

Vladivostok Sunrise

Mary Mother of God Mission Society Vladivostok Russia Modesto California

Issue Number One Hundred Ten March 1, 2013



Deacon Ordination and Vows

By Myron Effing, C.J.D.

On December 15 our **Brother Inosensius Hetu, C.J.D.** was ordained to the diaconate as a step to the priesthood. Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian, SVD of the Diocese of Abra in the Philippines was the ordaining prelate. Bro Ino finished the seminary *cum laude* some years ago but circumstances delayed his ordination until he could finish his novitiate in Vladivostok. He is a great planner, and is currently supervising our aspirants and postulants in Indonesia while working on his degree in Development. It was in the context of his studies and work with our postulants that he and Bishop Jaucian became acquainted. I went to Manila to be present for the event, which isn't so far from Vladivostok, and then I continued on to Surabaya, Indonesia, where I met with our newly forming community there, which currently has six members, and more on the way. I also visited an orphanage in Jakarta where two of our postulants are helping the sisters with the children, teaching music, and playing soccer with the boys. Meanwhile I was able to interview three more candidates who want to join us as Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord!

The ordination took place in the chapel of the SVD Provincial House in Manila. Interestingly, it was the very first ordination to take place there in the 100 year history of the house, the new Cardinal Tagle of Manila having given his permission. Brother Ino's priestly ordination is now being planned.

Brother Edwin Intan, CJD finished his novitiate and took his first vows on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in Vladivostok. He came to us from the



December 15, 2012--Brother Inosensius Hetu, CJD and Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian, SVD at Br Ino's ordination to the diaconate

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.



December 8, 2012--Brother Edwin Intan's First Vows



"Does Br Edwin really play??--I've never heard him!"

Philippines. He is the second oldest of four children, but his parents were killed in an automobile accident when he was a child, so, although he wanted to be a priest from childhood, he delayed entering the seminary so he could help his younger siblings get started in life. Meanwhile he collected a lot of experience has a factory foreman and translator. He speaks six languages fluently--Korean, Japanese, Cebuano, English, Tagalog, and now Russian. Brother Edwin will enter the major seminary with the new school year. Meanwhile he continues as a student of Russian at the Far Eastern Federal University, and is a regular "grandpa" for kids at Children's Hospital #3 here in Vladivostok.

Sister Faustina Marie Goedken, CJD, made her first profession of vows as a Sister in Jesus the Lord on Saturday, January 5, 2013. This was a day of rejoicing for our community; now we have five professed sisters! Bishop Finn celebrated the Mass of First Vows and gave an excellent homily. Many parishioners, family members,

sisters, and other friends of our community attended, including five priests and two deacons. Deacon Martin Goedken, Sr Faustina's father, proclaimed the Gospel. Sr Faustina has been training since last summer to become a certified Montessori teacher for three to six year old children. Each morning, five days a week, she is an intern at Christ the King Montessori Children's House, a preschool in Kansas City, Missouri. She looks forward to returning to Vladivostok in the near future and using Montessori here.



Sr Faustina and her family with Bishop Finn



Sisters in Jesus the Lord C.J.D. and Bishop Finn

Our Parishioners

After-School Center in Romanovka

After several years, the Sisters of the Charity of St Anne (SCSA) have succeeded in renovating a larger space for the after-school center, "Tropinka" ("Pathway"), and moved there in early January. Now, instead of only two



Drawing and coloring are part of the fun

plus the kitchen, there is a music room, a library, a craft room, a costume room, a hall-way with hopscotch, and a large play room, in addition to an eat-in kitchen with several tables and benches where the kids do homework, eat lunch and enjoy after-school snacks. In the spring, the children can help with a garden. 35-40 children, ages 6-16, come each day between noon and 4:30pm, sometimes even more.



Making firewood is a village necessity, and a garden here in the spring.

Guitar lessons are offered every Saturday, and on Fridays, Sr Catherine Marie, CJD, and Sr Maria Stella, CJD, of the Sisters in Jesus the Lord, are offering piano lessons, and teaching singing using the Ward Method.

The children are so eager for personal attention. Many of them have parents who are alcoholics, and therefore suffer neglect or even abuse when they are at home. At "Tropinka," they have a safe place to spend the afternoon while enjoying many after-school activities, tea and cookies.



Even a one-handed pianist?



The after school snack gets you ready to learn more.

There was a large food-drive for the Center over Christmas, and many generous donors from the Vladivostok Catholic parish and also the Far Eastern Federal University, where Sr Alicia, SCSA, teaches Spanish, came forward with food staples that should keep the Center supplied for many months. An official opening of the new Center is planned for late April.



