshin the most sustained applause for any performer in the 9-year history of our organ concerts.

On all three evening the audiences called the organist back for multiple encores. At the end of the final evening, the crowd, who had been polite but somewhat reserved for the two-hour concert, called Professor Parshin back to the console for six encores. They seemed not to want to let him leave at all! Many people said after each performance that the encores, which varied each evening, were their favorite part of the performance, for they were less "high brow" and included some highly popular Russian folk songs, children's songs and even an American blue grass fiddle work, all of which the organist himself had transcribed and arranged for virtuoso performance on the "king of instruments". (I was thinking that he might play his stellar and comical arrangement of the old Russian children's standby, "The Doggie Waltz", which I had mentioned to him before the concerts began, but he did

not. Afterward he told me that he could not dare to play



*Alexei Alexandrovich Parshin*

such a secular ditty in the holy and beautiful atmosphere of our church.)

Throughout the concerts we had the opportunity again to marvel at the great gift of the "Stella Maris" organ with its versatile combinations of 94 speaking stops that allow the greatest organists in the world to play for us any piece ever written for organ. We would like to take this opportunity again to express our gratitude to the parishioners of Stella Maris Catholic Church on the southeastern coast of the U.S. for their generosity. We hope that they know that their gift continues to inspire thousands of people each year with the beauty of the masterpieces of sacred music, and that the concert program and liturgical music program that it makes possible both continue to grow in scope and quality with each passing season.



*Recent Baptism in Vladivostok ("Regina").*



## How to Communicate with Us

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

E-mail: [usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org)

Internet: English language: [www.vladmission.org](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. 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 Sandra Sonnen at the Mission Office in St Paul giving a complete list of items.

### Sisters in Jesus the Lord

[www.cjd.cc](http://www.cjd.cc) 525 Thomas Ave

St. Paul, MN 55103 (651)230-3337

**Vladivostok Sunrise** Edited and Produced in Russia by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D. Assembled for mailing by Nativity Parish, St Paul, Minnesota. Authors are noted if other than the editor. The *Sunrise* is also available at [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)

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

## News Notes

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

● On May 30 we received a joyful e-mail letter from our Bishop Kirill Klimovich announcing the official incorporation of the “Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk”. Until then our diocese had been operating under the state incorporation of the Apostolic Administration of Novosibirsk. Now our diocese is official, both in terms of canon law and civil law. Congratulations to Bishop Klimovich for whom it has been a long and difficult struggle. Later we received documents appointing Fr Myron to the Bishop’s Council of Priests of the new diocese.

● Brother Oleg was home from the seminary for summer vacation. He left his laptop there, which is a certain sign that he will be returning to the seminary in the Fall! It is so good to have him home, if only for a short time. He said, “When I’m in Slovakia, I think about how nice Russia is, and when I’m in Russia, I think about how nice Slovakia is!” The seminary is in the city of Kosice, Slovakia.



● Fr Sebastian has returned to us. He was on Sakhalin Island for six weeks taking the place of a priest who became ill and had to go to Korea for medical treatment. There are currently many Catholics on Sakhalin—foreign workers who are installing the new off-shore

gas wells. It is expected that there will be 15,000 foreign workers on Sakhalin Island, many of them Catholic Americans and Filipinos. Meanwhile two parishes on Sakhalin continue to have no priest and no mass—they are too far away from the capital city South Sakhalin for the single priest on Sakhalin to reach them. The Franciscans are interested to return to Sakhalin. They were there before the Communist Revolution. Pray for vocations!

● The Chinese workers have returned to continue work on the Our Lady of Fatima rectory building. How we

*The roof is going up!*



hope that we can be in the building by Chinese New Year! I've lived 14 years in my office, so far, and Fr Dan 12 years in the bell tower like the famous hunchback of Notre Dame. Fr Sebastian is getting a hunchback in the other bell tower.

- By popular demand the Parish of St Joseph in Second River sponsored a "Retreat for Grandmas". It took place in a private home in the village of Ugalnaya, which is part of the parish. Mrs Lyubov Sadovnika, the parish catechist, ran the retreat, and Sister Oksana, MSC, our parishioner home for vacation from her studies in Rome, served as spiritual director. Besides this retreat, St Joseph's also sponsors the Martha's Vineyard retreats for post-abortion syndrome, the most recent of which included only women from a Protestant church in Vladivostok.



*Some "grandmas" who attended the retreat.*

- We've had a couple of young men visit us this summer, including Andrew Beck, who is a student at

Georgetown University and a member of the Knights of Columbus there. He is very involved in pro-life work on the campus. Joseph Matthias took part in the bicycle pilgrimage from the City of Arsenyev to Vladivostok. He is a musician and composer, majors in Russian at University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. They already speak and read Russian well, and I'm sure that after their stay here both he and Andrew will be much better at Russian than before. Joseph still has two years to go in Ann Arbor. He's been using his musical talents here, at the Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference which was held in Arsenyev, and at the "Grandmothers Retreat" in St Joseph Parish. I think he also played at the hospice for dying people while he was here. Andrew wrote us after he left with these words, "I just wanted to again properly thank you very much for hosting me. I sincerely enjoyed my time there and admire the work you guys do so much. Let me just say that it was priests (and Catholic laypeople) like you that were the role models I needed to nudge me into becoming Catholic two-three years ago. You'll definitely be in my prayers, and I hope I can return again soon."



*Andrew polishing brass./ Joseph and his guitar.*



## From the development desk...

Dear Vladivostok Mission supporter,

- This is the first colored issue of the *Sunrise* that we have produced since 1993 when they were printed in color in Russia. We hope you like it. With modern technology it isn't much more expensive, and we notice that our black and white productions rarely attract attention at conferences and in parish newsletter racks, whereas full color items "jump off the table". We need that attention to our mission. Our "thank you" letters are now in color, too, thanks to the gift of a new color printer from Our Sunday Visitor.

- Please be assured that we do not sell our mailing list or any other donor information to other organizations.

- Our board member Deacon Paul Weyrich entered Georgetown Hospital in Washington, D.C. He has been battling against a painful back condition for many years, but now he is in special need of our prayers. He is a member of the Melkite Greek Catholic Eparchy of Newton. He visited our mission in Vladivostok when

we were first starting 14 years ago.

- Please consider our mission in your monthly giving. Donations are down since Dec 31 when the horrific tsunami hit. Please consider sacrificial giving to sustain our Catholic families in Russia with the gospel message.
- Because of the financial strain, we have had to reduce our US office staff in St Paul to one—me!
- God love you and your family,

Sandra Sonnen  
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