



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Fifty Six November, 2020

Prayers at the Mass Gravesite

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

On September 19 the novices and I went with our archivist Tatyana Shapoznikov to the mass grave site. We had just studied the history of our parish, and were especially impressed by the fate of our martyrs and Bishop Slivovsky and Fr Yurkevich, the last pastor in the 1930's. We don't know really how many parishioners were killed, but when the bulldozers came across a mass gravesite when they were recently building a new highway, it contained 5,000 skulls with bullet holes. And this is not the only site! Of course the Communists only claimed to be doing good for



humanity! We went to clean up the site after the summer. Usually the organization "Memorial" takes care of the site, but this year, because of the virus, and because the members of Memorial are getting older and fewer, they were not able to go there for the annual memorial service for their relatives who are probably buried there. So the novices and I went to clean up the area and hear the stories. We hope that soon the "Soviet Martyrs" will be proclaimed by Rome, and so our bishop and 6 of our parishioners (maybe buried here) should be in that new number of saints.

A Tale of Two Emily's

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

Emily Dyachkova was born in the Ukraine during WWII. Her father disappeared, and her mother went to look for him. She was never heard from again. Emily suffered from cholera, was pronounced dead, and taken to the morgue. Her aunt didn't believe the doctor, but found the morgue locked. She broke the lock with a stone and found Emily alive! Much later Emily learned that her father had been arrested and sent to serve near Mongolia. Emily came to the Russian Far East with her grandmother, and became a longtime resident of Sakhalin Island, between Vladivostok and Japan. Life was difficult, living in a dugout and collecting coal from a coal vein in a hill nearby. Emily then worked on Sakhalin



Island as a public school teacher. When she retired, she came to Lesozavodsk and became a member of Visitation Parish, as she was from Polish Catholic roots. She happened to read the Russian version of *Vladivostok Sunrise* (Feb-March 2017), and lo and behold, there was an article about the death

of a Vladivostok parishioner named Emily Dyachkova! Could it be true? This Emily was born in 1924 and lived 92 years, and was a regular church-going parishioner of

Holy Mother of God Pray for Us

Most Holy Mother of God Parish. Emily had been told that she was named for her lost aunt, as contact with her had been lost during the terrible years of World War II, when her aunt was taken as a prisoner to Germany, and they had no trace since!



Elder Emily at church in Vladivostok

Emily contacted us to get information about the elder Emily's relatives, which we were able to provide! Phone calls, letters, visit, and sure enough, this was Emily's aunt! "I wish I had known that we lived so close to one another, but we didn't know!"

The elder Emily's life was featured in *Vladivostok Sunrise* (#85 January 1, 2009). You can read it at <https://vladmission.org/s/85>.

In general, the elder Emily lost her mother in childhood, and her father was shot as an "enemy of the people" during Stalin's terror in 1935. She was 16 when she was given work in the coalmines of Donbass, Ukraine, but was simply turned out on the street when the mine closed. It took months for her to walk home to her aunt in the village of Verbka, Ukraine, but the whole family was moved to Germany where she worked on a farm until the American forces freed them on May 9, 1945. But then they were sent to the Russian forces to return them home to the Ukraine. Later she married, but her husband was executed because he had worked as a prisoner in Germany.

In order to give her son a chance for a good education ("enemies of the people") this Emily moved to the Russian Far East to Vladivostok where her son finished his University education.

The elder Emily died on November 8, 2016. After her life of tragedy, may the Lord take her to His kingdom! And also her son who was murdered while she was still alive by a gang of toughs on the street in Vladivostok.

Thanks, younger Emily, for letting us know the story!

How to Communicate with Us

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Vladivostok Sunrise Edited and produced in Russia by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D. Printed in Modesto, California by Parks Printing. Assembled for mailing by St Joseph Parish, Modesto, California.

The color theme of this issue is from Valeria's cushion below.

Baby Talk

From the Women's Support Centers



Do you think Santa will come
this year?

[Valeria March 11, 2020]

Remember Mary Mother of God Mission Society in Your Will!