Sister Alicia (l) and Sister Gloris (r) regularly help the kids.

The Situation with Kids without Supervision in Lesozavodsk.

*By Nadezhda Morozova
Leader of Lesozavodsk Women's Support Center*

45,135 people live in the Lesozavodsk city limits, including 36,975 who actually live in the city and 8,157 who live in the nearby villages. All the formerly important industries in the city have closed, and the city has a very low level of pay. Work is hard to find. Family incomes are less than the poverty level. 57 families are listed with the City Social Services Department, which include more than 120 kids. Of these, 51 families including 108 kids are listed as being in a dangerous situation, and 6 families including 12 kids are in critical categories. Every day the number of families on the lists increases. There is also a bad situation with tuberculosis in Lesozavodsk. 20 kids have come down with the active form of the disease in 2010, and in 2011 14 kids suffered. To improve the situation it is necessary to increase the overall quality of life of the kids.

The Catholic Parish of the Visitation by Mary of Elizabeth has been working in the city since 1999, where it began gathering in the facilities of the Blind Society. In 2001 the Parish bought a barber shop for its own facility, and, after repairs to the dilapidated building, began its activities there in September of 2002. It is located on 9th of January Street, near three nine-storey "project" buildings where 80% of the residents are poor, with many broken families. The first parish trustee Victor Pisarenko noticed kids who were looking for food in the garbage containers, and he told Fr Myron about the wandering kids who were begging for food in the streets. Fr Myron found some sponsors and parish volunteers began their work.

Beginning on the January 12 of 2003, once per week in the parish premises the Parish began to feed the kids. Usually it is tea, a bun, instant noodles, a piece of fruit, and a piece of candy. [We can't cook food because we don't have a restaurant license.] It started with two kids and gradually the numbers have increased to as many as 60 kids, ages from two to 14. We've asked a psychologist to help, too, and we started drawing classes, sculpture classes, had Bible classes, and formed a singing group. Every Saturday about 50 kids are currently coming. If some kids don't have proper clothing, we buy it for them. When they can make it, sisters from Vladivostok also come to work with the kids, which is always a special treat for the both—kids and sisters. Thanks to Fr Myron and Vladimir, who look for sponsors, volunteers have been feeding the kids for more than ten years already.

In the summers of 2011 and 2012 FOCUS students from America visited to work with the kids for a week, spending their own funds to help. They not only fed the kids, but had sporting games, organized swimming parties in the Ussury River nearby, and sang and romped with the kids. The kids were very enthused at the attention, and look forward to next summer.

It's already ten years that the kids come to the Parish for badly needed help and support, and we've been following the situation with children's health in our city all this time. We think that the best solution is regular daily social work with the children, similar to the "Pathway Project" in Romanovka, run by the Sisters of Charity of St Anne. The Parish premises are too small for such a project. We could buy a larger space so that the kids, after school hours, could come for further formation and concern for their health. Right now the kids don't have such an opportunity because of drunk or addicted parents or large family size compared with family resources. The majority of the kids live in one-room apartments of 16 sq yds. They need someplace to go, so we need larger premises and daily programs.

[Wouldn't this be a great place for some volunteer couples who like to work with kids? For an Eagle Scout who could form an active troop with the boys? For a major donor who would like to supply the larger premises?]

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

Our Parishioners

14th Annual Christmas Festival of Christian Choirs

by Fr Daniel L Maurer, CJD

On Sunday afternoon, January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, the Catholic parish of the Most Holy Mother of God in Vladivostok hosted the 14th annual Vladivostok Christmas Festival of Christian Choirs. This year there were fewer participating choirs than usual, due to winter illnesses; the St Paul Lutheran Church choir and the Good News Baptist Church choir cancelled at the last minute because many of their choir members were too sick to attend, but several of their members who were able to be present sang in the combined choir during the last part of the festival. Choirs from the following denominations sang as individual choirs and in the combined choir: Catholics, Methodists, Central Baptist Church, and Presbyterian – with a combined total of 42 choir members. In addition to the combined choir, which sang seven Christmas carols together, each choir sang 3 or 4 Christmas songs, which they had prepared for their own Christmas services.



The Catholic Choir



The Central Baptist Choir

Attendance again this year was very good and the audience responded to each number with warm and heartfelt applause. Several people from the audience and from the choirs commented after the festival that in their opinion the 14 years of the festival have helped considerably to raise the quality of musical selections of all the participating churches.



The combined choir

Besides raising the standard of Christmas music, this year's festival again accomplished the main purpose of the festival program: to increase good will, understanding and friendship among members of all the Christian denominations of the city by providing an opportunity to sing the praises of our Savior and King Jesus Christ together. The appreciation and respect of the participants for one another and for the different histories and heritages of Christian denominations continue to grow with each festival. Our parish is proud to be the founder and host of this important and enjoyable inter-denomination program each year.

Our Benefactors...

Fr Torborg and Deacon Reker, RIP

Our thanks go out to God and also our prayers for two great servants of His who have been of great help to Mary Mother of God Mission Society and to our work in Russia, Father Elmer Torborg and Deacon Fred Reker, both of St Cloud, MN. Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord!

Deacon Reker was working at Liturgical Press in Collegetown, MN when we were looking for religious objects and books for Russia, way back in 1991 when we were first planning to come to Russia. His interest grew and he and his wife Rita became benefactors. One of their best helps to us was recruiting their friend Fr Elmer Torborg to become a mission preacher for us. Fr Elmer wintered over in Arizona from work at St John Cantius Parish in St Cloud, where Deacon Reker also worked. He had time on his hands, and loved to travel, so it was a natural that he visited us in Russia and then began fundraising for us on weekends. Sandra Sonnen, then our National Coordinator, said that weekend after weekend he would fly through the St Paul, happy to speak for us at parishes all across the US.



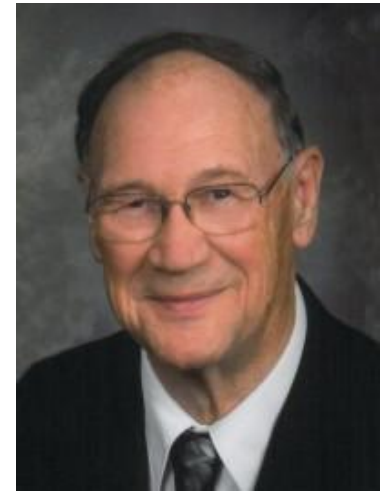
Fr Elmer meeting with the Nativity newsletter crew at Famous Dave's Restaurant in St Paul, MN 2010.

We heard the sad news of Fr Elmer's death on October 17, 2012 which occurred some time after he was hit by a car in Duluth, MN. The Mass of Christian Burial was held on October 22 at St Mary's Cathedral in St Cloud, MN with burial in Sts Peter & Paul Parish Cemetery in Richmond, MN, where he was born on December 30, 1928. He graduated from St John's Seminary in Collegetown, and was ordained a priest on June 4, 1955 at St Mary's Cathedral and celebrated his First Mass June 5, 1955 in Richmond. His priestly life was spent serving the many parishes of central Minnesota. After retiring in 2000, he

moved to Assumption Court in Cold Spring, MN where he assisted with the chaplain duties and led many prayer groups. Fr Elmer enjoyed playing piano and guitar. He loved to take part in sing-a-longs at family gatherings and with the residents at Assumption. He loved to travel and speak for our mission. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord!

We are still wondering where to find another priest to take mission preaching for us. Hopefully he would be orthodox Roman Catholic, retired or semi-retired, liking to travel, and not needing income, although we would pay his travel expenses.

Rev. Mr. Frederick J. Reker



Deacon Reker was born in 1928 in Lismore, MN and he graduated from St Mary's College in Winona in 1951, and attended St John's Seminary for three years. Fred started working at the Liturgical Press at Collegetown in 1955, and married Rita Bechtold in 1958. On June 2nd, 1978 he was ordained to the permanent diaconate for the St Cloud Diocese, and was assigned to St John Cantius Parish, and then to the cluster of St John Cantius, St Anthony's and Holy Spirit parishes. He served as chaplain at the Foley Nursing Home for 19 years.

Fred loved to cook for his family, gardening and shoveling snow for the neighborhood. He was known for his very welcoming spirit, but above all else, Fred loved his wife, children and grandchildren. He shared his faith with all those he touched. He was a member of St John Cantius parish since 1958. Fred was a member and past grand knight of the Knights of Columbus Council #961. During his service to the St Cloud Diocese, he served as confirmation master of ceremonies for the bishop for ten years. He was a member of a long list of Catholic organizations, and chaplain for many.

Deacon Reker was preceded in death by two daughters who were murdered, Mary Catherine and Susanne Marie. As a longtime advocate for parents of murdered children, he spent almost four decades seeking justice for his daughters, who were murdered in 1974. The sisters left their St Cloud home to shop for school supplies and were missing for 26 days before their bodies were found in a nearby stone quarry. The case is still open. Deacon Reker and his wife, Rita, followed the investigation throughout

the decades, with Stearns County sheriffs and many others. Fred and Rita started the Central Minnesota chapter of Parents of Murdered Children, a national support organization for friends and families who have lost loved ones, and Rita Reker is a founding member of Tri-County Crime Stoppers of Minnesota. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord!

