



# Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Sixty July, 2021



## New Priest for Vladivostok

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

Our brother Deacon Mark Dao, C.J.D. (Dao Quoc Minh) was **ordained to the priesthood for Vladivostok** on May 17 in Saigon by Bishop Pierre Tran Dinh Tu! Here is a photo of the “laying on of hands”. We hope that soon he will be able to return to Vladivostok to help us care for the 55 Vietnamese parishioners that we have. They will be so happy that they can confess in their own

language, and that Fr Mark can start catechism classes for the Vietnamese parishioners who don’t speak Russian! Meanwhile, we’ve found out that the Our Lady of the Pacific Parish in Nakhodka also has Catholic Vietnamese parishioners, so probably Fr Mark will be able to work there, too! Maybe there are even Vietnamese Catholics in Ussurysk waiting for a priest!

*Father Mark and his mother, Mrs. Thi Bich Duynh Nguyen.*



*The Vladivostok Catholic Vietnamese community gathered with our Vietnamese seminarians to celebrate Fr Myron’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in February. Vietnamese mass is at 8:30pm Sundays, when their work is done in the markets. Perhaps Sunday Mass in Nakhodka can be at 8:30pm Saturdays.*

Most Holy Mother of God Pray for Us



# Bishop Slivovsky on the Way to Sainthood!

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

We received good news in early May: Rome has included our deceased bishop of Vladivostok, Bishop Karl Slivovsky, as a “servant of God”—The first step toward canonization as a saint! We will be preparing prayer cards and a biography, and a special place in the church where his 2<sup>nd</sup> degree relics are located. We think our lay members who were martyrs will also be announced as “servants of God”, but under a different category. Canonization takes a miracle or two, so keep that in mind!--Medical miracles are the easiest to document. We will also continue doing research into Bishop Slivovsky’s life and ministry, and our archivist is writing a book about him, and doing further research.

This is the best picture we have of **Bishop Slivovsky**. Judging from the background, it was taken in Harbin, Manchuria, just after his episcopal consecration there, and before his return to Vladivostok. I doubt that the pictured crozier belonged to him, because the decision that he would be the bishop was made by the Apostolic Nuncio only after he got acquainted with all the priests serving in our deanery, the new Apostolic Administration of Eastern Siberia, at their meeting in Harbin, where there were two European-speaking parishes, in addition to Chinese-speaking parishes. Perhaps the crozier was brought to Harbin by the Apostolic Nuncio, knowing that he had been delegated to select a bishop and consecrate him, together with a Chinese bishop. The consecration was on October 28, 1923 in St Stanislaus Church in Harbin.

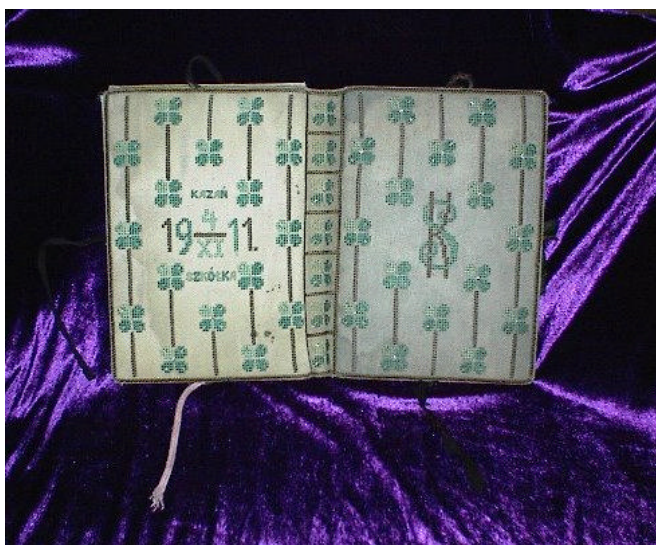
We heard this story: When the new bishop tried to return to Vladivostok from Harbin on November 15, 1923, the border was already guarded by Communists. The lady at the gate would not let him back into Russia because he didn’t have an entry visa. Disappointed, Bishop Slivovsky went back to the Manchurian side to decide what to do. A European man in uniform saw him, and said, “Father, what are you doing here?” Bishop Slivovsky explained, and the man said, “We’ll fix that!” and took him back to the gate. Bishop Slivovsky asked, “Why are you doing this for me?” The officer said, “Father, you don’t remember me?! I am that poor little boy whom you

helped during the famine—You gave us bread and vegetables. Now I am the head of this station, and I can help *you*!” The officer told the lady at the gate, “You need to go to the toilet very badly!”, and the woman left. The officer took the bishop’s documents, stamped them as needed and sent him through the gate. He knew he could never leave Russia again.



