



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia
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Fr Inosensius, Deacon Jacob, Bishop Cherubim, Deacon Yohanes, and Fr Ferdinandus

Two C.J.D. Deacons Ordained in Indonesia

By Brother Yakobus Hubertus, CJD

Sunday, June 5, 2016 was a great moment for our community of Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord in Indonesia! Two of our brothers, Jacob Dambe and Yohanes Marinus, together with 11 brothers of other communities from the Diocesan Seminary of St Peter Ritapiret were ordained as deacons by the Bishop of Maumere, Msgr Gerulfus Cherubim Pareira, SVD in the chapel of the seminary. At least 40 priests took part in this celebration, and so many faithful came to attend this Holy Mass! In his homily Bishop Cherubim emphasized the importance of deacon in the church, especially their

service in liturgy and sacrament. After Mass they had a simple dinner there. In the evening our community had a simple thanksgiving ceremony at our monastery near Maumere together with the families and relatives of both of our deacons and other invited guests.

On Monday evening, the thanksgiving was continued in Deacon Yohanes' family home together with his relatives and neighbors, since he himself is from Maumere. Brother Jacob comes from Archdiocese of Makassar on Sulawesi Island. Although both of them came from different places, they share our same

spirituality as canons regular and have the intention to develop the CJD community in Indonesia, together with our two Indonesian priests, Father Inosensius Hetu and Father Ferdinandus Pati Wale, and the CJD brothers. Besides their work in the community, the new deacons will serve in two different parishes of the Diocese of Maumere. Thank you to all the people and benefactors who had supported the vocations of our deacons by praying and donating. We hope that they will serve the church wholeheartedly and faithfully, looking forward to the day they will be ordained as priests. We ask for your prayers.

First Vows in Vladivostok



Brothers Dindo Calvo and Nikita Kushnaryov, C.J.D.

Brothers Dindo Calvo and Nikita Kushnaryov, C.J.D. finished novitiate and took simple vows on April 28. Bro Dindo will be attending the seminary in the Philippines, and Bro Nikita has already finished the seminary and will be helping with pastoral work in Vladivostok. And Brothers Hubert and Reminus, C.J.D. took their first vows on May 29. They are planning to complete their studies for the priesthood in Pontianak, Borneo, Indonesia. The different dates for their vows reflects the differences in the school calendars in their countries.



Bro Reminus and Bro Hubertus with Sr Stella, all three talented musicians



Brother Luis, Bishop Pepe, and Brother Jose

News Notes

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

- Here's a picture I was so happy to see! It is Bishop Joseph Pepe, D.D., of the Diocese of **Las Vegas**, Nevada with our Brothers Luis Van Dam and Jose Unlayao, C.J.D. as they begin their work in Las Vegas. Bro Luis has a lot of experience doing parish work in Vietnam and working with the sick, and Brother Jose is from the Philippines and has a lot of background in teaching Moral Theology in high schools. We are so happy to "pay back" America a little bit for all the support given us all these years by our sending two of our best seminarians for ordination and work in America! Two parishes in Las Vegas have been sister parishes of ours, and have helped us so much. And Las Vegas is in such a need of priests because people often retire in Las Vegas, which means that the population is older, but it takes kids to become priests, and so the small population of children in Las Vegas means less

vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Congratulations St Joseph Husband of Mary Parish and St Anne's Parish in Las Vegas who have received our first missionaries to America!

- We would like to begin a **soup kitchen** program for the indigent elderly again, given the economic situation in Russia just now. But we think that, rather than just offering a meal at a café, it would be better to provide food for them to take home so that they don't have to come to the café so often, thus saving them money on bus fare which could amount to \$1.20 per day, depending on where they live in the city. Here is the proposed food packet, which costs \$12. I'm sure some of our benefactors will be interested in this.



Rice, Oats, Buckwheat, Tea, Salad Oil, Powdered Milk, Macaroni (2 kinds), Flour, Condensed Milk, Canned Beef, Sugar, in the package for \$12



- **Correction:** Bro Patrick wrote to say that the saint's statue in the news about Bro Harben in Issue 129 is not St Arnold Jansen, the founder of the Society of the Divine Word, but St Joseph Freinademetz, the first SVD missionary to China. Sorry!

