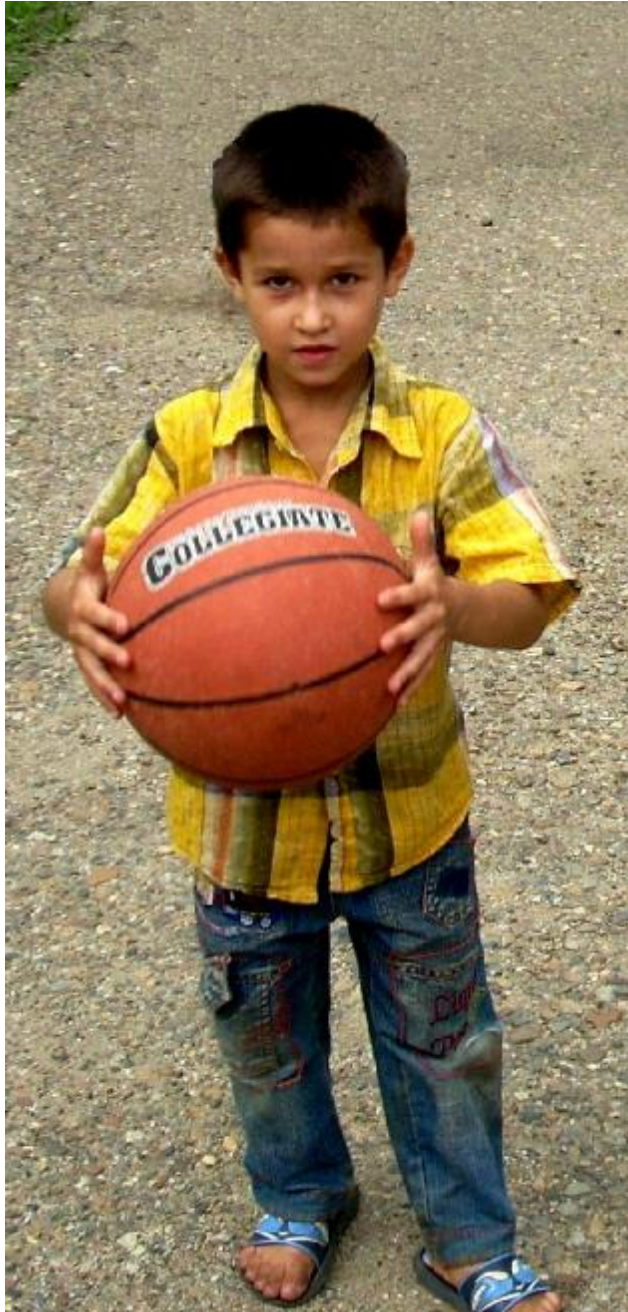




Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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



Basketball anyone?

Dear Coronation Parishioners,

I write now after the week with the children's camp in Lesozavodsk. It is about five hours north of Vladivostok by train. It is one of the poorest cities in this state in Russia. But, to see the children run and jump to hug the missionaries as we arrived was just something special. The little parish church of the Visitation by Mary to Elizabeth is in a strip mall like building with what we might call "project" buildings on both sides. Tiny apartments fill the nine floor buildings. The missionaries and I had Mass every morning with a Holy Hour, then the children came for breakfast, music, lessons, games, and lunch. By the end of the week we could see hardened hearted boys playing with less punching. The girls were helping out the younger ones and helping to clean at day's end.

I'll have plenty of pictures to show when I get back. I want to thank Glenda and Bernard and all the Sister Parish committee members over the years for all their hard work. You would be so proud of the parishioners for their outreach to the poor in the little Visitation Parish.

God Bless from Russia! Your Pastor, Fr Stephen Hansen



"The Projects" in Lesozavodsk

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"Pati cakes is a common language.

I came on this trip not knowing what to expect. No one really knows what Russia will be like. When we arrived in Vladivostok, the first thing I noticed was the heat. In my mind, I had pictured Russia to be this cold, desolate place. Boy, was I wrong! However, this new place that I have experienced has been beautiful beyond measure. I have been surprised over and over again at the generous hearts of the people we have met here. My name is Kathryn Hefta and I am an undergraduate student at the University of North Dakota in America. I am currently studying to be an audiologist.

Our first week in Russia was spent in Lesozavodsk running a camp for underprivileged children. My first impression of the children was that they were wild. I didn't know how we would get through to them. As the week went on, however, it seemed that we were slowly, but surely making progress with the children. The children weren't acting up as much anymore and they started to spread their wings. My goal was to bring them as much love as possible, and we reached that goal without any doubts in my mind.

