



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Issue Number One Hundred Thirty Five May, 2017



May, Month of Mary

Mother of God, Pray for Us!



Chrism Mass 2017

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

Our Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk is the largest diocese in the world in land area. That makes it hard for priests to help each other as we are so far apart, and even harder for our Bishop Kirill Klimovich to even visit once a year. So he chooses the Chrism Mass just before Easter to gather the priests and religious together. The Chrism Mass is when he blesses the holy oils which the priests will use during the year, including the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and Chrism oil itself for confirmations and baptisms.

There is just one hitch: The diocese is too big for all the priests to even come to the Chrism Mass, so Bishop Klimovich holds it twice, once in the Eastern part of the diocese and once in the West. In the East it is usually held at Immaculate Conception Parish in Khabarovsk, because it is centrally located here in the East. But this year they are doing roof repairs, so we had the honor of having the Chrism Mass here in Vladivostok at Most Holy Mother

of God Parish, and priests flew in from Magadan, Petropavlovsk, Sakhalin, and by train from Blagoveschensk and Khabarovsk, and by car from Ussurysk and Nakhodka. Sisters also came from all the various cities. Priests from Yakutia were not able to come—They are the farthest away!

The annual get-together went fine, and the bishop always likes mass in our church, as he says, “You have a real church!” Most other parishes in the diocese have chapels or apartments, or else their buildings are still occupied by other agencies. In our deanery, the “real churches” that are still not returned to the parishes who owned them before the Communist Revolution are Immaculate Conception in Khabarovsk and Holy Cross in Blagoveschensk. The parish with a new church is Our Lady of the Pacific, Nakhodka—soon to be dedicated

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!



The Holy Oils being blessed by Bishop Kirill. They are basically olive oil, but chrism has balsam added to it.

The Great Russian Far Eastern “Catholic Organ Exchange”

by Rev Daniel L Maurer, C.J.D.

When Bishop Kirill Klimovich was here in Vladivostok for the Chrism Mass, one of the topics at the pre-Mass gathering of the priests and the bishop was the church organs that Catholic parishes have acquired recently. It turns out that I had a hand in obtaining all of them and also most of the other Catholic parish organs in the Russian Far East.

This story starts in the Catholic Church of the Nativity of Christ in the city of Magadan, on the far northeastern Pacific coast of Russia. It was the first registered Catholic parish (1991) in our diocese.

After our Vladivostok parish had already received its first, real church organ (1995) and had begun our highly successful parish series of sacred music organ concerts (1996), Fr Ron Williams, a priest friend of ours sent an email in 2002 saying that his parish of St Charles Borromeo in Kettering, OH had decided to install a new pipe organ, and they would like to give us free of charge their large Rodgers analog electronic organ if we needed it. Since it was larger than ours, we said yes; but when it was on its way by ship we were given the gift of a new, even larger Rodgers digital electronic organ, so I called Magadan to ask pastor Fr Michael Shields if he wanted a big organ in his parish, so we passed the organ on to him (Rodgers model Providence 330; ca 1972; 42 stops; 3 manuals; full pedal board; the first three-manual organ in our diocese).

With generous donations from many benefactors in the USA in 2008 our Vladivostok parish acquired a set of real pipes to add to our large Rodgers digital organ (2003). Purchased at an unbelievable discount from the former St Ambrose Catholic Church in St Paul, MN, these pipes (made by Fratelli Ruffatti Organ builders, Padua, Italy, 1969; 6 stops, 7 ranks) were installed in our church to be played from our Rodgers Trillium 927 digital electronic organ in combination with its electronic stops (the first pipe organ in the Russian Far East).

In 2014 through the benefaction of Fr Johann Trummer of Graz, Austria and also of parishioners in Vladivostok and donors in the USA, we were able to acquire our present Diego Cera Opus 25 pipe organ (17 stops; 19 ranks; 2 manuals, full pedal board), which was custom made for our church. It also made the St Ambrose pipes redundant, so we were looking for some church in the diocese that wanted them.

When Fr Michael visited Vladivostok a year ago he told us of his hopes to acquire a larger, more modern, digital organ to re-start and expand his parish’s program of sacred organ concerts. In consolation with this author, he described what he was looking for and how much his budget was, and we decided to try to find a large “second hand” Rodgers digital organ to which he could add the “Saint Ambrose pipes”.



Sr Yekaterina Orlovskaya, O.P. from Blagoveschensk trying out our new pipe organ.

