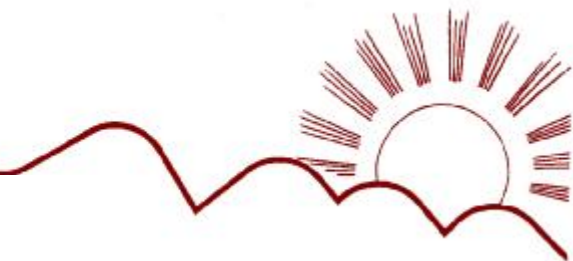


Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society and Vladivostok Mission

Issue Number One Hundred Six July 1, 2012



Sometimes it takes a baby!



Nastya and Darina Kolomeitseva

Our parishioner **Nastya Kolomeitev** had been sick for some time. She didn't know what the problem was, and they live far from good doctors. When she became pregnant, her health suddenly improved. She had no problems during the pregnancy, and Darina was born, a very healthy, vigorous girl. Nastya's health is continuing well. Fr Myron baptized Darina in March. Yuri, Darina's dad, says, "That baby worked miracles for my wife!"



*"Grandpa" Brother Patrick with orphans at Hospital #3.
"At first the kids were afraid of me, because they hadn't seen a man before, but love conquers all."*

The Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

After the revolution of 1917, Siberia became a showplace of the new Communist era, a land without churches and without God. Under Stalin, all Catholic churches were confiscated, and many were turned into the most degrading uses imaginable.

Two American priests, Fr. Myron Effing, CJD, and Fr. Daniel Maurer, CJD, arrived in Vladivostok in 1992 to help re-establish the Church in this region. **They founded or re-founded 11 Catholic parishes in an area covering over 500,000 square miles.** With the foundations laid, additional priests and sisters are joining the work, and parishes are slowly growing and multiplying.

Confirmations 2012

May 20 was a great day for 13 of our adult parishioners! Bishop Kirill was here for their Sacrament of Confirmation. They have been attending RCA classes on Sundays since September, led mostly by Fr Myron and Yuri Andreevich. Some had just been baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Our program for baptism and confirmation of adults extends from the beginning of the school year in September until the Easter Vigil, when those as yet unbaptized receive that sacrament. Confirmation has to wait until the bishop can be here, and we were glad that he could come during the extra joy of the Easter Season.



Candidates for Confirmation line up to hear the bishop's questions



Bishop Kirill anointing Galina Gennadijevna



Parishioners of Annunciation Parish, Arsenyev, with Bishop Kirill after the Confirmation Mass there

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Vladivostok Sunrise gives you up to date information about the Church in Eastern Russia. Contact our office for your free bi-monthly copy.

News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D

- It's never too late for good news. Here is a little list of **Caritas' activities** in Vladivostok in 2011, according to Caritas Director Lily Silina:
 - The Soup Kitchen served 2125 persons.
 - Baby Hospital #3 received \$926.38 worth of a variety of assistance.
 - “Sails of Hope” Children’s Center received \$1371.52 of assistance in the form of educational toys and food.
 - \$173.73 was spent for Children’s Christmas presents.
 - The “Grandma Mentoring” “grandmas” spent 570 hours of time with orphans, often bringing them gifts or sweets.
 - The “Hospice” program spent 648 hours visiting the sick and needy, and helping them at meal time.
 - The Social Program helped 74 people, donating canned fish, honey, cooking oil, clothing, as these things were donated to us. It also distributed 962 cans of fish products to needy folks including parishioners. It also donated diapers for newborns, thread for knitting, vitamins, eyeglasses.
 - Caritas collected \$1329.49 in donations in Russia.

Of course to get the whole picture, we have to add the two Caritas Women’s Support Centers located in Vladivostok. They have been working like clockwork helping women and kids. The other Centers are in other cities.



FOCUS students playing with kids at Baby Hospital #3 in the summer of 2011. We expect them again this year.