--Kathryn Hefta, Senior at the University of North Dakota



The girls loved a tea party.

Though I knew little about Russian culture and even less about the language when I boarded the plane in Los Angeles that would bring me to Vladivostok, I was very excited about three things in particular: 1. the chance to work with the young people of the parish and to find ways to demonstrate God's love for them without words, 2. the opportunity to work with the Sisters and to learn from their model of service, and 3. to grow in faith through the various new experiences I was about to face. And now I can say that all three of these hopes were realized in ways above and beyond what I had expected. Seeing how God has been working to revitalize His Church has been inspiring to see, and it has been such a huge blessing for my team and I to have been a very small part in His work here this summer.



The guys met and worked in the hallway.

I will walk away with many lessons from this trip, all of which have been ways God has shared his grace with my team and I over the past twenty-four days. First, at the kids' camp in Lesozavodsk, I learned that love shown through action, rather than just words, can have a powerful and lasting impact. Our team's acts of love created a change in the children's behavior and attitudes over the course of the week, and we were able to pass on our enthusiasm for life and for Jesus without being able to speak the same language. Though it was very difficult to leave them, it is a comfort to know that we can look forward to being reunited in heaven!

Perhaps the greatest lesson of my time in Vladivostok was that of the greatness of God's gift of community and relationship. God created each of us to love and serve one

another, and I have lost count of the number of acts of love and service I have witnessed these past three weeks. We Americans were welcomed into this parish with grace and kindness and were made to feel at home from the first day we arrived. It was an incredible blessing to work alongside the sisters, whose humility and joyful sacrifice were an inspiration to our whole team. The entire parish left a lasting mark on all of our hearts; and though we will be sad to leave this beautiful city, we will do it with unforgettable memories and great gratitude. We will not forget this parish, and we will be praying for you!

--Stephanie Parks, Senior at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa



Almost like having a dad...

Five New Indonesian Canonesses

By Fr Inosensius Hetu, C.J.D.

“The world needs your hands as the hands of Christ! Do it and follow Christ as your charism asks you to do. Living community life is not easy. You should bring the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit and intent on one purpose as St Paul wrote to the Philippians.” With these homily words, Fr Albertus Rudy reminded the new Sisters in Jesus the Lord of Indonesia to persevere in their calling. It was Monday, August 4, 2014 on the feast of St John Vianney that five Indonesian women began their novitiate. The Novitiate clothing ceremony took place at St Servatius Church in Kampung Sawah, Bekasi, Jakarta, Indonesia. It was an immense joy, not only for the CJD community of Brothers and Sisters, but also for St Servatius Church because it was the first time that such a celebration of religious life was conducted in the church since its founding in 1897!

The Indonesian CJD Sisters began in Surabaya City, on January 6, 2014 when Sr Marthina Tongli arrived there from her visit in Russia with the Canons and Canonesses of Jesus the Lord. The Canons already began a house of formation for men in Surabaya, Indonesia, on July 30, 2012 after receiving permission from the Bishop of Surabaya, Mgr. Vincetius Sutikno.

But why did the celebration take place in St Servatius Bekasi, Jakarta, when the formation house is in Surabaya, 70 minutes away by plane? The main reason is that one of the new novices, Sr Dafrosa Felicia Agustine is one of the pioneers at the orphanage in Kampung Sawah, Bekasi, which currently has 70 orphans. It would be difficult for the small babies to endure her absence, as she is such a mom to them, and they already suffer from detachment syndrome. So the pastor of St Servatius Church, Fr Albertus Rudi Hartoko, SJ suggested to Sr Mathina that the prenovitiate retreat and mass celebration take place in Bekasi, so that Sr Dafrosa still has time to visit the orphans.

Sr Marthina Tongli was once alone to begin community life in Surabaya but now she has five novices who have a lot of experience working in parishes, in education, in hospitals, and, of course, the orphanage.

The parishioners were pleased with the choirs of the CJD Seminarians, especially for the post-communion song “Panis Angelicus” which was sung by Sr Dafrosa and Bro. Hubertus. It was really beautiful. At the end of mass, Sr Marthina shared her joy to say thanks to Fr Albertus for allowing the Sisters to use the Church for the celebration and for all the faithful who participated in the mass. I was given a chance to talk before the 70 parishioners, too, and as sons and daughters of St Augustine I shared my deep joy by saying, “I don’t know how to say it, but it is a great

beautiful moment which you all and I have shared who have the same desire to love God by living as a religious community. Even though Fr Myron was not able to attend this celebration, but I know he loves us so much. His heart is with us. Because of the same love we gather here in the love of the Lord, and for the love of Jesus the Lord.”

