



# Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



Mary Mother of God Mission Society: Reviving the Roman Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Issue Number One Hundred Forty Eight July, 2019

## Chapel Consecration in Indonesia



*Youth in native costumes standing before the new St Augustine Chapel in Maumere, Indonesia*



*Bishop Ewaldus and Bishop Kheruvim with friends just before the event*

June 1 was the date chosen by Bishop Ewaldus of Maumere, Indonesia for the consecration of our **new chapel of St Augustine**. A thousand “thank yous” to our benefactors, and especially the major benefactor, the Papal Foundation, for this dream come true for our 30 plus seminarians and the C.J.D. community of Our Lady of Vladivostok. The number of vocations continues to increase on this island which already has more than 1,000 priestly vocations working throughout the world, including Russia! The consecration took place among a flurry of other events, including the final vows of our Fr Reminus Hambur, C.J.D. and Fr Hubertus Yakobus, C.J.D., as well as final vows and simple vows for our C.J.D. sisters of Kotabaru. More about that later!



Inside the chapel, the sanctuary is dominated by a large bas-relief “Last Supper”, which reflects the opening lines of the Rule of St Augustine: “The reason you have come together is to live in unity in the house with one heart and one mind in God.” It was made with joy by a local artist whose name, unfortunately I didn’t get. Above the Supper is the crucifix, and below it is the tabernacle supported by cherubim.



Seven of our C.J.D. Sisters in Jesus the Lord from Indonesia attended the event.

Afterward a meal was served to the crowd of friends and benefactors who filled the chapel to overflowing.



Bishop Ewaldus knocking on the door with his crozier—part of the rite. The doors are made from local teakwood.



Me, Fr Myron, as the General Superior, opening the door for the bishop.



Entertainment afterward included several choirs, including a boys’ choir from the local minor seminary where our priests teach, and, here, our Brother Edy performing a dance from his native tribe on Borneo.



God bless you, Benefactors! We couldn’t do it without you! --Fr Myron



## God's LOVE FLOURISHING far from Home

by Bro. Peter Cao Minh Hoang, C.J.D.

One of the most wonderful things that I have experienced since I first arrived in Vladivostok in Russia on September 27, 2018, was participating with the Vietnamese people who are temporarily living and working at Russia. There are many remarkable events to mention in this article such as the Vietnamese Sunday mass, faith formation, and marriage ceremonies of Vietnamese couples, and so on.

It is true that the center of Christian life is Jesus and our love for Him which is the inner motivation that draws all of us together. We can only encounter Him in the fullest sense as we are participating in the Eucharistic celebration. My first Sunday mass with the Vietnamese was on the first week of October. Traditionally Fr Myron Effing, CJD celebrated Sunday mass for them on the first week of every month. Brother Dominic, Brother Mark and I were brought by Fr Myron to Artyom, a city nearby, about an hour by car, to attend the Sunday Mass with them in a small coffee shop. The group was about 15 Vietnamese including four couples with their kids and one Russian lady. The mass was said in Russian. After the proclamation of the Gospel, Fr Myron said the homily in Russian and English and I translated his English homily into Vietnamese so that they could understand the meanings of the readings and treasure some significant messages that the presider wished them to bear in their minds and hearts, carrying them out in their daily lives. For our souls need to be nourished by the Body and precious Blood of Jesus and our minds and hearts need to be nourished by His word. Unfortunately, during that time, we just had Vietnamese mass once a month in Artyom.

Attending mass every Sunday is the standard for all Christians, so we began to wonder how we could have a regular Sunday Mass in Vietnamese. Finally, we came to

an agreement that instead of saying the mass in Artyom, we will say it at Most Holy Mother of God Parish in Vladivostok at 8:30 pm every Sunday night. That is the most convenient time for the Vietnamese, as most of them work in the markets on Sundays! They were really happy with the time setting, because at that time, they will be free from work and preparing themselves to come for mass, even though they had to travel from Artyom to Vladivostok.

On January 13, the first Vietnamese mass was said in Vladivostok. Beginning with the small group from Artyom, the numbers of the Vietnamese faithful has never ceased to increase, already up to 50 members now and we expect more will come. All are satisfied for they can attend Sunday mass in the beautiful church with a beautiful service. Fr Myron says the mass in Russian and the Vietnamese respond in Vietnamese, with fine melodies and beautiful religious songs and a great keyboardist who accompanies the singing in Vietnamese style. Brother Dominic is a good conductor for the choir and Mr. Hung is a very good musician who played the keyboard for one of the parishes in Vietnam for several years. A talk about the readings is well prepared by Brother Dominic and Brother Mark each Sunday. That makes the mass more meaningful and delightful to the faithful for they can listen to the Words of God in Vietnamese. Moreover, it was a blessing that Bishop Cyril Klimovich, the bishop of Saint Joseph Diocese, said Sunday Mass for our Vietnamese on April 9. They were rejoicing for they had met Bishop, listened to his homily and had their picture taken with him. After mass they don't go home immediately but pause a moment and excitingly tell each other their daily stories as if they have not seen each other in a long time.