*An earlier picture (on the next page) (1920?) we have of Father Slivovsky and a first communion class. Fr Slivovsky was joking with the server sitting in front of him, putting the ends of his stole on the boy’s shoulders. Another boy had a wounded hand, seen as a white spot on the photo. He was Stanislaus Zelinski, later executed during Stalin’s time. The girl at the left hand of the priest is Lucia Leonovna Oranska who became a dedicated nighttime emergency doctor at the State Hospital. The girl on our right in black shoes was Evgenia Ivanovna Perch who also became a doctor and worked in Artyom. They were both elderly when we came to Russia in 1992. Evgenia was shown in the first video about our parish. It was wonderful to have eye-witnesses to the history of those days, including two other women who, as young girls, attended the funeral of Bishop Slivovsky in Sidonka, outside of Vladivostok.*





*Among the bishop's relics that were brought to us by Regina Stanislavovna Stanko from Tomsk is this binder cover. The letters "KS" are embroidered on the cover, and on the back the word "Kazan" and the date, November 4, 1911. November 4 is the feast of St Charles Borromeo, so the binder cover was probably a gift on Fr Slivovsky's saint's day—"Karl" or "Karol"—when he was a pastor in Kazan, in the south Volga region before he came to Vladivostok. He brought it with him to Vladivostok.*

### **Prayer for the Canonization of Bishop Slivovsky**

Lord God, your servant and our father and pastor Bishop Karl Slivovsky was faithful to you and to his flock in spite of danger, turmoil, and destruction until exile and death took him from us. Reward your servant with acknowledged sainthood for the joy of all his people, and remember me also in my need as I pray to him for his intercession, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



*Bishop Slivovsky smoked cigars. This is probably a tobacco server that was given to him with a dedication written with his name on the little panel to the left. It reads: "On the namesday of our dearly beloved Father Dean K. Slivovsky from the E.J.K. Budirskis, November 4, 1914", in Polish, of course.*





## Two of Our Priests Ordained in Indonesia

Here is a picture of Bishop Ewaldus Sedu and **new Fathers Usno and Aven** at their ordination in our monastery chapel in Indonesia. (You can't see their faces because of the masks, so I'll insert their pictures below.) The Diocese of Maumere is very grateful to us here in Vladivostok for training so many seminarians here who

now serve there! Amazing that Vladivostok and Far Eastern Russia are being of such service, not only here, but in other places of the world! Pray for vocations, and help us continue to finance this great work!

*"Fr. Aven", Fr Alberten Kaidu, C.J.D.*



*"Fr. Usno", Fr Desideratus Amdingsaputro, C.J.D.*



*Bishop Ewaldus Sedu, D.D.*



## News Notes

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

- On April 20 I celebrated my 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as pastor of the parish here! As the epidemic is ending here in Russia, we can reconsider how we shall operate **our parishes in the future**. I asked Bishop Kirill to name Fr Daniel to be pastor instead of me—time to give the young more responsibility—He is only 70 years old!! On February 7 I celebrated my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday! But I'll still be Dean of the Vladivostok Deanery and Pastor of Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk and St Joseph's Parish in Artyom.

We should have five priests in this parish within the year! And I'm still President of Mary Mother of God Mission Society, and General Superior of the C.J.D. religious order, which, because we are growing, entails more and more work (and more financing.) The bishop will answer soon.

- By special request of the hospital, we've opened our **7<sup>th</sup> Women's Support Center**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> one in Vladivostok. This hospital specializes in people suffering from HIV, and some become moms who have medical problems. Of course, the new center will offer the full range of

programs to help these women, including NFP and breast feeding counsel. You could help by offering a donation! Meanwhile the Baptist church here in Vladivostok is asking our Centers for instruction in NFP.