Meanwhile, while I was travelling to Lesozavodsk, Arsenyev, and Ussuryk for Easter Masses, I made a stop at the orphanage in Zavodskoi. I took a picture of the playpen that our benefactors at Orphans-at-Play bought

for the children there. Actually it is three playpens fixed end to end to make a fence. Orphanages are a fact of life here, where the average woman has had seven abortions! You would think that with so many abortions there wouldn't be any orphans, but it doesn't work out that way.



Play pen donated by Orphans At Play

Financial Summary of Our Work with Orphanages 2004-2010

These funds were specifically donated for this purpose by our donors.

Children’s Hospital #3, Vladivostok

“Fruit and Milk Program”	\$68,240.00
“Grandma Mentoring Program”	9,920.00
Air Conditioners (6)	6,000.00
Hot Water Heater	323.51
New Children’s Beds (30, metal)	8,858.35
Commercial Washing Machine	5,789.47
Centrifuge	4,210.53
Laundry Cart	508.42
Commercial Laundry Drier	6,333.33
Commercial Flat Ironer	3,833.33
Hot Water Heaters (6)	1,400.00
Medical Refrigerator	500.00
Diapers	1,600.00
Total:	\$117,516.94

Psychoneurologic Children’s Home, Artyom

Food Supplement Program	\$4,530.00
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State Specialized Children’s Home, Ussuryk

Food Supplement Program	\$5,200.00
Grandma Program	\$3,000.00

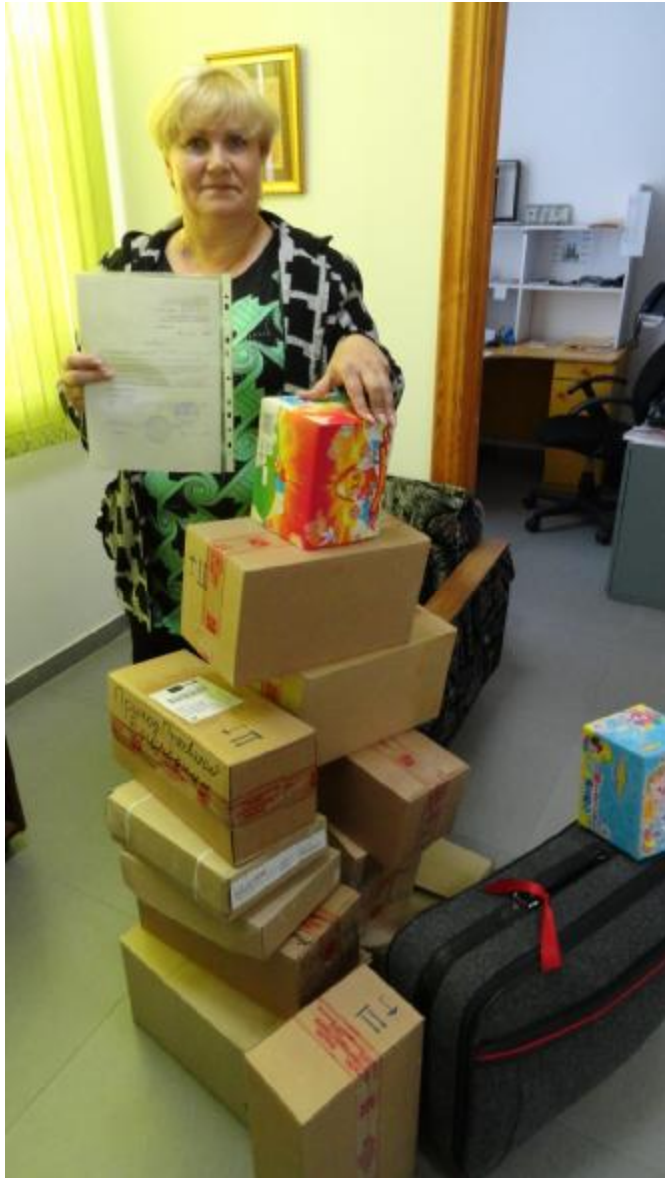
Children’s Home, Nakhodka

Grandma Program	\$242.33
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Coordinator’s Salary including taxes \$16,707.09

Grand Total: \$147,196.36

- We, **Orphans At Play**, and the **Little Way Foundation** have been helping the nearly 100 orphans in the city of Novoshakhtinsk. Recently we delivered three suitcases of clothing that had been brought to Russia from America by couples coming to adopt children. Also we were able to give a mountain of school supplies, getting ready for the new school year.



