

Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society and Vladivostok Mission

Issue Number One Hundred Eight November 1, 2012



Three Organizations Help Us Work with Orphans

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

Russia still has many orphans, and many of them are still housed in buildings called orphanages. We've always tried to help. Earlier it was chiefly providing food, as the Russian economic crisis left the government with very little resources to take care of its social commitments. Sometimes it was providing physical resources where they were desperately needed, like air conditioners for sweltering babies' orphanage rooms, water heaters for orphanages where there was no hot water, and even whole rooms of laundry equipment where the old equipment was totally unrepairable. And our Women's Support Centers try to help women not to abort their children, and offer help for moms to care for their children when necessary, to avoid giving them up to orphanages through our Guardian Angel Program.



*Some of our parishioners wishing you a **Merry Christmas** after Sunday Mass!*

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.



“Grandpa” Fr Matthew Abraham from the FOCUS visit with two charges.

The statistics that I’ve heard for orphanages are that 40% of the orphans will end up in jail. 40% will die of alcoholism. And only 20% will become normal citizens. The reason is that the Soviet system denied the spiritual side of people, and just didn’t understand the importance of marriage and family life and of the personal formation of children. The reigning philosophy was that kids automatically grow up and automatically become productive citizens, if you don’t spoil them with “proletarian” values. They used massive terror in Stalin’s day to get ride of “kids” who were raised otherwise, in normal families.



Swinging in the sun with “grandma” from FOCUS. 20 minutes of sunshine provides vital vitamin D, not to mention the “warm fuzzies”.

We try to do what we can, given our limited resources and limited opportunities as foreigners. Our program is

evolving as the needs evolve. As we see it now, the needs are 1. To help deal with detachment syndrome, 2. To provide physical support when needed, and 3. To offer educational opportunities to orphanage staffs.



The kids rarely get outdoors without help from “grannies.”

Detachment syndrome is what happens to a child when he isn’t held, cuddled, spoken to, or encouraged to develop. The result of the syndrome is people who are unable to form normal interpersonal relationships, and sometimes even who have psychoses or sociopathy. It would make sense for the government to spend money now on orphans, in order to save a lot of grief years from now when they become social problems, but governments don’t usually look that far ahead. The chief way we help is through our “Grandma Mentoring Program” which has worked for many years already. We ask volunteers to go to the orphanages regularly, just to play, hold, and love the children. FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) was a big help this summer, as the student missionaries were delighted to work with the orphans at Children’s Hospital #3 in Vladivostok. The kids were delighted, too!



*“No one has come to see me for days!”
Now, thanks to the American organization “Orphans at Play” we hope to expand the Grandma program,*

especially by offering educational seminars to orphanage staffs to help them understand the psychology behind detachment syndrome, and what they can do about it. The result will be happier children, a healthier society, and children who will be more emotionally ready to bond in a new family when they are adopted. "Orphans at Play" is especially sponsored by American parents who have adopted children in Russia. They know the importance of this program. You can get more information at www.orphansatplay.org We are planning the first seminar for December.



We thought the kids would like this floor design where they could play cars. It was interesting to watch the tiniest kids imitating pounding nails when the men were there working—something they had never seen before.



Friends of the Missions, Inc. working on one gazebo at the orphanage in Zavodskoe. That is Fr Leo Goldade, their chaplain on the left.

As far as physical facilities, we've worked with Friends of the Missions, Inc. in September when they sent a team of 11 construction workers and other specialists to build two gazebos for the Children's Home in Zavodskoe so that the infant children will have shade from the sun when they are on their daily outdoor escapades. We planned to fix the street lighting and take down dead trees at the Children's Home in Novoshakhtinsk. We wanted to waterproof the hockey rink so that the boys, aged 7 to 17 have something to do in the wintertime. (The home has 90 children of school age.) Unfortunately we ran out of time.



Completed gazebo for the 107 orphans in Zavodskoe.

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Our project for December is the first seminar for staff members of orphanages. Pray for success! Many thanks to these organizations and their volunteers for their great help! An interesting book about a Russian orphan which explains a lot about the problems they face is *Infinitely More* by Alex Krutov (Whitecaps Media, Houston, 2011.)

Who would be a good patron of our work with orphans?— Jolly old St Nicholas, of course! Merry Christmas!



