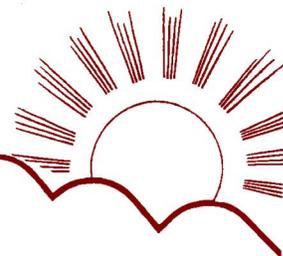


Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society and Vladivostok Mission

Issue Number Ninety Three May 1, 2010



Bishop Klimovich on the steps of the church for the blessing of the steeples.

The Blessing of the Steeples!

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

March 21 was a big event for us—the blessing of our church steeples and the first ringing of the bells! The church was full, as parishioners came from other parishes here in Primorye. Here is a photo of our Bishop Kirill Klimovich and the priests standing at the entrance of the church to prepare for the blessing. As a surprise, Fr Edmund Cisek, whose organization of Polish Siberians purchased the bells and brought them to us already 8 years ago flew in from Poland to be with us for the historic event. The bells have been waiting that long to be heard! The bishop also blessed the altar in the Chapel and the baptistery. Included in the event was the Sacrament of Confirmation for 15 of our adult parishioners. We wish that all of the donors to our steeple project could have been here, but everyone was in the printed program of the day.



Photo of the church and steeples taken from Beauty Street. You can see that the steeplets above the transept are still not done.



The day concluded with lunch for all who attended.

Monsignor Edmund Cisek, founder of the Polish Siberian Society, which donated the bells to us, posing with Fr Sebastian D'Silva, pastor of Nakhodka, and a group of parishioners before the painting of Bishop Slivovsky, first Bishop of Vladivostok. The Society includes all Poles who had been exiled to Siberia. Monsignor was exiled for five years before being able to return to Poland.



The blessing of the altar in the chapel. The Relics of St Theresa the Little Flower were enclosed inside.



Donors to the Steeple Project

Michael Kasimirovich Zhmurko
Robert and Barbara Ozburn
St Joseph's Parish, Modesto
Olga Alexandrovna Yegorova
Richard Martens Family
Michael Valentine
Jay Ward
Nelli and Vladimir Panchuk
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It is always a joy when the bishop is here for Confirmations. This year 15 of our parishioners were confirmed, and three in Lesozovodsk, 12 in Nakhodka, and more in Arsenyev and Romanovka. Four of my folks didn't get their letter in time (slow post office), so they will need to be confirmed the next time the bishop will be here. The news media were here to film the event, and sure enough more people came to mass on Sunday—Even though we've been

here nearly 20 years, there are still people who don't know that there is a Catholic parish here. Now the steeples are visible, at least in daylight, and we want to illuminate them at night, when and if we can afford it.



Those to be confirmed standing before the bishop.

Music – Finishing Touches

by Fr Daniel Maurer, C.J.D.

It has taken more than 100 years to complete the construction of our church. Begun in 1908, by the time it was more or less finished in 2010 it was already historic, so Fr Myron decided to complete the Mass of Blessing of the bell towers and steeples with the solemn singing of the *Te Deum Laudamus* (We Praise You, God). This is the great hymn of praise, which for more than 1500 years has been used by faithful Catholics to express their gratitude to God for favors received, work accomplished and milestones arrived at. Tradition ascribes the authorship of the original Latin text to both Saints Ambrose and Augustine on the occasion of Augustine's baptism by Ambrose in 387 AD. The text follows the outline of the Apostles' Creed, mixing a poetic vision of the heavenly liturgy with a declaration of faith. The petitions at the end of the hymn are a selection of verses from the Book of Psalms.

So that our entire parish community could participate in this important act of choral praise, rather than use the traditional Gregorian chant version in Latin we used instead a metered version in Russian sung to a simple yet powerful and uplifting melody that parishioners practiced several times in advance of the day of blessing.

In thanksgiving for the completion of the church the parish music program presented two special concert performances, on Sunday and

Monday, March 21-22. Performers included the head organist of the parish Marina Omelchenko; the Vladivostok Catholic Concert Choir (27 members); the string ensemble *Regina Angelorum* (6 members); and special guest soprano soloist Veronica Kasyanova from the Khabarovsk Philharmonic. The closing organ piece, played superbly by Marina, was *Carillon de Westminster* by French composer and organist Louis Vierne. It is a fantasia based on the hourly chime pattern of the Westminster Abbey bells, which play the same four notes as our bells that pealed for the first time immediately following the blessing of the bell towers. As this masterpiece of French symphonic organ music reached its crescendo all 177 stops on our Stella Maris organ were pulled out and sounding triumphantly.

News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D

- When the Canadian Navy came to Vladivostok by ship 15 years ago, they brought about 20 boxes of charcoal for incense at Sunday Mass. It has lasted until now! Of course you can't bring self-lighting charcoal by plane for safety reasons, so we didn't know how we would find charcoal when this ran out. Well, Fr Dan found a great solution. We can buy self-lighting charcoal here for tobacco waterpipes, and they burn clean, since the smoke is usually inhaled. So we'll be buying these to use for incense at mass from now on.

