



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

September 30, 2021



Hello! The latest news is that, as of September 20, Fr Daniel Maurer, C.J.D. is the pastor of our Most Holy Mother of God parish here in Vladivostok! I've been pastor for 30 years, but there surely is still plenty for me to do: Dean of the Vladivostok Deanery, Pastor of Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk and of St Joseph Parish in Artyom, let alone being still President of Mary Mother of God Mission Society, and Superior General of the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord, with 50 members to look after! Fr Dan and I came to Russia together in 1992, so he is well informed and was the main guy behind our musical program and acquiring pipe organs, not only for us, but for other parishes of the Far East. He will have more help, with me here, Fr Vicky Samuel, Fr Nikita Kushnaryov, and Fr Mark Dao when the virus lets up enough for him to travel from Vietnam. And we are planning for the

ordination of three transitional deacons in the Spring of 2022.

Why so many priests? This summer, when lots of priests went on vacation, we were stretched to the limit trying to make sure all parishes in the Russian Far East had Sunday mass. Fr Nikita worked in Ussuryysk, then Sakhalin, Blagoveschensk, and Artsenyev. Deacon Vicky had communion services in Blagoveschensk, and then as a priest worked in Lesozavodsk and Khabarovsk. I've been holding down the fort in Vladivostok and Fr Sebastian in Nakhodka, Romanovka, and Arsenyev. Fr Dan was in America fundraising—We needed that, too! We need more priests, especially as European priests get more rare due to vocation shortages in their home countries. How grateful to God we are that we have lots of vocations from Asia! Now we need to get them educated and ordained! Three are studying here in Vladivostok, seven in the Philippines, and the rest in Indonesia. It is expensive, but it is the future! Now a whole new group of prospects are standing in line to join us! The new year for novices begins tomorrow on October 1!

Fr Dan is from Michigan and attended seminary in Indiana and Chicago, and then in Massachusetts and Chile. He speaks Spanish, as well as French, Russian, and English. For us, besides his expertise about organs and church music, he specialized in the teachings of St Augustine which he teaches to the novices. He was the creator and editor of our Russian parish hymnbook—Still the best in Russia! He was the second priest to be ordained in Russia after the fall of Communism. He was ordained a priest here in Vladivostok by Bishop Joseph Werth, S.J., of Novosibirsk in September of 1992—29 years ago.

A big event is coming on October 3! Our Bishop Kirill will be here to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first consecration of our church! At the same mass he is planning to do Confirmations, and also Anointing of the sick! Then there will be lunch, and finally an organ concert by our own Sister Maria Stella, C.J.D.! The day will be the theme of the next *Vladivostok Sunrise*! And shortly thereafter, I will be going to America, where I haven't been for two years! I'm wondering what changes I will see!

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Meanwhile we are getting ready for our next group of novices. We expect them from Pakistan and from Vietnam, but it still isn't clear how conditions with COVID will be, especially travel conditions. Sometimes people wear masks and sometimes they observe distances, but basically we hope and pray that the epidemic is done here. Many people have gotten injections, including most of us brothers. I hear that in some places in the world Catholic churches are still completely closed! We are glad that we never had to close at all—We started uploading our Sunday Mass for those who were afraid to attend.

Thank you for your donation! It means so much to us! God bless you and yours for your generosity! We are wishing for your good health, and praying for you every day—not just today!

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 read the September 2021 *Vladivostok Sunrise 161*, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/161>

To watch our Russian Sunday mass, (8:00 pm Central Time Saturdays) go here: facebook.com/parishvvo

We plan to continue broadcasting our Sunday Mass indefinitely, as many people live far from Catholic churches in Russia.

P.S. Here is a picture from Pakistan where our Brother Rajnal is waiting for his travel opportunity. He is living at a minor seminary, and working in catechetics and evangelization with the local people in this big desert area. He has completed his seminary education, took final vows, and is waiting for ordination to the diaconate.