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



- Here it is, the **new home for our theology level seminarians** in Maumere in Indonesia for their last years before ordination to the priesthood! Amazing how fast the seminarians work—They built their own house! Of course, the technical work, like electricity, is being done by experts. The seminarians have also been busy in the garden, producing their own vegetables, fruits, and even now raising pigs and chickens. I can't wait until some are able to come to help us out in Russia as priests.

- Our parishioner **Miroslava Efimova** died on April 18. She had been sick for a long time. She was born in White Church, Ukraine in the family of a military officer. She lived through the bombings of World War II, evacuation to the Volga region of Russia and to Kazakhstan and Siberia, hunger and Typhus.

After graduating from the Geological Faculty of the Far Eastern Polytechnical Institute, she was active with work, music, and her favorite—playing basketball. She worked



in the Geological Institute of the Russian Academy of Science where she participated in geological expeditions, including one to North Korea. She successfully defended her doctor's thesis on the theme "Lead, Zinc, and Tin Sources in the Far East." She founded a museum of mineralogy at the Institute, and later worked at the Arsenyev State Museum where she created a mineral exposition. Among her popular works was "Twelve Bible Minerals", a book which was published by the Institute.

She got involved in the processes relative to the rebirth of the Catholic Church in the Russian Far East. For many years she worked to collect information from the archives in St Petersburg, Moscow, Minsk, Warsaw, Lublin, and Krakow, Khabarovsk, Blagoveschensk and Vladivostok connected with the activities of the Vladivostok Diocese. She used the historical documents and photos that she found to write a book about the history of the Roman Catholic Church of the Russian Far East, *The Harsh Vineyard* (available from our office), and a series of booklets about Bishop Karol Slivovsky, about the repression of Catholics in the Soviet Union, about Catholic churches and parishioners. She founded the Vladivostok parish's archive.

Miroslava was among the founders of the Polish Cultural Society "Gmina" in Vladivostok and became its president. For her work to discover and save the remnants of Polish history in the Russian Far East she was awarded the Golden Cross for Service by the government of Poland. She will be remembered for her fast smile, her time spent in prayer, her scientific and optimistic outlook. We will treasure her memory as a prayerful and respected parishioner.



Miroslava with the Gorbachev's at the mineral museum

- On April 22, the **mission's mailbox** in California was vandalized and any mail in the box was taken. We are working with law enforcement and the postal service as to our options and any recourse in retrieving any stolen mail. In the meantime, we are notifying all our donors. While

Baby Talk

From the Women's Support Centers



You mean the cost of Pampers
has doubled?

[Dimitri Oct 30, 2015]

this incident may not have affected any of our donors, we are asking those who have mailed correspondence or a donation to the mission between April 18 and April 21 to contact us immediately.



- Our archivist Tatyana Shaparozhnikova happened upon a file in the **Vladivostok State Archives** which concerned the Orthodox parishes before the Russian Revolution. As she leafed through it, she suddenly found a folder about Catholic parishes, too, and one item was a plan for our church building! It is the only one we have found anywhere. It was fun to compare what the original architect had

planned for the steeples, and what we actually built—We weren't too far off! But maybe even more important she found documents about the parish house in Khabarovsk which gives the address! And on the side plan, it says that this side faces the church building! The first archival evidence we have that what the witnesses told us that they remember from their childhood is true! Hopefully these

documents will help us recover our land and buildings in Khabarovsk.

● We are happy that our church is an indulgenced church for this **Holy Year of Divine Mercy**. In late May we had a group of pilgrims visit us from Slovenia. They were happy to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi in our church, as otherwise, they would be on the TransSiberian railroad on the feastday.



Franciscan priests accompanied the group of pilgrims, here with our sisters and brothers who help during mass.

● Bro Hubert Yakobus, C.J.D. won first place in the **talent contest** among students studying Russian at the Far Eastern Federal University and Vladivostok Government University of Economics and Services with the song he composed and sang, accompanying himself on the keyboard. The song “Vladivostok” was quite a hit, and we hope it will become popular here.

Brother Hubert wore his native Indonesian costume for his song.

● On May 31 our Women’s Support Centers were able to help the **2000th child saved from abortion**, and it comes at a time when the number of abortions has been increasing again, due to the poor economic situation with low oil prices. Congratulations to the six Centers currently operating in our cities of the Russian



Far East, and the 27 volunteers who do all the work, and especially to our benefactors who make it all possible! God bless you!



Finishing the basement walls in Nakhodka

● Here is a latest photo from Fr Sebastian showing the foundation of the **new church** and the basement walls in **Nakhodka**. The construction company is in a hurry to complete the church, so they can go on to another project. Of course Fr Sebastian is watching the quality of everything. On May 14 we went for the blessing of the foundation. It was an exciting time for the parishioners who have been waiting 15 years for a church! Then on June 4 the entire form for the basement floor was pumped full of concrete, so now they can move on to the main floor construction.



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Fr Trummer at the Diego Cera organ in Vladivostok

Jubilee Pipe Organ Concerts with Fr Dr Johann Trummer

by Fr Daniel L Maurer CJD

Fr Dr Johann Trummer of Graz, Austria, the inspiration and main benefactor of our Diego Cera pipe organ, came to Vladivostok to perform for the first time on the new organ at three concerts on May 19, 20 and 21 which were planned to celebrate the 20th anniversary of organ concerts in our church. With Fr Trummer was Mr Cealwyn Tagle the head organ builder of the Diego Cera Company from Las Piñas, Philippines, who has known Fr Trummer since 1985 when Cealwyn first went to Austria to learn the amazingly complex skills of organ building when he was 16 years old.

After seeing and playing our pipe organ for the first time, Fr Trummer told me of his pride in Cealwyn and the satisfaction he received in inspecting the organ, which he said is of the very highest quality in every detail. This is especially high praise, since among his many duties, Fr Trummer happens to be the Austrian government inspector of all new pipe organs in most of Austria!

From the first stages of planning for these concerts Fr Trummer made it known that he was not just coming to play the new organ but to listen to others play it. So we invited two more organists, our Catholic Concert Choir, our chamber orchestra “Regina Angelorum” and other soloists. All together with musicians, parishioners and the public, the three concerts turned out to be a huge gala event for the parish and for the city.

Fr Trummer is a famous and talented person of great initiative: priest, professor of organ and harpsichord performance, founder of the Musical University of Graz, Austria, seminary rector emeritus, member of the board of directors of the International Bach Society, founder and major investor of the only pipe organ building company in Catholic Philippines – Diego Cera Organ Builders, initiator of countless musical education programs for church musicians in former communist countries, and a dear friend and benefactor of many Catholic parishes in the former Soviet Union.

His presence and performances at our May concerts finally gave us an opportunity to introduce him to the organ-concert-going public of Vladivostok and to thank him publicly for his essential role in the acquisition of our new Diego Cera pipe organ.

Thank you, Fr Trummer, and God bless you for all you do for the Catholic Church in Russia!



Cealwyn, Fr Trummer, and Marina Omelchenko, chief organist at the Cathedral in Moscow, his former student

Opportunities

- ♥ **Bilingual** volunteers much needed for weekend mission preaching and talks. If you are fluent in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean or Polish, we need priest and lay speakers for an occasional weekend parish talk. We provide the training, information and travel to the parishes. Please contact the mission office for details.
- ♥ Organizing a parish, Catholic conference, or other event to celebrate the **100th Anniversary of the Fatima** appearances? We have a select team of representatives including our priests, deacons and board members who are

available to speak at your event. Contact the mission office for information and portfolio of speakers.

♥ Ever thought about a **mission trip** to Vladivostok? Mission work in Russia is a deeply moving experience. Staff from our USA office can assist you in forming a team from your parish or university or arranging for you to join one. We have one group traveling September 13 to October 1, 2016. Will you be part of the adventure? Contact our mission office for more details.



Mission team from California stops to pray at mass grave site of martyrs killed during Communist times.

♥ You can help our seminarians **build the monastery in Indonesia!** Contact the mission office for details.

♥ Please consider one time, monthly, or yearly **sponsorship of one of our seminarians.** 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 (www.vladmission/vocations) as well as our sister order (www.cjd.cc). 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 new school year will begin soon! The annual cost for 1 seminarian for education, books, transportation, and humble living expenses is \$10,774.

♥ Save time and money. Sign up to donate by **automatic monthly deduction** from checking or credit card. Contact the mission office for details.

♥ Our 2016 **conference season** is underway. If you enjoy meeting other faithful Catholics, we need you! Please join our volunteer pool to attend Catholic conferences and distribute literature and information about our mission. This is a very important way to spread the good news about our work and needs in Russia. Let us know if there is a conference coming to your area!

