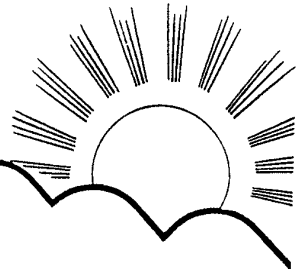


# Vladivostok Sunrise



Mary Mother of God Mission Society Vladivostok Russia St Paul Minnesota

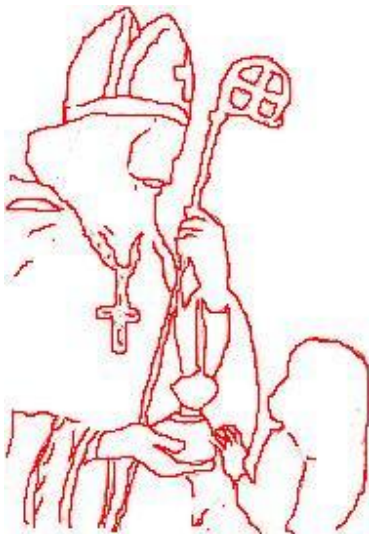
Issue Number Sixty Six November 1, 2005



*The Our Lady of Fatima Monastery and Pastoral Center taking shape beside the church in Vladivostok.*

## Plans for Conference, Gala, and Raffle(!) Are Progressing!

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



The 2005 Annual Weekend Conference of the Mary Mother of God Mission Society, and the Saint Nicholas Gala with **Fr Dan Maurer, C.J.D.** is in the final planning stages. Thanks to a benefactor, we are happy to announce a raffle for free use of a condominium in Florida for this winter. Please accept our invitation to join us on **Dec 2-4 in St. Paul, Minnesota**. The conference itself will highlight the current activities and recent events in Vladivostok, as well as an overview of the mission, and information about our two new religious communities—one for men and one for women.

There will be ample time for questions with Fr Dan as well as a chance to get to know other supporters of the mission. Saturday evening is reserved for the **St Nicholas Gala**, an event called “Feeding the Street Kids” for the street kids in Russia. **Kids 2 Kids** also will be there. 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. Get your name in the raffle! Who will get the long distance prize? See details on Pages 7!

# The “Fruit and Milk Program”

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

Sister Julia Kubista of St Agnes Parish in St Paul began the “**Fruit and Milk Program**” after she visited us in Vladivostok and worked at Children’s Hospital #3 as a volunteer. She told her benefactors in Minnesota about the urgent need for nutritional supplement for these children. We were urged on by an adoptive parent who



*Sr Julia Kubista*

wrote us that her child had rickets when she arrived in America after adoption, something that could be ameliorated by regular exposure to sunlight. But the staff at the orphanage is so overworked that they don’t have time to take the children into the sun very often unless our volunteers help out. Also the cold weather for a good part of the year here makes solar exposure for infants more of a problem. In Russia there isn’t “Vitamin D Milk,” either.



*American volunteers working with kids at Children’s Hospital #3*

So Sr Julia asked her friends to support a program to get more vitamins and minerals into the children’s diet, and thus was born the “Fruit and Milk Program”. The program works like this:

Donors make a donation to our mission office with the note on the check “Fruit and Milk” or on our internet donation spot

<http://www.vladmission.org/donations/donations.htm>



*The Director of the Hospital and Parish volunteer Lilia Timofeevna working with the inventory.*

Once a month we collect the total amount for that month from the mission office and buy appropriate food supplements and deliver it to the orphanage. We maintain the inventory of these products, and inspect for their proper and timely use. In this way donors can be assured that the money they donate actually gets to the kids who need it—this is otherwise a big problem for people in other countries who want to donate to Russian orphans, but don’t know if their donation is actually getting to the kids. Our volunteer for this program at Children’s Hospital #3 is Olga Berdnikova, a long-time parishioner and long-time volunteer for CARITAS, the Catholic humanitarian organization.

