

Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Vladivostok Russia St Paul Minnesota

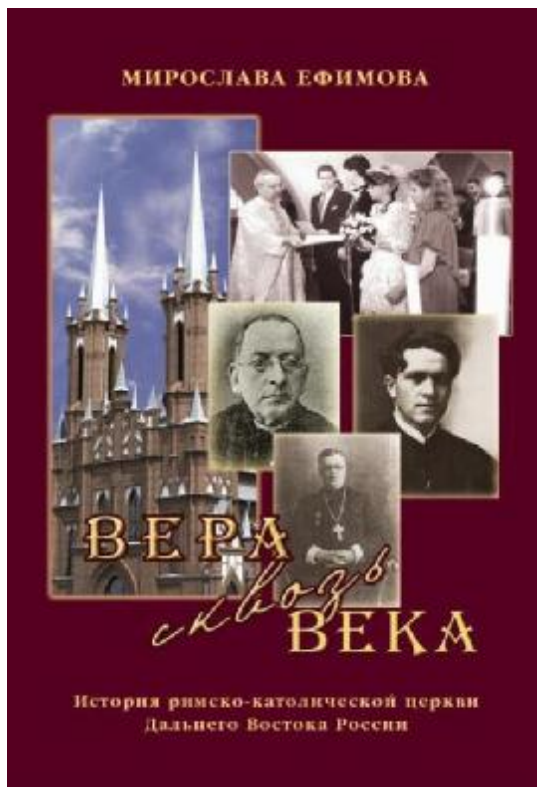
Issue Number Seventy Eight November 1, 2007



Long Awaited Book is Done!

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

Miroslava Igorevna Efimova's book, *The Story of the Catholic Church in Far Eastern Russia*, is at last published in the Russian language! Copies can be obtained by sending your order to our mission office with \$12. The English version is nearly done and should be ready about the first of January. We'll give you ordering information in the next *Sunrise*. Here is what the Russian cover looks like:



Miroslava decided to subtitle her book, "Faith through the Ages." The photos are of the first wedding after Communism of Anna and Adam Jones, of the first and last pastor in Vladivostok before the confiscation, Frs Razhdeshvsky and Yerkevich, and of Bishop Slivovsky.

The Eleventh Youth Conference!

By Dmitri Kimil

"God's Family in the Presence of Christ Resurrected" as the theme for the Eleventh Annual Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference, which was held at Most Holy Trinity Parish in Khabarovsk from the 23 to the 29th of July. Youth from Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, Nakhodka, Svobodnii, Lesozovodsk, and from Comsomolsk-na-Amure participated in the discussions and activities. They day began with Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, and then there was a lecture on the theme of the day. Afterwards there was group work where the youth could share with each other their experience and ideas concerning the theme, and even witness from their own lives. The groups changed members daily, so it was very interesting to hear everybody in the small group context. The results of their discussion and conversations were passed on to a different group to hear.



The number of participants wasn't as large as in some previous years, but that is partly a reflection of the low birthrate in Russia 18 years ago during the "great change".

After lunch, there was again group work, but this time in special stable groups. The first group was the "Journalists." They studied sections of the Gospels where there were appearances of Jesus after his resurrection. They had to try to figure out the exact meaning of the appearance, and then they wrote their own version—often a very personal version—of what it was all about for another group to read.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all our Benefactors!



Skits are always helpful to understand the Scriptures.

The “Dramatists” created a play and acted out the Gospel passage that the journalists reported on—sometimes even with special effects.



Most meals for the Conference were taken at the local café.

The “Entertainers” planned our physical activities and our picnic at the beach on the Ussuri River on Thursday. It turned out to be a beautiful day and the water was perfect—but not better than the barbecue! So that we weren’t bored (Imagine that!) the Entertainers planned a special event at the picnic. They suddenly appeared in American Indian outfits, and after surrounding our “wagon train” they captured Fr Tomash (who is from Blagoveschensk) and carried him off to boil him for dinner. In order to get him back, we had to barter by winning points in all kinds of games they had planned. No problem! We won him back, so the Indians had to be satisfied with the pork barbecue, instead.