I knew from experience that large, second-hand Rodgers digital organs are hard to find because they are such good instruments that they rarely end up on the re-sale market. However, from Mr Noel Jones, a Rodgers contact in the USA, I soon learned of an available instrument in Berlin, Germany, formerly owned by the “enfant terrible” of the organ world (when he was living and studying in Berlin), the famous American concert organist, musicologist and composer, Mr Cameron Carpenter.

With a grant from private benefactors and from the Archdiocese of Anchorage, Fr Michael was able to purchase this organ for Magadan: a limited edition (ca. 2010) Rodgers digital Masterpiece 928 Medallion (ca. 100 stops; three manuals; full pedal board). It was shipped from Berlin (around Africa!) here to Vladivostok. We then loaded our beloved pipe organ into the same container and shipped them both up to Magadan. Diego Cera organ masters from Las Piñas (Metro Manila, Philippines) will go to Magadan to install the digital and pipes together in new home in the beautiful Catholic church there.

A Shocking Episode from the History of our Parish

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

We received a packet of historical documents from the archive in St Petersburg, and among them, testimony and telegrams from Fr Adam Spiganovich from October 23, 1898. It was the time of the “wild east” in Russia when bands of villains terrorized the citizens of the Russian Far East.

Returning home in the evening to the little wooden church where he lived, no one opened the door for Fr Adam, even though two guards were supposedly on duty. Going around to the kitchen door, he found it open and inside in a pool of blood lay one of the guards who had been beaten and tortured. Not far away lay the second guard, also deceased. Fearing that the murderers might still be inside the church, Fr Adam ran for the police. On returning they found the safe opened and money gone, sacred utensils were missing, and many books, including the baptismal register (which explains the strange fact that we have no baptisms registered for the 1890’s.) The Blessed Sacrament was thrown around the premises. Fr Adam theorized that the criminals were still inside when he arrived, which explained the fact that they didn’t have time to set fire to the building to cover their crime, as would have been the usual case.

Four people were eventually apprehended with evidence still in their possession. Fr Adam was left without funds to live eight time zones from the bishop in St Petersburg, without the funds that had been already collected for building the new church, and without much nerve to continue his mission here in the Russian Far East. Two

This story ends in the Catholic Church of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in the city of Blagoveshensk, a two-day train ride north and west from Vladivostok. With Magadan’s acquisition of the combination digital/pipe organ they donated their first (now vintage) Rodgers Providence 330 organ to the Blagoveshensk parish. It was just recently installed in their temporary church building, waiting to be transferred to their historic pre-revolutionary church building, which is scheduled to be returned to the parish soon. There it will be able to provide many more years of service for liturgies and for concerts.

There are also concert-quality organs in the Catholic parishes in the cities of Irkutsk, Yakutsk, Khabarovsk and South Sakhalinsk. With so many concert-quality organs in Catholic churches in the Russian Far East, the parishes can collaborate on inviting world-class organists to make concert tours, performing in various Catholic parishes, thereby saving expenses by splitting the travel costs.

families were left without their fathers. Parishioners helped to pay for the funerals.

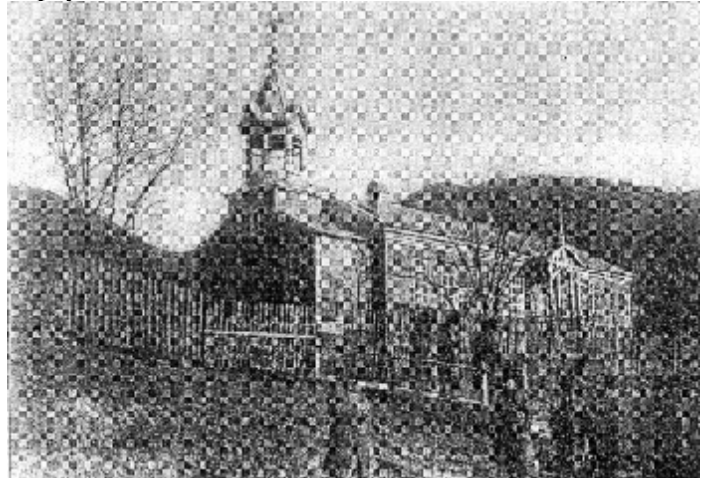


Photo of the church of the 1890’s which stood on the edge of Vladivostok between a hill and a deep gully. Today the site is near the center of the city and occupied by a skyscraper.



