



Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Fifty Seven January, 2021



The Work of the Women's Support Centers

*By Nadezhda Morozova
Caritas Women's Support
Centers of Primorye*

The 18th of November was the 100th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in Soviet Russia. The legalization of abortion then spread to other countries, which led to the unprecedentedly large number of murdered children, and also to a change in the mentality of society in which abortion

became a normal fact of life.

Russia still ranks first in terms of the number of abortions in the world, and therefore the need to provide assistance to women in crisis pregnancy situations is still great. Contraception is mistakenly considered to be the only means of preventing abortion, so our task is also to educate women about alternative methods of natural family planning. As a result of the consequences of abortion and oral contraception, the incidence of uterine cancer and breast cancer is increasing, which affects the health of the family and the nation.

In our state, the Primorsky Territory, our Women's Support Centers have been operating since 1998. The idea of organizing the Centers under the charitable organization "Caritas" belongs to the pastor of the Parish of the Most Holy Mother of God in Vladivostok, Fr Myron Effing, C.J.D. With his blessing, volunteers came from Dayton, Ohio to train our Russian volunteers, and six crisis pregnancy centers were opened in the cities of Vladivostok, Nakhodka, Arsenyev, Lesozavodsk, Trudovoye, and Romanovka. Thanks to his tireless work

in finding sponsors and spiritual mentoring, volunteers of the centers have saved many lives of unborn babies and supported many families and single mothers in difficult times.

The main goal of the program is to preserve the life of the unborn child. Volunteers perform the following tasks:

- spiritual support for women in crisis pregnancy;
- taking care of the health of the mother and the newborn;
- help with post-abortion syndrome;
- collection of donations in the form of clothing and shoes;
- search for sponsors.

Tasks are performed using these programs:

Baby Talk

From the Women's Support Centers



I wonder what I will be
when I grow up?

[Sergei May 13 2020]

Most Holy Mother of God Pray for Us

1. **"Adopt-a-Birth"**--Help for a woman in labor who receives a sanitary and hygienic kit for taking care of herself and her baby in the postpartum period;
2. **"Adopt-a-Mom"**--Financial aid for the purchase of medicines or for additional medical procedures;
3. **"Fruit and Milk Program"**--Distribution of milk formulas and baby food to formula-fed children and children of low-income families.
4. **"Rachel's Vineyard"**--Assistance to women with post-abortion syndrome.

The economic situation in Russia continues to be difficult. In remote regions such as Primorsky Territory, this is felt much more strongly. At the end of 2018 almost 23% of Russian children under 18 lived in families with a level of income below the subsistence minimum, which is about 32.6 million people (every fifth Russian). The pandemic and non-working days have worsened the situation. Most of the population of the Primorsky Territory survives on their backyard garden plots or dacha plots, where they grow vegetables and fruits for their families. However, in 2019 and 2020, due to unfavorable

weather conditions in the summer season, the garden harvest was tragically minimal. For the Primorsky Territory, 2020 became a record year for the amount of precipitation. Eleven typhoons and cyclones passed, as a result of which the harvest was ruined by rain. People suffered from floods and lost their property.

Especially difficult and dangerous life situations have developed in families with small children and single mothers. If the parents cannot provide for the children, they are transferred to guardianship authorities.

According to statistics:

- Every year about 60,000 parents are deprived of parental rights;
- Every year about 90,000 children are left without a family.

We can help alleviate this situation with your help. The leaders and volunteers of the Women's Support Centers ask you to join our project. We accept any help: baby food, diapers, medicines, clothes, and monetary help. We collect many things in Russia, but for foreign benefactors, monetary help is the way to go!





Women’s Support Centers’ 2020 Adopt-a Babies

Thanks, Benefactors, for helping to save these babies’ lives and for giving help to the mothers and families.

How to Communicate with Us

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English language: www.vladmission.org

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The color theme of this issue is from Blessed Mother’s garment on Page 1.

Gift for Mary’s Feastday— January 1?

