



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

September 30, 2023

We 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. Your financial support is really appreciated!

Coming up is the consecration of our new church of Our Lady of the Pacific 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. It is scheduled for October 14, Saturday, and then the bishops will be here in Vladivostok for Sunday Mass on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for the news! Meanwhile, see some Nakhodka items on the backside.

Here is what I wrote about Nakhodka back in 1995: "On January 1, 1995, I had the first mass for our new parish in Nakhodka. We advertised in the newspapers. I was surprised that 26 people came to mass, and 15 of them were already Catholic! One lady, Gelia, was in her 70's. She had been baptized Catholic as a baby by her parents in Latvia, and then moved with her family to Tomsk, Russia, where she remembers the day when both the Catholic and the Orthodox priest were executed together. She made her first confession and her first communion at our mass, and rapidly became everybody's favorite parishioner! She is



*Gelia Yakovna and her grandson (pictures were black and white in those days.)*

happy to show everyone her prayerbook which she saved from her childhood and from which she has prayed every day during all these years! The large turn-out for the first mass tells me that there are many Catholics yet to be found in the Nakhodka

region. We need a priest for Nakhodka! Where to find him? Pray for vocations!"

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.

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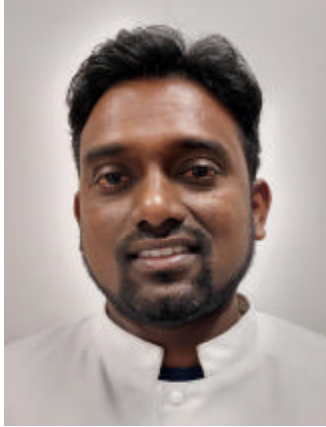
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## Our Seminarians



**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>**