Bishop Slivovsky's Saint's Day

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

November 4 is the 175th anniversary of the saint's day of our Bishop of Vladivostok, Karl Slivovsky who was named in honor of St. Charles Borromeo (i.e. Karl Borromeo). His birthdate is given as June 29, 1845, on the internet, but there is some doubt. "The details of Karol Sliwowski's early life are not known – his family, his education, his early assignments. There is no information in the parish records or archives in Kazan, where he served prior to his assignment to Vladivostok. Presumably he was born in Belarus, where the devastation of World War II possibly accounts for the loss of the historical record." (pg.98)* We are told that the Poles celebrate a person's saint's day, not the birthday, which would explain the relic we have of Bishop Slivovsky's possessions, a folder for documents with his initials on it, and the date of November 4, 1911, and the word "Kazan"—It was probably a gift to him on his saint's day given him in Kazan, Russia, where he was pastor before Vladivostok. He died on January 5, 1933, as is clear from the photo of his grave marker, even though internet sources say January 6. Perhaps January 6 was when they heard about it in Europe.



Our archivist Miroslava Efimova has this: "We learned many of the details of the life of Bishop Sliwowski in Sedanka [where he was exiled] from the former

Vladivostok parishioner, Regina Stańko, a retired military doctor now living in Tomsk. Her father, Stanisław Stańko, a railroad worker, was not afraid of visiting the exiled bishop in Sedanka and conversing with him at length in Polish. The Stańko family at that time lived in First River; their house stood above the lake, not far from the sea. In their small compound the Stańkos kept chickens, geese and a cow. The mother entrusted little Regina with taking fresh milk to the bishop in Sedanka and the little girl was thus always a welcome guest. Regina several times witnessed the "searches" of the bishop. Then some serious and dour people came to the little summer house and they moved the priest's vestments from one place to another, counting and re-counting his things and meticulously inventorying his books. Of course these "inspectors" found nothing illegal among the bishop's possessions, but during these inspections the bishop always experienced deep emotional anxiety and

was shamed to the point of tears....Regina's accounts greatly assisted the present-day parishioners in establishing the chain of events of those days.

"On the morning of January 5, 1933, Regina as usual brought the bishop fresh milk, but at the doorway she was greeted by the weeping Kazimira [a parishioner and neighbor who tended to the bishop's needs.] Sobbing, she said: "He doesn't need milk. He doesn't need anything. He's dead!" Regina recalls that the funeral took place the following day, January 6, 1933. They carried the coffin with the body of the deceased bishop on a sleigh to the nearby Sedanka cemetery. The coffin had been soldered because Kazimira intended to take the bishop's body to Poland. The deceased bishop was accompanied by the parish elder, a small group of parishioners, several children and Regina and her parents.

"Maria Switecka, at that time a 17-year-old girl, who had served the bishop as a maid, described the bishop's funeral to us somewhat differently: "The bishop lay in an open coffin, dressed in a white chasuble and a gold beret, on his finger was his episcopal ring and alongside him in his coffin lay his crosier. They sang his funeral in the old chapel without a priest and they buried him next to the chapel." Maria remembered that the German consul attended the funeral and burial. Three days later robbers dug up the grave, opened the coffin and stole the crosier and episcopal ring. The bishop's body was re-buried in a simple wooden coffin somewhere between the chapel and the school. (Author's Note: The school was the bishop's manor – today it is the Orthodox Martha Mary Convent.)



"Regina also told us that during the summer vacation of that year she lived at Mrs. [Kazimira] Piotrowska's in Sedanka and every day they went to the bishop's grave. Simple wildflowers

grew on the grave and, as she recalls, an iron cross with a small plaque stood over the grave. On the plaque were written in Polish the bishop's name and the dates of his birth and death.** Regina sent our parish two photos of the grave. Having buried the bishop, Mrs. Piotrowska, not expecting to get permission to transport the bishop's body, departed for Poland, after having distributed to the parishioners the last of the bishop's possessions.

News Notes

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

“In spite of the fact that the head of the family, Stanisław Stańko, was arrested and sent to the Siberian labor camps, and his wife and two children banished to Tomsk, in this family, even during times of severe hardship, the bishop’s valuable silver keepsakes were preserved inviolable. In 1995 Regina Stańko conveyed these heirlooms to the Vladivostok Roman Catholic parish.” (pg 165)*

*Miroslava Igorevna Efimova, *Harsh Vineyard, History of Catholic Life in the Russian Far East*, Trafford Publishing, 2008 (www.Trafford.com)

** On the photos, there is no birth date visible.--ME.

Christmas Present for Mary?

We still need donors for the remaining **stained glass windows** for the Nakhodka Church of Our Lady of the Pacific. Those purchased already are now in production.