After mass, we had lunch together at the orphanage. During the lunch we heard music and songs presented by our seminarians and the parishioners were pleased to be with us. Let us pray for our CJD sister and Brothers in Indonesia, Philippines, Russia and America. We are all the sons and daughters of St Augustine.



The new novices for the Sisters in Jesus the Lord of Indonesia, (l to r) Srs Bernadetha Mboru Pero, Dafrosa Felicia Agustine, Angeline Sinaga, Marthina Tongli, Marselina, Elsy Randa. In back, Frs Inosensius Hetu, C.J.D., and Fr. Albertus Rudy Hartoko, SJ.

Opportunities

♥ **Fr Myron** will be speaking during masses at parishes and meeting with various Catholic organizations this fall. Hope you can join Fr Myron during any of his stops. If you are within driving distance Fr Myron would enjoy visiting your group, school or apostolate, too!

September 18 –Archdiocesan CCW, St Paul, MN
September 20/21– St Anthony of Padua, Robstown TX
September 27/28– Sacred Heart Parish, Floresville, TX
October 4/5 – St Albert the Great, Reno, NV
October 8 – MMOG Exec. Board Mtg, Modesto, CA
October 11/12– Mater Misericordia Mission, Phnx, AZ
October 18/19 – St Mary/St Michael, Canton, IL
October 25/26 – St Bernard, Rockport, IN
November 1 /2 - St Cecilia Parish, Leominster, MA

♥ The school year has begun! **Seminarians** need your help! We have been blessed with many faithful men to our order of Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord, as well as women in our sister order who have answered the call to religious life. Each of our seminarians (just a few pictured below) is in need of individuals or groups who can sponsor them through prayer and financial support while in the seminary. The annual cost for 1 seminarian for education, books, transportation, and humble living expenses is \$10,774. (1/3 the cost as in the USA). Might your apostolate or family consider sponsoring one of our seminarians? You’ll receive personal email news and communication from your seminarian. Julianne Immordino from NY is so kind to provide exquisite hand crafted **Swarovski crystal rosaries** to all who donate \$500 or more for the seminarians.



♥ The **Our Lady of the Pacific** church building project in **Nakhodka** has raised \$119,276 to date. We’ve reached 30% of our goal! Thank you! Fr Sebastian, pastor of Our Lady of the Pacific parish, has received the land and can break ground any time now. We are even blessed to have a Russian benefactor who has offered his building crew to help with some of the construction once we are ready to begin. Watch our fund-raising progress on our website, many thanks to all!



Parish land in Nakhodka as it looked last winter

♥ We've distributed over 200 copies of our *Abundant Blessings international cookbook*. People love the wide variety of recipes from our mission families from all over the world, colorful look and feel of the padded and washable three ring design, the cooking helpful hints, and personal touch of our mission pictures and information. Patrons have placed 2nd orders for additional books. These make smart gifts for young people going off on their own, a beautiful and faithful wedding present, and of course, Christmas is just around the corner! \$25 for each cookbook (includes S/H in the continental US) benefit our seminarians' education and Women's Support Center programs. You'll also receive a free music CD of *Christmas In Vladivostok* with every book!

This month's recipe peek is from our **Australia and South Pacific** section.

- Macadamia Nut Crusted Mahi Mahi - Pacific Islands, Mary Jo Peyton, Modesto CA
- Hawaiian Chicken-Hawaii, Harriet Kiffie, St Paul MN
- Kheer (Rice Pudding) - Fiji, Kristie Nelson, Modesto CA



♥ Congratulations **SHARES** card users! You earned **\$2853** for the mission last quarter just by using your SHARES cards at any Save Mart, Food Maxx, Smart Foods and Lucky's grocery stores. If you live in CA or NV, please contact the mission office for your own free SHARES card. It costs you nothing to use. Present the card at the grocery checkout. Save Mart will donate up to 3% of your grocery bill to the mission! Hand out cards to your friends and family to use. It really works!

♥ Like us on our new **Facebook** page! Find us at Mary Mother of God Mission Society

How to Communicate with Us

Internet

Russian language: www.catholic.vladivostok.ru

English language: www.vladmission.org

Sisters in Jesus the Lord in English: www.cjd.cc

Filipino site: <http://canonsofjesusthelord.wix.com/filipino-cjd>

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Opportunity for our Elderly in Lesozavodsk

Russia has not yet totally escaped from the treatment of the elderly that obtained during the Communist period. Elderly folk are either at home in the too-small apartments with their relatives, or they are in the hospice if they are not able to care for themselves. There are a few government homes for the elderly, but people usually have to sign over their apartments to the government in order to be admitted. Few are willing to do that.