Besides Eucharistic celebration, we also have formation of faith such as catechism classes, preparing people for the First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We open Matrimonial classes for some couples of mixed marriages. They had a good time discussing and sharing. The classes were always exciting and all were very happy.

Now God has gathered the scattered sheep in one flock. We "give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever" (Psalms 136:26). Our innate desire of God's love is implanted deeply in our hearts. As Saint Augustine once said "Thou has made us for Thyself and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee"

# News Notes

by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

● **Fr Reminus Hambur, C.J.D. and Fr Hubertus Yakobus, C.J.D.** took their lifetime vows on May 29 at the Vigil Mass of the Ascension, our major feastday, in Maumere, Indonesia. Fr Reminus is a teacher at the Minor Seminary in Maumere (which has more than 400 students), and Fr Hubert is the director of several church choirs and works in a parish..



● Signing his life away for the Church, **Father Nikita Kushnaryev, C.J.D.**, took his final vows in the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord on April 23 at Vespers. He had just been ordained a priest in Vladivostok on April 10. He has been assigned by Bishop Kirill Klimovich as Assistant Pastor to Fr Myron at Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Parish where Fr Daniel Maurer continues also as Assistant Pastor. Fr Nikita is from Rostov-na-Donu in southern European Russia, and finished his seminary education in Poland. He has been with us in Vladivostok for four years, helping with the catechetical program for adults, with the Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference, and with Catholic youth at the Far Eastern Federal University.



Fr Nikita signing the copy of the lifetime vow he had just taken.



● In an earlier *Sunrise* we mentioned the success of our **garden project** at our seminary in Maumere, Indonesia. In May we had 33 students from the Senior Agricultural High School come to our garden and farm for three months for practical experience, living in neighboring housing. They sang as a choir for the blessing of our chapel. Meanwhile, when I was in Maumere the brothers harvested 1,500 lbs of tomatoes in one day for sale in the market. They pick tomatoes every third day. Now they also sell eggs. Their goal is to feed themselves by their work so as not to burden benefactors who still need to pay for their seminary education.

● On the 2nd of May 2019 **Bro Rajnal Rehmat, C.J.D.** along with other brothers organized a program for the Catholic students of different countries of the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok. He gave a talk on the topic of "The role of Religious and Laity in the Catholic Church". After the talk the students had a discussion about the role the Church plays in the life of each individual. Then the brothers and students prepared lunch and enjoyed the meal together.

**Remember Mary  
Mother of God Mission  
Society in your will!**



*Barbecue is always popular with the University students, who are, of course, always hungry!*

- The **Diocese of Larentuka** in Indonesia offered us free use of this building to begin a pre-seminary program for young men who want to be priests, but whose catechetical experience in their home parishes was too weak to begin seminary studies. After getting a new roof and paint, and some new beds, it can be home to about 30 seminarians.



- The postulator of the proposed **Soviet saints and martyrs** is ready to submit the files to Rome. Our former Bishop Karl Slivovsky, who died in 1933 in exile in Sedanka, our last pastor during the Repression, Fr George Yerkevich who died in a prison camp in Siberia in 1942, and our five “last parishioners” who were executed in 1937 for gathering to pray the rosary on Sunday, are all included. One complication is that we don’t know the exact location of any of their graves. Mass, unmarked gravesites are common in Russia from the Communist era. There are roads in the North known as the “Roads of Bones” as the roads were just built over the frozen bodies of the dead prisoners—That was easier than burying them! We know which cemetery Bishop Slivovsky was buried in, and we have pictures of his grave marker with the date of his death, but we have no map of the cemetery.

## How to Communicate with Us

### Internet

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The color theme of this issue is taken from the ceiling of St Augustine Chapel in Maumere, Indonesia.



