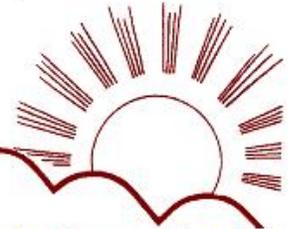




# Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia  
Issue Number One Hundred Fifteen January 1, 2014



*First Customers at the new store: The Poncini Family*

## We Have a Great New Store in Modesto!

The **moving of our office in California** has been a big event for us 2013! The old office was way too small, so people and artifacts were falling over each other, but that was better than a previous “office” in Vicky’s garage without heat in winter and without air conditioning in summer in the California’s “hot oven”. And the old office couldn’t have a license for retail sales. Our landlord’s business was expanding, too, so he said he needed the space himself, so could we look elsewhere when the rental term was up. 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 another religious goods store, too. 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 said, “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 [Cont. on pg 2]

## Canons Regular Become Official in the Diocese of Surabaya

On November 22 Fr Inosensius Hetu, C.J.D. and I met with Bishop Vincentius Sutikno, D.D. of the **Diocese of Surabaya**, Indonesia, to ask him to make our C.J.D. Community of Our Lady of Vladivostok in Surabaya an official Private Association of the Faithful of the Diocese—on the road to being approved as a religious community. He joyfully and readily agreed! We had a big celebration in Indonesia and in Russia! He also agreed to begin a process for our Sisters in Jesus the Lord to become official in Surabaya, too!

The city of Surabaya itself has 12,000,000 people, and the parishes are huge, like averaging 10,000 people. St Mary’s Parish, where we attended mass on the Feast of Christ the King, has seven Sunday masses, packed full, with many children and youth, and two auditoriums in one of which people attend mass by TV with Holy Communion brought to them by the communion ministers.

[Cont. on pg 2 near bottom, first column]



*Fr Inosensius, Bishop Vincentius, and Fr Myron*

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 four 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."



*Fr Arakal at the store blessing*

*There is room for everything in the new spaces*



The grand opening was on December 2 when Fr Francis Arakal of St Joseph Parish came to bless the store. So, if you happen to be in Modesto, do stop in-- 1700 McHenry Ave Ste 80. You can also check on-line for religious goods from us—[www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)

[Continued from pg 1] Sr Marthina, who will head the foundation of Sisters in Jesus the Lord in the Surabaya Diocese, had this to say when she heard the news: "We Praise and thank God for all His graces and guidance so that the Bishop of Surabaya with a heart full and open to accept all that you asked of him, and to accept the CJD Community! We were all here in Russia grateful and happy to hear the news from your email to us. Fr Daniel rang the bell and asked all the brothers and sisters to come to the recreation room and he read the letter. We were all clapping and joyful. After that we went to the chapel with thanksgiving and sang the Te Deum and got a special blessing from Fr. Dan. Let the Holy Spirit guide us in our every step in our religious life to serve God in all people in our parish and in everywhere we are."



*The Catholic University of Surabaya and the Divine Providence Seminary, which our seminarians will attend.*

On December 1 Fr Inosensius and I were in his hometown of Mauloo, Flores Island, Indonesia for his **First Mass** at his home parish of the Holy Cross. The Mass was held in the parish hall, as the church itself is under repairs. The hall was packed with very happy people who clapped when I said that Fr Inosensius was the first Indonesian to join our religious community. He is the 16<sup>th</sup> parishioner to be ordained a priest, and there are some 30 sister-vocations from the parish, too. In my talk I compared him with Abraham, who also had to leave his home country, go to a far away land, but who became the father of many nations. We now have 26 seminarians from Indonesia.



*Servers and ministers prepare for the First Mass on the First Sunday of Advent*

*Fr Inosensius' mother (in orange), Yuliana Mina*



## Did you know?

☺ Readers ask about our relationship with “**Rosa Mystica**”. Before Fr Dan and I came to Russia, parishioners had already received a donation of a statue of the “Rosa Mystica” from someone in Germany—we don’t know who. So it was the first statue that our parish had, even before the end of the Soviet Union. We continue to honor Mary by it with candles and processions whenever we have made a move with our parish and the sites of our Sunday Masses. The statue is always with us.



