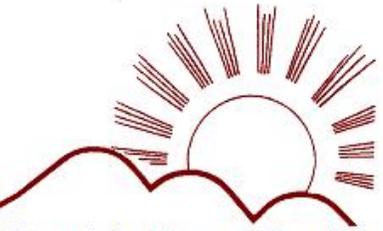




Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia
Issue Number One Hundred Fourteen November 1, 2013



First CJD Priestly Ordination in 21 years!

by Fr. Daniel L. Maurer, CJD

On August 15, The Feast of the Assumption, just at the beginning of the dry season, in the evening tropical heat of their city of 2 million people, the Catholics of the Diocese of Surabaya, Indonesia gathered with their Bishop Vincentius Wisaksono in and around the large cathedral to celebrate the annual ordination of new priests. By local standards it was an extraordinarily large ordination class of 13 young men: 9 diocesans, 4 Vincentians and 1 Canon Regular of Jesus the Lord – our own Father Inosensius Hetu, CJD.

Those who gathered for the joyous occasion numbered around 3000: hundreds of family members of all the candidates, including Fr Ino's mother and 14 more relatives who flew in from the island of Flores; well over 100 priests; at least as many religious sisters and brothers; and thousands of local lay Catholic faithful. With the cathedral overflowing, worshipers found places outside in front of the main entrance and in the large plaza on the south side of the church, where hundreds of chairs had

been arranged and loud speakers set up under canvas roofs erected for the occasion. Police were on hand to help with



During the ordination of so many priests the Surabaya Cathedral of the Nativity of Mary was packed.



Fr Daniel, Fr Inosensius, and Fr Cyprianus Verbeek, OCarm, a friend of Fr Ino's, taken at the Thanksgiving Mass in Pakuwon City where our community is located, on August 17, Indonesian Independent Day.

traffic, which was backed up for many blocks in all directions. Parking was impossible to find.

The rites of the Mass of Ordination were beautifully planned and carried out. The joint choir of 65 people from several parish choirs sang beautifully in Indonesian and Latin accompanied by an organist and several instrumentalists. The bishop and all of the ordinands wore chasubles specially made for the occasion that were identical except for the coat of arms of their respective groups in the center of the upper back.

Some parts of the ordination rite were specific to the local church: the parents of the ordinands blessed their sons before they ascended the sanctuary steps to be ordained, and they again took part in vesting their sons with the chasuble once they were priests. Relatives and friends took part in the prayer of the faithful and in the procession of gifts. After Communion the bishop and the Vincentian provincial superior spoke briefly about each new priest and told where he would be posted for his first priestly assignment.

When the three-hour Mass was finished the parents exited the cathedral with the newly ordained priests to the right courtyard where they formed a long receiving line so that all others present could congratulate the new priests and their parents on this long-prepared-for vocation. At the same time there was a large reception for all the guests held in several rooms of the cathedral parish center and



Fr Inosensius and his family at the ordination.

the diocesan office building both located next door to the cathedral.

The immense joy of the occasion was palpable as people reflected on what great gifts to the Church each one of these new priestly servants are. How many hopes were soon to be fulfilled! New priests for immense urban parishes where membership is growing fast; new priest-teachers in Catholic schools and community centers; more sacred ministers to the sick and dying; and in the case of Fr Ino, a new priest as formation director for our fast-growing community of canons regular in East Java, which now numbers 13.

As I think back on it and how unlikely it would have been until recently even to contemplate being there, this ordination was unexpectedly one of the really great moments of my life. I experienced such vibrant and hope-filled faith, such joyful self-giving, such energetic accomplishments and greater plans, such love of God and willingness to serve. I hope that *Vladivostok Sunrise* readers will rejoice greatly with us in the ordination of our first CJD priest in 21 years (since my own in Vladivostok in 1992). We are especially thankful to all of our benefactors who have made this milestone possible. May the Lord fill you with the joy that is rightly yours in this

