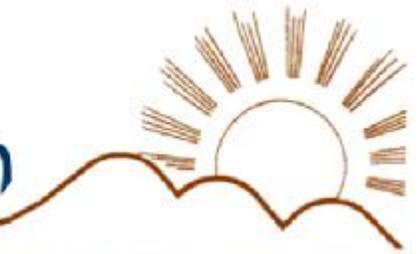




Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia
Issue Number One Hundred Twenty Five • September 1, 2015

Wings Around the World...

C.J.D. Brothers to work in Las Vegas, U.S.A.

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FOCUS and our Brothers Work in Khabarovsk, Russia

Bro Luis Van Dam Helps in Indonesia

See Page 3

FOCUS and our Brothers Work in Borneo, Indonesia

By Brother Yohanes Marinus, C.J.D.



Citizens of Russia, India, Philippines, Indonesia, Columbia, and the USA attended the Conference this year.

by Bro Mark Joseph Lorenzo, C.J.D.

With this year's theme, "The Evangelical Counsels for Lay People", the Annual Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference took place in Khabarovsk on the week of July 26. More than forty participants joined the 19th conference held in the Immaculate Conception Parish.

We had a chance to unite our souls with God in Holy Hour and Holy Mass every day. Father Jose, I.V.E. said the Mass in Russian while Father Harry Menezes, C.V.D. translated the homily to English. We continually meditated the Gospel and the theme of the conference.

13 members of FOCUS, a campus-based fellowship of Catholic Students in (Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

The "Fellowship of Catholic University Students" radically challenges students to know Christ Jesus, serve His people and build His kingdom. This mission was founded in America by Curtis Martin. On July 13, FOCUS arrived in Pontianak, West Borneo. The coming of FOCUS with eight university students and four missionaries was welcomed by Indonesian CJD brothers in Supadio Airport, Pontianak. After the meeting with the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Pontianak Father William Chang, and also with students from Widya Dharma University, a Catholic university in west Borneo owned by the Archdiocese of Pontianak on on July 14, we left for the Parish of Saint Francis Assisi in Pakumbang where we would do our project. There we distributed ourselves to the houses of parishioners, each house occupied by a FOCUS member and a student from Widya Dharma University. The presence of the students in this project was helpful for communication with the owner of the house and with the surrounding people and also they were agents for deepening each other's faith.

On May 16 until May 19 there was a gathering of members of AREKA "CHATOLICH TEENAGER" in the Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi. Almost 400 teenagers gathered! FOCUS and all the students were given permission to join the whole program of this gathering. Their presence gave a unique situation. The teenagers were so happy because they said, "It is a first experience to meet with brothers and sister who came from America and China with same spirit and faith in Jesus Christ. It was a great opportunity (Continued on Page 2 Column 2)

the United States of America shared their interesting approach to Bible study; we took some stories like the Fall of Adam and the Encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus. They also shared some wisdom on Mental Prayer and Theology of the Body. We also observed Liturgy of the Hours in the morning and evening. Bro Nikita Kushnaye, C.J.D. gave us a topic about the history of the Liturgy of the Hours. This kind of prayer does not really for the religious only, but for the laity as well since the first Christians (laity) are gathered to pray.

On our day of retreat, Fr. Jose gave a very nice and timely topic for choosing life's journey to God; he used the Parable of a Rich Man as good examples to meditate for an hour. If we want to attain eternal life, follow and live the Gospel. Sr Anastasia, I.V.E. also imparted a talk about "Loneliness" and how can we escape from this life's event by establishing true friendship to God and to others.

As the whole Church celebrates the Year of Consecrated Life, I learned that this celebration paves not only for religious, but for all, as we are all consecrated to God through baptism. We can live a life of holiness, even in the most difficult moments of our lives, even to this very challenging situation of the world by making the Gospel alive by loving God and our neighbor.

This program was sponsored by *Renovabis* of the German Bishop's Conference who have been generous to sponsor our Youth Conference every year.

Participants gather outside the parish offices.



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FOCUS missionaries and our Brothers in the Cathedral of Pontianak

Some of the teenagers who gathered. Bro Yohanes at the right, Bro Jacob standing in white, Bro Ferdi left back.



in strengthening and deepening each other's faith. Our togetherness already inspired us about a true brotherly love and a true servant of Christ Jesus according to the vocation that the Lord has entrusted to each and every one of us.