Orphans with Herbert Barth, foreman for the gazebo team.

How to Communicate with Us

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16th Annual Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference

By Olga Lyakhova and Fr Myron Effing, C.J.D.

This was the 16th meeting of the Catholic youth of the Russian Far East! Guests came from Blagoveschensk, Vladivostok, Nakhodka, Ussuryysk, Sakhalin, and Yakutia to be with parishioners from Khabarovsk. A warm atmosphere got established the first day as we got reacquainted with folks from last year, and jokes and fun were part of our experience for the whole of the conference.



The youth visited the old Catholic church in Khabarovsk, which has still not been returned to us by the Russian government.

The theme of the Conference this year was “On the Threshold of the Year of Faith”, to connect with Pope Benedict 16th’s proclamation of this special year.

The conference began with Sunday Mass on July 29, celebrated by 10 priests, eight of whom were with us for the whole conference. Then we took a tour of the city of Khabarovsk with the nuns who attended the conference. In the evening we made presentations of our home parishes for those from other cities. Then we broke up into three permanent groups, each of which was to work on promoting one saint that we were going to study all week. We were to report on the saint’s biography, write a song to or about him or her, make a seal for the saint, and, in general, get very acquainted. The “green” group got St Josemaria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei. The “purples” got St Joanna Beretta Molla who died for the sake of her unborn child. The “grays” got St Pier Giorgio Frassati, a student himself. The work details were also designated by these groups.



Giving a report about their saint.

We followed a daily schedule, but every day something different would happen. On Tuesday Fr Vladimir Sek, S.V.D. came to visit us for a few hours. He is the Vicar General of our Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk. He spoke to us about the apostolate of the laity. He brought with him the relics of the blood of Pope John Paul II which he had received from Rome just the night before. The theme of his talk fit well with our general theme: What is the role of the laity; how do we witness to Jesus Christ with our lives; how to be priests, prophets, and kings where we live and work? How are the Church and government related? What does it mean to be in a Catholic marriage in today’s world?



A group picture (and maybe one casualty.)

The most refreshing day came on Thursday when at last the sun came out after four days of rain. We spent the day in nature, fresh air, the river, good food. We sang all the way on the bus ride—in Russian, English, Spanish, Italian, and Ukrainian.



The Catholic priests who attended, with Orthodox Bishop Ephraim.

Friday was a busy day, too. After dinner we went on an excursion to the Orthodox seminary where our guide was Bishop Ephraim himself! He showed us the whole building. We sang the *Magnificat* in the chapel, and he gave us a lecture about witnessing, which corresponded with the themes of our conference. We then toured the Orthodox cathedral, and

finished our tour in the steeple where he spoke about Orthodox bellringing, and he let us try our hand at it!



Learning about the church bells in the Orthodox cathedral.

Saturday was a great day, as we were able to be witnesses of a Catholic wedding at the Immaculate Conception Parish. Perhaps most of us will marry, so it was a joy to help this young couple celebrate.

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Attends the International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, Ireland

By Vicky Trevillyan

It was our first “international experiment.” Craig and Shauna Trevillyan represented us at our booth at the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, Ireland, beginning June 17. The 7 day Congress was a nail biting experiment to see if branching out internationally could help us and if we could afford it. Here is some of what Craig reported at the end of day 3 of the Congress:

“Thirteen people signed up for the newsletter today, and we’re talking to lots of religious and priests who stop by the table. I can’t wait until tomorrow. People are coming back to our table and bringing their friends! I’m so jazzed!

“From what I can tell from other vendors’ comments and what I see, our table is the busiest with visitors and doing the great with sales. Vendors and customers are saying we have the best looking booth [items]. Shauna changes the booth every day to reflect the Congress theme of the day. She’s good at that.

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



Fr Marcelo Brandan, I.V.E., leads the celebration of marriage in Khabarovsk.

We finished the conference once again at Sunday Mass. We were sad to part, but then without parting there wouldn’t be a new meeting next year. A quick hug, and “See you next year! Then the typical Russian “goodbye”: “S Bogom!” which means “Go with God.”