Novoshakhtinsk orphanage's Director Irina Viktorovna climbing the mountain of school supplies

- **Vladimir Pisorenko** is the founder of our Parish of the Visitation in Lesozavodsk. He has been suffering from fever and high blood count for a year. Finally he went to Korea to get a diagnosis, and the result was "liver cancer". He had to have the operation before it spreads, so the operation was scheduled for June 2. The operation cost \$20,000, so he has been asking everywhere for help. The parishioners in Lesozavodsk have really jumped to the



cause. The elderly parishioners gave him a month's pension while I was there. Others are contacting the many people that Vladimir helped through the

years in his work as a consumer advocate. Others are taking turns manning a booth at the public library where they are asking for donations. I was really impressed by the determination of the parishioners to help, and in any case, I think the parish will be better off for all of this intense effort and care for one of their own. Of course it wouldn't be enough, so Vladimir asked me to appeal to the Americans that he has met, too, to ask for help. So I've been writing letters and sending emails. Vladimir received the Sacrament of the Sick before he left for Korea. The operation was a success, and now it turns out that the laboratory tests for cancer are negative! Hopefully the tumor that was removed was the cause of his health problem, which should now improve! Thank you to all who prayed and sacrificed for him!

- We've had problems with our **computer and server** in Modesto for some time. But it is expensive to do anything about it, and we are poor, as you know, but finally the problems became unbearable. Our computer guru found that some hacker had taken over our computer and was using it to send e-mail spam. The thief had access to almost everything, so we don't know what mischief he might have done. If you've gotten unwanted or bad e-mails from our address, please accept our apology! We never store your credit card information in any of our computers. The on-line donations are managed by Authorize.Net, separate from our system, and numbers are not accessible through our computers. However, as a precaution please check your credit card reports carefully. Meanwhile the guru will try to clean up the mess and we hope to be back on line soon.

- A neighbor lady stopped me on the street recently to say "congratulations on the beautiful steeples on the church. It has made the building really special for our city. But when are you going to get rid of that **RUSTY roof!**?" I was glad she asked, so I showed her the scaffold which is now set up around the church, and the workers

from China who are already beginning the repair of the roof! We promised the government to have it ready before the big summit meeting which will take place in Vladivostok in September. But it is expensive, and we are already scrapping the bottom of the barrel. If you can help, put "Roof" in the memo section of your check. Or use our donation site on the internet:

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

Here's a photo showing the change the new roof is making.



Old roof to the left; new roof to the right. Don't fall, please!

- As you know we did a lot to try to get Russian and/or American **vocations** to work with us in Russia, boys and girls, but, in the case of the boys, we got no results. Seeing the handwriting on the wall, we decided to look where there are more vocation in general, i.e. the Philippines and Indonesia, which are relatively close to us here in the Russian Far East. The response has been good, and we now have three terrific Filipinos in vows and one Indonesian. They really are terrific in my book, and I've spent years in seminary work.

Brother Patrick Napal, C.J.D., (photo on page one) loves Russian, and is hoping to go to the seminary in St Petersburg in September. A great benefactor just offered to pay his tuition. Brother Patrick finished his Philosophy Degree at St Francis Xavier Seminary in the Philippines where he was welcomed to live with the Benedictine monks during his last year. Now it will be the major seminary. He has a passion for animals, and is a great baker.

Brother Arnulfo Undona, C.J.D., is a solid, charitable type, who loves to work with the poor and needy. He is a former member of a religious community whose main work was caring for hospice patients. He has started his studies in the seminary in the Philippines this year in the Philosophy Department of Adamson University. Anyone like to help pay his tuition and expenses? We like to tease him; he takes it well.

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



Brother Arnulfo making and counting hosts.