It is theoretically possible to open private half-way houses and care homes, but it is practically impossible, as such institutions are subject to constant inspections, as they are seen as sources of bribes: It is assumed that if a private person or corporation can open such a home, they must have lots of money, and they are victims of jealousy on the part of operators of government institutions. (We currently have such a situation going with a private after-school program for kids.)

We have a better plan that we have been trying to put into place in the City of Lesozavodsk. It is especially important there because the city is in economic decline due to the selfish inaction of its leaders (The new mayor is quoted as saying there is 8 years of back work to do.), so the young folks have to move away to find work. Many elderly are left in the apartments alone, which have a low sale value because of the economic situation, so they are not able to move to another city.

Our idea is to buy one-room apartments on one floor of a multi-floor building. These apartments are all "efficiency" apartments, i.e. one room with a very small bathroom. We would invite abandoned elderly to move into these apartments where they could share their lives, have prayer time together, share cooking and cleaning. A doctor could visit on schedule, and they could help each other in times of emergency. It would be like a halfway, limited access facility so that it would be more peaceful, but meanwhile the elderly would be free to go shopping, to church, etc. They would continue to pay for their expenses from their pensions.

We've begun. We've bought two apartments already at about \$10,000 each. We've already had a parishioner move in, and she was so grateful to have a place and friends nearby. We need more apartments to make the idea a full reality. If it works well, perhaps the program could spread to other places in Russia. The elderly would be better cared for, and feel they are needed and wanted in society.

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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

- Brother Harben Forte, C.J.D. has been working on a **website for the Philippines** as a project for his novitiate. It's his first webpage design. Have a look!

<http://canonsofjesusthelord.wix.com/filipino-cjd>

- From the Philippines, Brother Edwin writes, "At the moment I am working as a volunteer here at the Archbishop's Palace. A week ago there was a concert called 'Sing for the Love of Pope John 23rd, A post-Canonization Celebration Dinner Concert Fund Raiser'. I was part of the working committee. I had a chance to meet and converse with the two bishops up close and personal: **Archbishop Palma of Cebu** and Bishop Bataclan, his auxiliary. It was a great experience, and I think I was able to deliver well about our new community and work. They were all amazed with our presence in Russia."

- **Crunch!** On June 12 our sisters were quietly waiting at an intersection for an opportunity to go. Suddenly they were struck from behind by a driverless tow truck that rolled down the hill behind them. It threw them forward into another car, and it wound up being a **5-car accident**. Thankfully, no one was hurt. The truck "driver" admitted he was at fault for not properly setting the brake when he left the cabin. Now to do the repairs.



The insurance inspector will have to decide...

- Our **seminarians in Indonesia** found a way to help pay for their expenses: They agree to paint, clean, and repair an empty house while living there for a year. It has been a big financial help to us, but the list of empty homes needing repair isn't endless! We will need our own house in Indonesia near the seminary in Surabaya.



Seminarian Ofadius Bau finishing one wall. The other and the ceiling are waiting for him.

- There was a tragic accident recently. The mother of three **Guardian Angel kids in Lesozavodsk** who was desperate for work to feed her family found new work in Vladivostok, so she was transporting the kids from Lesozavodsk to their new home here. There was an accident. Mom was killed, but all three children lived! The government has given the grandmother in Lesozavodsk charge of the kids, so their Guardian Angel benefactors will be even more important for them! If grandma can't cope, the government will move the kids to an orphanage. It won't be easy for grandma, as the kids are three boys! They are healthy, smart kids, so I hope they will be able to cope.

- It is amazing for us, but our parish just acquired six **Filipino lay parishioners** who are now working in Vladivostok! And probably more to come! We even added a Filipino parishioner in Lesozavodsk! Naturally our novice Bro José is excited about that, too. Refugees from the war in Ukraine are also coming to our state of Primorye, too, so perhaps there will be Catholics among them. The Russian Far East is really being promoted by

the government development agencies, so we expect to see many more people from all over the world to be coming here, especially students for our universities who want to learn the Russian language.

- **Children’s Hospital #3**, where we work regularly with orphans, has had a big struggle with infections, but now that it is summer the kids get to go outside if there are volunteers to watch them. Here is Brother Jacob playing in the sand box with his charges.