On May 20-May 28 we did our project of building toilets for Pakumbang in three different places, and the renovation of the building for Sunday School kids. Parishioners were involved in this project. We worked together in digging the soil for the foundation, building the wall and the roof. Everybody was involved in this project. They played an important role in finishing the projects. Besides that catechism class was held for the kids every morning. We also spent time for catechism with the young people and also adult people at night. The questions about faith and the sharing of faith among us make us stronger to continue living ur faith in our everyday life in any situation and condition. On Sunday some of the FOCUS members and students from the University joined a Brother in celebrating the Liturgy of the Word in a mission station far away from the main parish. I think this opportunity *(continued on page 3)*

gave the FOCUS members a different view about the practice of the Catholic faith among the Dayaknese, a local tribe of Kalimantan Island.

On May 29, we left Pakumbang for Singkawang for recreation at the beach and visited some of the churches. On May 30 we drove back to Pontianak where, in the evening, the Archbishop of Pontianak, Mgr. Agustinus Agus, invited us for dinner. He gave us some souvenirs and gave his appreciation and thanks for our willingness to do this visit in his archdiocese and do the project. It was a great moment for us and also for the archbishop, sharing our experience in a brotherly and loving atmosphere. On August 1 the FOCUS group continued their trip back to America via Kucing-Johor, Singapore, Tokyo and Los Angeles.

A gathering at Singkawang Mission Station



The life of the Catholic people in the Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi Pakumbang already inspire us to be real missionaries of Christ. It is a mission of knowing and giving the love of Christ. It is a mission of learning the love of God in ordinary people of Pakumbang and bringing the love of Christ to all people. The mission has ended. Nevertheless the love and fraternal communion that we already found on the rocks of Pakumbang will never end. It always there within our hearts. Definitely that it will never end. It will remain as part of our whole life.

C.J.D. Brothers to work in Las Vegas, U.S.A.

Hot Breaking News! We have been invited by Bishop Joseph Pepe of Las Vegas to send two of our transitional deaconate candidates to Las Vegas for their deacon training year! It is hoped that after their ordination to the priesthood we will be able to begin a C.J.D. community in America!--in Las Vegas, where there is a tremendous need for priests, where our sister parishes of St Joseph Husband of Mary and of St John Neumann have helped us so much, and where the diocesan Vicar General, Fr Robert Stoeckig, has been our board member for years! The two

candidates are Brother Jose Unlayao, C.J.D. of Lucban, Philippines and Brother Louis Van Dam, C.J.D. of Hai Duong, Vietnam. They both completed their seminary studies in the Philippines, spent their novitiate in Vladivostok, taken first vows, and are ready to travel. Brother Jose has been a high school Theology teacher and is good at organizing events. Brother Louis is great at working with the sick, and, of course with Vietnamese Catholics.



Bro Louis' Confirmation Class in his home parish.



Bro Jose Unlayao, C.J.D.

Bro Louis Van Dam, C.J.D.

Bro Luis Van Dam Helps in Indonesia

By Brother Luis Nguyen Van Dam, C.J.D.

I would like share my own wonderful experiences when I was in Indonesia to represent our Vladivostok community at Br Ferdi's ordination to the diaconate.

When I arrived at the airport in Surabaya, I was welcomed and picked up by Father Inosensius and our other brothers, so I felt at home at the first moment there. I was in



Brother Luis with his students at St Luis Parish. All the boys receive the name Luis when they are baptized.

Surabaya for 15 days. I was very happy and blessed because they were very good and kind to me; they loved me and I also loved them. I learned a lot and had a wonderful experience there. They are young and I am old; they are Indonesians and I am Vietnamese; we have many differences of languages, cultures and ways of living, but I was very blessed because we were one in fraternal love and God's love, thus we felt at home. Sometimes the community had a lot of work to be done, but I did not feel tired but happy because I was one with them, working, cooking, shopping, playing soccer, studying, praying and going to church. I saw that they were very generous and treated me well. They taught me Indonesian and I helped them to practice English. I saw that they can study English very well and very fast. Thus their English was improved quite fast. I hope in the future I have time to visit them again.