[Our thanks go to *Renovabis*, a program of the German Bishops’ Conference for its financial support of this program and other similar programs throughout Russia.—ed.]



It isn’t St Louis and the Mississippi, but barbecue on the Ussuri River was just great!

I think that this Conference was one of the most successful. There was a healthy balance of lectures, group work, prayers, and rest. Thanks go to the planners as well as the participants. Then to, it was such a pleasure to see with what great pleasure and enthusiasm took part in all aspects of the Conference. This common effort really drew people together, so in the end, no one wanted to go home.



Going home on the train affords more time to reflect on the theme and the experience of the Conference.

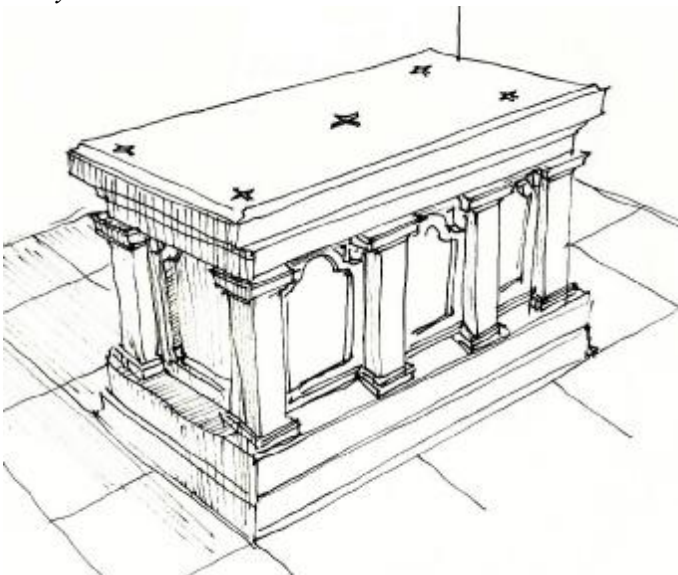
News Notes

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

• Volunteer **Matt Alderman** is continuing his design work for the liturgical items for the church. Here is his design for the marble main altar which could be delivered about January 1. The altar is being donated by members of the Most Holy Mother of God Parish of Vladivostok. The marble is called “Onyx Red.” Here is a sample.



“Onyx Red” marble



The main altar will be freestanding. The tabernacle will be in the center of the reredos behind it.



The design of the altar in the chapel.

Plans are also in the works for the altar and tabernacle stand in the small chapel. The altar will be supported by five pillars, which represent the five last martyrs of our parish who were arrested and killed on the same day, February 3, 1938. They will be done from brown marble in keeping with the somber colors of the Chapel of the Holy Cross. These items are still awaiting a benefactor to donate for them. The altar will cost \$2163.76 and the tabernacle stand \$1325.97.

• At our St Paul area conference in September at St Agnes Church, Fr Myron mentioned that no one had yet donated the funds for the tabernacle stand in the church in Vladivostok. Our long-time volunteers **Mr and Mrs Dan Strub**, who help with the Sunrise mailing process, volunteered even further to pay for the marble stand. It will be a lasting memorial of their tireless work for our mission. Thanks, folks! God bless you!



Dan and Lenore Strub with Fr Myron in St Paul in September.

And the Word was made Flesh, and dwelt among us.

- This is the current situation in **Baby Hospital #3** where our volunteers are working:

Kids from birth to 1 year old:	49
From 1 year to 2 years:	13
From 2 years to 3:	5
From 3 years to 6:	11
8 year old:	1
TOTAL:	79

Of these, 25 test positive for AIDS. We continue to provide food supplementation monthly, as well as “grandmas and grandpas” on a regular basis.

