



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

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March 31, 2016

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94 year old **Regina Stanislavovna Stanko** died on March 16, 2016. She was our oldest and “last” parishioner, as she was a member of our parish in Vladivostok before the Revolution and before the closing of the parish under the press of Communism. She was born on March 6, 1922, in Vladivostok, baptized by Fr Karol Slivovsky in the Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Church. Her family was always close to the priests of the parish, and faced the sorrow of seeing them arrested and sent to camps or exiled. When the by-then Bishop Slivovsky was exiled to Sedanka outside Vladivostok in June of 1930, she was sent by her family to

deliver milk products to him every day my train from their own cow. It was her family who arranged the funeral and the burial of Bishop Slivovsky in January of 1933. Then she was eleven year old, and her story is corroborated by another parishioner who was also at the burial, though they didn’t know each other. When she visited us in Vladivostok she could easily remember the house where he lived and died, and she remembers the cemetery marker of his grave, and the photo of the marker she brought with her told us of the birth and death dates of the Bishop. The family was punished by authorities and fled to Tomsk in Siberia to distant relatives. It was her dad and then the family who saved the personal items of Bishop Slivovsky which she has since given to our parish museum. Later Regina was a participant in World War II as a medical nurse, and so she is a Hero of the Soviet Union as is shown by the medals that she wore.

A dedicated parishioner and in general a remarkable person, she was always interested in what was happening in our parish and in Vladivostok. As the “last” of our parishioners from before the repression of Religion in Russia, with her passes a generation of tried and true Catholics, and we remember them and pray for them, many of whom died as martyrs and without receiving the Sacraments, as there were no more priests. Eternal Rest grant to her, O Lord!

Fr Sebastian is now the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Romanovka, too. (You remember he is also pastor in Nakhodka where he will be building a new church building.) He has new plans for Romanovka, including a new Women’s Support Center (crisis pregnancy center) and the purchase of premises so that the parish can have a place

for classes for kids and a social hall for events. This has been so lacking in that parish. I'll try to get some pictures rather than using a thousand words.

Easter was so early this year! We went to the Chrism Mass for our diocese which was held in Khabarovsk for our half of the diocese. Our diocese is over half the territory of Russia!!—the largest diocese in the world in land area in the largest country in the world. So there are two Chrism Masses, one for Siberia and one in the Russian Far East. Ours, of course, is the one for the Far East, which will probably again be its own diocese someday as it was in the past—The territory is so big!

Meanwhile in Indonesia Fr Inosensius has appointed a committee to help with the design, building, and funding of a chapel at our seminary in Maumere, Flores, where our Indonesian seminarians study. I'll try to get information, as I'm sure some Americans will want to help with that project, too. I think that the plan is to build a "semi-temporary" building, i.e., designed in such a way that temporary walls can eventually be replaced with permanent ones, temporary roofing by permanent roofing, and so on. The foundation and frame of the building will be permanent. By "temporary" we mean cocoanut thatch and bamboo. "Permanent" would be stone or brick walls and a metal roof. A permanent building could have air conditioning, but not a temporary building. They are not wasting any time in Indonesia. I just received a photo of the completed new dormitory for the Theology students which they built with their own hands! Here's a photo of them raising the walls, and then a photo of the complete building. Wow! We may have a total of seven ordinations to the priesthood in the next 12 months! And this is the time of year when we get many inquiries from young men who are thinking about being priests—the end of the school year is ahead. The more seminarians the better, at least if we can keep them fed while they are studying.



Thank you for your donation! We were able to catch the "carrier pigeon" which had your donation!—Just kidding!—Carrier pigeons these days are all electronic. We will be remembering you and your intentions in prayer throughout this Easter Season!

Happy Easter and Happy Spring!! **God bless you!** Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

To make a donation or order a Mass using your money card, go here:

<http://vladmission.org/get-involved/donate/>

To watch our new video, go here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwiQLQzvDPY&feature=youtu.be>