

Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Vladivostok Russia St Paul Minnesota

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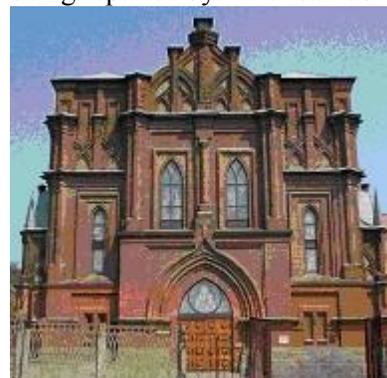


May 27, 2007—Reconsecration Day

By Fr Myron Effing, C.J.D.



“Dreams come true!” is the theme of several commercials on Russian television. The commercials show children practicing at sports and then their dreams come true when the same children are already members of some famous sports teams. We are hoping our dreams will come true on May 27—Pentecost—as the proposed reconsecration date of our church. Here is the final architect’s drawing of the steeples which are to be built this spring, and a nice photo of how the church looks today. While the inside is being repaired by American donors,



the steeples are being built by a Russian businessman! It has taken us nearly fifteen years to do this job. I decided to show how important the church is for the restoration of the faith in Russia by publishing this following “Letter from Grandma.”

Our Historical Parishioners...

Letter from Grandma The Family of Anton Yuzefovich Karolkevich

Dear Friends, In November of 2002 I was in your church of which I have warm memories. My relatives on my mom’s side lived in Vladivostok from 1910 to 1932, and were your parishioners. After having been in Vladivostok

and having returned to Novosibirsk I was able to cheer my mother and aunt by giving them your calendar, newspapers, and magazines. My aunt Helena has a great memory in spite of her age. She was happy that you are interested in historical materials and that you are writing the history of the parish. I’m enclosing her input to your work. (signed) Irina Vladislavovna

Hello Dear Friends, I am Helena Cherepanova who was born in 1916 in Vladivostok, so I’m now 86 years old. I was baptized in your church about which I have a document signed by Bishop Slivovsky. My parents Anton and Anna were born in Poland, were pious and from childhood taught me and my sister to pray. The whole family went to church. As I remember, when I was 5 or 6 years old the pastor was Jerzy Yurkevich, a handsome



Fr Yerkevich, the last pastor of the Vladivostok parish, who died in a Siberian prison camp in 1943.

man with a beautiful voice. I remember how he climbed the stairs to the pulpit which was located above the left side of the church, and he preached from there. On the left side of the church by the wall there were benches with backrests. On the right side by the wall was a big “chair”, the sides of which were closed with screens. The priest sat in the middle cell and those confessing knelt at the sides of the chair.

The bishop was Karol Slivovsky, a very aged person. He had a large ring on his finger with a large violet stone which we kissed. Upstairs was the choir where the organ was located, and the organist was always a very elderly man with the surname Radzievsky. He was a wonderful musician and taught the children piano lessons. Before Christmas they gave out Christmas bread, and before Midnight Mass there were always a lot of different types of food on the table, but all without meat. The family gathered at the table which had a white tablecloth under which was placed some straw. They broke bread and sang songs, and then everybody went to church. We returned home when it was nearly morning. Then there was meat on the table and every kind of delicious baked goods. It was nice at home, with a decorated fir tree and gifts from our parents. At Easter I remember we went to get sweet loaves and colored eggs blessed.

I also remember the feastday “Holy Green,” or “Trinity.” We girls were all dressed in white fancy dresses. We walked with baskets of flower petals in front of the procession around the church and scattered them at the feet of the priests who followed us. [This was the custom for the Feast of Corpus Christi on Thursday after Trinity Sunday, but perhaps the Corpus Christi procession was celebrated on Trinity Sunday at that time.—ed] The older girls carried pillows having attached to them four ribbons at the corners. On the pillows something was written or

sewn. [Does anyone know what was on the pillows?—ed] In May we also went to church in the evenings. On the right side of the church, just a little lower on the hill, was the one-floored little house where the bishop and pastor lived. An elderly lady took care of their house, and all the parishioners referred to her as “sister”.

I don’t remember in what year the church was closed. The bishop and sister lived in Sedanka. He was already very sick at that time. He was buried there. They arrested the pastor and sent him to the north to Dudinka Labor Camp. Our acquaintance also was sent there for punishment, and when he returned he told us that he saw Fr Yurkevich there, sick and with only one eye. In 1932 my dad was arrested (he died ten years later), and mamma, my sister, and I were sent to Novosibirsk. They gave us only 72 hours to gather our things.