Unexpectedly we got an email message from an American parent who had adopted a child in Ussuryusk. She said that the children there needed better nutrition, but she wondered how to get the money to the orphanage and be assured that it was actually used for the children. I told her that we know how to do that! At the request of American parents who have adopted kids here in our state, we are helping at two additional orphanages in food supplementation. Our plan is not that we will share the donations given for Children’s Hospital #3 in Vladivostok where we have long had such a program, but these newly



*Vicky Trevillyan and volunteer controller Olga Berdnikova playing with a child soon to be adopted.*

adoptive parents want to encourage their friends (and they themselves) to donate to these additional places which they found to be in such need when their children were living there awaiting adoption. So now we are expanding the Fruit and Milk program to two more orphanages: the Baby Home in Ussurysk, and the Baby Home #369 in Artyom. The controller for the orphanage in Artyom will be Lyubov Sadovnika, the catechist at St Joseph's Parish in Second River, who lives not far away from the Orphanage. In Ussurysk it will be one of the volunteers at the Ussurysk CARITAS Women's Support Center. Soon there will be a donation site for these orphanages on our website.

So Future milk and fruit donations should be specified in order that we know where they go (Vladivostok, Ussurysk, or Artyom). If they aren't specified, they will go to Children's Hospital #3 in Vladivostok.

Thank, Benefactors! How nice it will be on Judgement Day to hear those small voices speak up to say, "S/he fed me when I was hungry!"

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



*The Children's Home in Artyom.*

## **Our Adoption Experience in Vladivostok**

*By Hector Wong*

Last October, my wife, Lisa, and I traveled to Vladivostok to finalize the adoption of our son Anthony Kirill from the Artyom baby house. We also attended several Masses at the Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Parish church and met with Father Dan just as he had returned from Mexico. We spent so much time in and around Vladivostok and met many good people. (The Russian I learned during the past year was now paying off--at least getting directions, buying food, and shopping.) I learned about struggle for the Catholic faith in the Russian Far East. On that long flight home we had some time to reflect upon what we had just witnessed. We felt convicted that we couldn't just leave Vladivostok with our new 14 month old and neglect what could be a special connection with Vladivostok.

Was it the Holy Spirit reminding Lisa and me how God listened to our prayers and devotions about guiding our overseas adoption? Were we being reminded how we always invoked Saint Anthony for direction (We had no control over where in Russia to adopt) and the signal he gave us when we desperately needed to see it and convinced us to finally overcome our painful indecision to adopt our baby? This was not an easy adoption - most families face a number of emotional challenges, but God

helped us through it and brought us to Vladivostok to do his work.

Of course we want to go back and do short-term work for the Vladivostok parish when Anthony and our daughter get older. I wonder how he will react on the day that he visits his orphanage.

We received your letter dated March 4 regarding the need for public speakers and volunteers to man information tables at conferences. I would like to explore this volunteer opportunity and learn more about our options to serve. Our recent experience in Vladivostok means so much to us. God Bless!



*Hector Wong and his children.*

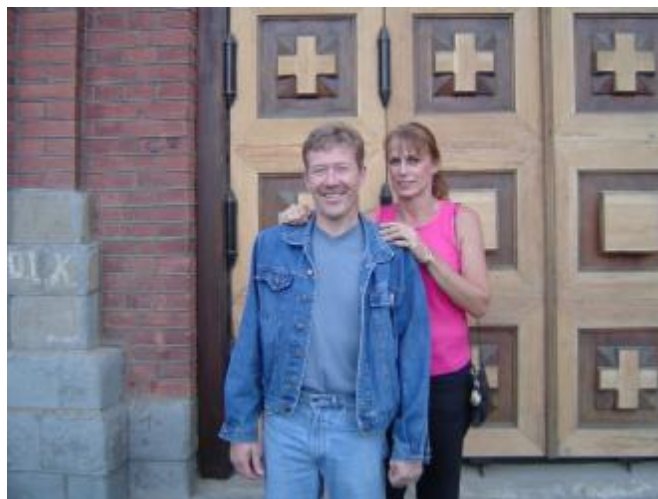
## News Notes

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

- We've had such a good stream of visitors this year, including some vocation prospects, and many others.

A couple from Atikokan, Ontario, Canada, Glenn and Nancy Ivall came twice, they had such a good time. They worked very hard at the hospice, and at a variety of jobs that needed doing for the mission. Glenn, a paramedic and electrician, worked at electrical problems while he was here, and Nancy sewed for us. After leaving the first time, they decided that they loved their time here, and returned for a second tour! Glenn then helped with the electrical work on the Parish Center and refinished the church doors. Glenn also taught about his work as a paramedic to a group of doctors here in Vladivostok where there isn't really a paramedic service program. Besides charitable work, Nancy has helped eliminate the big problem that we had with mold in the small chapel of the church. They

have six children and two grandchildren in Canada. . . After they returned to Canada, Glenn wrote: "Nancy and I would like say we miss you all very much. We would like to thank you for the wonderful time we had with you, Father Dan, and all the wonderful people there. The short time there brought us feelings that we recognized how very fortunate we were to travel to Vladivostok. It was difficult for me and Nancy to leave. I now have a small sense in understanding why you both have stayed. Thank you."