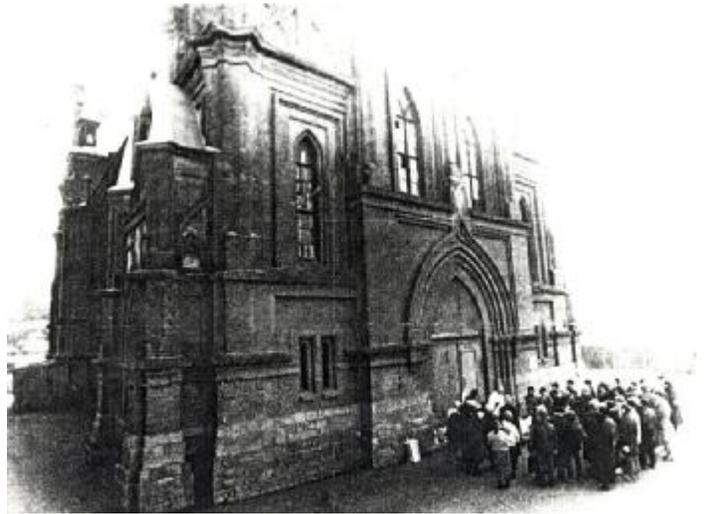


new adventure that Fr Ino's ordination has made possible in our order of Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord.

Some of Fr Ino's nephews and a niece at his First Mass in Surabaya

Did You Know?...

- Surabaya, on the northeastern coast of the main island of Java, is Indonesia's second largest city.
- The Roman Catholic parish of St Yohanes Marinus, where Fr Inosensius served his deaconate year, has approximately 15,000 members and 6 weekend Masses. The church seats 1300 people comfortably and is usually full at each Sunday Mass.
- The city of Surabaya has 10 Catholic parishes.
- The Diocese of Surabaya has a total population of around 4.5 million; a Catholic population of around 250,000; approximately 200 priests, 500 religious sisters and brothers, and 60 parishes.
- Java, where Surabaya is located, is the most populous of Indonesia's 17,508 islands.
- More than 90% of Java's 138 million people are Muslim.
- With 240 million people Indonesia is the fourth largest country in the world (after China, India and the USA)
- Roman Catholics make up approximately 3.5% of the population of Indonesia for a total of about 7.5 million people.
- The island of Flores (the fourth island east of Java), where most of our Indonesian vocations come from, has a population of 1.83 million, 96% of whom are Roman Catholic.
- One religious order, the Society of the Divine Word, has over 1000 priestly vocations from Flores Island.



The first public mass in November of 1991

Yadviga found her calling in working with Caritas. Works of mercy always demand a great love and compassion for neighbor. "That is how it was in our family," says Yadviga. "My parents, Poles by heritage, were deeply religious. We lived in Ukraine, in the city of Proskuriv [renamed Khmelnytskyi in 1954]. From my early childhood I recall attending beautiful, majestic churches with my parents; our family observed all the feast days and we prayed together. Incidentally, my [maternal] grandfather, a builder by trade, built churches. On my father's side all the men in the family were in the military. My father, Sigizmund Yulianovich Yushchevski, was in the militia, his brother fought in Budenny's Army, and another uncle was a military pilot. My father was a well-respected man who fulfilled his duties honorably and conscientiously. He was repressed in 1937 and died in prison – he was exonerated in the 1950s. Many in our family were repressed.

The Road of Faith and Mercy: Honoring Our Parishioner Yadviga Sigizmundovna Svitalskaya

By Tatyana Saposhnikova, Archivist, Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Parish, Vladivostok. Translated by Geraldine Kelley

The Svitalskis, Vasily Ivanovich and Yadviga Sigizmundovna, have been part of our parish from its very first days. As Vasily recalls, "It was in 1991 – we heard on the radio an invitation to Catholics to attend a Mass at the former Catholic church. Thus on a cold and windy, a small group of people, Catholics of the older generation, one in spirit and the Faith, gathered near the walls of the church. From that very day the meaning of our entire life became that of serving the Church."

"After Papa's arrest, things became very difficult for Mama and me – she was often sick, we went hungry, and they began to treat us as enemies of the people. The war began. By that time I had finished ninth grade. My grandmother died – she had helped us survive with her fervent prayers and Holy Faith. The churches were destroyed. To survive, Mama grew vegetables in the garden, she baked small cakes, and made soap. How I wanted to eat just a tiny piece of real bread! A neighbor taught me how to embroider and knit and how to make lace tatting. With these skills Mama and I managed to earn enough not to die of hunger. The German occupation began in 1942. For several years we had to hide in basements, in villages and small settlements. Mama died at the end of the war. I was sixteen years old – and my hair was all gray. Almost all our relatives had disappeared in the war – some died, some were killed. I was left living all alone in Lviv, and there I went to work.