1	Item Description	Sq Ft	Cost \$
2	3 Main Sanctuary wall: Sermon on the Mount	48	7062
3	4 Transept Window: Pentecost with St. Mary	97	26972
4	5 Transept Window: Holy Family with St Joseph	97	26972
6	7 Midsized nave Windows: Ss Cyril and Methodius	48	7062



Sts. Cyril & Methodius

Holy Family

Sermon on the Mount

Pentecost



Fr. Prior Yohanes blessing the new Toyota van

- Because of a computer glitch, we aren’t sure that all those who donated to **Adopt-a-Mother or Adopt-a-Birth** received the picture of the baby they helped save. If you didn’t get your picture, please remind me! Sorry! Thanks!

- We were directly hit by the **super-typhoon** on September 3, and the result is a lot of damage to the roof of the rectory. So we’ll need to re-shingle. Gratefully, no one was hurt as far as we know in Vladivostok, but two sailors drowned when their boat capsized on the ocean. Many trees were blown down, and all trees lost most of their leaves. Tatyana, our biologist parishioner, says that the leaves were killed by salt spray from the wind carrying the sea water inland. There was no damage to the church building. As a precaution the government shut down all the suspension bridges during the storm, so traffic jams were everywhere! Kids were off from school for the day.

- Thanks to the **Loyola Foundation**, our seminarians in Indonesia have better transport. In the picture, Fr Yohanes Marinus, C.J.D., Prior of the Our Lady of Vladivostok Community in Maumere, blesses the new auto as the seminarians remember to pray for the donors. The community of some 35 busy priests and seminarians had to rely on one car, one old pick-up, and six motorcycles for all their transportation needs. This car will be a big help! Thanks, Loyola Foundation!

Parishioners in Nakhodka are still using temporary plastic chairs for Sunday Mass. See photo on page 5. Pews are estimated to cost about \$500 each. Would you like to donate for **pews**?

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

- 2020 is the centenary of the great work of the **Knights of Columbus** here in Vladivostok. They were here to give support to the American and other interventionist troops guarding the Trans Siberian Railroad during the Russian revolution. Hundreds of American soldiers were killed here by the Communists, and they were later reburied in San Francisco. You can find more information in *Vladivostok Sunrise* #71 (<https://vladmission.org/s/71>)



The Knights of Columbus café on Svetlanskaya St (main street.) in Vladivostok, looking nearly the same as today

● Our parishes began preparing for winter with our **Sacrament of Anointing** for the elderly and for those with chronic illnesses on October 4, and the Day of Thanksgiving for the Harvest on October 11. During bad weather many of our elderly will not be able to come to church—They don't have cars and the city is big, taxis are expensive, and buses required standing in the cold and waiting. We plan to continue uploading our Sunday Mass on the internet, but many elderly don't have internet access. So the annual anointing is something they really look forward to. Because of the Corona virus we took special care to keep distances and disinfect our hands. At 79 years old, I was also anointed. About 26 people took advantage of the opportunity. At the same Sunday Mass we also give an annual special blessing to parishioners who are doctors, nurses, social workers, and those caring sick people at home, asking the Lord to accompany them and give relief to those who are suffering. It also gives the parishioners a chance to see just who our medical people are.



Some of the elderly waiting for anointing



Me being anointed by Fr Nikita

● Fr Sebastian D'Silva, Pastor of Our Lady of the Pacific Parish in Nakhodka, was in a **car accident**. His Russian helper was driving and neither were hurt. The cause of the accident was the other car's driver, so he will get some money back from insurance. But his car, a 2008 Toyota Premio is 12 years old, so I'm wondering if it doesn't make more sense to get a newer car rather than to repair this one. Benefactors would have to help.



The car will never be the same.



All the floor tiling was the gift of an anonymous donor.

● The Nakhodka church of Our Lady of the Pacific is gradually taking shape with the completion of the **floor** and stairways. Next the permanent altar is being made, and the first set of stained glass windows are in process.

Questions People Ask: I heard that you priests in Vladivostok founded a lot of parishes?