- **Brian Roche** has returned from St Louis for another term as full-time mission volunteer, working with orphans and Scouts. The orphans are jumping with joy! There was an article written in the St. Louis Review (the catholic newspaper) about our mission and a presentation he did at Saint Louis University, his *alma mater*, just before he returned. You can find it at www.stlouisreview.com

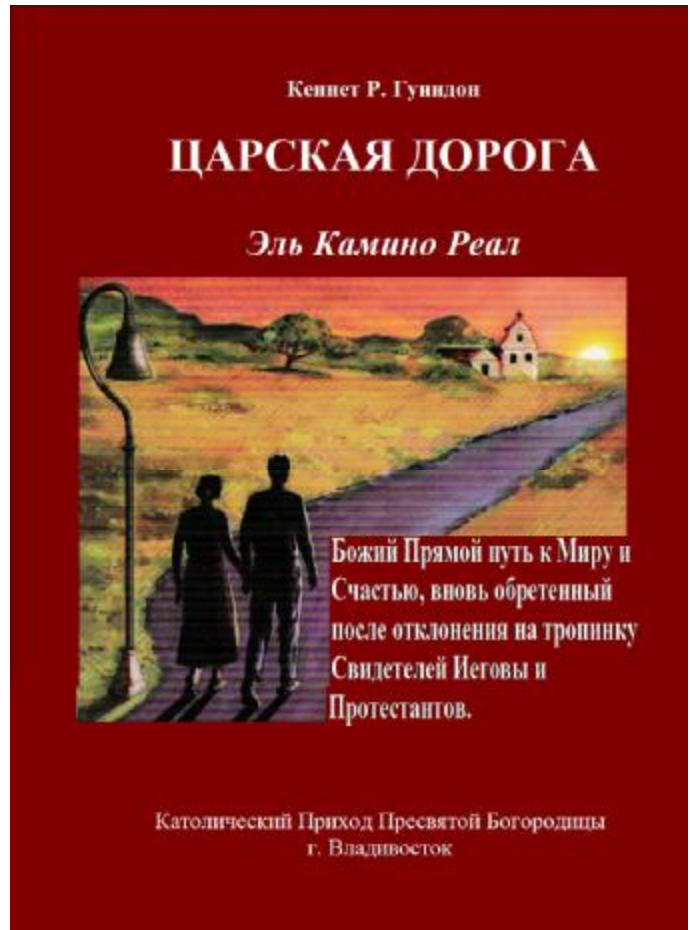
- **Sr Evgenia Lazaro**, who recently took over as Director of the CARITAS Women’s Support Centers has now also been appointed superior of the Vladivostok community of the Sisters of Charity of St Anne. She succeeds Sr Alicia Gonzalo who have been superior for ten years, and who continues to be Professor of Spanish at the Far Eastern Government University.



Sisters of Charity of St Anne, from left: Sr Marina, Sr Oksana, Sr Evgenia, Sr Alicia, Sr Olga.

- Ever Since Our Sunday Visitor gave us a great color printer, we’ve been able to produce a lot more of our own catechetical materials, and even brochures for our American office. Now we’ve done our **first Russian book** on our own machine! It is a translation by Alexei

Hartman of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Khabarovsk of the book, *The King’s Highway: God Highway of Peace and Happiness* by Kenneth R. Guindon, published by Ignatius Press of San Francisco. The book is about a man’s search for truth, and especially how his search carried him through many churches and sects, including especially the Jehovah’s Witnesses. We wanted to publish this book because of the broad presence of the Witnesses in Russian society. Thanks are due to Ignatius Press for permission to use this book.



We hope the cover will be attractive to readers.

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

- More stained glass windows have been installed in the church, so we are gradually completing that project after 12 years!



Father Dan and contractor Alexei Ivanovsky from Belarus before the newly installed Crucifixion window.



Glass artist Alexei Ivanov, also from Belarus, showing how the glass is shaped and pieced together from full size plans.



*Two windows in the process of installation:
"The Marriage of Mary and Joseph"
Donated by Mr and Mrs Robert Ozburn*



*"Immaculate Conception and Birth of Mary" donated by
the Sisters of Charity of St Anne.*

- The **Women’s Support Centers** have just finished nine years of operation. During these years 22,114 women have come to the Centers for help, and our volunteers have visited 3754 women at their homes or in the hospitals. All received the counseling they requested. 7684 women received some kind of physical help, too, such as children’s clothing or diapers or food. 2153 were tested for pregnancy by us. There were 8296 telephone consultations, and 528 consultations by e-mail. 869 babies have been helped by the “adopt-a-birth” program. 49 women have received needed medical help through the “adopt-a-mom” program. We don’t have statistics on how many children were saved, because it is not always possible to know the results of the work. I also haven’t seen statistics on how many classrooms of kids we have instructed in chastity or family values or NFP, but it must be in the hundreds. Thanks, benefactors for supporting this vital work.