Shauna Trevillyan at our table in Dublin, Ireland

“Vendors comment about our being the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave. We haven’t been to any of the programs like a lot of the vendors since we stay at the booth. Stragglers like to spend time talking about the mission so we don’t leave. It’s exhausting because we are here from 10 am – 7 pm and talking constantly. It’s very busy but we’re having fun! We’re meeting people from all over the world!

“People aren’t here to buy things. We keep hearing about how bad the economy is so, we’ve lowered the prices on the merchandise. We’ve collected over €2000 in donations and sales so far. Hand-made wood icons (by Mary Nyman) and priest vestment covers and rosary cases (by Barbara Fitzsimmons and others) are top sellers! People are so impressed with the vestment items they want to give us used priests’ vestments knowing what they

will be used for. Rosaries are top sellers too. Young people like the bracelets. [One of the 5 bags we sent with Craig and Shauna was left behind in LAX. It was the bag with all the Russian icons from the mission and more priest vestment Magnificat covers! Too bad!]

“We gave out tons of DVDs [Kathleen Daniels from Belton, MO burned over 800 CDs for us for the Congress] I made a Power point of the mission and programs and played it at our table. People are mostly interested in the Women’s Support Centers. The Adopt-a-Birth display and donation props were in the lost bag. People keep coming back to our table a second and third time and bringing their friends. There’s a great interest in the mission. We are all out of the 100th issue of the *Vladivostok Sunrise* newsletter. We’ll give out the other issues now. We are almost out of the brochures, too.

“Fr Michael Shields [from Magadan, Russia] stopped by the booth to say, “Hello” and introduce himself. He’s part of the huge Aid To The Church in Need booth filled with posters and information. It’s decorated all in red! Fr Shields was one of the speakers at the Congress.”

At the end of the Congress, Craig and Shauna were very exhausted. Shauna sent some pictures of the table. I was shocked as they were selling such volume and displaying our literature from just a 6 ft and a 4 ft table! It’s incredible! How can they do it?! It’s hard enough to manage a huge conference with 2 - 8 foot tables! No wonder they were exhausted!

Since the displays Craig and Shauna were to use were in the lost suitcase, their booth wall was a bit bare with just our banner. Craig would like to create a banner for future conferences with more color to help attract more attention.

In a word, the last day report from Craig was: "AWESOME!" Over €220 in donations alone were received on the last day with sales being "tremendous". Craig believes we could have done even better if the displays, icons and Magnificat covers in the lost suitcase had arrived.

Pope Benedict announced, via video, the 2016 Eucharistic Congress will be in Cebu, Philippines! Maybe we can have seminarians present next time?

Craig and Shauna expressed heartfelt thanks to the mission for the opportunity to represent the US and mission in Ireland. In all, scores of international Catholics now know about our mission through conversations with Craig and Shauna, 58 names for the Sunrise newsletter and several more names for follow up information were

gathered. Over \$7100 in sales and donations were collected providing for the Women’s Support Centers and other mission programs, and covering all expenses for the trip. Our thanks to Craig and Shauna for a job well done! Glory and honor to God.

News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D

● Brother **Patrick Napal**, C.J.D. is temporarily in the Philippines because of the Russian visa situation. Not wasting time, he has been helping several dioceses by being a speaker at their diocesan vocations programs for September, their vocations month. For example, he says that on September 2 he attended a program for 300 students sponsored by 30 different religious congregations. Later he said, “I am doing well with the vocation campaigns, and most of the time I am invited to give the major talk to the students. I was proud to be chosen to give the major talk "Vocation in General" among the 78 congregations that were there present last week in the Diocese of Tagum.” He prepared a display and made brochures, both for us and for the Sisters in Jesus the Lord. The next several days he was a speaker to classrooms of kids at the local schools. That is easy for Brother Patrick to do, as he was already an official catechist of his home diocese at 16 years of age, teaching catechism in the public schools.



Brother Patrick (right side, black mozetta) among the vocations directors of the Philippines

He went to the diocese on the Island of Leite with the Directors of Vocations of the Philippines’ Davao Chapter, but in route was marooned on an island for several days as a severe typhoon made travel impossible, and the ferry went into harbor with all on board at an unscheduled stop.

- The City Hospital in **Lesozavodsk** where one of our Women's Support Centers is located sometimes asks us for help, especially in the children's department. Recently they asked for a small water heater. Here is a photo.



Small water heater looking like a robot peering over a child, is sitting in the sink waiting for installation.

- Brother **Inosensius Hetu**, C.J.D. made a trip to Indonesia to visit our seminarians who are studying at the seminary in Surabaya City. He reports that they are doing very well and are busy with their studies and with prayer. They have received a lot of help from the neighbors who want to encourage their vocations, including one family which sent 50 lbs of rice and a TV. Brother Ino reports that they need some furniture, as one seminarian uses an ironing board for his study desk, and another a cardboard box. Three seminarians are expected to finish their philosophy studies at the end of the year and then hope to come to Vladivostok for novitiate beginning in January.

- We were able to deliver loads of **coal** to desperately poor people in villages near Lesozavodsk, thanks to a generous benefactor.



Coal delivery in Lesozavodsk.

Opportunities

♥ *Regular **seminarian sponsorship** is urgently needed. Contact the mission office for more information on how your monthly support will provide for a seminarian's journey to the priesthood.*

♥ Would you like to make the mission part of your **Advent**? Collect spare change in your home, classroom or office throughout the Advent season. Each box holds approximately \$25 in coins. Contact the mission office to get your Advent coin boxes. usoffice@vladmission.org

♥ **Project Guardian Angel and Guardian Angel – St. George** are two

programs where you may directly sponsor the poorest children in Russia. In the **Guardian Angel Project**, you choose a child to help monthly as you receive a portfolio and picture of your child. You may write to your child through the mission and receive correspondence from them in return. In the **Guardian Angel – St. George** project, you may become a prayer warrior for an individual child in one of our poorest villages. You will receive the name of the child who you are helping through prayer. Your \$20 monthly prayer stipend will go to the child's village lunch program to feed the hungry children. Contact the mission office for details.



♥ 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. The 2013 speaking year begins in Spring. Contact the mission office for more information.

♥ Would you like **FREE** copies of our **bi-monthly newsletter**, *Vladivostok Sunrise* for your parish? You'll receive the latest news about the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia. Contact the office.

♥ Thank you to all those in CA and NV who use the Save Mart **SHARES card!** Contact us 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!

♥ Time for a **mission sweatshirt!**

"Vladivostok, Russia" is silk screened in Cyrillic letters on the front. These are 50/50 content, medium heavy weight and come in child size 14 to adult 3X, navy, maroon or black.



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Merry Christmas!

From the development desk...

Dear Friends,



We've prayed for years for **vocations** and now we're thankful vocations are growing! You've read about our four fine seminarians, Br Patrick, Br Arnulfo, Br Inosensius and Br Edwin, currently studying for the order founded by Fr Myron, the Canons Regular Of Jesus The Lord, (C.J.D.) Stay tuned for more information about eight more candidates from Flores, Indonesia seriously interested in joining the order! The mission needs to support these young men so we are in a pickle trying to figure out ways to support even our current four young men as they study for the priesthood. Our mission seminarians need our help!

Julianne Immordino, (pictured) from North Massapequa, NY is sending her personal appeal. Julianne is giving her widow's mite and talents to help by making rosaries. The **rosaries** are made with brilliant crystal beads by Swarovski, our very



own Our Lady of Vladivostok medal center manufactured by Bliss medals, and crucifixes from Italy. These exquisite rosaries normally sell for \$100, or more. Julianne would like to donate one of these rosaries to each benefactor who can give \$500 for our seminarian support. You may give online through our website www.vladmission.org or mail a check to the mission office. The rosaries will be sent to each benefactor from the mission office. Julianne has already made and donated to the mission thousands of pieces of beautiful jewelry, rosaries, bible covers, and religious aprons, just to name a few. She first heard about our mission on EWTN many years ago. Julianne said, "I sent money and two sewing machines. I've been praying for Russia since the nuns taught us about Fatima and Our Lady's request to pray her rosary for the conversion of Russia. So when I saw the show with the two brave priests doing all that good work, I wanted to be a part of it, and the rest is history." Our deepest gratitude to Julianne and to all who can help our seminarians! Especially thanks to our Heavenly Father who sends all! We are very grateful for so many vocations. Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for us! Have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas!

God bless you and your families. Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan usoffice@vladmission.org, 209-408-0728