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 Midsize nave Windows: Ss Cyril and Methodius	48	7062

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

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



*Sts. Cyril & Methodius
Holy Family
Sermon on the Mount
Pentecost*



Plastic chairs on the new floor in Nakhodka

News Notes

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



Professor Rev Fr Akhtar Naveed, OP. and Bro Rajnal receiving the award

- Seminarian **Brother Rajnal Rehmat, C.J.D.** is finishing the National Catholic Institute of Theology in Karachi, Pakistan, in the Spring. He was recently given the seminary’s “High Distinction Award” for his academic work. Congratulations, Brother Rajnal!

- We’ve had a really big snow and **ice storm** on November 19 which was reported on the international media, so maybe you heard about it already. It was a 40-year freak storm which poured lots of freezing rain on the city. It was amazing! Good parts of the city were without lights and even heat for days. Trees were born down with the weight of the ice. Cars were simply coated with 1½ inches of ice! The big suspension bridge to Russian Island was closed due to the ice load for two weeks. Providently, Fr Dan and some of the seminarians were in Ussurysk at the time of the storm where weather was normal, but they sure got an eyeful when they drove home to Vladivostok. Thanks be to God we’ve had a couple of days of plus temperatures to help remove the ice. Here is a picture showing how thick the ice was.

- **Sister Joanna Marie Schlies, C.J.D.**, professed her first vows on Sept. 5, 2020, at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Raytown, Missouri, at a beautiful Mass celebrated by Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr. It was such a blessing that all the Sisters in Jesus the Lord who serve in Vladivostok and in Missouri were together. Sr Joanna's father was able to attend from Lexington, South Carolina, despite the pandemic. Priests from nearby parishes came to support the sisters, as well as two priests who got to know the sisters as chaplains for the FOCUS summer mission trips in Vladivostok. Deacon Kumud Nayak, C.J.D., (now Fr Kumud), traveled from Wisconsin with his pastor for the event. The Mass of First Vows is still available for viewing on youtube: <https://youtu.be/Wrs8DWVuzyu>



Sr Joanna is currently studying Russian on line through the Far Eastern Federal University from the sisters' mother house in Missouri, eagerly waiting for the Russian borders to reopen for

foreigners with visas.

- On November 22 our Brothers Desideratus Amdingsaputro, C.J.D. (“Usno”) and Alberten Kaidu, C.J.D. were **ordained deacons** in Indonesia. They had their novitiate training here with us in Vladivostok. They will do their deacon inservice at Holy Spirit Parish and St Joseph Parish in Maumere, Indonesia.



Deacon Alberten and Deacon Usno with their parents and Bishop Edwaldo, Ordinary of the Diocese of Maumere.

- December 7 was the live streaming of the ordination of our new priest, **Fr Kumud Nayak, C.J.D.** He is from India and studied with us in Vladivostok for two years. He was ordained a deacon by Bishop Donald Hying of Madison, Wisconsin earlier this year. He has been working for some time at St Olaf’s Parish in DeForest. Fr Kumud certainly has a fascinating history. He finished the seminary in India, and then for four years he was parish administrator in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, with many languages and situations in that Moslem country, one of



the largest parishes in the world. He then finished his novitiate here in Vladivostok and speaks Russian, too! He conducted retreats in India while waiting for his American visa. Congratulations, Fr Kumud!
The Big moment for Fr Kumud



Fr Luis Van Dam, Fr Kumud Nayak, and Fr Jose Unlayao, Members of CJD working in America.

- On December 13 our brothers **Agustinus Brussen and Filipus Lasa** were ordained transitional deacons in Russian-speaking Kazakhstan. They are from the Mangari region of Flores Island in Indonesia. After their novitiate in Vladivostok, they attended the seminary in Maumere, and then transferred back to the Vladivostok C.J.D. community to work in Kazakhstan. I know they will appreciate your prayers as they practice preaching in Russian and prepare for priesthood ordination!



New deacons Agustinus Brussen, C.J.D. and Filipus Lasa, C.J.D. with ordaining Bishop Adelio D’Oro, D.D., Ordinary of the Diocese of Karaganda, Kazakhstan

- For years now part of our important work here in Russia is the **novitiate for seminarians** preparing to be priests here in Russia and in other parts of Asia. On November 30, six of our novices who have been studying

here for a year took their first vows. They are surely a happy group. Here is a picture of them in their new religious habits. Now they are waiting for the borders to open so that they can continue their education in the Philippines.