News Notes

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

- Congratulations to Fr Ferdinandus Wale, C.J.D. for being the first C.J.D. priest after Fr Myron and Fr Daniel to be assigned to a parish as Assistant Pastor. Bishop Pereira of Maumere, Indonesia, has assigned him to Mary Immaculate Parish in Sikka, Flores, Indonesia. He continues to be part of our Maumere seminary community.



- We were able to again deliver 60 food parcels for the “Soup Kitchen Program” to people who were desperately in need according to the City Social Services Department. Thank you to our benefactors of the food packages. Each package is about a month’s supply of products that don’t need refrigeration, like dried milk, macaroni, canned meats, flour, sugar, oil, etc. Here is one photo of a recipient for you.

- The school year is coming to an end, and some of the brothers are finishing up their studies. Bro Edwin Intan received his Bachelor’s in Theology from the SVD seminary in the Philippines, so he has two more years before ordination. Bro Patrick Napal also has two more years. Deacons Jose Unlayao and Luis Ngyen will be ordained priests on May 31 in Las Vegas, so plans are advancing for that. Recently we had a contact from a bishop asking us to send him a priest! More seminarians are working their way through school. Brothers Desideratus, Albert, Pradeep, and Kumud are about to finish their novitiate program. We haven’t been able to complete our new seminary buildings in Indonesia, yet, due to lack of funds. And it costs money to educate seminarians. Thanks for your help, and we’ll be praying for you. Pray for vocations!

Bro Edwin, with the seminary rector and the local bishop.



- Here is a picture of our parishioners Mr and Mrs Albert and Lilia Silin. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, and received a special blessing from the bishop. Members since the first days of the parish 25 years ago, they have always been part of Caritas, the charitable parish outreach. Lilia

masterminded many programs, and she says that Albert was always her best volunteer! Congratulations, Albert and Lilia!

- Our seminarians who study the Russian language attend the Far Eastern Federal University. Every year the five universities who teach Russian to foreign students in Vladivostok sponsor a “Festival” where students can display their talents in a variety of venues, as long as everything is in the Russian language. This year two of our seminarians won first places for their productions. Bro Desideratus Mariano sang a solo, “A White Angel”, in popular style which was the rage among the other students. Bro Pradeep Kommu performed a solo dance in Indian and Western style, and also performed with other students in a Russian folk dance. Needless to say, their Russian language is simply great, too, with hardly a foreign accent.



Bro Desideratus with his prizes from the Festival

Bro Pradeep with a child watching from behind



Bro Pradeep and the "Russian" dancers



● Our Lady of the Pacific Church in Nakhodka is still under construction, and still need funds. Here is the skeleton for the steeple. The wall in the background has since had its tile surface completed.

Baby Talk

From the Women's Support Centers



Maybe you like pink instead of blue?

[Sophia November 9, 2016]



2016's Adopt-a-Birth's Kids

Thanks, Benefactors of the Women's Support Centers, for helping save these kids from abortion.

Opportunities

♥ You are all invited to attend a very special event at Guardian Angel Cathedral, Las Vegas, NV. Two of our own, **Deacon Luis Nguyen Van Dam, C.J.D. and Deacon Jose Unlayao, C.J.D. will receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders.** Thanks and glory to God. We hope you may attend.

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Guardian Angel Cathedral
336 Cathedral Way, LV, NV 89109
Las Vegas Diocese

♥ **Fr. Daniel's summer visit to the USA and parish speaking schedule** will begin with the celebration of the ordination of Deacon Luis and Deacon Jose.

May 31 Las Vegas, NV- Guardian Angel Cathedral
June 3-4 Las Vegas, NV- Guardian Angel Cathedral
June 10/11 Mansfield, TX- St. Jude Parish
June 17/18 Rochester, NH – St. Mary's Church
June 24/25 Ballinger, TX- St. Mary, Star of the Sea
July 1/2 Fort Worth, TX- St. Mary of the Assumption
July 8/9 Nashua, NH- Saint Aloysius of Gonzaga
July 15/16 Long Beach, CA- St. Anthony
July 22/23 Wilmington, CA- SS Peter and Paul
July 26-29 Napa, CA- Napa Institute

♥ Become a **Guardian Angel** for one of our seminarians. We are blessed with **40 seminarians** to support. Thanks be to God. Might you please consider a one time, monthly, or yearly sponsorship of one of our seminarians? You'll receive personal email news and communication from your seminarian. Each one 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 approximately **\$10,774.**

♥ Julianne Immordino from New York has created beautiful **Swarovski crystal rosaries**, valued at \$100 for anyone who donates \$500 or more to our **seminarians' education.** Thank you for your generosity Julianne!