Yadviga and Vasily in 2013

“In 1946 my mother’s sister, Maria Iosifovna Plotnikova, took me in. The happiest memories of my childhood are associated with her – pre-war Ukraine, the Bug River, the abundant greenery, flowering gardens, melodious songs, girlfriends. Aunt Maria’s husband, Grigory Samoilovich, a military pilot, had served in the Far East since 1933 and they lived in Vladivostok.”

After arriving in Vladivostok, Yadviga enrolled at the “green” girls’ high school (today known as First City High School, on Ubovich Street); she still had to finish her last year of high school. She was sick for a long time – obviously a consequence of the war and the change of climate. It was then that she decided to become a doctor – to be someone who brought love, care and mercy to people. Yadviga was among the first of a flood of medical students: “I remember that it was Dubinin himself who administered my entrance examination – he later founded the well-known Dubininski Boarding School in Zarya [northern edge of Vladivostok].”

To this very day Yadviga has been true to her purpose – that merciful love might shine in the world, healing the lives of many. Conscientious and intelligent, responsible in any matter, a doctor and simply a good person, for many years without tiring she has treated, saved and helped others. Her colleagues and numerous patients love and respect her as a wonderful person and a doctor who has dedicated her life to helping and caring for people. How could it be otherwise, for Faith opens hearts!

Her loving heart and talented hands crafted unique knitted goods that were sent to the Mary Mother of God Mission Society in America that supports our church, and she has given many items to the children’s hospital for the orphans, such as beautiful and comfy multicolored slipper-socks, knit with her caring hands for these little ones, deprived of a mother’s warmth. From the scraps of yarn

Yadviga made cords for crosses and medals. Her kind hands have given a love for God, light and joy to these bright cords that many parishioners are happy to wear, especially the little children.



Yadviga and her handicrafts for America

On the fifteenth anniversary of the work of Caritas at Most Holy Mother of God parish, we joyously honored the organization’s long-time workers, including Yadviga Sigizmundovna. Yet we must acknowledge that a letter of gratitude and gifts can hardly express the gratitude due to a person who has given her life to Faith and Mercy. She went to the Lord on September 17, 2013. Fr Daniel Maurer presided at her Funeral Mass. Eternal Rest grant to her, O Lord!

World Youth Day 2013

By Bro Patrick Napal, C.J.D.

It was my first time experience to attend a World Youth Day, so I had nothing to compare it with. But what strikes me in this event was the universality of the celebration. I have never been in an event so international like this one, so many flags, so many nations, so many races, so many languages, rich and poor, young and old, all came because of one common denominator – JESUS CHRIST.

The words of the Pope that really caught my attentions was as he addressed directly to the youth “The Church is counting on you, Jesus is counting on you, the Pope is counting on you”. For me this is a very powerful encouragement, YES! Jesus is counting each and every one of us. It was a direct invitation to response to the call of Jesus – it could be in Consecrated life, Married life, or Single Blessedness. He then said, “and you! What have you done for Jesus?” as I was there, I asked myself, What have I really done for Jesus? Or maybe we can ask ourselves together this time, what have we done for Jesus? This question led us to a deep reflection, as I noticed in the youth I was with.

The World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro 2013 was not just a period of reflection or pilgrimage, but also a time to meet and make new friends, as one of the youth made a comment that at the end of the event, he will have 500+ new friends in Facebook. I myself was registered into a group called “Opus Angelorum” (the works of the Holy Angels). This was group of youth organized by the Order of Canons Regular of the Holy Cross (ORC); the group was composed of youth from different parts of the world: Brazilians, Germans, Austrians, Mexicans, Columbians, and two Filipinos, (myself and a seminarian of the ORC). We were very international with a variety of languages, yet the Holy Spirit was with us and helped us to understand each other despite the many differences we had. Some were trying their best to speak English with me, while I was trying to speak Portuguese with them (but most of the time, I was talking a mix of Spanish and Italian). The week before the WYD week in Rio, we were in the retreat house of the ORC in Guaratingueta, and it was a week of prayer and reflection, during this time, we were able to visit the Basilica of the Our Lady of Aparaceda and the house of the first Brazilian Saint Frei Galvo, where I prayed for my religious community the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord, and for all our Benefactors specially who made this trip possible and in thanksgiving for opportunity of travelling to Brazil.