*Our Rosa Mystica*

Of course the “Mystical Rose” is part of the Litany of Loreto. But a lady named Pierina Guilli claimed that the Virgin Mary appeared to her in Italy in 1947 with the request to spread devotion to the “Mystical Rose” as a continuation of the apparitions of Fatima. She said that Our Lady appeared in a white dress and was adorned with three beautiful roses: white, red, and yellow, which represent the spirit of prayer, the spirit of sacrifice, and the spirit of penance and conversion respectively. Parishioners regularly pray by the statue, especially for their personal intentions.

☺ The new **Vladivostok International Airport** is now open. The airport symbol is the letters “VVO,” the 3-letter code for the airport, transformed by an artist into two sea gulls flying in the sunrise. Nice, isn’t it?



## Opportunities

♥ **Have Masses Offered in Russia.** Please consider asking priests in Russia to offer Masses for your intentions or for your loved ones, living or deceased. Contact the mission office in Modesto and let us know your wishes. Although there is never a charge for this, people usually offer a gift of \$15 per Mass. The mission office can send a Mass card to you or to someone you specify.

♥ Regular seminarian sponsorship is urgently needed. Contact the mission office for more information on how you can become a **Seminarian Guardian Angel**. Your monthly support will provide for a seminarian’s journey to the priesthood. You will be able to choose which seminarian to sponsor and correspond with him on a regular basis.

♥ Julianne Immordino from NY continues to bless us by donating stunning **Swarovski Crystal rosaries** to all those who can give \$500 for seminarian support! Thank you Julianne!

♥ **Mission trip to Vladivostok!** You and your parish or university members may serve on a mission team at the Most Holy Mother of God Parish in Vladivostok. You may also join a mission team already planning to travel. Year round travel dates are open. Work and serve holding and caring for orphans, feeding the poor, assisting our priests in many ways. Experience first hand the programs and work to revive our Catholic faith in Russia. It’s a life changing adventure and spiritual retreat. Contact the mission office for information. [usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org)



♥ **Our MMOG International Cookbook** is ready to ship to you! The book is beautiful heirloom quality, with 498 scrumptious family recipes from our priests, seminarians, friends and family in Russia, and all over the world. This is a unique and perfect gift for any person or occasion. Look at these features!

- 5 x 8 set in a wipeable 3 ring padded hard bound cover.
- Recipes are separated by continents and sub-divided by courses.
- Room to add your own family recipes.
- Divider pages are filled with pictures of our mission families.
- 16 pages of helpful hints and cooking tips.

Your \$25 donation (includes shipping) for each copy of our *Abundant Blessings* cookbook supports our Women's Support Centers and our seminarians' education.

♥ **Mission Gifts.**

- Most Holy Mother of God Church stained glass windows 17"x35" w/ custom frames and matted
- Our Lady of Vladivostok Pendants in pewter and sterling silver with stainless steel chain
- *Vladivostok Russia* hooded sweatshirts
- Beautiful *Magnificat*, Christian Prayer, Roman Missal, Bible Covers and rosary cases made from priests' vestments no longer in use.

Please contact the mission office at 209-408-0728 or [usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org) for pricing and photos of available items.

♥ Thank you, **S.H.A.R.E.S.** card users! The mission received a quarterly earnings check of \$2961.12. Wow! This goes a long way for our priests' work in Vladivostok. Thanks and glory to God. If you live in CA or NV and don't have a card, please contact the mission office. You can pass these FREE SHARES cards to your friends, family, co-workers and ministry members too. Encourage them present the card at Save Mart, Lucky's, FoodMaxx or SmartFoods grocery stores every time they shop. The mission will receive up to 3% of the grocery bill. You can see how it truly helps and it costs you nothing!