What wonderful things you can do with sand!

- Well, maybe it isn’t a very religious matter, but I thought our novices and guests would like to see Yuka, the frozen **baby mammoth** that is on display now here in Vladivostok. She was found in the ice up north near Magadan, so that makes about 30 mammoths whose remains, frozen for at least 10,000 years, have been found. Naturally the scientists are all excited, as they are still hoping to be able to produce a real living mammoth using biotechnology and a real elephant mom. Anyway, since I’m a scientist I had to see it, too!



My ticket to see the mammoth.

- “It was the greatest camp ever!” said Sr Faustina when she and FOCUS volunteers returned to Vladivostok from Lesozavodsk. The 13 students from FOCUS and two seminarians from America came to help us with the children’s retreat in Lesozavodsk and with the **18th Annual Catholic Youth Conference**. This year the Conference was held on Russian Island. It should be a great money saver to have it here, as places for camps and meetings are getting more and more expensive. Our facilities on Russian Island are not yet in good shape (Frankly, they are in terrible shape!) but the students who attended the Conference adjusted well—Russians, Americans, Indonesians, Filipinos, Vietnamese, Poles. The theme this year was “God’s Family” where we talked about the Church’s teaching on family life, and about the Church as a family. The main speaker was Sr Juliana Gostkovska, SSPS from Irkutsk, Siberia.

- Congratulations to **Fr Sebastian D’Silva**, Pastor of Our Lady of the Pacific Parish in Nakhodka, on passing his Russian driver’s test and getting his license! It will make it much easier to supervise the construction of the new church. And thanks go to a benefactor in Russia who is going to give him a used car to use!

(Continued from page 8)

have received material help, like baby food, clothing, diapers, etc.

- 10,035 needy women decided to keep their child and not do an abortion.

- 1648 Adopt-a-Births (Women who were given direct financial aid to deliver their babies rather than have an abortion. The number of babies saved is actually much more than that, since not everybody asks for financial help. Meanwhile we don’t know how many babies might have been saved through school talks and presentations at various meetings which are also provided by our five Centers.)

- 6,138 Visits by our volunteers of women at home or in the hospital, and of these 3,570 were at home and 2,568 were at the hospital.

- 11,227 consultations were done by telephone.

- 2,321 pregnancy tests were given.

- 1,007 women were helped by free ultrasounds.

- During consultations, these were the topics of conversation with families:

- ◆ 10,932 talks about intrauterine development of babies.

- ◆ 8,994 talks about NFP and the dangers of contraception.

- ◆ 5,272 talks about post-abortion syndrome.

- ◆ 3,970 talks about venereal diseases.

- ◆ 25,202 talks about family problems, spousal relationships, government welfare, etc.

Our Lady of Czestochowa, please pray for us!

Thank you! God bless you,

--Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Coordinator 209-408-0728

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Twins at Nakhodka Center

From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

We were greatly blessed to have Fr Peter West, Vice-President of Missions for Human Life International (HLI), and his assistant Chris Morales, visit our mission office in Modesto. Fr West and Mr Morales are currently traveling from coast to coast with the icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa (the Black Madonna) for the **Ocean to Ocean Campaign in Defense of Life**. This worldwide pilgrimage began in Vladivostok in 2012. "We are visiting parishes and other venues to awaken the faithful to the urgency of recovering a true culture of life.", says HLI. The icon has traveled over 40 thousand miles and throughout 24 countries.

We were more humbled when Fr West placed the icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa in our mission storefront for patrons to venerate throughout the afternoon before heading to our sister parish of St Joseph for display during evening Mass. After her tour in the US, the icon will go to Mexico and South America and eventually end this deeply meaningful tour back in Vladivostok. Fr West hopes to meet with Fr Myron in Vladivostok someday. We thank Fr West and Mr Morales. We will pray for mutual collaboration to connect our worldwide efforts to bring about a culture of life to all corners of the world.

While we're on the subject of the culture of life, we continue to make headway in our pro-life efforts in our **Women's Support Centers**. We have you, our benefactors, to thank for these many blessings as it is through your direct support we have been able to touch thousands of men, women and children to cultivate the culture of life! Here's what you have made possible. Thank you!

- 34,356 Visitors to the Centers, including 15,842 first-timers and 18,514 second timers
 - 14,246 needy women are registered in our Centers who
- (Continued on Page 7)*



Fr Peter West, mission office staff, and Mr Chris Morales (left foreground) and the icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa