



# Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia  
Issue Number One Hundred Twenty Eight • March 1, 2016

## Thanking God for the Ordination of Fr Ferdinandus Wele, C.J.D.

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

January 8 2016 was the happy day at the Cathedral of St Joseph in Maumere, Flores, Indonesia for the ordination to the priesthood of our Brother Ferdinandus Wele, C.J.D. Bishop Cherubim Pereira, S.V.D, D.D. was the ordaining bishop. It was a celebration for the whole local church, and the cathedral was packed! The Indonesians love ceremony, so the service took 3 ½ hours! In the scorching heat, in the summer sun, below the equator!



*Bishop Cherubim's Prayer of Consecration over the two being ordained—Bro Ferdinandus nearest us.*



*The Cathedral was packed—even the choir loft.*



*Many groups of native dancers came to the celebration.*

Then on January 9 we held a First Mass celebration at the Our Lady of Vladivostok study house at Ladelero near Maumere where our seminarians live, for all the benefactors, friends, and families who live in the area.



*From left, his dad Saferius Wale, Fr Ferdi himself, myself, his brother, his mother Dominika, and Fr Inosensius, our superior in Indonesia.*

On January 10 we went to his tribal hometown, Wolowaru, Flores, where he was escorted into the village by a huge parade that blocked all traffic on the busy Ende to Maumere highway for 8 miles. It was a surprise to me, but when they brought Fr Ferdi and me to the traditional native Pati manhouse in Wolowaru, the tribal chief council not only welcomed Fr Ferdi as a member of the tribe, but also initiated me as a new member of the Pati Tribe! I was decked out in the native costume, and the all the symbols inside the manhouse were explained to me. Then we had dinner in the native style. It was a moving, unforgettable experience, and reminded me of my inauguration into the Dakota tribe in America.



*The whole village of Pati participated in the big event, and a big welcome parade was arranged, with truckloads of brightly clothed children, a hundred motorcyclists, a police car with wailing sirens, a truck with a native band with drums, and the Wale family waving to onlookers who were also greeting the new town hero, Fr Ferdinandus.*



*The Pati Tribal elders were there to greet us.*

The next day, on January 11, there was the First Mass in Wolowaru in his home parish of the Sacred Heart, followed by a huge party and dinner for all. One impressive moment was when the children did the “Eagle Dance” which shows eagles circling in the sky looking for a chicken below. Finally one eagle swoops down and grabs a chicken. They told me that the eagles represent heaven, and the chicken represents Fr Ferdi, whom Heaven picked out to be a priest.



*Sacred Heart Church in Wolowaru, site of the First Mass*

Congratulations, Fr Ferdinandus, and thank God for you! Fr Ferdi is now our 4<sup>th</sup> priest, after Fr Dan and I and Fr Inosensius. He is being assigned by me as Assistant Formation Director for our seminarians in Indonesia, assistant to Fr Inosensius. Will we soon have some priests for Russia? Not to worry—there are six more seminarians lined up for ordination to the diaconate soon!

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

# News Notes

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

● December 15 was the joyful day of the final solemn life vows of **Brother Edwin Intan, C.J.D.** Here is a picture from the ceremony. Bro Edwin is from Cebu City, Philippines, and is currently a Theology student at the S.V.D. seminary in Tagaytay, Philippines. He is well known for his positive attitude and for his knowledge of many languages, including such different languages as Korean, Japanese, Russian, English, Tagalog, and Cebuano. He had to get back to school for comprehensive exams, but we have enjoyed his visit in Vladivostok. Congratulations, Brother Edwin!



● On October 20<sup>th</sup> a new monument was dedicated in Vladivostok's **Pokrovsky Park** to remind people that the Park was earlier the main city cemetery. The religious preference of citizens of the city before the revolution is shown by the fact that the Pokrovsky Cemetery had equal space for Orthodox, Catholics, and Lutherans, in that order, and then there were the Jewish, Moslem, and other smaller sections. The Cemetery was called "Pokrovsky" because of the Orthodox church that was located in it, The



*The front of the monument has words from a poem by Pushkin, whose relative is buried somewhere in the cemetery.*

Protection (Pokrov) of the Blessed Virgin. During Communist times the Cemetery was turned into an amusement park by removal of all the stones (which often were crosses or had images of crosses), both as hatred of religion and as a rejection of ancestors who were presumed to have taught modern people bad habits of religion and tradition. When Fr Dan and I came to Vladivostok 24 years ago there were still rides and attractions in the cemetery. We agitated for the right of the Orthodox Church to rebuild its church there, which has since been done. All the rides and attractions have been removed. Now it is a beautiful green park in the center of the city—something to be happy about. Currently there are those who are trying to once again take over the park for commercial purposes, but hopefully it will stay simply green.