## News Notes

*by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D*

• It was a big, expensive job, but we had to do it, or face fines from the Fire Marshall. Thanks to benefactors both in Russia and in America, our "**Fire Project**" is finally done! Now both the church and the parish offices have a fully automatic fire, heat, and smoke detection system that connects automatically with the Vladivostok Fire Department, as they demanded. Thanks, benefactors!

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



*Installing the fire detectors in the monastery*

*The automatic fire monitoring system*



• I'm very proud of our **parish youth group**. They have become more and more organized and fruitful. They had a free concert in September after Sunday Mass for our parishioners last Sunday. Here are Fr Dan's comments: "September 8 was the mini-concert after Mass (30 minutes). It was AMAZINGLY GREAT! (And I do not think that I am usually easily impressed.) The first part was the two canonesses and Elvira Gribanova singing three part harmony and playing their respective instruments (flute, harp, viola) with Evgenii Soloviov on the organ quietly. Beautiful! Several people were weeping! The second part was our new chamber choir with two sopranos, three altos, four tenors and three

basses, including all of our seminarians. It was very good. I really was surprised at the considerable amount of music they have prepared very well. After the concert everyone was clamoring for another one. Elvira is a molodets (Russian for “hero”) for putting all this together in such a short time with people busy doing other things.” Here’s a photo for you. (Elvia is directing.)



*New choir getting better every day*

• We have passed another milestone with our Women’s Support Centers! The **1500<sup>th</sup> Adopt-a-Birth child** is a twin girl named Arina. She and her sister Nina (#1501) were born on August 1. Adopt-a-Birth children are born from women who come to the Women’s Support Centers for help when they are trying to avoid an abortion. Congratulations and many thanks to our benefactors who provide funds for Adopt-a-Birth. Of course she is only the 1500<sup>th</sup> to receive this particular kind of help. Our Women’s Support Centers have helped thousands more avoid being aborted. We will soon open another WSC at the Far Eastern Federal University on Russian Island.



*Arina still in the incubator at the Birth Hospital in Nakhodka. Her sister Nina is nearby in another.*

• The **first organ concert** ever to be held in **Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk**, the capital of Sakhalin Island, Russian Far East was played on July 28. St Jacob’s Parish had long hoped for a real organ after the parish church was built about 12 years ago. Mary Mother of God Mission Society was happy to be involved by arranging for the shipping and importation of the donated organ from America. Pastor Thomas Rafalyak invited organist Valdemar Kravets to play the first concert after the instrument was set up and installed in the church. Nearly 200 people attended the concert, including Orthodox Bishop Tikhon of South Sakhalinsk and the Kurills. Thanks, benefactors!



*St Jacob’s Church*



*Organist Valdemar Kravets*



• Our parishioner **Michael Barishko** is an ocean biologist and specialist on the economic use of the oceans with a bibliography as long as your arm. But he has a special hobby. We probably all remember the wood-burning sets of

childhood, but Michael has turned it into a real work of art. He has had exhibitions of his work in the parish and in the city museums. Here are some samples of his work.



*Agony in the garden*

Молитва Иисуса в Гефсиманском саду, 1998 (41 x 55 см)



Нагорная проповедь Иисуса, 1995 (63 x 57 см)

*Sermon on the Mount*

- **“Friends of the Missions, Inc.”** made a second trip to Vladivostok to work on the repair of the Sisters’ convent on Russian Island, trying to get ready for the school year at the Far Eastern Federal University where the sisters will be working. Last year they worked on the orphanage in Zavodskoi. This year it is the convent, which is still a long way from done. We’ll keep working at it!



*“Friends of the Missions, Inc.” missionaries peeping out from their work on the wallboards in retreatants’ rooms.*

- Our **Bishop Kirill Klimovich** was here in Vladivostok for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on Sunday,

November 10. Nine adult parishioners were confirmed, including several much older folks who had been baptized as children in Belarus, but never confirmed. It was surely a happy day for all of them. There was tea and coffee afterward so that the bishop could get more acquainted with them.



