



Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

July 15, 2026

Dear Benefactor,

Summer has finally arrived, and we were “treated” to a typhoon on Saturday! The roof was shaking and vibrating. We’ll have to check for damage today.

The baby apples were on the trees, but most of them were knocked off by the roaring winds shaking the branches. What to do with a pail of small, green apples? Sister Helen, C.J.D. came to the rescue, and she made fantastically delicious pie from those green apples, some oats, cinnamon and sugar. The cherries were not affected much, as they grow closer to the ground. I’m one of those people who never get gout if I eat cherries every day! Here we have wild “Chinese” cherries, which are just low bushes. I remember back when I worked on Guam one of the Franciscan priests had gout so badly he couldn’t walk. I told him about cherries, but he said, “Oh, I don’t believe in all that folk medicine stuff! I thought, “O.K. Buddy, I’ll fix you!” I went to the store and bought 12 cans of cherries, and delivered them to him. I said, “If they help you, you owe me! If they don’t, you don’t owe me anything.” Two days later he called and said, “It’s like a miracle! I can walk again!” And he sent me the money!

This past week we had the first of our summer spiritual activities for our parishioners. Sister Veronica and Fr Stephen from Transfiguration Parish in Blagoveschenk brought kids from their parish to join kids from our parish for a retreat at the CJD Sisters’ convent on Russian Island, here in Vladivostok. The retreat topic was “The Life of Moses and the Ten Commandments.” But it also gave the kids a chance to visit our parish for Sunday Mass, and to visit the oceanarium and the nearby zoo to see the animals. (They don’t have an elephant at the zoo yet, which was always my favorite when I was a kid. But they do have Siberian tigers and many other animals.) Our Fr Hubert was the chaplain for the retreat and our Bro Andrew was the captain for the boys.



Sister Veronica and kids with Russian Island in the background

We are planning for the events ahead including the retreat for the kids from Arsenyev, Ussurysk, and Lesozavodsk.— And then the really big event at the end of July--the **Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference** which already has 70 youths signed up from Siberia and the Far East! Biggest ever! We’ll have to find more cooks for the event, and we

hope the sisters’ building on Russian Island will be big enough! The topic this year is Love and Marriage. It is scheduled for the last week of July.

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The kids at the oceanarium

travel expenses are very high from farther away places! We are so grateful for your donation and for your prayers!

I remember when I was a kid and my mother always got a newsletter from missionaries from a religious order (Maryknoll??) and I was fascinated to see all the good work they did. Maybe that is part of the reason I'm now a missionary, and you are reading my letter!

God bless you! Thanks for your help! We remember you at Holy Mass every day. Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

P.S. We need more **mass intentions**, too! (We have three more priests for daily mass.) To make a donation or order a Mass using your bank card, go here: <http://vladmission.org/get-involved/donate/> To see *Vladivostok Sunrise 189*, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/189>

Two of our C.J.D. Vietnamese seminarians arrived from Vietnam to work in Russia, now and after ordination! That is great! We have Vietnamese parishioners in three of our parishes so far, and more in parishes outside our region where Vietnamese priests will also be needed. Thank God for vocations! Now if we can just have the funds to get them educated and ordained! (You can help!) We already have three Vietnamese C.J.D. priests working in America—Ohio, North Dakota, and Las Vegas. They are able to provide some financial aid for our seminarians studying in Vietnam. But we will still need funds to pay for the education of our seminarians studying in other places: India, Pakistan, Russia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan! Frankly, I get lots of letters from guys wanting to join us to work as priests in Russia, but we can't afford them all. And