*Glenn and Nancy in front of the doors they sanded and varnished.*

Three other volunteers have since come for long-term service. We hope that all our visitors will carry a good message back to America--and Canada--about our work. We are grateful for all the volunteer work that they do while they are here.

- We were saddened by the sudden death of Mary Mother of God Mission Society board member, **Judge Donald Wozniak**. Both he and his wife Angela were wonderful benefactors, and were especially interested in our pro-life work and our charitable work in Russia. He was also always available with legal help if we needed advice. Judge Wozniak was 82 years old when he died on Wednesday, August 31. He had been ill for some time, and was planning on an operation when he had a massive stroke.

As a former chief judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, he was very involved in bringing justice to the folks of Minnesota, and was an influence in the political parties and in the Minnesota State House of Representatives where he also served. Mrs Wozniak, who preceded her husband in death, was one of the original pro-life workers in Minnesota, including the first Crisis

Pregnancy Center. Donald was 100% pro-life, too, and he told me that, as a judge, it was the divorce cases that hurt him most, seeing the failure of love and the abandonment of children as just seemingly incidental to family quarrels.

"He was a giant in the Legislature and the judiciary," Attorney General Mike Hatch is quoted as saying in the *St Paul Pioneer Press*. "He was truly a people's public official. Many of his opinions reflected the rights of the individual against the state and the powerful. He is representative of a generation that built America."

Donald was born Aug. 26, 1922, in Silver Lake, Minn. "He got his work ethic from his parents, who were immigrants from Poland and Russia," said his daughter Angela. Born Orthodox, he joined the Catholic Church at his marriage to a Catholic, but always loved the Eastern Liturgy and his Russian background. He interrupted his education to serve as a Navy fighter pilot in the Pacific during World War II. He graduated from the University of Minnesota law school in 1948, and within two years was elected to the service in the House, where he served 16 years. In the 1950s, when the Democrats had a mere one-vote House majority, Wozniak was "responsible for passing some of the most far-reaching legislation the state has ever seen," including state aid to education and the state's first income tax withholding, said former state DFL Chairman George Farr, as quoted in *St Paul Pioneer Press*. In a 2000 interview with the *Catholic Spirit*, Wozniak said the most important law he drafted was a 1955 measure that created a tax deduction for parents with students in public and private schools for tuition, books and transportation costs.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Wozniak a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. State Department, and he worked in South America for a year and helped establish a youth training program in Ecuador. After this experience, he was always active in finding support for youth programs.

Judge and Mrs Wozniak were the donors of our beautiful icon of Our Lady of Vladivostok which was painted by Father Damien of Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Redwood Valley, California. It was donated in memory of the judge's parents, Mr and Mrs George and Anna Wozniak. It is a favorite of our people, and they place votive candles in front of it every Sunday. Bishop Joseph Werth blessed the icon of Our Lady of Vladivostok on June 13, 1997. Copies are regularly available in different sizes from our mission office in St Paul. They were also the initiators of the donation of the beautiful tile floor in our church.

The Funeral Mass was held at our sister parish of the Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church in St Paul, MN. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord!

- Bishop Kirill Klimovich, our bishop and the ordinary of the Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk, celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priestly ordination on September 11. It was held in conjunction with the annual priests' retreat of our diocese. Fr Myron attended both events. Congratulations Bishop Kirill, bishop of the largest diocese in the world as far as land mass is concerned, but maybe the smallest in terms of population!