Brother Elia from Pakistan, Brothers Francis, Joseph, and Philip from Vietnam, Brother Marcus from Pakistan, and Bro Dominic from Vietnam.

- Autumn and the harvest comes earlier in Russia than in America. So we celebrate **thanksgiving** for the harvest earlier, too. This year our day was October 11. Here is a photo of the altar arrangement that Brother Philip Le made for the occasion. Thank you, Lord, for your Divine Providence!



- We are getting more visitors to our church, including people who are intrigued by the architecture, but often people who just want to stop and pray. 2020 Times are difficult. Sometimes they want to see and pray before the icon of **Our Lady of Vladivostok**. May she be a consolation to all.



**Remember Mary
Mother of God
Mission Society in
your Will.**



Our Parishioner Zhanna Kovaleva as the Virgin Mary at Christmas "Midnight Mass"

From the Women's Support Centers

"Lena" was one of the first women who came to our Center for help. Since that time a lot has changed. Now she has two children of her own and four adopted children. But she has gone through much suffering. The youngest children got tuberculosis and were isolated from mom for several months. Then there was a fight with her husband which ended in a beating. With her nervous situation, she got psoriasis. Her hands became covered with sores so they wouldn't give her a job, although she was a great cook who had finished cooking school with highest honors. While that was happening, she became pregnant, and in spite of our talks she had an abortion. She was sick at heart. We tried to give her support, but her material needs were just unbearable, too, so she wasn't able to buy winter clothing. We gathered clothing which was fit for her and for the kids who had been returned to her after their medical treatment. In the Spring we were able to give a lot of toys to the kids who were very excited and happy! Now Lena found a job, although with somewhat small pay. The older children are helping the parents and their situation is improving. The whole family is very grateful to the benefactors who offered them their help.

Opportunities

♥ Congratulations to our winner of the Falling Leaves Quilt raffle, our benefactor in Pleasant Hill, CA! Enjoy your beautiful quilt! We are so grateful to Donna Hamilton for coming up with the idea of the quilt raffle and creating the beautiful heirloom piece. Many thanks to all of you for entering the raffle. You helped raise over \$7200 for the mission. God bless you all.

♥ Our seminarian population in Indonesia is exploding! To prevent overcrowding, the community built several temporary dorms of bamboo. Also, the flat roof of the kitchen and dining hall was walled in and converted into living space. Seminarians now sleep on mattresses lined up on the floor. But they need actual bed frames, dressers, desks, and lamps. Donations of anywhere from \$18 to \$140 can purchase these items.

♥ Much of the beautiful chapel in Maumere, Indonesia was created by the seminarians themselves. They cleared land and even contributed to its construction. One by one, its statues were made locally and put in place. But the chapel still lacks pews—32 of them. A gift of \$300 would cover the cost of 1 pew.

♥ One of the best evangelization programs in Vladivostok is the music program created by Fr Dan. Featuring beautiful Christian music and outstanding musicians, the concerts are routinely sold out. Christians and non-Christians alike are moved by the music and return again and again, each time learning more about the Faith and all it offers. But printed music is not cheap. Even a donation of \$20 or \$30 can help us purchase music and keep this program going.

♥ Our online store (store.vladmission.org) now features hand-made leather-and-bead rosary bracelets for only \$25. These one-of-a-kind rosaries are suitable for wearing with jeans as well as with more formal wear. With one of these bracelets, you always have your rosary with you.

♥ As you know, we host novices of the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord in Vladivostok each year. Many of them come from countries with much warmer climates. They arrive in Russia without winter coats, hats, mittens, socks, or boots. Usually, the departing novices leave their winter clothing behind for the incoming guys. But this only works so far. New winter clothes for one novice can easily add up, so donations of any amount are helpful.