All my long life I always remembered with love and pain in my heart my home parish church in Vladivostok. May God protect you! Helena Antonovna Cherepanova

Dear Miroslava,

Many thanks for the photographs. I look at them and can’t take my eyes off them. It is as if the church were right before me, like it was in my childhood. We recognized my sister Yanina Karolkevich right away in the big photo taken under the cross (that was her maiden name.) She is the one to the right of the bishop, and a boy is sitting in front of her. When we showed the picture to my sister, she right away recognized herself and jumped with joy.

As far as the internal decorations of the church are concerned, I remember that near the entrance to the right side there was a little metal crucifix of Jesus Christ, with a dish below with blessed water. People dipped their fingers in the water and made the sign of the cross whenever they entered the church. The seat where the priest sat to hear confessions was of a dark red color.

I was born in 1916 and my sister in 1913. She had a stroke and lost memory, so she isn’t able to help much in the way of memories about the church in Vladivostok. We don’t have a single photograph from those times. There were three searches of our family, so everything that might have had any connection with anything “foreign”, they destroyed. That is the way things had to be then. Maybe there were pictures of the church among the things that were destroyed, but we lived in those days in fear of the KGB. They arrested our father three times, and he was sent to a camp in the north—to Kolpashevo in Novosibirsk State. In 1938 they shot our father. After that they rehabilitated mom and us kids.

I am so glad that the church where I spent my childhood is being restored. Of course with the help of the parishioners. Many thanks to you for everything. To all the parishioners, health and good luck. May God defend you.
Respectfully, Helena



Ludmila Josephovna Andreeva was the last pre-revolutionary parishioner of Khabarovsk's Parish of the Holy Trinity. She died soon after receiving Communion from Fr Joseph McCabe, SM, the current pastor.

Taking out the last girders.



Mixing concrete for the new floor.

The new concrete floor on which heating coils will be laid.



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

News Notes

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

- November 5 was a great day for our parish when two Russian parishioners took their **first vows** in the Sisters of Charity of St Anne. Sister Marina Malinina and Sr Oksana Gorelova completed their two-year novitiate and took their veils. Parishioner Sister Olga Nimchinova also renewed her vows on that day. There were many guests from all around the krai. Congratulations, Sisters!



Sr Marina and Sr Oksana taking their vows.

The community gathered afterward for a photo. Sr Olga is to the right. The sisters' superiors were here from the Philippines.



- On Nov 15 our Bishop Kirill Klimovich was here in Vladivostok for a meeting of the diocesan deans. We asked him for the Sacrament of **Confirmation** for our adults who had been preparing. Thirteen adults were confirmed. He was also happy to see the progress on our buildings, and is looking forward to the reconsecration of the church.



Bishop Kirill poses with our parishioner Olga in the new rectory which is still waiting for his blessing in May.

- Saturday, November 11, was a great holiday for the Parish of the Annunciation in Arsenyev—the dedication of their new parish rectory and chapel. Fr John Gibbons, O.S.F., the pastor, invited Bishop Kirill and all the priests of the deanery for the ceremony which was accompanied by dinner. This parish was the third one founded by Fr Myron, and has long hoped for a new building. Now that dream has come through. As Fr Myron often repeats, “In the first ten years we opened parishes, and in this ten years we have to build buildings.”

Fr Peter Pruzhina O.S.F., Bishop Kirill Klimovich, and Fr Myron Effing, C.J.D. in the new chapel in Arsenyev.



- Father Peter Pruzhina, O.S.F., was named to take care of the Parish of the Visitation in **Lesozovodsk**. Fr Myron, as dean, took care of the installation.
- On November 15, our scoutmaster Denis Bondaryev and our American volunteer Eagle scout Brian Roche had a meeting with the local leaders of the Russian Association of Navigators/**Scouts** about planning joint activities for the coming winter campout in Arsenyev and the future summer campouts on Russian island.

Meanwhile, stateside, in order to help fund and support our troop, Don Prendergast, an experienced Scout leader from New York is undertaking a program to gain interest among American Scouts for our Scouting in Russia. He has designed two special patches which will acknowledge contributions to our Troop 1860. They feature the Russian flag, and the famous Primorsky tiger, 300 of which still live in the wilds of our state. (In America they are called Siberian tigers, but the fact is that they all live in Primorye, not in Siberia at all!)