- We'd like to sit on our laurels about the church restoration after the blessing of the steeples on March 21, but we can't! We still have four projects to complete: The finishing of the small library building, the finishing of the choir room, the completion of the driveways and landscaping around the church, and the fixing of the roof of the church.

The roof was replaced some 23 years ago before we received the building back. They didn't replace the gutters and downspouts, so water just drips everywhere, and ice falls to the ground, sometimes endangering life and limb (and car windshields). The roof was done in galvanized steel, which has since started to rust and leak. What we would like to do is to replace the roof with stainless steel, and finish the guttering, but we can't afford it. Perhaps we can cover the roof with a rubber coat, which should fill the holes and extend its life for another ten years, at which time we could hopefully afford to go the metal way.

The costs will be as follows:

55 pails of rubber roofing material	\$15,716.25
Customs costs	3,000.00
Shipping costs	1,000.00
Labor costs	1,422.00
TOTAL	\$21,138.25

- Fifteen years ago Lena Solip and Olga Berndnikova translated the whole series of Faith and Life catechisms for grade school kids into Russian. The series was produced by Catholics United for the Faith, and published by Ignatius Press in San Francisco. We never published them here, however, because the diocese began to get interested in publishing a set of catechisms of their own. That project never materialized, so we are back to publishing our own Faith and Life series. Grades 1 and 2 are already off the press. They are especially good for parents who want to teach their own children the catechism at home, especially those who live far from parishes. Grade One is an overall introduction to the Catholic faith for children. Grade Two is specifically for preparation for First Communion. Besides the textbooks there are activity books and teacher's guides.

- The Lynch Family Foundation has helped us complete the new laundry at Children's Hospital #3. As you recall the Anya's Foundation donated the washer and centrifuge. Now we've bought the drier and flat ironer. With money we saved by asking for a discount, we also purchased a laundry cart.



Caritas volunteer Albert Silin gluing the Caritas symbol on the new commercial drier at Hospital #3.

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



The ironer will be great for sterilizing bedding for the orphans, including the HIV positive kids.

The “free” laundry cart.



Caritas crew that oversaw the installation with the Head Doctor of the Hospital #3.

- One of our volunteers last summer was seminarian Matt Grady, studying in Rome. He sent us his photo with Pope Benedict XVI.



Matt Grady in Rome.

How to Communicate with Us

Internet

Russian language: www.catholic.vladivostok.ru

English language: www.vladmission.org

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

myron@catholic.vladivostok.ru

daniel@catholic.vladivostok.ru

Office in California: Phone and FAX: 1-(209) 408-0728

Mary Mother of God Mission Society

1736 Milestone Cir

Modesto CA 95357

usoffice@vladmission.org

Sisters in Jesus the Lord: 1-(816) 353-2177

7049 Blue Ridge Blvd, Raytown, MO 64133

www.cjd.cc

Special Requests

I went to the house of one of my parishioners who was abandoned by her boyfriend although she gave birth of twin boys. I found out that they do not have running water in their house. They have to go a long distance to fetch water. In the winter it is really difficult as the street is full of snow which is never plowed. She is living with two small kids and her mother who is always sick and old, and she has a younger sister with her who goes to the school.

She goes to fetch water but there is long line of people who draw water or often there is no water supply and she has to wait a long time. But how can she wait, leaving behind the children with no one to attend?

I found out that they could get the water supply connection to their house. But it will cost at least minimum 15 thousand rubles (\$520.) This includes the cost of the pipe, connection charges, and water meter, and another thousand for sink, tape, labor, and fittings. So a total of 18 thousand rubles.

It is a humble request from her, if there is any chance to get this help, she will be grateful to you and to the sponsor.

—Fr Sebastian D'Silva in Nakodhka

Within hours of getting this request, a donor in Pennsylvania already sent the necessary sum to our donation site on our website. God bless you!

The Women's Support Center in Lesozovodsk wrote to ask if we could find help for a little girl. She needed open heart surgery, and the government offered to provide the surgery free of charge, on March 18, but her mom would have to pay for her own stay with her daughter in the hospital, at \$30 per day, which for 30 days comes to \$900! Her dad only earns \$216 per month, and he and his wife have two other children, 8 years old, and 2 years old. They asked if we could help.

--Nadezhda Morozova in Lesozovodsk

Naturally I thought that a lot of people would like to help, and I just sent an e-mail to some folks, and sure enough, we had the whole sum ready for her when she left for the airport to fly to Novosibirsk for the operation. Thanks, folks! Now we are waiting to hear the results.

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Two sisters came from a village to Vladivostok to study. These inexperienced girls soon got involved with some young men students, and found out that they were pregnant. All were exasperated about what to do—they live in the dormitory, and they have very little means of support. Should they give birth, or is abortion the answer? One sister came to the Women's Support Center for help.