- 28 years ago the Family of the Americas Foundation and Mercedes Wilson helped us begin our Women's Support Centers by publishing for us in the Russian language their illustrated booklet about the ovulation method of NFP, "Lyubov i Rozhdayemost". They never go out of date, but now we have run out of them and need a reprint. Anybody want to help?

- On May 24 I had my **injection** of the "Sputnik" COVID vaccine. No pain, and no change in my health afterward. I still think that I had the virus in February of 2020 when we had many tourists from Wuhan, China here in Vladivostok. At that time one parishioner died of "atypical pneumonia." That was before we knew about the corona virus.

- Brother **Rajnal Rehmat**, C.J.D. writes from Pakistan: "Finally the day has come that I graduated by the grace of God and completed my priestly studies. I express my heart felt gratitude to you and to all our benefactors. You have played a very big role for success. I appreciate your encouragement and prayers." Meanwhile five more of our seminarians have completed their studies this year and are waiting for ordination to the diaconate. Another three are already deacons, waiting for ordination to the priesthood. Thanks, benefactors, for providing for their education!



*Bro Rejnal (right) and Archbishop Benny Mario Travas at the graduation. Bro Rajnal graduated "cum laude". He attended the seminary in Pakistan because of visa problems with the Philippines where our seminarians usually attend.*

## The Way It Was...

Mission trips always leave an impression on people who come. **Frank Hagar** was among a group of men to come to help us way back when. He worked to renew the church doors. He says, "PS; My initials, the date, and "JMJ" written on the top edge of the door!"



*The front door to the archive in November of 1991 at the first mass. We added the crucifix. Besides the personal door, the whole door would open so that cars and trucks could be parked inside the church!*



*The renewed doors that Frank repaired.*



*Frank's mission group. He is at the back left.*



● In the trenches on June 1! Thanks to funding from the Papal Foundation and a private American donor, our seminarians in Indonesia have begun to build a **new building** to help alleviate their overcrowded situation. This will be the third dormitory at the seminary. The postulants and novices will have a dormitory, the philosophy students a dormitory, and the theology students a dormitory.



*The design of the building to be built*

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

## How to Communicate with us

### Internet

Russian language: [www.catholic.vladivostok.ru](http://www.catholic.vladivostok.ru)  
[www.catholicvl.ru](http://www.catholicvl.ru)

English language: [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)

Sisters in Jesus the Lord in English: [www.cjd.cc](http://www.cjd.cc)

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The color theme of this issue is from the color of Frank's shirt when he was a volunteer in Vladivostok. Photo on page 5.

### Baby Talk from the Women's Support Centers

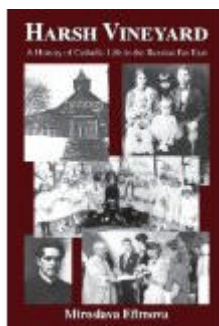


Now which sheep was I on?  
(Milana January 23 2021)

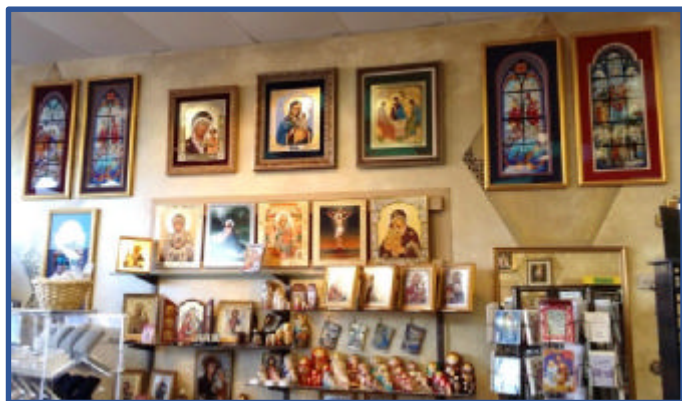
## Opportunities

♥ So much goes into the upkeep of several parishes, a rectory, a program for novices, and a host of charitable programs—including things you would never think of. Our **library** is one such example. When the priests arrived in Vladivostok, there were no Russian-language Catholic bibles, theology books, children's books on saints' lives, catechisms, hymnals—nothing. Now there is an actual library, in a separate building, right in front of the church. With about 6,000 books, it serves not only the priests and parishioners, but also the many seminarians who now come through our doors. Books in the Russian language include those on Church history, the liturgy, Church art and architecture, Philosophy, various sects and cults, and children's literature. In 2020, adding to the library's holdings and paying a small stipend to our librarian came to \$3,107.