♥ You can give an eternal gift to your loved ones through **Masses** celebrated in Russia. Please send your special intentions or Mass requests to the mission office. Mass cards will be sent. You'll be supporting our priests too! 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.

♥ Help the mission by attending our booth at **Catholic conferences** in your area. While this is a very important

way to help spread the work of the mission, attending a conference booth is also much fun and easy to do. We supply the materials, training and coordinate the registration. Here are some upcoming events where we will be attending. Can you help?

6/16 Eucharistic Congress, Atlanta, GA

7/15 Men's Conf., St. Michael Church, Stockton, CA

7/26-30 Napa Institute, Napa, CA

Please let us know if there is a good Catholic Conference near you that we might attend.

♥ You are invited to visit the **mission in Vladivostok!** We have several individuals and a team from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) visiting this summer. We will help you form a team from your parish or you may join a group already going. See where it all started, learn the history of the church and area, and experience first hand the charitable works and many services of the mission. The experience is life changing!



While working with the children and elders, mission travelers can help with church building projects too!

♥ **Mother's/Father's Day/Graduate gift suggestion!** We are thankful for all the requests for our **Abundant Blessings mission cookbook.** Proceeds from our 592 cookbooks sold so far have gone to our **seminarians' education fund** and



our Women's Support Centers, helping pregnant women and families. Excellent for gift giving. The cooks in your life will love choosing from our 498 mouth watering recipes. Many repeat orders have come in as buyers discover the diverse and beautifully arranged collection of recipes. Our cookbook is tab divided into 8 int'l geographic areas and submitted from the many cultures and countries of our priests, seminarians, sisters, and mission families in celebration of our abundant blessings. Interesting reading for your coffee table too! **\$25 per cookbook** covers cookbook and shipping in the continental USA. This month's international recipe highlights are **Paella** (Spain) by Angela Hierro, and **Ma Mere's Lemon Ginger Wake-up**, (France) by Julie Danielson.

♥ For more information please contact our USA mission office usoffice@vladmission.org, or 209-408-0728.

Vladivostok Mission
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From the development desk...

Dear Friends, Peace to you!

We are grateful to God, our Blessed Mother, and to all of you for your prayers and support that make the mission work in Russia possible.

As you continue to follow the work of Fr Myron and Fr Daniel in Vladivostok and surrounding cities and feel the call to help, there are ways to give to the mission where there is no cost to you. Read more details on our website in "Donate Painlessly." www.vladmission.org/getinvolved.

Here are some of what you'll read about:

- Shop **Smile.Amazon.com**. Amazon gives .5% of your purchases to Mary Mother of God Mission. All you do is type in Amazon Smile when you log into Amazon, and you will be asked to choose your charity. Type in, "Mary Mother of God Mission Society", and .5 % of your purchases will be sent to us by Amazon. Remember to type in Amazon Smile each time you log in so you are shopping within the Smile donation site. All else is the same when on Amazon.
- The **Save Mart/Escrip** program is running smoothly. If you shop at **Save Mart** stores log on to www.escrip.com/shares/. Click on the Save Mart or Lucky stores logo and register your phone number. Choose Mary Mother of God Mission Society as your charity. The mission will earn 3% of your grocery store purchases when you enter your phone number.
- Shop your favorite online store through Escrip while earning funds for the mission! Go to **Escrip.com** to register

and add Mary Mother of God Mission Society at your charity!

- Donate your **air miles** to Mary Mother of God Mission Society.
- Participate in your employer's **Matching Gifts** program.
- When you **sell on Ebay**, you can designate a percentage of your purchase to the mission
- When you use **Goodsearch.com** as your search engine the mission receives a penny for every search.
- Shop online through **Goodshop.com** and the mission receives up to 15% of your purchase total.

To simplify your monetary donations, you can give with **automatic monthly donations** from your checking or credit card account, or from PayPal. No more check writing or



You help continue our work. Sister Alicia of the Sisters of Charity of St. Ann, monitors a home bound elder. Without her visits this elder would not get the medical attention needs. She was not able to climb up or down the several flights of stairs at her apartment.

looking for a stamp. Just let us know you want to set up automatic monthly donations. Thank you!. If you have any questions, please call our office at 209-408-0728. I'll be happy to help.

Gratefully Yours, Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Desk