## Opportunities

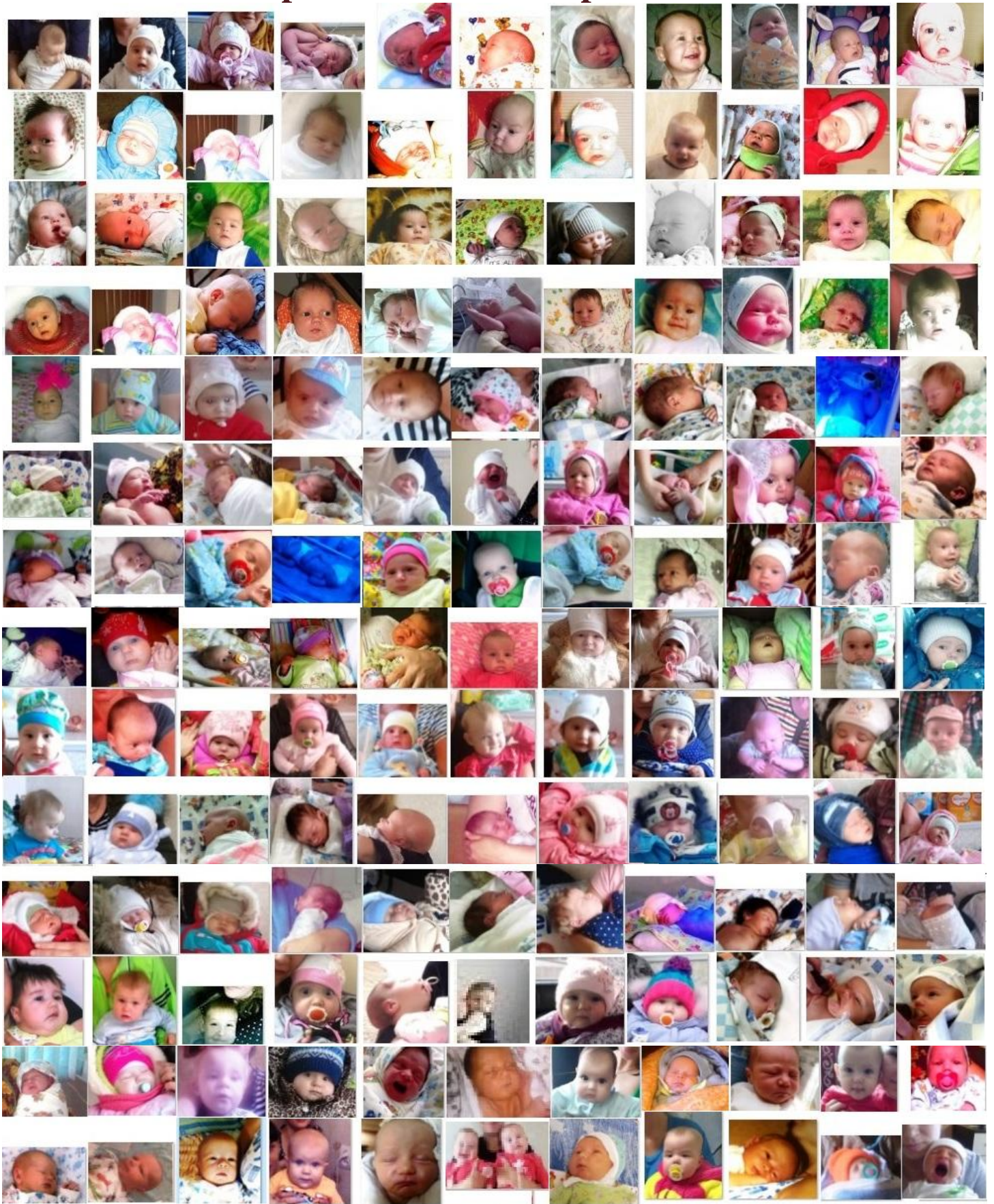
♥ Did you know? Fr Myron writes a thank you letter for every donation received. In each letter, Fr Myron includes our tax id number and the statement, “No good or services were received in exchange for this donation.” Fr Myron’s thank you letters also serve as your receipt for tax purposes. The mission office will gladly provide a year-end statement upon your request. Thank you always for your support to keep our work going.

♥ Can you **sponsor a seminarian** in his journey to priestly ordination? In a few short years we have seen 9 priests ordained in the order of Canons Regular of Jesus The Lord. We currently have 39 seminarians in various levels of education and formation in the Order. They need your help to continue their journey. Might you prayerfully consider sponsoring a seminarian? Yearly costs are \$10,700 for each seminarian. Please contact the California mission office for budget information or see our website [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)

♥ A generous benefactor has offered a beautiful free gift of a **Swarovski crystal rosary**, valued at \$100, for a donation of \$500 or more to our **seminarians’ education**. Rosaries are distributed quarterly. Thank you!

*Opportunities Continued on Page 7*

# 2018 Adopt-a-Birth and Adopt-a-Mom Kids.





## Thanks, Benefactors, from the Women's Support Centers!!

### Opportunities Continued from Page 5

♥ Give an eternal gift. Masses celebrated in Russia may be requested for loved ones, living or dead. **Mass stipends** support Fr Myron, Fr Dan, and Fr Nikita. Please send your special intentions or Mass requests to the mission office. Mass cards will be sent to you or designated persons. Suggested stipend is \$15 per Mass.

♥ Become a missionary right where you are and help spread the news of our mission in Russia. Ask your pastor to place our bi-monthly **Vladivostok Sunrise newsletter** in your parish. We'll be happy to send you a few copies every two months.