♥ ***Harsh Vineyard*** a book about the history of the Roman Catholic Church of the Russian Far East, up to and including the time of Fr Myron's arrival, is available from our office or online store, [www.store.vladmission.org](http://www.store.vladmission.org). ***Harsh Vineyard*** was written by our church historian, the late Miroslava Efimova. For many years Mrs. Efimova worked to collect any information from the archives in St Petersburg, Moscow, Minsk, Warsaw, Lublin, Krakov, Khabarovsk, Blagoveschensk and Vladivostok connected with the activities of the Vladivostok Diocese. She used the historical documents and photos that she found to write *Harsh Vineyard*. Translated from Russian to English by Geraldine Kelley. Cost is \$16, plus \$3.99 Shipping/handling



♥ Russia is known for its **beautiful icons** depicting Jesus or the Blessed Mother. Our store offers a variety of replicas in a range of sizes. Each image is stunningly ornate with lavish borders and a lovely expression on Our Lady's face. Images are mounted on pressed fiberboard



for durability. The 8.75" pieces are perfect for small easels on bedside tables or in prayer corners. This size is priced at \$25, but other sizes framed and unframed are available. We also have framed replicas of the stained glass windows in the Most Holy Mother of God Parish. You can find a variety of choices at our online store at <https://www.store.vladmission.org> or email the mission office for greater selection.

♥ Fr Myron celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and Fr Dan celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday this year! We've set up a **Priests' Medical and Retirement Fund**. (Not that either of them plan on slowing down anytime soon!) 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](http://www.vladmission.org).

♥ **We are asking for your stories.** Over the years, thousands of people have come to Vladivostok and joined us in prayer and various activities. Most leave with dozens of stories, including a few that were especially eye-opening or made deep impressions. If you could encapsulate for us just one especially meaningful story about your visit, what would it be? Tell us in no more than 350 words and we might publish it in a future *Sunrise*.

♥ **Thank you Fr Myron!** In honor of Fr Myron's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, our mission office has prepared a summary of Fr Myron's life. We will send a booklet to you in gratitude for your donation to keep Fr Myron's work going, or you may simply contact our office for your copy. While supply lasts. Please call 209-408-0728, or email [usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org)



♥ Our mission has received \$4398 from **AmazonSmile** to date! Thank you! Online shopping is the way most people shop these days. If you shop Amazon, **AmazonSmile** is a simple way for you to support our mission every time you shop, at no cost to you! AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that **AmazonSmile will donate 0.5%** of your eligible purchases to Mary Mother of God Mission Society. Be sure to select our mission as your charity of choice!



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## From the development desk...

Dear Friends,

Through the great kindness and generosity of the sponsors in our **Guardian Angel Program**, over 95 children and families lived improved lives over the last 12 years of the program. Children have had surgeries their families would not have afforded otherwise, others have received warm clothes and shoes, and households could buy firewood to keep them warm in winter. More children received school supplies in order to effectively learn in school.

Recently, we added families from **our Large Family Program** to the Guardian Angel Project. These are families with multiple children who live in dire poverty. Our mission has been assisting these families through the Large Family Fund and the Women's Centers, but with many poor children the need is great.

One large family lives in an old house where water and toilet are outside. Six years ago mom divorced her husband because he was opposed to the birth of their sixth



child and he left. Mom is a Christian and goes to church so she refused to do the abortion. Now she takes care of the kids herself. The father helps rarely. Without necessary repairs, the house is poorly heated, so the kids are often sick. Every year they need about \$660 just to buy firewood. The family income of \$421 is from the children's government support, since Mom can't get a job as the youngest daughter is only six months old. This income is one third the official minimum living income. Mom is a good mother. She makes their own bread and preserves foods for winter from their garden that she tends. This Fall the fifth child will go to school, which is still more expense. The children lack the basic necessities of food, clothing, and shoes.

If you would like to become a Guardian Angel sponsor and help a child in one of our large families, please contact our mission office. We will send you a picture of each child, some background information and their special needs. To help our Large Family Fund, simply note, "Large Family Fund" on your check or online donation.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity to help a child!

God bless you. Vicky Trevillyan, Mission Coordinator  
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