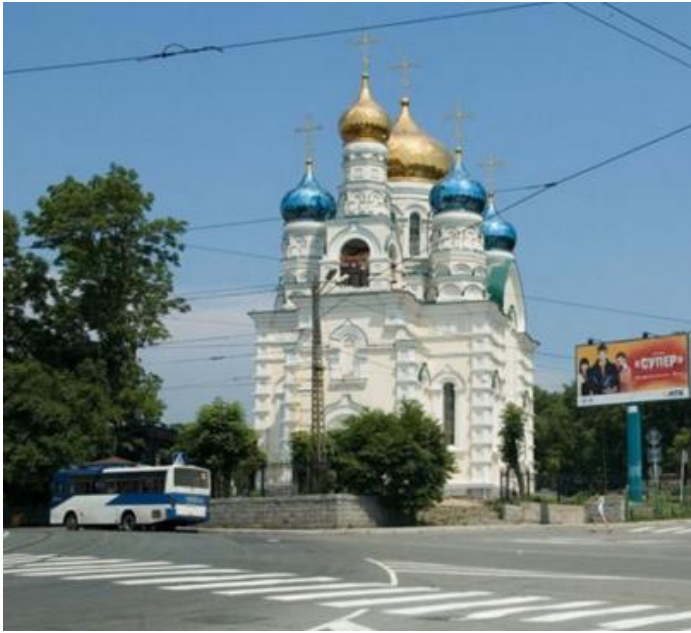


*Honorary Citizen of Vladivostok and our good friend Nelli Meese adjusts the flowers. She is the expert on the pre-revolutionary history of Vladivostok.*



*"Eternal memory to all who are resting here in the Pokrovsky Cemetery. Forgive us!"*

● While our Board was in Denver for our annual meeting, we visited the dinosaur museums which Denver is famous for, because one of our board members, **Susan Gray**, a biologist, has written and published approximately 50 children's books on dinosaurs, but had actually never touched a dinosaur bone herself. It was fun to be with her for that exciting moment! She is from our sister parish of the Immaculate Conception in North Little Rock, AR.



*The cathedral in Pokrovsky Park today*

● **Brother Jose Unlayao, C.J.D.**, attended the 16<sup>th</sup> Asian Bioethics Conference held at St Paul University in Quezon City, Philippines, and was asked to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> Kumamoto University Bioethics Roundtable to be held in Kumamoto, Japan, with the theme “Bioethics and Conflict Resolution: Dialogues for our Sustainable Future.” Brother Jose is working on his master’s degree in Bioethics at the Graduate School of Theology at St Paul’s. After the conference he wrote, “It was a fruitful round-table discussion regarding ‘Bioethics and Conflict Resolution: Dialogues for our Sustainable Future.’ It is a very timely and lively discussion from the Professors and graduate students doing masters and PhD degrees. On our part we presented the “Integral Ecology and Human Security in the Light of *‘Laudato Si’*.” Attending this conference also gave me the inspiration to present and defend my paper in a public and international gathering like this, and of course the professors here are very welcoming and encouraging.” His expenses for the trip were paid by the organizers of the Roundtable.



*Bro Jose (r) participating in the panel in Japan*

● Sister Marthina Tongli, C.J.D. has been organizing a Leadership Camp at the orphanage in Jakarta. The goal of the Leadership Camp is to inspire students to know, love, and serve one another through prayer and reflection upon their life experience and faith journey. Leadership is servanthood: this is the theme the “angels” are learning throughout the program. The facilitators encourage experiential learning through simulation games, sports and camping activities. This is also a time for recollection for them. We hope more kids want to join the camp!



*The kids like their uniforms for the camp.*

## Would you believe?!

Our Sisters in Jesus the Lord of Indonesia operate an orphanage, but there is no one to care for the kids when the sisters pray the Liturgy of the Hours. So the kids come and pray, too. The bishops of Indonesia have provided music for the whole office, so the kids sing along for Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Vespers, and Night Prayer! Are these the youngest pray-ers of the Divine Office in the world??