Yes, here is the list:

Vladivostok--Most Holy Mother of God

Khabarovsk--Immaculate Conception

Blagoveschensk--Transfiguration

Lesozavodsk--Visitation

Arsenyev--Annunciation

Nakhodka--Our Lady of the Pacific

Ussurysk—Nativity (in the year 2000)

Artyom--St Joseph (named for Fr Dan's and my home parishes)

Romanovka--Holy Trinity

Balshoi Kamen—St John the Evangelist (closed now because the city was closed)

We also started in **Comsomolsk-na-Amure** (Holy Family), **Dalnegorsk** (Presentation), and **Svobodny** (Divine Mercy), but other priests took over there before we had those parishes fully organized.

The next parish will be the Far Eastern Federal University Student Parish on **Russian Island**, working together with the C.J.D. Sisters from America, probably it will be named St John the Evangelist Parish or St Paula Parish. St Paula's chapel is now under construction.

Can I send some children's toys or medicines to you in Vladivostok?

I'm sure that good-hearted people in America see things that could be used by the poor elsewhere, if only these things could be sent, but the problem is that the cost of sending is more now than the cost of the items in the target country. It is almost impossible to ship things to us, and even more so now with the Corona. As usual, money is the easiest to send and the most efficient. Our Women's Support Centers are the focus of our help to kids, and the volunteers have a lot of experience knowing the kids and knowing what they need. So that is the best approach. We are also getting more donations in kind here in Russia, especially children's toys and clothing, after the "baby boom" of the last three years.

Meanwhile medicines are just impossible to ship. Getting them through Customs would cost much more than their purchase price. Maybe people still think of a Russia of empty stores, but this is the new Russia: The stores are full and the prices are just like in America, although people's wages are not as high, so there is still poverty. There is no need to buy in America and ship here. Easier to buy here. One can buy most anything now, if there is money.

(Development Desk Continued from Page 8)

Here is the English translation for *To Eternity*

TO ETERNITY

My heart has been longing for a long time

To stay in Your arms,

But this longing is just longing;

I am still immersed in my world

Until Your love, O Lord

Takes me to Thy Face

Which I have been searching for and give me peace,

Peace that I never got from the world.

Ref.

O Lord, I thank you for your love.

Forgive the sins of your weak servant.

Strengthen me, that this Holy Love will be just for you.

Steady my soul which is still uncertain

To serve you to eternity.

Thank you for your ongoing support to our seminarians!
God bless you and your families.

Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan National Coordinator
209-408-0728 usoffice@vladmission.org

From the Women's Support Centers

Most women who come to our Women's Support Center got the blues because of their difficulties. But there are moms from whom you can learn to look at things positively. Such a woman was "Olga," a mother of three precious daughters. This little woman reminded me of the heroine of the American bestselling author Eleanor Porter—Pollyanna, who always managed to find something good in any difficulty.

Most families with many kids usually lack material means, even if the family is whole. Olga's husband died of a serious illness, but instead of giving in to depression, Olga took and finished a course in manicuring and tried to make a living. I was happy for her because she really succeeded in beauty work.

I often think about why some people crash because of difficult situations, while others can jump ahead. I understood that an important reason is the family that the woman grew up in herself. It's a hidden support that a mother passes on to her daughter. That is the way it was with our Olga who grew up in a poor family, but with family values, traditions, and love.

Opportunities

♥ Please **pray** for our mission and our world.

♥ **Upcoming Ordinations!** 2 priests and 9 Deacons will soon be ordained. These include 1 priest and 1 deacon in Russia. Please consider supporting our growing **vocations programs**. We have many qualified candidates and the costs for education and living expenses are growing. Currently, 10 new priests have been ordained in the order of Canons Regular of Jesus The Lord (CJD). We have 29 seminarians, 3 Deacons and 3 Brothers and we support them all. They need your prayers and financial help to continue their journey. Yearly costs are \$10,700 for each seminarian so you can see the need is very great. Please go to our website www.vladmission.org for more information about our seminarians.

♥ There's still time to enter to win our beautiful **"Falling Leaves" Queen/King quilt**. Hand-crafted by Donna Hamilton of Evansville, IN. Suggested donation is \$10 per entry. Receive 15 entries for a suggested \$100 donation. Enter as many times as you wish. Send your name, address, phone and email to the mission office. Please print. Drawing will be held December 11, 2020. Thank you Donna and thank you to our participants!



♥ Give an eternal gift. Remember loved ones in this special way. Masses celebrated in Russia may be requested. **Mass stipends** support our priests. 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.