One of the recent moms, Anna Viktorevna, who received medical help from the WSC in Artyom.

Another Artyom mom who is grateful for medical help.



Peace on Earth, Good will to Men.

- Some Vladivostok parishioners decided to make the annual **bike pilgrimage** sponsored by *Renovabis* a part of the action for the Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference. They road the 450 miles to Khabarovsk by bike under the leadership and spiritual direction of Yuri Belozorov, Director of Evangelization at Most Holy Mother of God Parish.

Bikers line up to receive their departure blessing from Fr Myron.



Opportunities

♥ I would like to tell the folks we are in desperate need of funds to finish the steeples. This is the second time that a benefactor has had financial reverses and has backed out of his commitment to build them. We have the crew, the bricks, scaffolding and the bells. We need the \$65,000. The steeples could be named after a family or a favorite saint. Do you want to help with this project?



Half the bricks waiting to be used for the steeples.

♥ We are still looking for a full time volunteer with development skills to work in Russia for the Women's Support Centers.

How to Communicate with Us

Internet

Russian language: www.catholic.vladivostok.ru

English language: www.vladmission.org

Sisters in English: www.cjd.cc

Office in Russia: Phone: 011-7-4232-26-96-14

myron@catholic.vladivostok.ru

daniel@catholic.vladivostok.ru

Letters without donations:

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

Office in America: Phone and FAX: 1-(651)227-0208

usoffice@vladmission.org

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

Donations and letters:

Mary Mother of God Mission Society
PO Box 868
Atikokan Ontario Canada P0T 1C0

Sisters in Jesus the Lord: Phone: (651)230-3337

525 Thomas Ave
St Paul, MN 55103

Vladivostok Sunrise Edited and produced in Russia by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D. Assembled for mailing by Nativity Parish, St Paul, Minnesota.

Your donations have brightened the lives of so many people, poor elderly, street children, young women who have no one to turn to. And all those who have come to believe in Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Thank you, and God bless you!

From the development desk...

Dear Vladivostok Mission supporters,

• A popular hobby and pastime today is "extreme treasure hunting." In Vladivostok we know that the Catholic bishop died in 1933, and we have photos of the grave, but the location of the actual grave site has been lost to history. Is there someone with the urge, skill, and instruments to do the archival research and digging necessary to find the relics so that they can be returned to the Church? We have a hunch that if Our Lady wants this it will happen.

• Help our first cottage industry! Help our Catholic women parishioners! Help the Women's Crisis Center: 20% profits donated to the Center. Christening gowns and baby clothes--heirloom family special, one of a kind, made by our parishioners in Lesosovosk for Christmas, Birthdays, Baptisms, Weddings, Easter outfits for newborns. See our blog and our web site <http://baptismalgowns.blogspot.com/>

God love you all, --David and Sandra Sonnen
Mary Mother of God Mission Society
1854 Jefferson Ave
St Paul, MN 55105
Work: 651-227-0208
Home: 651-690-1933
usoffice@vladmission.org
www.vladmission.org



*С
Рождеств
ом
и
с Новым
Годом!*

*Merry
Christmas
and
Happy
New Year!*

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
St Paul Minnesota
Permit No. 6732

Address Service Requested



Merry
Christmas
Everyone!



Dear Father Myron and Father Daniel!



Merry Christmas to you and to all in Russia! Enclosed is a sacrificial donation to help with your work. Please apply my donation to the following work of charity.

- Poor children Women's Support Centers Boy Scouts Hospice for the abandoned elderly
- Milk and Fruit Program for Orphans Grandma Program for Orphans Poor Families
- Omega University Evangelization Program Parish Catechetical Program Elderly Med Needs
- Church Building Restoration Project Diabetic Kids Wherever the need is greatest

I am praying for you and your work in Russia. Here is my spiritual bouquet:



Yours truly,



(P.S. Please send me information about Direct Deposit Donations.)