Brother Edwin Intan is a novice yet. He speaks Korean, Japanese, Russian, English, Tagalog, and Cebuano. Now he is working on Chinese, or maybe I should say, working ON the Chinese--He is evangelizing his fellow students as he studies Russian at the Far Eastern Federal University.



Our Indonesian candidates with Brother Inosens

Brother Inosens Hetu, C.J.D., is a very experienced religious--He is Indonesian. He already finished the major seminary *cum laude*, but we don't know the date of his ordination yet. He wants to get his master's degree in Scripture, so we are planning for a two year program at the Athenaeum in the Philippines. Then he hopes to go to Indonesia to open our second community of Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord. He will be a good superior in the future. He has already been working on it, and has

collected a group of experienced seminarians who want to join us who will be attending seminaries in Indonesia this year. He had a meeting with them when he was in Indonesia last month, and already organized them for this coming year or two until he is free to join them as superior. The plan is that when they finish Philosophy they will come to Russia for the novitiate. Some may like to stay and work in Russia, and others will want to return



The seminary which our candidates will attend.

to Indonesia. The plan involves renting a house near the seminary in Surabaya, which has already agreed to receive them. The Indonesian plan involves a budget of \$18,150 per year for two years. We are pretty confident that when Brother Inosens gets to Indonesia, he will be able to find financing locally for the further development of the community there. He is already collecting names and addresses of donors, and he is doing some speaking engagements when he is there. Brother Inosens is working on a powerpoint presentation that I can send you if you want to see it.

Perhaps the plan for an Indonesian house of our community is not directly related to Russia, so we are hoping to find funding for it, maybe separate from our Mary Mother of God Mission Society, which was founded specifically for Russia. On the other hand, chances are good that the next generation of priests here in Vladivostok will be from the Philippines or from Indonesia, so we can continue to fund some of the seminarians from MMOG, if possible. Our Board of Advisors will discuss this matter when we meet in Denver this Fall.

In any case, we have to pay for the education of our members in the Philippines and St Petersburg for this school year. I just wanted you to know what is happening. If you know of someone who would like to help a new

religious community to get established, maybe this information will help.

- Our parishioner **Nadezhda Nikolaevna**, 47, died on May 30 after a very short bout with cancer. She was well known as an active parishioner, often attending weekday mass. Her main task for the parish was collecting prayer intentions every Sunday, and then reading the Prayer of the Faithful at Sunday Mass. Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord!



Nadezhda Nicolaevna leading the Prayer of the Faithful at Christmas Mass, 2011.

- **Women's Support Center No. 1** is located in Artyom, on the outskirts of Vladivostok. This center serves some of the poorest residents of the area. Thanks to Lubov Sadovnikova, our lead counselor at this facility, we were able to secure shared office space with a gracious social worker in the government's Social Services building. While the room meant for one desk is very cramped, it serves as an important haven of help for women in this low income, highway location. Poor women from this area resort to prostitution to support themselves and their children. This WSC location provides important assistance to young women by helping them attain a better life without prostitution and in keeping their children healthy.

Women's Support Center No. 2 is located in a somewhat affluent women's medical clinic in a central Vladivostok location among three universities. The office is provided free to us in exchange for the clinic's use of our ultrasound machine. A win-win partnership, indeed.

We are planning a third Women's Support Center for Vladivostok for the new Far Eastern Federal University on Russian Island, as soon as the bridge opens. Currently all

of our Women's Support Centers run on a total budget of \$2500 per month. In addition, there are 52 children being sponsored by donors as "Guardian Angels".

The WSC's are very well organized and our volunteers very experienced. The work the volunteers and staff are accomplishing in transforming and saving lives is nothing short of miraculous. **Sometimes it takes a baby!**

Opportunities

♥ The building where our Parish of the Visitation is located in **Lesozavodsk** will go on sale this summer at the city auction. We absolutely need to buy this building, as anything later will be even more expensive! We do not know what the final price will be, as it is an auction, but we have to be ready with cash! We missed a chance to buy it at the earlier auction when it would have gone for only \$25,000, because I was too honest!--I didn't send someone extra to the auction to bid against me, and, since I was the only buyer, the auction didn't happen! If we can buy this building, it will solve our space needs for the parish in Lesozavodsk for a long time to come, and maybe even provide some income, as we can rent out some of the space. The kids are so hoping that the sisters will soon come to work with them. We need space. Maybe this will be just the project one of our donors is looking for. We will name the building after you!