*Fr Myron presenting Bishop Kirill a gift from all the priests of the diocese: a new cell phone. In Russia, all bishops, priests, and deacons are known by their first names.*

- While I was in Irkutsk for Bishop Kirill's anniversary, I had several meetings with Bishop Kirill and the Vicar General Fr Andre about our hope to have our community, the **Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord**, officially established as a religious community in the Church. We have been together 20 years already, including 14 years in Russia! They were both anxious to get it finalized, and, after working on the documents Fr Andrew called his friend, a canon lawyer in Poland, to ask his opinion about some of the matters, and then he called directly to the Sacred Congregation for Religious in Rome. The Congregation said they would be ready look at the

documents and could probably get back to the Bishop within a week! So we UPS'd the documents to Rome, and now we are hoping and praying. Bishop Werth, our first ordinary in Russia, was in Irkutsk, too, and so Bishop Kirill was able to ask his opinion. He was very supportive of us.

- **Marina Omelchenka**, our parishioner and our concert organist has been studying at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, and meanwhile playing as the chief organist at the Moscow Catholic cathedral. She has decided that she wants to devote her career to liturgical music, and further, she thinks that Vladivostok is the only place she can do this in an interesting and challenging way, since she has discovered that no other parish in Russia, not even the cathedral in Moscow with its huge Kuhn pipe organ, is as interested in liturgical music as we are. She has decided to prepare herself by going to Graz, Austria, to study liturgical organ music for a year or so to obtain a coveted certificate, working with the wonderful and famous liturgical organist Fr Johann Trumer. He is very happy to accept her into the full program with all tuition expenses paid and something extra for a living allowance. When asked if she might stay in Austria after she graduated, she replied that there are so many organists there that she is sure she'd never get to be the main organist at anything more than a small village church.

- The **Boy Scouts** have had three camping trips this summer, two to Russian Island and one to Popov Island. They are planning their next camp for the Fall—to a mountain not far from Romanovka. Many thanks to those who have donated wonderful sleeping bags for their use, and one tent, so far. They still need a couple more tents, and new uniforms.

#### *Scouts' new uniform*

Readers may remember that our Boy Scouts tried to get affiliated with official scout organizations, but we were unable to do so because there was no official Russian scout organization available to us. After trying during the past year to find a Russian scout organization affiliated with WOSM (World Organization of the Scout Movement), it looks we've finally got in touch with the Russian Association of Navigators/Scouts (RAN/S). This is a fairly new formation in Russia, having been established and registered with WOSM only one year ago. This past summer they opened their division office here in Vladivostok, and we've contacted them as soon as



we found out. This summer they already had a one-month camp in our area for the boys from six different sport clubs in Central Russia, and our Troop 1860 was camping in the same area—That's how we met! During our meeting they were surprised to learn that our troop has been around for some time and that we were following the International Scouting Rule since the beginning of our troop. So, we were invited to join in! What it means is that our scouts will soon be part of the world scout organization. This is often a requirement if our troop wants to receive help and aid from foreign scout organizations.

We exchanged the required information, and I was given a good amount of paperwork that has to be manually filled in for each trooper to obtain a scout permit in compliance with the RAN/S regulations. We have to pay the yearly membership costs--\$10 per person. We'll need to get the required uniforms and other necessities--badges, bandanas (those we already have will not do). For now RAN/S has its own website in Russian only:  
<http://www.newcivgroup.ru/navigator> The site in English is under construction:

<http://eurasiascout.org/en/index.en.html> There is talk about a Jamboree in Japan next year—just across the Sea of Japan from us.



*The Symbol of the Russian Association of Navigators/Scouts (RAN/S).*

- Children of two parishioners of Most Holy Mother of God Parish died recently. One 21 year old young man was killed when they tried to rob him on the street at night. The other was a parishioner herself—24 years old, having just finished her training as a dentist. Vera took her first flight to visit relatives in the Ukraine, and was killed instantly in an auto accident on the way from the Ukrainian airport to the home of her hosts. The body was brought back to Vladivostok, and it was indeed a very sad funeral.

*Continued from Page Seven:*

4:30 retire to hotels to rest for evening **Gala.**  
**Sunday mass** 8:30 AM St Agnes upper church (Bagels and coffee in our area of church basement)  
10:00 AM reflections from Fr Daniel  
11:00 box lunch for here or on the road  
12:00 Farewell to all our friends

## Win a Week at Pelican Bay in Contest to Aid Street Kids

Spend just \$5 or more on a donation to our Street Kids Program, and you could enjoy a fun and relaxing week at Pelican Bay in Naples, Florida. What's more, you'll be contributing to the mission's fundraising campaign to feed and assist the homeless children of Vladivostok. Just mark your donation "Street Kids" and fill out the coupon.