*Archbishop Hurley in 1996 surrounded by our elderly parishioners*



*Archbishop Hurley, standing, as a guest at the Rzeszut home in Anchorage*

● Former Anchorage, Alaska **Archbishop Francis Hurley, D.D.** died, two days short of his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, on January 10, 2016 in Anchorage. He is well remembered and loved by the Catholics of Vladivostok, as he visited us several times and our people felt an immediate bond with him. In fact, our parish was registered as a corporation with the government in 1992 as he was soon to visit, and the government was aware of his great help to the people of Magadan, Russia during a crisis. Help came from Alaska--so nearby--from the Archdiocese of Anchorage.

As relations between the United States and the Soviet Union began to thaw, Archbishop Hurley founded a mission church in Magadan, Nativity of Christ. In December of 1990, he traveled with Father Michael Shields to Magadan, a city in the Russian Far East and the site of a former Soviet gulag. In a theater, they celebrated a Christmas Mass – the first public Catholic Mass in the city’s history. Three hundred people attended.

For the first years of our work in Vladivostok, the Archdiocese of Anchorage was the stable home base for what would become Mary Mother of God Mission Society, and our volunteers worked in the Anchorage chancery, especially our ever faithful Ray Rzeszut who managed our operations there.

Born in San Francisco, Archbishop Hurley died at his Anchorage home. He first moved to Alaska in February of 1970 when he was appointed auxiliary bishop of Juneau, Alaska. He was ordained by his brother, Bishop Mark Hurley of Santa Rosa, California. – the first time ever in the U.S. that a bishop ordained his brother to the episcopacy. He was appointed Archbishop of Anchorage in 1976, retiring from that role in 2001, having served as archbishop for a quarter-century, from 1976 to 2001. He was unique also in that he flew his own private plane to parishes in the big territory of his parish in Alaska. Eternal Rest grant to him, O Lord!

## Baby Talk

From the Women’s Support Centers



Hey, you wanna go play  
hockey?

[Michael Aug 10 2015]

● My 75<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on February 7 was a wonderful event. So many people came to celebrate the day with me. Representatives from the various parishes I founded came to give their greetings, as well as various city and state officers where we have been doing charitable work, with letters from the Mayor of Vladivostok and the Governor of our State of Primorye. And religious came from various orders including the Dominicans, Franciscans, S.V.D., Incarnate Words, Sisters of Charity of St Anne, and our own Sisters in Jesus the Lord. Fr Inosensius also was here to represent our Indonesian brothers. The parish greetings were presented by our Trustee Victor Anisimov and Fr Daniel Maurer.

Our Bishop Kirill Klimovich also was here, but most surprising was the presence and greetings of the Papal

## Opportunities



Archbishop Yerkovich was visiting Vladivostok for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.

Nuncio to Russia, **Archbishop Ivan Yurkovich** from Moscow. He celebrated the main Sunday Mass and gave the homily. While he was here he received the decision of the Holy See and the Russian Orthodox Patriarchate of Moscow that Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill would meet in Cuba! My thanks to all those who sent greetings and gifts for my birthday! 75 down and 25 more to go! (Oh, wait! The Bible says “eighty for those who are strong!”)

### Mary Mother of God Mission Society

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♥ Time to start thinking of a **mission trip** to Vladivostok! Mission work in Russia is a deeply moving experience. We have one group traveling September 13 to October 1, 2016. Another in July-August. Contact our mission office for more exciting details.

♥ 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. The annual cost for 1 seminarian for education, books, transportation, and humble living expenses is \$10,774.

♥ 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.



♥ When shopping Amazon, use **Amazon Smile!** Designate **Mary Mother of God Mission Society** as your charity of choice. The mission will receive 0.5% of your purchase from Amazon. It costs you nothing to participate. Please see our website [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org) for more details on how to sign on. Thanks to you, we received our first Amazon Smile quarterly benefit of \$184.10! Thank you!

♥ CA and NV please use our free **SHARES card!** SHARES card users have earned an average of \$900 per month for the mission. 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.

♥ By popular request, we have an **on-line gift store!** All proceeds benefit the mission. Find our store at [www.store.vladmission.org](http://www.store.vladmission.org). Like us on **FACEBOOK Gifts of Faith/Modesto**

♥ Remember our ever popular **Abundant Blessings Cookbook** as part of your special giving! \$25 per cookbook covers shipping in the continental USA. Proceeds go to our seminarians' education fund and our Women's Support Centers. Order now!