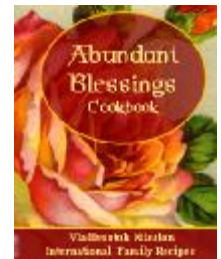
♥ You are helping save lives! Thank you to all who are keeping the doors of our Women's Centers open through your generous donations. The operating budget for each of our 6 Women's Centers costs \$7500 per year. Our programs within the centers include our long running **Adopt A Birth** program. This program has helped **save well over 2900 babies from abortion**. And the number of babies saved continues to grow as long as our center doors can remain open. Mothers will receive the help they need to keep their babies pre- and post-delivery with your donation of \$50 to the **Adopt A Birth** program. With this, you will pay for the medical supplies needed in the hospital to deliver the baby. Often times, the cost of these supplies is the deciding factor for a mother to have an abortion or let her child live. Fr Myron will send you a picture of the newborn you helped save! \$125 to the **Adopt A Mother** program provides help to the mother and baby in the first weeks supplying them with nutritious food, formula, diapers, baby clothes vitamins and medical aftercare.

♥ **Our Lady of Vladivostok Pendant** with Most Holy Mother of God Cathedral on back of medal detailed!



Text reads, *Our Lady of Vladivostok, Pray for Us*  
 3/4" Sterling Silver medal w 18" stainless chain \$65  
 3/4" Pewter medal w 18" stainless chain \$35  
 1" Sterling Silver medal w 24" stainless chain \$79  
 1" Sterling Silver medal w 24" stainless chain with text in Russian \$79. Prices include S/H in continental USA  
 Contact the mission office at [usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org) to order or visit our mission web store, [store.vladmission.org](http://store.vladmission.org).

♥ FREE copy (up to \$14 value) of one of several **Vladivostok Concert CD's** with your purchase of our mission's **Abundant Blessings Cookbook**. 494 International recipes from our priests, seminarians and mission families fill the pages! Proceeds from our cookbook go to our **seminarians' education fund** and our **Women's Support Centers** helping pregnant women and families. 649 cookbooks sold so far! **\$30 per cookbook** covers cookbook, CD, and shipping in the continental USA.



♥ Shopping on Amazon? Type in **Amazon Smile** in the search bar and select Mary Mother of God Mission Society as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your cart total to the mission at no cost to you! To date the mission has earned \$2259 from Amazon Smile.

♥ Want a way to involve your parish to help promote awareness of the mission and fundraise all the while having lots of fun? Ask your pastor if you can hold a **Russian Icon and Religious gifts fundraiser sale** at your parish! We provide the supplies you need. We can plan for a Fall or Christmas sale too! Contact Vicky or Jessica at the mission office in Modesto, CA for more details. 209-408-0728

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## From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

● We are always looking for **volunteers** to help us distribute our mission literature at **Catholic conferences and celebrations**. With your help, we can attend more venues and reach new Catholic communities to educate them of our mission work. Have fun and help the mission! Here are some Catholic conferences and activities we'd like to attend if we have help. The mission makes all the arrangements, provides meals and the supplies. Some dates include full weekends. If you know of a conference in a city not listed, please let us know!

- |      |                                      |       |                  |
|------|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------|
| 8/21 | Grand Rapids, MI                     | 10/10 | Dallas, TX       |
| 8/23 | Winnepeg, Canada                     | 10/11 | Brentwood, CA    |
| 8/30 | Anaheim, CA                          | 10/18 | Tacoma, WA       |
| 9/6  | Charlotte, NC                        | 10/24 | Center Pointe OR |
| 9/26 | Charlotte Town, Prince Edward Island |       |                  |
| 9/26 | San Diego, CA                        | 10/25 | St Paul, MN      |
| 9/28 | Tampa, FL                            | 10/26 | Philadelphia, PA |
| 9/28 | Lockeford, CA                        | 11/9  | Hillside, IL     |
| 10/3 | Boise, ID                            | 11/15 | Folsom, CA       |
| 10/4 | Green Bay, WI                        | 11/17 | DeKaulb, IL      |

● **Fr Dan is in the USA speaking at parishes.** Attend Mass, hear updates on the mission, and say hello at these locations!



- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>July 13/14</b>   | <b>St Edward Parish, Texarkana, AR</b>     |
| <b>July 27/28</b>   | <b>St Joseph Parish, Cockeysville, MD</b>  |
| <b>August 3/4</b>   | <b>St Thomas Aquinas, Madison, WI</b>      |
| <b>August 10/11</b> | <b>Parish of the Ascension, Kittery ME</b> |
| <b>August 17/18</b> | <b>St Mark Parish, El Paso, TX</b>         |

● Thank you for your loving prayers and support. God bless you and your families.  
 Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Office  
[usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org), 209-408-0728