Father Inosensius also treated me and took care of me well. I saw that he is a very good leader and formator for our brothers in Indonesia. He did not speak much, but his actions can speak louder and persuade others in his simplicity, humility and generosity. I learned a lot from him. Thanks be to God's grace, I had a wonderful chance to share community life with him.

In Maumere, I met Brothers Yohanes, Lefi, and Augustine. They are fine and we were very happy to see one another again. We had a long time to talk, to share, to eat, and to go somewhere with one another. They said they also miss you a lot and hope that one day in God's time for them to visit the community in Russia. They were also very generous, and kind to me. They cared for me--everything that I needed. I am sure that they will be good priests and members of our Order in the future as well.

When I was in Maumere, I stayed at the house of Fr. Inosensius' sister. It was a pious family, they were very hospitable and loved me. They cooked for us well. When I left Indonesia for Vietnam, they gave me a gift for my family. Every day I joined the activities of the parish: attending mass, praying and going house by house to say

rosary with the parishioners and the neighbors. Thus, I became one of the parishioners. They regarded me as their family members. I truly love them and I have known that they also love me--they thought I am their son. So when I said farewell and good bye, they said they will miss me and promise to pray for me and hope to see me again there.

While I was in Maumere I stayed at St Peter's Major Seminary for four days. I met, talked, and worked together with many seminarians. I was very blessed to share my short time with them. They are very generous and hospitable. They loved to practice English with me, but actually they can speak English very well. Thus they asked me to sit at the different tables every meal, even some of them asked me "*Brother, tomorrow morning breakfast or lunch or dinner you sit at my table...*" thus they always prepared a seat for me. They are very good, friendly and lovely seminarians. Their way of living truly touched my heart. They invited me to visit their houses, their families, and some well-known places around there. It made me busy but I was very happy.

Thanks to God's grace, I had a good time to meet and talk with the Father Rector, Father Philip, Father Joseph and other priests who are the formators at the seminary. They always encouraged me and invited me, they said "*Next time if you have time to go Maumere, you can stay at the seminary--here is your house.*"

Thank you for allowing me to go to Indonesia, so that I was blessed and had a wonderful time there. At present, I live with my mother and assist my parish priest to give communion and teach several catechism classes while I wait for news from Las Vegas. I am looking forward for your plan for me. Thank you!



Brother Luis with his students at his home parish in Vietnam

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

Opportunities

♥ **Fr. Myron will be traveling to the US** to build mission awareness and fundraise. If you are in driving distance of parishes on his stop and would like to invite him to speak at your parish, ministry group, school or university, he would be available for weekday visits! Radio interviews too, are a wonderful way to spread the news of our mission. Please contact our mission office.
September 19/20 - St. Pius X Church, Mt. Pleasant, PA
September 26/27- St. Joan of Ark, Las Vegas, NV
October 3/4 - St. Joseph Parish, Scottsdale, PA
October 10/11 – Denver, CO – to be decided
October 17/18 – Immaculate Heart Parish, AR

♥ Give an eternal gift! **Mass requests** celebrated in Russia may be sent to the mission office for your loved ones or special intentions. Suggested stipend is \$15 per mass.



♥ The mission office accepts **worn out priests' vestments** to revitalize into bible and prayer book covers, rosary cases and prayer book markers. These make special gifts. If your parish has vestments or altar clothes you no longer use, we would be very grateful for them. Used vestments still in wearable condition are sent to Russia or passed on to other mission churches.

♥ Might you consider **sponsoring one of our seminarians** for one year or part of a year? You'll receive personal email news and communication from your seminarian. We have been blessed with many faithful vocations to our order of Canons Regular In Jesus The Lord, and our sister order. Each of our seminarians 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.

♥ Organize a mission cookbook and/or Russian icon and **gift sale** at your parish for the Christmas season to help the mission. We will provide the materials! Contact the mission office.

♥ CA and NV please keep using your free **SHARES card**! SHARES card users earned \$2328 last quarter! Thank you! Anyone in CA or NV who shops at Save Mart, Food Maxx, Smart Foods and Lucky's grocery

stores can help. It costs you nothing to participate. Present the card at the grocery checkout. Save Mart will donate up to 3% of your grocery bill to the mission! You can hand out cards to your friends and family to use, too.