The overall experience was amazingly wonderful, and indeed very powerful, the witnessing factor of the people gathered together, singing while walking kilometers to and fro, praying together, sharing life and experiences together was so great that it enriches each one of us present to keep the light of faith burning ‘til the end. The WYD was a simple yet powerful tool to show us that our Church is so alive and still young. It was so great to see young people so much dedicated to their faith, so much in love with Jesus our Lord, and so active in the service of others in Jesus name.



Group picture before the parish where we stayed in Rio



Myself at Cristo Redentor



After our lunch in the street during our 9km walk for the vigil with the Pope, at night we slept at the copacabana beach in our tents and sleeping bags.

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

News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D

- Sunday, October 6, at mass, we held a communal **anointing of the sick** for the very elderly and for those parishioners with serious illnesses. It is always a special time of grace and peace. We also use the occasion for a special blessing for all the doctors, nurses, and other med-personnel and helpers, asking God's help for them in their work of healing.



In very bad weather the elderly can't come to church.

Medpersonnel have their hands anointed after prayer.



- A big event is the **moving of our office in California!** The old office was way too small, so people and artifacts were falling over each other. Our landlord's business was expanding, so he said he now needed the space, so could we look elsewhere when the term was up. So we needed a bigger space, and we also wanted a storefront to do more walk-in retail sales, as the big city of Modesto needed a religious goods store. The retail sales pay for the office

rent, so it is important for us, else we'd have to pay for office space from donations made for Russia!

Vicky worked very hard at finding the place, and we finally settled on a roomy store in McHenry Village, a good central shopping area. Now there will be room for retail sales, and room for our volunteers to work!

Vicky says, "Unpacking is slow as we can't put things together until the walls are done. We're tearing down the old dressing room walls right now. [The space used to be a bridal shop.] We've had a great response from the community, excitement over our new location, well wishes and donations. I sent out a letter of items we are in need of with our move announcement. Already 4 volunteers want to help in the store after we're open. A man from Turlock (with 11 sons!) dropped off 3 cases of paper, 2 desk calculators with paper, 3 staplers, case of paper towels, post it notes. What a kind man. Others have said they will bring more donations by before we open." So, if you happen to be in Modesto, do stop in. You can also check on-line for religious goods from us. Target date for opening the store is November 1.

- This summer, when there were no classes at the university, our seminarians could spend much more time at the orphanages and at the hospice. Brother Bede, who is a registered nurse, was especially good at the **hospice**, and he complained about the fact that none of the beds there can push the patients to sit up, which means that some choke on their liquid food because it is hard to eat lying down. Not content to merely complain, he researched prices and sources of such beds on the internet and wrote a grant proposal so we could purchase them. We'll hope a foundation will be interested to fund the project. But when I was in Kansas City, the Franciscan Sisters Mission Warehouse there offered me 30 electric beds free of charge!--But I would have to pay for transportation to Russia and for any customs duty involved. Wow! Now we have to decide what to do and where to get the funds!



A current hospice bed

Opportunities



♥ The preparation and celebration of the birth of Jesus are manifested through our special thoughtfulness and service on behalf of others throughout this holy season. If you wish to help the children and families of our mission through a specific

program such as the Adopt-a-Birth or Guardian Angel programs or any of our building projects, we have several **fundraising projects** you may wish to consider participating in individually, as a family, apostolate, ministry or parish. Now is the time to begin planning. Some ideas include

- ◆ Advent coin collection boxes to take home and fill as an individual or class project.
- ◆ Hanging ornaments we can create for you on a parish Christmas Giving tree that describes the needs of the orphans, the babies and women from the Women's Centers and the needs of our seminarians and sisters.
- ◆ Selling Russian icons and religious gifts at your parish or ministry dinner for Christmas giving.
- ◆ Christmas craft boutique or bake sale.

Small or large, your efforts will be a great blessing in bringing the light of Christ to the people of Russia. Please contact us for ideas and instructions.