♥ Thank you for responding to our call to help us keep the Women's Centers open. Well over 3000 babies have been saved from abortion since our 6 centers first opened, men and women are counseled in Natural Family Planning and how to care for their children, mothers and babies are provided food, vitamins and clothing for healthy

beginnings. Mothers and fathers receive important help through Rachel's Vineyard for post abortion trauma and stress. Our six women's centers cost an average of \$800 per month to keep open. Costs fluctuate with the number of visitors who come to the centers each month. Thank you for your support!

Meeting Father Myron

by Susan Gray

In 1993, I served as church organist at the Little Rock Air Force Base chapel in Arkansas. One Sunday, the pastor announced that a friend of his, Fr Myron Effing, would be speaking later in the day about his work in Vladivostok, Russia. That evening, I learned that Fr Myron's "organist" had no church music to play on her Casio keyboard. The townspeople were suffering from food shortages. Lots of children were living on the streets. Healthcare was primitive. People were terrified of dentists (no anesthetics). No one even knew what ibuprofen was.

The next day, I brought him a few pieces of music to deliver to his organist. I thought that was that, but God had other plans and we soon began working together on grants for different works of the mission. In 1996, I visited Vladivostok for the first time. By then, Fr Myron and Fr Dan had lived there for almost five years. But things were indeed as primitive as Fr Myron had described. Breakfast consisted of bread and jam made and donated by women of the parish. Light bulbs in the church dangled from old, crusty wires. The priests' socks were threadbare. The soles of their shoes were almost worn through.

Before my trip, I'd asked if I could bring anything in particular to them. Their short wish list included popcorn and padlocks. Fr Myron's a real popcorn fan and such treats were nowhere to be found in Vlad. I brought him a huge, plastic container of unpopped corn from Sam's and Fr Myron hugged it to himself like it was a long-lost friend. As for the padlocks, well, everything of value had to be locked up or tied down.

It's incredible that these two kept plugging forward through those early years. Despite all else, Fr Myron got a number of parishes up and running. He started religious education programs. He was the drive behind Caritas and the Women's Centers. What accomplishments I have been privileged to see!

Happy Birthday, Fr. Myron! May your next 28 years be as fruitful as your last!

Thanks, Susan! What a wonderful help you have been to the mission through all these years! God bless you!

--Fr Myron

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From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

Happy 80th Birthday Fr Myron!

Our dear founder of our mission, Myron Clarence Effing was born on February 7, 1941 in the city of Evansville, Indiana, USA, one of four children of Henry and Leota Effing. The Effings were Catholics from German speaking western Prussia (near Holland), who immigrated to southern Indiana in the 1840's. Leota's folks were Catholics who came from German speaking Alsace (now a part of France) to southern Indiana during the Kulturkampf in the early 1870's. Both sides of the family were from strong Catholic roots and continued to practice their Catholic faith in the USA. On Fr Myron's father's side, his Grandmother Effing's father (Fr Myron's great-grandfather), Conrad Gries, born in the USA, is the great-grandfather of six priests! *(Written by Fr Daniel Maurer, CJD)*



Fr Myron's work, accomplishments and travels are incredible and captivating to hear. With help from Fr Daniel Maurer CJD, Fr Myron, and Susan Gray, we have

compiled Fr Myron's life story from his youth where he was full of activity in the sciences to his amazing years in Russia. We will have a booklet available to you commemorating Fr Myron's 80th year. If you wish to have a copy of this booklet, please contact the mission office. A Free Will offering is humbly and gratefully accepted for each booklet to support Fr Myron's continuing work in the Vladivostok Mission.

Fr Myron is beloved by so many and I've heard so many stories while speaking to friends of the mission on the phone. I'm sure others in our mission family would love to hear about your special story of how you met Fr Myron or your experiences at the Vladivostok Mission. We'll share as many stories as possible in upcoming issues of the *Vladivostok Sunrise*. You may email your story to usoffice@vladmission.org or mail a copy to the mission office in Modesto, CA.

Susan Gray, a dear friend of the mission for many, many years has provided us with her special story. You can read it on page 7.

God bless you and your families. Happy New Year!

Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan National Coordinator
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