♥ We are a registered charity with **Smile.Amazon.com**. When you shop through Amazon/Smile.Amazon.com, select Mary Mother of God Mission Society as your charity of choice and 0.5% of your purchase goes to our mission. This program costs you nothing! For more information go to Smile.amazon.com/about. Many thanks to Deacon Patrick Cline from New Jersey for using Amazon Smile to help our mission. Here are Deacon Cline's tips on how to log on to Amazon Smile.

"If you shop on Amazon, Amazon Smile is an easy and efficient way to help support the work of Mary Mother of God without any cost to you. When you shop at Amazon Smile they will donate 0.5% of the purchase price (minus rebates, shipping & handling, gift wrapping and service fees, and taxes) to the charity of your choice.

One big caveat is that you have to make sure that you are correctly signed on to Amazon Smile as there are a number of sites that can come up if you enter "Amazon Smile" into your browser.

Officially the site is called 'smile.amazon.com.' But from Yahoo I have been directed to non-Amazon Smile sites. The order is changed to read amazon smile and brings up some children's series titled *Smile* available on Amazon. I did not have that problem using Google. It seemed to offer the correct site as one of the websites returned.

Once you've signed on correctly '**amazonsmile**' should be displayed in the upper left hand corner. You then will have an opportunity to select Mary Mother of God Mission Society as your charity. Once you have signed on successfully I would suggest you Bookmark the URL. Every time you sign on to shop or browse just below the search bar it has to say: '**Supporting Mary Mother of God Mission Society**' or else you are not signed into the correct site.

After that you just proceed as you normally would with your purchases. If you are a member of Amazon Prime, the free shipping is still available."

Thank you, Deacon Cline!

♥ By popular request, we have an **on-line gift store**! We will provide faithful resources to help deepen our understanding and walk with God and offer gifts that will remind us of our beautiful Catholic faith in every area of our lives. We've posted a few of the most popular items to begin with and will be adding more media and gifts regularly. Thank you for your interest and support in developing this project. All proceeds benefit the mission. Please find our store at www.store.vladmission.org

News Notes

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

- At last the **hospital beds** have gone to Lesozavodsk! Here is a photo of the loading process in Vladivostok. It took two runs of the truck to transfer everything for the five hour trip.



These beds will be a great improvement over the ones that the Lesozavodsk City Hospital has now! Patients will be able to control the position of their beds, raise their headrests or elevate their feet, and so on! In our contract with the hospital it is specified that the beds may not be used in the abortion clinic of the hospital. We already heard that, usually, the patients live in 3-bed rooms at the hospital, and overflow into the hallways. Now, with our beds located so far in the hallways, everybody wants to move from rooms to the hall! Thank you to all the benefactors who helped with this project, including the parishioners of Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk and their sister parish of St John the Baptist in Edgar, Wisconsin. Special thanks, of course to the Franciscan Mission Warehouse in Missouri!

The head doctor of the Lesozavodsk City Hospital came to Vladivostok to give us a thank you document. Here it is, too.

It says, “Letter of Gratitude. The State Budget Institution of Lesozavodsk Central City Hospital and its whole staff offers their deep acknowledgement and gratitude to the religious organization Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Mother of God of Vladivostok through its Pastor Myron Clarence Effing for the offered free help. We believe in the preservation of existing friendly relationships and hope for further collaboration.

I.A. Temnikov, Head Doctor, July 2, 2015”



Doctor Temnikov presenting the certificate

- The school year has started for our **seminarians in the Philippines**. Brother Harben writes: “Hello Father! I was not able to write you at once because I had things to do in settling here in our new residence with the Capuchin community. I am really grateful to them for letting me and Brother Edwin stay with them for this school year. We haven’t have a formal meeting yet with Fr Serge, the Rector, as with regards to our schedule and tasks here in

their house, but we are already told that we will be helping them in their apostolate. Our class enrollment went well. I and Brother Edwin have 20 units for this semester which I think is a bit too much for us but they are all mandatory subjects that he has to finish this semester. We started school on Monday, June 8, with a Holy Spirit Mass. In the afternoon the 1st year seminarians immediately started their class in Introduction to Theology and Dogma.” Brother Edwin and Brother Harben are studying at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay. We don’t have a house in the Philippines (yet?), so we and the brothers are grateful to the Capuchins for allowing our seminarians to live and study with them. Brother Patrick is continuing his studies at the Redemptorist Seminary in Davao.

