

# Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Vladivostok Russia St Paul Minnesota

Issue Number Seventy Seven September 1, 2007



## Christmas in July?!

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

Yes, it was Christmas in July for a little girl who received a bicycle for Christmas, but didn't have a dad to put it together! Then the mission trip from St Joseph's Parish in Modesto happened, and the little girl got her wish!



*"Dads" put together a bike for a little girl.*

The missionaries did so much I decided to let them tell their own story in pictures. So here we go!



◀ *Armed and ready to go.*

▶ *"You did it for the least of my brethren, thus you did it for me!" Work in the hospice.*

Once again we are disappointed not to be able to have the church reconsecration on the appointed date of October 7. The new altar will not be ready, and we do not have enough workmen to complete the job in time. Every summer there is a labor shortage in Russia, and it is even deeper this year because of the theft of quotas on Chinese workers. Our apologies to those who purchased tickets already! We will let you know when Bishop Kirill gives us a new date—probably after Christmas. It's embarrassing and disappointing. Most Holy Mother of God, Pray for us!



Next mission trip September  
Immaculate Conception Parish



*Orphan life is up and down, depending if there are volunteers.*



*A picnic for the whole parish? You've got to be kidding!*



*This exercise will work wonders for your detachment syndrome!*

▼ *Even time on the bench is fun if the volunteer loves you!*



*The way to a Russian's heart is by bread.*

▼ *"Man does not live on bread alone" so share the Gospel with a potential new Christian!*





*Slaving away on Russian Island, with tiny overseers.*



*Furthering ecumenical relations.*



*Painting the room in the hospice.*



*Praying at the mass gravesite.*

▼ *Wallpaper-ing at St Joseph's parish.*



*Admiring the restoration work in the church.*





Saying our goodbyes.

Leaving a legacy, a new washing machine.



▼ The open door is waiting for you next year!



**Come back Again!**

## How to Communicate with Us

**Internet** Russian language: [www.catholic.vladivostok.ru](http://www.catholic.vladivostok.ru)  
 English language: [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)  
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**Letters** without donations:

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 Volodarskovo 22  
 690001 Vladivostok RUSSIA

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**Donations and letters:**

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 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.

**Office in Canada: Phone:** 1-(807) 597-6052

[gnivall@shaw.ca](mailto:gnivall@shaw.ca)

**Donations and letters:**

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## Opportunities

♥ Plan ahead if you would like to be a full-time mission volunteer in Vladivostok or one of our Russian Far Eastern cities for the 2008-9 school year!

♥ Perhaps you would like to join one of our mission teams. Contact Sandie at the office in Minnesota.

**Remember**

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

## News Notes

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

- Congratulations on the occasion of the **ordination of our Brother Oleg** Yelchaninov to the diaconate! He and his classmates were ordained by Archbishop Aloisius Tkach of the Diocese of Kosice, Slovakia on, Friday, June 22 at the Cathedral of St Elizabeth there. He has just one more year to go for ordination to the priesthood since his baptism and entrance into our religious community eleven years ago.

Brother Oleg had to quickly learn, and then be able to write and preach, in the Slovak language, since the seminary he needed to attend is in Slovakia! You can see that it is quite an achievement! The cathedral was packed for the ordination, with a crowd still standing on the street. The next day there was the ordinations to the priesthood, and again a packed cathedral!

Vďaka Bohu za dar povolania Vám s radosťou oznamujeme, že v piatok **22. júna 2007 o 10. hodine** v **Dóme sv. Alžbety** v Košiciach modlitbou a vkladáním rúk otca arcibiskupa Mons. Alojza Tkáča prijímame

**diakonské svätenie.**

Peter Bednár (Komárov)	Jozef Kadlic (Strážske)
Ján Dolný (Budimír)	Martin Kandala (Hilminy)
Pavol Fedorko (Plevnica)	Lukáš Libák (Bela nad Cirochu)
Matúš Imrich (Prešov - Sekčov)	Roman Matisovský (Pecovská Nová ves)
Oleg Jelčaninov (Vladivostok, Ruská federácia)	Michal Mucha (Zemplínsky Branc)
Peter Jurašek (Prešov - Salgavsk)	Peter Obšitník (Ošňovany)

Spol som sa služobníkom evanjelia a daru Božej milosti. (Matúš 13, 12)

*the ordination announcement with the names of the eleven other men ordained with Brother Oleg to the diaconate. One of the new deacons has since died in a traffic accident!*

Brother Oleg was born in Mirnii, in Yakutia—one of the coldest continuously inhabited places on earth. He worked in the diamond mine there where his parents also worked. Then he attended Moscow Government University where he majored in Art History, with a specialty in Gothic architecture. He and his mother later moved to Blagoveschensk in the Amursky Oblast, where we got acquainted when I was pastor there. He came to Vladivostok to be baptized and confirmed on December 15, 1996, and his vocation crystallized at that time. He made his final profession in our Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord on August 17 of 2006. We are so anxious to have him work with us continuously in Vladivostok!

Brother Oleg is the third of our regular parishioners to be ordained to the diaconate, after Fr Daniel Maurer, C.J.D., and Fr Evgenie Peregudov.

*Brother Oleg's mother, Raisa Nikolaevna Yelchaninova, Brother Oleg, and Fr Myron after Brother Oleg's first service as a deacon, Sunday Mass on June 24 in the seminary chapel in Kosice.*



Thank You, benefactors who have contributed to our seminary fund and who regularly pray for vocations as we do here in Vladivostok. Every “green” Monday is a Mass for Vocations in our parish.

- Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has appointed a new bishop for the Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin: **Fr Peter Christensen**, the pastor of our Sister Parish of the Nativity of Our Lord in St Paul, Minnesota! The bishop-elect will begin his new duties after episcopal consecration. Fr Peter has served for 22 years as a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. He was born in Pasadena, California, but moved to Minnesota in 1975. After obtaining his undergraduate degree in art history from the University of St. Thomas, he worked as a commercial artist for several years before entering the seminary in 1981. He has served in several capacities in the Minnesota, acting as a spiritual director and rector at St. John Vianney Seminary. Under his guidance, the seminary grew significantly, eventually becoming one of the largest seminaries in the United States.

Fr Christensen became the fifth pastor of Nativity of Our Lord in June 1999. Since then he has been instrumental in the reconstruction of the church and rectory, a three-year effort that restored the church to its original beauty and addressed a number of structural problems that had caused extensive damage. His artist's eye is reflected in the attention to detail and architectural purity that guided the restoration process and is reflected in the end result.



*Fr Peter Christensen, soon to be Bishop of Superior*

- On May 30 our Bishop Kirill Klimovich, D.D., appointed Fr Myron Effing C.J.D. to the post of Diocesan **Consultor**. The task of the consultors is to aid the bishop in making important decisions, and

to safeguard the diocese and its properties in the case of the absence or incapacity of the bishop.

- When Fr Dan was in the States this summer, he met with our wonderful volunteers from **Nativity Parish** in St Paul who regularly assemble and mail this newsletter. The meeting took place as a covered-dish supper at St Agnes' where our office is located, because of the full house at Nativity. Thanks, Folks, for your continued help!



*The Nativity dinner at St Agnes'. Standing are Fr Dan and Sandie Sonnen, our American national coordinator.*

- **Pavel Savchenkov** has been one of our main altar servers for many years already, and has been in charge of the servers for two years. He is a student in the Vladivostok Medical University, and works at the Military Hospital as an orderly. This year he has decided to study at the Liturgical and Catechetical Institute in Gaming, Austria. Many of our parishioners have already studied there, and the program is very good for our young parishioners. We'll miss his humor and faithfulness to his duties during this coming year.



*Parish Librarian Tamara Pavlovna and Pavel Savchenkov at tea after Sunday Mass.*

- Annually we have **study days** for the volunteers of the **Women Support Centers**. This year, we held them on June 19-22. Besides volunteers from our own seven Centers and the Center in Khabarovsk, a new volunteer attended from Magadan where they hope to open a similar center soon. Also in attendance for the first time were volunteers from the Orthodox center, "Crown." Naturally we are all hoping to learn from each other, and from the experts that we invite to the study days. This year we paid special attention to Natural Family Planning (or, as it is called in Russian, "Method of Determination of Ovulation".) Several of our volunteers had not yet received this training, and everybody needed updating on the latest information.

We were also privileged to have our theologian, Dima Kamil, who is finishing his master's degree in Theology of the Family in Gaming, Austria for an introduction to Pope John Paul II's *Familiaris Consortio*, the Church's major teaching about marriage and family life, which has just been translated and published in Russian. Thanks to you, benefactors, for supporting this work. As John Paul II said to Fr Paul Marx, the famous pioneer in the life issues in America and around the world, "You are doing the most important work on earth!" We think our Women's Centers are very important.

**Your are invited to Las Vegas!**

See Page 8!



*Our biologist and expert in NFP Yuri Belozorov led the volunteers' study.*

*At the end of the day, new volunteers receive their certificates.*



● The **Soup Kitchen** for the elderly which is run by volunteers from our parish is attended mostly by elderly who live alone and who are hungry, not only for food, but for human companionship. So the Sisters of St Anne often volunteer their time and talents to give them outings or some recreational programs. Here is a photo of a recent gathering.



*Some dessert and companionship.*



*We have talents to share with others.*

*It helps to be reminded of the words of the songs.*



● **“Mothers at Prayer”** is the name of a prayer group that meets regularly at St Joseph’s Parish in Second River. As the name indicates, their main goal is to pray for their own children, grandchildren, and relatives, and for a restoration of family life and an end to abortion in Russia. They also have a couple of days’ retreat each year. Here is this year’s retreatants under the guidance of Lubov Sadovnika, who is the Leader of the Women’s Support Center in Artyom. We join our prayers with theirs!



*“Mothers at Prayer” on retreat.*

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**Conference Registration!**

## Registration for Weekend Conference with Fr. Dan in Las Vegas, NV, October 19, 20, & 21, 2007

(Please register as soon as possible)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**, I/we will be at the entire conference.

Donation amount for five meals: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**, I/we will be attending only part of the weekend. \_\_\_ Fri. Eve \_\_\_ Sat. \_\_\_ Sun. Donation

amount for meals to be attended: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations needed with local supporter? \_\_\_\_\_

For **hotel reservations**, please make your own. Our host hotel for this year is: Holiday Inn Express West  
8669 W. Sahara Ave.

Hotel: (702)256-3766 Las Vegas, NV 89117



*St Joseph Husband of Mary Parish.*

Rate: \$99/night Booking Code: MMG (Standard room with two queen beds, non-smoking) Note: In order to receive the group rate reservations must be made by 9/19/07. The hotel is 1.71 miles from St, Joseph, Husband of Mary Parish, conference headquarters.

If you wish to stay at a casino hotel, we recommend Suncoast Casino (866) 636-7111 or Red Rock Station (866) 767-7773.