*Renewing their baptismal promises with their sponsors*

*Bishop Kirill and Tatyana*



- This past summer, when there were no classes at the university, the seminarians in Vladivostok could spend much more time at the orphanages and at the **hospice**. Br Bede, C.J.D., 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 as it is hard to eat or drink lying down. Not content to 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 someone will be interested to fund the project. But when I was in Kansas City, the Franciscan Mission House 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!



*Sample electric bed from the Franciscan Mission House*

*One of the current beds at the hospice.*



● St Yohanes Marinus Parish in Surabaya, Indonesia, where our seminarians attend and help at mass, celebrated its 17<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. There was a youth **volleyball tournament**, and our seminarians were determined to win. Here they are with the trophy and happy fans!



*Besides volleyball the seminarians play soccer regularly with the neighborhood kids—Those are their fans!*

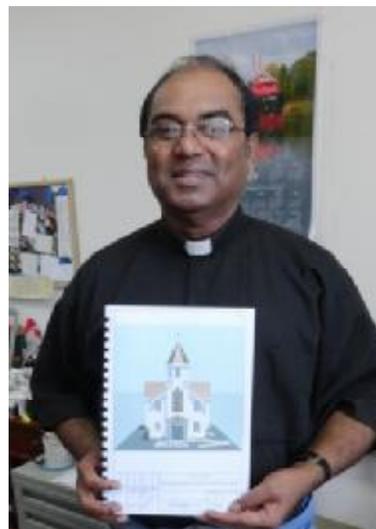
● We are focusing on a **new church** for the parishioners of **Our Lady of the Pacific Parish in Nakhodka**, Russia. The parish was founded 19 years ago, but still does not have a church building. The parishioners meet for mass in the small 2-room chapel apartment, which they have outgrown. Despite the lack of room and a permanent home, Our Lady of the Pacific has thrived. One room

serves as the chapel, the second serves as a parish hall, Women’s Support Center, youth center, religious education classroom and Caritas office to serve the needy.

So Mary Mother of God Mission Society wants to help build the church. Maybe you would consider dedicating a pew, window, tile, in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone close to you. Is it possible for you to make a monthly pledge, or a one-time gift to help us build our church in Nakhodka? Or, might you hold a fundraiser at your parish to build the church? Fr Sebastian D’Silva and the Nakhodka parishioners will be grateful!



*The plan for the church. The City of Nakhodka will offer the land. The building is very close to the city hospital and right on a major bus stop.*



*Fr Sebastian with the book of the architect’s plans*

**Mary Mother of God Mission Society**

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## From the Development Desk

Dear Friends,

New Year blessings to you and your families! In our last issue (Nov. 2013) of the *Vladivostok Sunrise*, our insert featured details of the budget for the Our Lady of the Pacific church building project in Nakhodka. We've only just begun. Construction on the new church will begin as our collection allows. We ask for your prayers in order that our Lord will provide what is needed.

You may review our project budget and fundraising and building progress on our website [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org) Memorial or honorable plaques may be dedicated on behalf of a loved one or family. The plaques will be placed in the church vestibule or on an item donated such as a pew or stained glass window. Would you like to purchase a window in memory of a loved one? A list of proposed stained glass windows for the church may be found on our website, too. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

Our MMOG board Secretary, Susan Gray, is spearheading our website redesign. We hope to launch early this year! Susan came up with the appropriate name for one of our new pages, "Getting Involved, Giving Painlessly". This is a list of ways you can greatly help the mission at no cost. Until our redesign is ready, you may

read details on how to "give painlessly" on our current website.

We are deeply grateful to you for your part in reviving our Catholic Faith in Russia. We pray for you and ask that you keep us in your prayers.

God bless you and your families. Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Coordinator 209-408-0728



Some Nakhodka parishioners gather for a Christmas party.