



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

September 15, 2023

We surely appreciate your financial support, as well as your spiritual support by your prayers! It is past summer, and what a strange summer it was: Cool and floodie! Most of the big cities had floods this year, especially the City of Ussurysk near us. So your financial support is really appreciated!

Meanwhile, we have more priests, and more coming, so we really are in need of mass stipends. You know, I presume, that mass stipends are meant for the daily support of the priest. We usually ask \$15 per mass, as I'm guessing that is about the cost of daily upkeep of one person. But since I currently have zero stipends to give our priests, any amount would be appreciated. We are grateful, too, for parish priests who sometimes send us their backlog, since they usually can only take one intention per day, and their parish supplies more than needed.

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My Fall American Assignments

- Oct. 1 Fr. Myron Effing
St. Bridget & St Patrick -
Pleasant Hill MO
- Oct. 8 Fr. Myron Effing
Blessed Trinity, Greenfield
MA
- Oct. 15 Fr. Myron Effing
Holy Trinity, Aurora MO
- Oct. 22 Fr. Myron Effing
St. Catherine of Vienna,
Greensburg IN
- Oct. 29 Fr. Myron Effing
SS. Peter and Paul, Cary IN

The 25th Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference is finished for this year. Fr Nikita was the organizer. The youth were from Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Blagoveschensk, Svobodni, Yakutia, and Africa. The Africans were Catholic students from the university, mostly studying medicine. The Conference theme this year was St Theresa, the Little Flower. I didn't help them much this year, but I was able to welcome them to Vladivostok, and I heard confessions as needed. I hope to write a report for the November Sunrise.

Summer school is over so all the novices went home for the break. They will be back for the beginning of the university

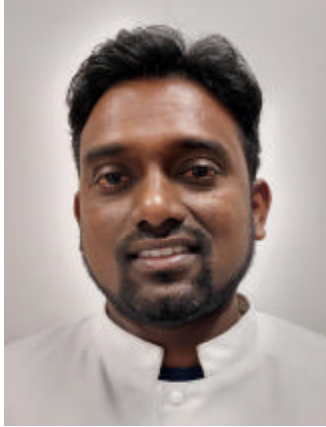
school year in October. Meanwhile five new novices will be joining them. It is great to have so many young men who want to be priests and canons regular. We continue to say the Mass for Vocations every green Monday.

Coming up is the consecration of the new church of Our Lady of the Pacific Parish in Nakhodka, Russian Federation. Our bishop will be there, and also the Apostolic Nuncio to Russia is coming and another bishop whose name I don't know. Stay tuned for the news! Meanwhile, see some Nakhodka items on the backside.

Our thanks to you for your kindness and prayers and for your donation! We need good vocations to do our work, but we need good benefactors, too! God bless you! We are **praying** for you every day! Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

Our Seminarians



Brother Sandeep Golla, C.J.D.

Brother Sandeep is from Andhra Pradesh, India. He finished his masters' degree in Mathematics with specialization in Statistics and Computer Science. He already spoke his native language and English before coming to Vladivostok as a novice. Here he excels in the Russian language, with excellent pronunciation. He is a quiet worker, and became my medical helper when I was sick in bed for four months. After taking vows, he wants to study in a seminary in India after Christmas.



The emblem of the **Parish of Our Lady of the Pacific in Nakhodka** is comprised of a representation of Pacific Ocean waves and the mountains of Nakhodka, together with symbols of the rising sun (for the Russian Far East and Mary as the beginning of the New Testament), a moon crescent, and a morning star (The crescent represents womanhood, and the rising star—usually the planet Venus—announces the coming of the sun) with the letter “M” for the Virgin Mary, with a crown to represent an icon, and a small cross to represent the child Jesus (when she will be pregnant.)

The original “**Our Lady of the Pacific,**” a statue enshrined in the Cathedral on the Island of Guam. A wooden statue, it was found floating in the water near Guam even before the missionaries arrived, and was honored by the pagan natives as “Our Lady of the Shed”. It was probably from the Spanish ship “Conception” that went down near the Island of Saipan, not far from Guam. The original statue is hairless, so the young ladies of Gaum vie every year to put their hair on the statue. I like the moon crescent. The angels underneath indicate that Mary is pregnant, like the angels under the ark in Jerusalem which indicate the unseen presence of God above the ark.

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

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

To read the September 2023 *Vladivostok Sunrise* 173, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/173>