♥ Our priests are getting older. Fr Myron will be 80 on February 7th and Fr Dan will celebrate his 70th birthday on March 5th. We've set up a **Priests' Medical and Retirement Fund**. If you'd like to help care for Fr Myron and Fr Dan in their retirement years, please note, "Priests' Retirement Fund" on your check or donate online at www.vladmission.org. Thank you.

♥ Please help us keep the Women's Centers open. **Adopt A Baby** or **Adopt A Mother**. Your gift of \$50 to the **Adopt A Birth** program 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 to keep or

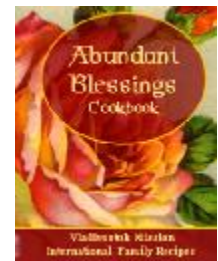
pass on. Over 3000 babies have been saved from abortion to date! Your \$125 gift to the **Adopt A Mother** program will provide help to the mother and baby in the first weeks supplying them with nutritious food, formula, diapers, baby clothes vitamins and medical aftercare. General donations to the Women's Centers will help us continue to serve women in crisis pregnancies, children, and men and women suffering from post-abortion syndrome, and many other services offered to families.

♥ THANK YOU to all for helping us with the **rectory land purchase**. We've reached our goal! We will proceed with finalizing the land transaction.

♥ **Giving Tuesday** is December 1. Please remember our mission and give online or by mail. Thank you!

♥ Shopping on Amazon? Please remember to 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 raised over **\$3200** from Amazon Smile. You are helping our mission and it costs nothing extra to you.

♥ Beautiful Christmas Gift! Our **Abundant Blessings Cookbook** makes a unique and beautiful gift. Plus, receive a FREE copy (up to \$14 value) of one of several **Vladivostok Concert CD's** with your purchase of our cookbook. 494 International recipes from our priests, seminarians and mission families fill the pages! Proceeds go to our **seminarians' education fund** and our **Women's Support Centers** helping pregnant women and families. **\$30 per cookbook** covers cookbook, CD, and shipping in the continental USA.



♥ We now have **face masks** made from recycled liturgical vestments. A beautiful gift for your priest or friends. Triple layer with filtered lining (not PPE). Reinforcement added to shape along your nose for secure fit. In addition, we have white embroidered and brocade face masks for weddings and special events. Quantity orders accepted. Many thanks to Barbara Fitzsimmons of Modesto, CA for all. To date, Barbara has prayerfully sewn hundreds of beautiful Magnificat, missal and bible covers, rosary cases, stunning totes and now face masks from discarded priest vestments. Barbara donates 100% of proceeds to the mission. You can purchase her work on our Vladivostok mission store site, www.store.vladmission.org or call the mission office. Thank you Barbara!

♥ **2021 Annual guides** for Christian Prayer, Liturgy of the Hours and Missals available through the mission web store. 2021 St Joseph Annual Sunday Missals too!

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From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

Vocations to the CJD order founded by Fr Myron Effing C.J.D. and Fr Daniel Maurer, C.J.D. continue to grow! Members of the CJD can be found in Russia and all over the world.

The CJD USA Corporation has just been established in the Diocese of Las Vegas. We don't always think about it in this way, but your support given to our vocations program is, in part, helping develop and provide much needed vocations for the USA. Blessings abound!

Fr Yohanes Marinus, C.J.D., the Prior in Indonesia, sent me a beautiful music video of one of our



very gifted seminarians, Brother Desideratus Mariano, C.J.D (nickname Br Usno) singing a deeply moving song about discernment to the priesthood. The song, *To Eternity*, is written by Fr Yohanes and accompanied by Fr Yakobus Hubertus, C.J.D. Here is the link to the video.

<https://youtu.be/IWjXsuG7X4U>

Br Usno, as well as Fr Hubertus, have won first place awards for their musical talents. I hope you have a moment to listen to Br Usno's beautiful vocal performance of *To Eternity* and watch the video. In the video you will see many of the seminarians in the monastery in Indonesia. They are very hard working and self-sufficient having built much of the monastery themselves, growing their own vegetables and raising farm animals for food. The order raises funds by selling vegetables and eggs to the local community. You can also see the beautiful chapel with the CJD cross above the entrance and the Our Lady of Vladivostok on the steeple. Fr Yohanes and Fr Hubertus are processing in for Mass while Br Usno reads and many seminarians listen.



Br Usno will be ordained a deacon in November of this year. Fr Myron will be in attendance. (Continued on Page 6)