Generous donors Tony and Carley Sonnen will give the winner free use of their three-bedroom luxury condo overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. The unit ordinarily rents for \$3,000 a week.

Pelican Bay offers swimming, golf, tennis, sailing, canoeing and other recreation, tram service to the beautiful white-sand beach, restaurants, shops, and even a Catholic church within walking distance. (Visit [www.pelicanbay.org](http://www.pelicanbay.org) to learn more.) You can select the winter week you prefer, but dates after April 30, 2006, are subject to availability.

To enter the competition, complete the coupon below. A donation card is on Page 8. There's no limit on the number of coupons you can enter. Mail your completed coupons and your donation, or bring them to the St Nicholas Gala in St Paul, Dec. 3. Drawing will take place at the Gala.

Complete details and downloadable coupons are available on [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org). Get coupons for yourself, and offer them to everyone you know!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation needed for each coupon. Prize drawing at the St Nicholas Gala in St Paul on Dec. 3, 2005. Winner need not be present to win. On line donation at [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org) (credit card) or mail to: Mary Mother of God Mission Society, 1854 Jefferson Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1662.

## Dec 2-3-4, 2005 Conference Application With Fr Dan Maurer in St Paul MN

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes I (We) will be at entire conference with 5 meals for \$50.

\_\_\_\_\_ No I (we) will be attending only part of the conference: \_\_\_\_\_ Fri Eve \_\_\_\_\_ Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Sun

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flight plans: \_\_\_\_\_

Need airport pick up? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Need accommodations with local supporter? \_\_\_\_\_

## Conference Details

**December 2-3-4, 2005** Weekend Conference with Fr Daniel Maurer from Vladivostok.

**Hotel accommodations:** Rooms will be blocked out for participants and private homes are available. The Sheraton Metrodome Hotel is at 1330 Industrial Blvd., Minneapolis MN 55413 Reservations: 612-331-1900 or 1-888-627-8129 and mention MMOG. Hotel rates are \$89 per night (for up to 4).

**Airport shuttle** to hotel, or pickup by your host. Van to transport from hotel to St Agnes during weekend.

**Cost** is only \$50 for entire conference and 5 meals plus beverages and snacks.

### Friday, December 2:

4:00 pm – Registration begins  
 5:15 pm – Opening Mass at St Agnes Church  
 6:30 pm – Dinner  
 7:30 pm – Talk by Fr Dan "What does" Missionary mean? How far have we come in Vladivostok"  
 8:30 pm – Get acquainted social  
 10:00 pm – Return to hotels

### Saturday, December 3:

8:00 am – Mass & rosary  
 10:00 am - Breakfast  
 11:00 am – Fr Dan Talk: "What MMOG is all about"  
 12:00 – Sharing fundraising ideas  
 1:00 pm – Lunch  
 2:00 pm – Eucharistic adoration for 1 hour  
 3:30 pm – Fr Dan Maurer: "What can I do to help?"

*Continued on Page Six.*



*Beautiful "Vladivostok Cathedral" Christmas Cards for sale to benefit our mission.*

*5 x 7 cards. 12 cards with envelopes for \$15.00 donation.*

*Order on line, call or write the office*

*Inside message... **Come, let us adore Him.***

## From the development desk...

Dear Vladivostok Mission supporter,

- A shipment of five ultrasound machines for the Women's Support Centers of Vladivostok left St Paul for Russia on September 27. Thanks to all those who have worked on this project and to the donors of the machines. They will save many lives!
- Read the details about our contest and our St Nicolas Gala on Page 7.

God love you and your family,

Sandra Sonnen  
Mary Mother of God Mission  
1854 Jefferson  
St Paul MN 55105  
[usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org)  
office: 651-227-0208  
home: 651-690-5139  
[www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)

## VLADIVOSTOK STREET KIDS DONATION CARD

***Yes, I/We want to help the street kids of Vladivostok!***

***I/We have enclosed a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_*** (Please make checks payable to Mary Mother of God Mission Society)

**-On line credit card donations may be made at [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)**

***I/We prefer to make payment on***

American Express    VISA    MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**- I am interested in regular contributions. Call me about pledges or monthly donations**

**❖ Thank you and God bless you! ❖**

**Mary Mother of God Mission Society**

**1854 Jefferson Avenue Saint Paul, Minnesota  
55105-1662 [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)**