Tiger patches for American Scouts who help support our Russian Troop 1860.

- During the night of December 10-11, a **burglar** broke into the church and stole our longest metal step-ladder that we need to reach the high points on the wall. The ladder was brought to us many years ago by a Canadian ship! At that time it was impossible to buy one here. We think it had to be an inside job, because we've had a streak of them lately. In one, the burglar broke an inconvenient-for-him window and stole a safe. How did he know there was a small safe in that room if he was not an insider, and there were plenty of more accessible windows to break? Nothing else was taken but the safe. Luckily, there was only \$30 in the safe at the time. A couple of weeks before that, expensive electric parts were stolen from the compressor for the jackhammer. Only an inside person would know where that compressor was. Before that our electric handtools were stolen from the church. We'll find out "who done it" at the last judgment, won't we? If I knew who it was, I could remind him that he won't get away with it. God sees all.

- The **Chinese** who built our rectory and who are repairing our church are truly remarkable guys, very hardworking, and very cheery. They keep working away on the church in spite of the cold and inconvenience, and we keep praying that no one of them will get hurt in an accident. There have been several close calls.

- On October 7 St Joseph's Parish in **Modesto** held its big spaghetti dinner to support our mission, and in early November they held a garage sale. Vicky Trevilian writes, "We did good... A prayer of thanks to our Father in Heaven for His many blessings." Thank you, benefactors, for your hard work!



Russian dancing was one of the highlights of the evening.



The huge Father O'Hare Hall was full for the event.



The "Gladhatters" will keep your ears warm!

"Chocolate cake anyone?" says Tom Fitzsimmons.



Rosaries? Icons?



It's just about ready! Says chef Pino Scarpinati



Would you like a chance on this beautiful icon?



- What a wonderful welcome we received in Las Vegas at St Joseph Husband of Mary parish for our annual **Mission Conference**! It was World Mission Sunday, October 21-22. Participants came from as far away as Washington DC, Canada, Oregon, and Fr Myron from Russia. The parishioners were perfect hosts and took care of our needs very well. It was a good time for us to meet everyone, and to see the commitment made by benefactors and sister parishes to our work. The parish has invited us to return next year. Mark your calendar: October 20-21.

Some of the participants in the Conference are shown here in the St Joseph Husband of Mary Parish Center when they posed at the end of the Conference.



The Knights of Columbus served us breakfast.

Parishioners catered our meals.



(Continued from Page 8...)

Watch for details in the coming issues of the Sunrise and watch our web site for late breaking news. People were not able to book flights and/or smoke free hotels near the parish as they tried too late.

- Want to visit Vladivostok and take a **cruise**? A Cruise from Vancouver to Vladivostok costs \$2600 per person plus air back from Vladivostok, which is about \$900.00 one way. Leave Vancouver Sept 8th, 2007 and arrive in Vladivostok Sept 25th, 2007. A woman from Las Vegas is looking for companion travelers on this cruise. Contact Barbara, our travel agent, at BarbaraHouplinGarcia@aaawin.com or call Barbara Garcia at (425) 369-2604.

- We need another priest to help us with **mission preaching**. It is weekend work, and the mission pays the expenses. Usually we try to connect consecutive weekends in one area. For example, you could be in Florida or Arizona in January. It is a good way to travel and have a meaningful apostolate for a retired priest. Please call.

God love you all, David and Sandra Sonnen

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From the development desk...

Dear Vladivostok Mission supporters, Two big events to look forward to:

- The Most Holy Mother of God Cathedral is almost restored. We have a target date of Pentecost, May 27 2007 for the **rededication**. If you wish to travel with us for this momentous occasion please contact us at the office in St Paul. We will leave Thursday May 24 in the late evening from Los Angeles International to arrive in Vladivostok on Saturday May 26. Reservations may fill up fast, as it's Memorial Weekend. Please contact us even for a tentative hold on a ticket. We will return on Saturday June 2. The week will be filled with an immersion experience of Vladivostok and the work of the Catholic Church. See our web site under tours and mission trips. Call our office to start your trip.

- We will hold our 4th **National Conference** at St Joseph Husband of Mary Parish in Las Vegas on Oct 19-20-21, 2007. It is titled: Conference on the Peoples and Catholics of the Far East of Russia. It will be very interesting.
(Continued on Page 7)



Architect's presentation of what the church will look like when the steeples are completed. Begun in 1908, will it be completed in 2007?