- **Pope Francis** is expected in **Cebu, Philippines**, in January, so our seminarians in the Philippines will be busy helping with that big event, the International Eucharistic Congress

- The **building project of the residence for our seminarians in Maumere, Indonesia** is going okay. The temporary house is built from wood and bamboo. It won’t last long, what with termites and bad weather, but what can we do?? We don’t have enough funds to build a solid building. We still have a year to fundraise before the termites take over! The building was not quite ready for residence when the school year began, so we are grateful for neighbors who housed our students temporarily. Here are some photos of the still incomplete bamboo and wooden student residence.



The walls are partially local stones and a metal roof.

[To see more pictures of the incomplete housing, see <http://cjdnovitiate.blogspot.ru/p/indonesia-mission.html>]

[To see more pictures of the FOCUS mission in Khabarovsk, go to <http://cjdnovitiate.blogspot.ru/p/news.html>]

Even the interior walls a bamboo, as are old-fashioned traditional Indonesian homes.



- Amazingly, the total of our **Indonesian seminarians this school year 2015-16 is 29 seminarians**, and the budget for our seminarians in Indonesia alone is expected to be \$50,000. (A bargain price at that!)

- We keep adding more **foreign parishioners to our Vladivostok parishes**, and we want to be sure they feel welcome and at home! So we now have an English Mass on Sundays at 2:00pm. There is already an English Mass every Sunday evening on Sakhalin Island where many foreigners work, and now it is our turn, too. As Russia is developing its relationships to all Asian countries, we are getting more and more foreign Catholics, and it means we have to serve them, too. I’m reminded of the time when a bus full of Chinese tourists pulled up, and they didn’t speak Russian or English, and we didn’t speak Chinese. So we just let them into the church, and when they got there, they sang the *Salve Regina* in Latin!! They were all Catholics!



Those who attended the tea after the first English Mass of June 14, 2015.

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From the development desk...

Dear Friends,
Peace to you!

Our Vladivostok international recipes cookbook, *Abundant Blessings*, is a unique gift for Christmas giving! Our cookbook has received a terrific response. To date, we've raised \$7475 for our **seminarians' education and to help mothers and children in our Women's Support Centers**. Thank you! Let's keep it going! Our cookbook makes a very special and unique addition to your home or as a fine gift. Diverse and beautifully arranged, our collection of family recipes was submitted from the many cultures and countries of our priests, seminarians, sisters, and families in celebration of our mission's many blessings. Patrons are ordering in multiples and 2nd and 3rd repeat orders once they try the delicious recipes and see the beautiful layout. Here are some of the distinctive features in our cookbook.



- 498 tasteful international recipes tab divided into 8 geographic regions of the recipe's origin: Asia & India, Australia and the South Pacific, Europe, Mediterranean & Africa, Mexico & the Caribbean, Russia, South & Central America, USA & Canada.
- Beautiful roses and icon adorn the jacket

- Sturdy three ring cover, thickly padded and washable
 - 16 pages of cooking helpful hints
 - Space for notes and room to add your own recipes
 - Personal touch of family stories within recipes
 - Pictures pages of our mission family
 - Cost: Only \$25 each (includes S/H in continental US)
- This month's peek into our cookbook comes from our **USA and Canada** section.
- **Cheesy Artichoke Crostini, USA**, Br. William Richardson S.F.O., Washington, DC
 - **Seafood Bisque, Canada**, Fr. Dan Lapolla, Ontario, Canada
 - **Chicken Creole and Rice, USA**, Susan Freeman, N. Little Rock, AR
 - **Tourtiere (Pork Pie), Canada**, Myra Schatten, Prince Albert, Canada
 - **Knights of Columbus Award Winning Chili, USA**, William Bernard, Methuen, MA
 - **Easter Resurrection Rolls, USA** (A fun family recipe project and great teaching tool for young children!) Barbara Fitzsimmons, Modesto CA
- BONUS!** Receive a free copy of *The Joy of Christmas in Vladivostok* CD with your cookbook as our thank you.

I invite you to contact me at the mission office at 209-408-0728 or usoffice@vladmission.org with questions or for ordering. Thank you for your prayers and support. God bless all of you. Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan, National Coordinator