News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D

- Our thanks go to Fr Leo Goldade, OSBM of New York who served the sacred liturgy in the Ukrainian Rite for our parishioners. The nearest Ukrainian Rite Catholic Mass to us is in Omsk, in far-away Siberia, so it is always wonderful when our Eastern Rite parishioners can occasionally have mass in their own rite.



Fr Goldade and Eastern Rite parishioners

Opportunities

- ♥ Contact the mission office on how you can become a “Guardian Angel” for a **seminarian**. A comprehensive budget is available for review. Julianne Immordino from NY is using her widow’s mite to help the seminarians.

She is making and donating stunning Swarovski Crystal rosaries for all those who can give \$500 for seminarian support!

Twins saved from abortion

- ♥ \$20 will save a baby from abortion through our **Adopt-A-Birth program**. This meager amount can make the difference for a destitute mother choosing abortion vs. paying the delivery cost of having her child. \$100 to our **Adopt-A-Mother** program helps moms get on their feet in the first few months after delivery, buying baby formula and clothes, and vitamins for mom. For more information, please see our website:



<http://www.vladmission.org/Brochures/WSC.pdf>

- ♥ **S.H.A.R.E.S.** cardholders are keeping up their fantastic momentum! They earned another \$3,124.60 for the mission in the 4th quarter! Thanks be to God! Help us even more by passing these FREE SHARES cards to your friends, family, co-workers and ministry members. Encourage them to shop at Save Mart, Lucky’s, FoodMaxx or SmartFoods and use the card. Simply present your card at check out and these stores donate up to 3% of your grocery bill to the mission. It costs you nothing! It’s a great way to help! Call or email the mission office and let us know the number of cards needed! Thank you!

- ♥ Volunteers are needed to represent the mission at the following **Catholic Conferences** to educate our brothers and sisters about the mission. Distribute information and mission goods from our booth. All materials and training supplied. Meals and accommodations provided as needed. Can you help?

3/23/2013 Ignite Men's Conference – Syracuse, NY
 4/05/2013 Catholic Homeschool - St Louis, MO
 4/13/2013 Chaplet Homeschool - Berlin, NJ
 4/20/2013 Men's Conference - Napa, CA
 5/31/2013 Eucharistic Congress - Atlanta, GA
 5/31/2013 Home Education - St Paul MN

- ♥ A kind and generous benefactor has donated the use of a beautiful **beach house** for 6 people for 1 week, June 8 – 15, 2013. Located in Kure Beach, NC, this 2 storey beach house is fully furnished with all the comforts of home. Each time you donate \$50 or more to the mission, you will receive a drawing slip from the benefactor with your thank you note. Return the slip(s) to the mission office. The deadline is May 1 and the winner will be drawn on May 7. You may view more pictures at

<http://www.beachhouse.com/search/index.asp?Country=United+States&State=North+Carolina&City=Kure+Beach>

- ♥ For more Opportunities info, please contact the mission office at 209-408-0728 or usoffice@vladmission.org

Vladivostok Mission
Mary Mother of God Mission Society
1736 Milestone Cir
Modesto CA 95357-0835

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From the development desk...

Dear Friends, We've been reporting to you about the great blessing of many seminarians from the Philippines and Indonesia who are joining the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord. After ordination, some will serve in Russia. Others, we'll just have to wait and see what location God has planned for them. With so great a blessing, there is ever greater need. Your gifts of prayer, financial support, and talents are helping these fine men to the priesthood. All of us are elated and so very thankful. Here are some words from our seminarians.

Hello! I would like to extend my gratitude for supporting my education as a seminarian here in the Philippines, and our benefactors- Thanks!

Fraternally in Jesus the Lord, Br Arnulfo, CJD

Dear Consecrated people of God, Pax vobiscum! Today the Catholic Church celebrates the World Day of Consecrated Life, as declared by the Late Blessed John Paul II. To my fellow Consecrated (Priests, Brothers, Sisters) Happy Day of Consecrated life to you, and to my friends who are not Consecrated, I ask you to please pray for us, that, like the Little Jesus in the Gospel who was presented in the temple, may we be always reminded of our own presentation to the Altar of the Lord on the day that we made our vows to Him.

In Jesus the Lord, Br Pat, CJD



Br Inosensius with some of the joyful Indonesia candidates

“At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, **‘The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.’** “
Matthew 9:36-38

We thank God and ask Him to bless and protect all our seminarians, priests, sisters and religious. Sincerely,
Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Coordinator-209-408-0728