♥ **Have Masses Offered in Russia.** Please consider asking priests in Russia for Masses for your intentions or for your loved ones, living or deceased. To do this, contact the mission office in Modesto and let us know your wishes. People usually offer a gift of \$15 per Mass. The mission office can send a Mass card to you or to someone you specify. We also notify our priests in Russia that we have received your Mass intentions. We will try to celebrate on a special date, if you ask, but cannot always promise.

♥ **Christmas Giving.** There are many ways to celebrate Christmas. Praying for the poor and sharing some of what we have is a loving part of what we can do. Here are some ways you can help our brothers and sisters in Russia.

- Please **pray** for us all.
- **Adopt A Birth and** save a child from abortion at the Women's Support Center - \$25
- **Adopt A Mother** and her newborn to provide them with food and clothing - \$125
- **Adopt A Grandma** to send her/him to the orphanage to care for orphans - \$60/month
- Sponsor a needy child in the **Guardian Angel Program** - \$50/month
- **Sponsor a seminarian's** meals or education needs.

♥ **Mission Gifts For Christmas.** We have beautiful and unique mission gifts for giving this Christmas! Our long awaited **MMOG International Cookbook** will be ready for Christmas! With 498 scrumptious family recipes from our priests, seminarians, friends and family in Russia, and all over the world, this is a perfect all year round gift for everyone! Your



\$25 donation (includes shipping) for each copy of our *Abundant Harvest* cookbook goes to support our Women's Support Centers and our seminarians' education. Three ring, wipe-able, padded, hard cover book. Please contact the mission office for more details on all our gifts.

- Russian Icons – Custom frames and mat 16" x 20"
- Most Holy Mother of God Church stained glass windows 17" x 35" custom frames and mat



- Our Lady of Vladivostok Pendants in pewter and sterling silver with stainless steel chain
- *Vladivostok Russia* hooded sweatshirts
- Magnificat, Christian Prayer, Roman Missal, Bible Covers and rosary cases made from discarded priests' vestments

♥ Thank you, **S.H.A.R.E.S.** card users! The mission receives a quarterly earnings check averaging \$2990 each

quarter. Thanks and glory to God. You are making a great impact on the work in Russia. If you live in CA or NV and don't have a card, please contact the mission office to get one or several. You can pass these FREE SHARES cards to your friends, family, co-workers and ministry members. Encourage them present the card at Save Mart, Lucky's, FoodMaxx or SmartFoods grocery stores for holiday groceries. The mission will receive 3% of their grocery bill to the mission. It costs you nothing! It's a great way to help.

Merry Christmas to All!

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

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Modesto CA
 Permit No. 19

Return Service Requested



From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

We are deeply thankful to God and all of you for the many blessings received. Through the kindness and generosity of our benefactors, all our seminarians in Indonesia earned a seat on the bus! They reached their fundraising goal of \$34,500 to purchase a mini van and small bus! The mini van was purchased earlier this year to transport the seminarians to and from the seminary and their work among the people in their community. The larger bus will transport the ever growing numbers of young men joining the order this year and next. In all, **\$34,521.55 has been raised for the buses.** Thank you!



Our mission has had several building projects waiting for funds in order to move forward. 1. **A new church building in Nakhodka**, 2. Purchase of an existing building to serve as a parish community center and new church for the parishioners in **Lesozovodsk** and, 3. Renovation of the old military apartments on Russian

Island into a convent, chapel, **Newman** Center, and parish hall. Renovations are nearly done on the apartments so far acquired on Russian Island (additional apartments are needed to complete the project), we are focusing on **building the church in Nakhodka**. The insert in this issue of the *Sunrise* will detail our needs for the church in Nakhodka. We are rebuilding Catholic churches in Russia one prayer at a time. Please pray for us as you consider helping us build the church one brick at a time. With every prayer, we trust the church in Nakhodka will be one step closer to being completed.

Thanks and blessings to each and everyone. May you and your families enjoy a blessed thanksgiving holiday and **Merry Christmas!**

Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Coordinator
 209-408-0728, usoffice@vladmission.org
WWW.vladmission.org

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS	Page
First Priestly Ordination in 21 years!	1
Did You Know about Surabaya?	3
Yadвига Sigizmundovna	3
World Youth Day 2013	4
News Notes	6
Opportunities to Help	7