(Cont. from pg 8) makes up the temporary sleeping corridors for thirty, the dining hall, chapel, and administration office was constructed. A permanent house and classrooms will be built on the rectangle building foundation in the future. Connected through an outdoor breezeway are the modest kitchen, multiple showers and restrooms. A larger permanent kitchen is planned when funds permit.



Jessica, Vicky and Mary Jo welcomed by Fr Ino and the seminarians.

A stone's throw east from the sleeping corridors is the site of the future permanent chapel. Beyond that, the foundation has been poured to begin construction on the 10 room house for those studying Theology. There will also be another building for those studying Philosophy. Just behind the future house of Theology is a tiny A-frame bamboo structure that is the living quarters for recently ordained, Fr Ferdinandus.

On the south side of the campus chickens roam free. They sleep and lay their eggs in sturdy coops built by the seminarians. The seminarians also raise pigs for food. They are housed on the neighbor's adjoining land awaiting construction of pens on the property. A volleyball court is also planned on the south perimeter.

Behind the rectangle building along the north perimeter a large 10 KW generator is housed and this area is also where clothes are hung to dry. Fr Ino hopes within one to two years to have electrical lines connected from the city since generator power can be very expensive.

Along the entire perimeter of the 2.5 acre property, Fr Ino and seminarians have planted many fruit and nut trees, including cashew, mango, papaya, cocoa and macadamia nut as other means to provide their own food sources. Coconut trees grow wild on the property. We visitors were thrilled to drink fresh juice from raw coconuts. The seminarians climbed the tall trees, harvested and prepared the coconuts themselves! There is a large garden area for vegetables. Seedling trees and vegetables of casaba, eggplant, pumpkin, cucumber, watermelon and more are carefully grouped in pots and corralled in a tidy nursery



Fr Ino points to the row of fruit trees recently planted.

until ready to transplant into the ground. In order to help maintain the tropical climate of the

area bamboo trees and other native shrubs have been replanted where construction has uprooted vegetation. The owner of adjacent property offered the use of his 1.5 acres for the seminarians to grow corn. Small corn plants are already sprouting!

We were all very impressed not only with the detail, hard work and progress already in the project, but the seminarians themselves! Such joyful men, disciplined and dedicated to their formation and prayer! Thank you God for so many blessings for the Canons Regular in Jesus the Lord (C.J.D.)

Three seminarians from Indonesia, one from India and others from the Philippines will be traveling to Vladivostok soon to begin their one year novitiate. They will study Russian or English, work within the mission and immerse themselves in C.J.D. community life.

Throughout our five day trip, we were treated with such friendship. We have heartfelt memories of the warm greeting from the priests and seminarians. We were presented with traditional stoles decorated with silk flowers. All gathered around smiling and ready to shake our hands in welcome. They sang a deeply moving song for us in Indonesian about being family even though we are of many colors. They make a very talented chorus too! We were very blessed to meet the deeply devout family members of some of the seminarians, visit their institutions of study and the local parish, and immerse ourselves in a different culture in a faithful and beautiful tropical setting. Everyone in the outlying villages was so very friendly and full of smiles for us. Even the nearby children walking home from school would shout and wave at us as we drove by.

Fr Ino invites others too, who wish to meet the seminarians, and those who would be interested in helping in the building and planting, or teaching English to the seminarians and local children. In the meantime, we continue our efforts to pay off the loan to purchase the Maumere property. You [can contact our mission office](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org) in California for more information. 209-408-0728, [usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org)

Thank you for all you do for our mission! God bless you and your families.

Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan, USA Mission Desk

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## From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

A blessed Lent to you all!

In January, MMOG staff Jessica Hoke and myself, along with Honorary Board member, Mary Jo Peyton, embarked on a fact-finding mission to our seminary in Maumere, Indonesia on the island of Flores. Our first reaction upon seeing the seminary and the accomplishments of Fr Inosensius and the seminarians was, "Wow!" Fr Ino is the first member and first priest in our Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord religious community(C.J.D.)

after Fr Myron and Fr Daniel. Fr Ino's education and outstanding qualifications make him the Superior and Director of Formation for the many fine vocations in Indonesia. Under Fr Ino's guidance and through backbreaking work the twenty eight Indonesian seminarians and one seminarian from India have single handedly developed the property in the year since acquiring the land for the seminary. Fr Ino is planning well for current and future development.

Immediate housing was necessary to accommodate the many vocations. The rectangle building that (*Cont. pg 7*)



The temporary living quarters serves as the foundation for the permanent building and classrooms. 8



The 10 KW generator is housed in this out building.