♥ Are you a **priest** who would enjoy speaking about the Vladivostok mission? Join our speakers' bureau and speak to Catholic parishioners about the Church in Eastern Russia. Contact the mission office for more information.

♥ You can help support our priests. Masses will be celebrated for your loved ones in Russia. Contact the mission office for **Mass cards** or send your request on line www.vladmission.org \$15 suggested donation for each intention.

♥ Mission **travel teams** are forming! Visit our mission to see first-hand and participate in the work to revive our Catholic Faith in Eastern Russia. You can spend time playing with and giving important big hugs to the children and babies in the orphanages, spend time with the elderly at the soup kitchen and hospice hospital, visit the huge new university on Russian Island where we hope to have a Newman Center soon, help in minor construction projects and visit our outlying parishes. Contact Vicky at the mission office for information. It's a life changing journey!

♥ **SHARES card update:** Thank you to all those in CA and NV who use the Save Mart **SHARES card!** You raised \$2,806.12 for the mission last quarter! Contact the mission office for your **FREE SHARES card** if you shop at Save Mart, Lucky's, FoodMaxx or SmartFoods. Present your card at check out and the stores donate up to 3% of your grocery bill to the mission. It costs you nothing!

♥ The new conference and parish speaking season is just beginning! If you would like to attend **Catholic Conferences** to pass our mission information and/or speak at parishes about our mission during weekend masses, we could use your help! Priests who would like to speak a weekend or two are especially needed.

♥ Our Vladivostok hooded **sweatshirts** are available in navy, maroon and black, sizes child medium –adult 3X. Costs are \$28 - \$36, plus shipping. Email our mission office for ordering, usoffice@vladmission.org

♥ The mission is participating in the used ink, toner and cell phone **recycling program**. We earn cash or office supplies credit vouchers for turning in these items. Please contact the mission office if you would like to help us. We'll send you a pre-paid postage paid label from the participating store. All you do is box up the recyclables, place the label on the box, and mail! No cost to you or the mission, and we'll receive our office supply credits!

♥ You still have time to place your dedication, memorial, prayer or advertisement in our Mary Mother of God Mission **International Cookbook!** Each business, ministry or individual who would like to sponsor our cookbook will have their information appear in a special section of the cookbook. We'll promote our cookbook on our website and distribute it at Catholic conferences. Help support our seminarians and Women's Support Centers. ETA Summer 2012! Please contact the mission office for sponsor information. usoffice@vladmission.org

♥ Contact the mission office for **more information**.

Sometimes it takes a baby!



Sasha

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From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

- **Roof repairs** update. Good news! Through your generosity, we've collected \$88,260 for year 2 of our 2 year roof repair project. We are only \$529 away from reaching the \$88,799 initial estimate! It's amazing to see what can be done when we pull together. The roof is looking so beautiful! All glory to God and thanks to you!

We're finding we must continue to pray, and pray much in order to complete the final stages of the roof restoration! Inflation has taken its toll on our budget and we find the cost of materials and labor has increased so much so in the past 2 years, we are falling short of what was originally estimated to complete the restoration. Not good news, but we are trusting God will provide. We'll keep you posted on the progress. Thanks to all for your continuing prayers and generosity.

- A team of 17 young men and women are heading for Vladivostok this month! They come from all over the US. Most are members of **FOCUS**. Fr Matthew Benjamin from St Joseph, MO will be joining the team. The team will be working with children in different parish areas,



Holding and loving orphans - an important part of mission service.

side by side with our priests, seminarians, Sisters In Jesus the Lord and Sisters of Charity of St Anne. They will be able to spend a lot of their time working with the orphans and serving the many the needs of our parish communities. We wish the team a fruitful and inspiring mission to Vladivostok!

God bless you. Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan
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