Our volunteer spoke to her, and gave the same advice as her boyfriend: Give birth! In the course of it all, the second sister got acquainted with the boyfriend's roommate, and fell in love. Two boys were born in January and February. Now both couples are married and together take care of their children. In fact, it has been fun for the volunteer that the guys come to the Center, too, which is a rarity. God bless them! They have felt real fatherhood!

Opportunities

♥ **Office Needs.** In order to assist our priests in Vladivostok, countless details are tended to daily in the Modesto, CA office. Scheduling parish visits, maintaining our database, making mission travel arrangements, and sending and receiving emails to and from volunteers and supporters throughout the world are just the beginning. Can you imagine coordinating all the US mission operations with only two computers? Yes, that's right! We must limit how many can help at any given time as we must take turns using the computers when more than two people are working. You can guess how much more efficient we could be and how much more we could accomplish for our priests, if we had the proper tools. We pray you can help us. We are badly in need of two additional new computers, a paper shredder and a paper folder. Please contact the mission office at 209-408-0728.



Volunteers selling religious good after Saturday night mass in Modesto.

♥ **Double Your Donation** Check with your employer to see if they offer a "Matching Gifts Program". Companies that do, will match the amount of your donation to your favorite charity. Typically the matched funds from your employer are submitted at the end of the year. The name of the program might differ slightly from company to company. This is a great way to double your help to the mission!

♥ **Mission Travel** Mission teams to Vladivostok are now forming now for summer and fall trips! Experience first hand the beautiful and newly renovated parish of Most Holy Mother of God. Visit the Women's Support Centers and meet the people doing such important pro-life work. Work with the orphans and abandoned elders who need your every hug! Join a team or organize your own parish or university team. Contact the Modesto Mission office for more details. See you in Vlad!

♥ Right now we need a team of two men and two women to work for a month in Lesozovodsk with the 40 children that our parish there feeds every Saturday. Hopefully the men can do a Boy Scout camp as part of their program. We have a special request from the County of Lesozovodsk Social Services Department to help provide some summer activities for these poor children in the part of the city where our parish is located. A Russian man and woman will join your team as interpreters. The boys mostly don't have dads, so some good Boy Scout experience would be good for them! The girls need help to understand how to be a young lady in a society bent on pornography and bad girls' magazines. Please pray that we get those volunteers and that we have the funds to support them while they are here.



Bishop Klimovich during confirmations in Lesozovodsk.

♥ **SHARES Program** If you live in California and haven't received your SHARES card yet, please contact the mission office to get one. Pass more cards out to your friends or clubs! By presenting your SHARES card at Save Mart, Lucky, Food Maxx or Smart foods every time you shop for groceries, the Save Mart Corporation will donate 3% of your total purchase to Mary Mother of God Mission! It costs you nothing to participate! To date, the mission has received over \$8200 from this program! Your trips to the grocery store make a difference! Thank you for helping!

♥ **Kids' Gallery** These kids are recent "additions" at our Women's Support Centers. You can sponsor a child through our Guardian Angels program or do a one-time donation through our Adopt-a-Birth program.



Arthur



Artyom



Natalya

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Mary Mother of God Mission Society
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From the Development Desk

Dear Friends,

- The mission is very blessed to have scores of volunteers throughout the world who offer help wherever they can and in so many ways! Wouldn't it be great to hear what others are doing?! Personally, it's been nothing short of deeply humbling to witness the generosity of so many of you who selflessly contribute ever precious time and talent to assist Fr Myron and Fr Daniel in their work. There is no way to ever thank you enough for the mountains that have been moved because of you. Only in our prayers can our deepest gratitude be known.

In future issues of the Sunrise, we would like to introduce as many of our wonderful volunteers as possible. If you have pictures you can share of any past activities or fundraisers for the mission you have participated in, we'll try our best to post them.

- Two of our volunteers and speaker representatives, Mary Jo Peyton from CA and Bruce Gnatowski from VA,

help schedule conferences throughout the USA. Still many other volunteers give of their time at these conferences so we can distribute our mission information and talk to others about our mission. **Attending conferences is a vital means of educating others about our work in Vladivostok and bringing support.** Mary Jo and Bruce have done a great job doubling our conference calendar this year. Selling religious goods at conferences has greatly helped pay for the registration fees, thus allowing us to attend more of them. Many thanks to both Bruce and Mary Jo for their hard work! Also, thanks to our many other speaker representatives for taking the time to attend our booths to spread the word of our mission! If you would like to help Mary Jo and Bruce schedule conferences or would like to join our pool of volunteers for representing us, please contact me. Many hands make light work!



Thank you for your prayers and support. God bless you,
--Vicky
209-408-0728

Vicky and Craig Trevillyan