♥ You can help our priests while giving 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.



♥ Ask your pastor to place a few copies of our bi-monthly **Vladivostok Sunrise** at your parish to share the news of the important work of the Catholic Church in Russia. We'll be happy to send them.

♥ 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 for more details on how to sign on. Thanks to you, we received \$310.19 from AmazonSmile!

♥ CA and NV Important **SHARES card program changes!** The program is now Escript/SHARES. The SHARES cards are no longer being used. Now all you do is enter your phone number at the checkout counter and the mission will receive up to 3% of your grocery total when you shop at Save Mart, Food Maxx, Smart Foods and Lucky's grocery stores. As always, no cost to you! Please continue with the program by registering your phone number online at www.escrip/shares and follow the sign in prompts. Go to Advanced Find to select **Mary Mother of God Mission Society** as your charity. From then on, all you have to do is punch in your phone number at the check out counter in order for the mission to receive up to 3% of your grocery total! If you do not use a computer please call the mission office for assistance,

♥ Remember our ever popular **Abundant Blessings Cookbook** as part of your special giving! Diverse and beautifully arranged, our collection of international recipes comes from the many cultures and countries of our priests, seminarians, sisters, and mission families in celebration of our abundant blessings. \$25 per cookbook covers shipping in the continental USA. Proceeds go to our seminarians' education fund and our Women's Support Centers. Order from our mission website, www.vladmission.org, online store, www.store.vladmission, or contact our office. Contact our USA office usoffice@vlamission.org or 209-408-0728 for more on information on all opportunities.



(Continued from Pg 8) It is a great blessing to be part of the Vladivostok mission family. Through God's blessings, we are all building churches and forming new priests and sisters to minister to Catholics in Russia, and who knows, maybe other parts of the world?! The prayer and financial needs are as great as ever. Please visit our website or contact our mission office for more information on how you can be part of the mission family to revive the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia.

Thank you! God bless you and your families.
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From the development desk...

Dear Friends,
Sometimes it helps to remind one another why we do the work we do. I'd like to share a letter sent by Fr Myron a couple of years ago (statistics have been updated).

What if today there were only 42 priests to serve Mass in all of the United States? And none of them were within 500 miles of you? How you would hunger for the Eucharist and the celebration of Mass!

*In Russia, the Communist Party fell in the early 1990's. Although in its later years it gave a small measure of existence to the Orthodox Church, during its 72 years of atheist rule Catholics in Russia were not allowed to practice their Faith at all. No Lenten or Christmas season, no priests, no Mass, no sacraments, only 2 open church buildings acting as a façade of religious freedom. All religions were persecuted, but Catholicism was forced from every nook and cranny of existence. What became of the people who were denied the knowledge of God? Today they suffer the worst kind of poverty of all - **spiritual poverty**. Our Church's greatest need is to help overcome the fallout from decades of forced atheism.*

Since 1991, the struggle to revive our Faith throughout Russia has been slow and difficult. The geographic area

of Russia is over 2 times the size of the United States (11 time zones), yet there are still only about 200 priests serving here (compared to 45,000 in the USA). Fr Daniel and I serve in the largest of the 4 Dioceses in Russia. The Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk spans an area larger than that of the US, but has only 42 priests!

Approximately 350 Roman Catholic parishes have been reopened throughout Russia. Only a relative few - 60 or so - have actual church buildings. The rest are comprised of tiny groups of parishioners attending Sunday Mass in homes, apartment rooms, meeting halls, etc. More than half the parishes do not have resident priests. Priests must travel from outside areas to bring the sacraments and celebrate Mass. Each month, I make a 10-hour round trip to hear confessions, and celebrate Mass in our parish of The Visitation in Lesozovodsk.

Less than 1% of the people of Russia practice any form of religion. This includes all faiths combined - Orthodox, Protestant, Catholics, Muslims, and Jews. By "practicing" for Christians I mean being in church more than 2 times a year, at Christmas and Easter. Russia is the most non-practicing country in the history of civilization, with the exception of North Korea!

Our mission is to help fellow Catholics and to open churches - to provide help to our brothers and sisters as our faith teaches. That is why we are in Russia. The progress is slow and painstaking, but it is happening, and for the present time, can come only with your help. (Continued on Pg 7)