

Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Sixty Five May, 2022

Six Seminarians Take Final Vows

"TO DO JUSTICE, TO LOVE KINDNESS, TO HUMBLLY WALK WITH GOD"
(Mic 6:8)

With immense joy and gratitude to God,
We, the community of Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord
cordially invite you to participate in the Solemn vows of
Bro. Pradeep Chand Mulupuri, CJD
Conferred by
Very Rev. Fr. Myron Effing, CJD
The Master General
Solemn vows
4:00 PM, Wednesday, 2nd Feb, 2022
Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Parish, Vladivostok, 22 Volodarskovo

Lifetime vows were taken this year by our seminarians whose formation as religious was done in Vladivostok, Russia! Final vows were celebrated by our brothers Pradeep Mulupuri, C.J.D. on February 2, and by Fr Vicky Samuel, C.J.D. on March 24, both in Vladivostok. And by Bro Harben Forte, C.J.D. in the Philippines. By three seminarians in Maumere, Indonesia, a daughter house of Vladivostok!

Brother Pradeep is from Denduluru village in India. He belonged to the African Missionaries, but needed to go home to nurse his ailing father—his mother already deceased. Then he received his B.A. in Philosophy at Arul Anandar College in Tamilnadu. His Theology program was at Pune Seminary.Jnana Deepa in Pune. He is currently waiting in India for a visa for America to work in Wisconsin, and is now working with the J.M.J. sisters in their social work in India.



Bro Pradeep's working with the J.M.J. Sisters will be a good preparation for working with minorities in America.



Fr Vicky Samuel, C.J.D. is from Sialkot, Pakistan. He studied Philosophy at the Franciscan Friary in Karachi, and then Theology at the National Catholic Institute of Theology in Karachi. While he was a student with us learning Russian, he worked especially with FOCUS and with the children's groups in Visitation

Parish in Lesozavodsk, and served often as chaplain to the students of the Far Eastern Federal University on Russian Island in Vladivostok where many Catholic foreign students study medicine and engineering. He was our first Pakistani vocation, but was followed by five more men who are at various stages of formation.

Most Holy Mother of God Pray for Us

Bro Harben Forte, C.J.D. is from Santa Ana, Manila, Philippines. He completed his bachelor's in Business Administration with concentration in Marketing at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila, followed by a Master's in Religious Education from Mother of Life Graduate School in Quezon City. After beginning formation toward the priesthood at St Vincent School of Theology-Adamson University in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, he finished his Theology studies for the priesthood at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, and he followed that by a Clinical Pastoral Education course at Manila Doctors' Hospital. He is currently waiting for his American visa to serve in Wisconsin.



Bro Harben at his graduation from St Tomas, with Bro Dindo Calvo, C.J.D..

Remember Mary Mother of God Mission Society in your will.



Solemn vows in Indonesia on the Feast of St Joseph, March 19—three seminarians and two brothers: from the left, Brother Edy Agato, Seminarian Yohanes Anggur, Brother Octavianus Senda, Seminarian Ofedius Bau, and Seminarian Geraldo Ximenes.. The priests of the community are behind.



Left to right:
Regina Dobweechina, director and
1st violin
Olga Khomenko, flute
Mikhail Rikovanov, viola
Zoya Saveleva, organ
Dmitriy Guzyeyev, lute
Elena Pavlova, oboe
Danil Skripka, cello

20th Jubilee of the *Regina Angelorum* Chamber Orchestra

by Fr Daniel L. Maurer, CJD

[Perhaps readers are aware that one of the conditions under which we received our church building back from the state government was that we had to have some concerts for the public in it.]

On February 14-15 our professional chamber orchestra, ***Regina Angelorum***, celebrated its 20-year jubilee with two performances of a special concert organized in honor of this milestone. The orchestra was founded in the summer of 2001 and made its debut at our Christmas concerts that same year.

A little pre-history: we founded our professional “Catholic Concert Choir” in the jubilee year 2000 because a large, local choir of 40 members, that we had invited to perform at our Christmas concerts the year before, shall we say, “way under-performed”! Afterwards I appealed to our own parish liturgical choir director, a young parishioner and choral directing major at the Russian Far Eastern Institute of Arts, because she was doing such a good job with our liturgical choir of untrained parishioners. I told her that I thought she could do a much better job than the professionals if we started a concert choir with trained local singers. Because of budget concerns, I suggested a “chamber” choir of 24 mixed members (6 singers for each section). She agreed, and their first concerts – four Christmas concerts performed in late December 2000 – were simply magical.

After that, our parish organist Marina Omelchenko, who had begun our concert program of sacred music for the public in 1996, said that we should also start our own

professional concert chamber orchestra ensemble, because the local ensembles, that we had been hiring for Christmas and Easter concerts, were performing “not bad” but without practicing sufficiently, because the classical and contemporary sacred music pieces we wanted them to play were completely

new to them, and they knew that they would not be able to play them anywhere else, so they held minimal rehearsals! I agreed with Marina, and relied on her to begin the selection process.

Marina had already seen great promise in one of our young parishioners, Diana Nam, who two years earlier had graduated with her bachelor/master degree in violin performance from the famed Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. Marina asked Diana to organize and direct a new, professional string quartet, whose task would be to prepare two programs a year for our annual Christmas and Easter concerts, and perhaps more frequently in the future. Diana agreed, and the rest, really, is history – the history of 20 years of great performances of the best selections of sacred and classical orchestral and choral music ever composed, and played by the most talented musicians that I have ever known. For their name, Diana chose ***Regina Angelorum*** (Queen of Angels), a beautiful title of the Blessed Mother, who is the patroness of our parish.

Through these 20 years, the musicians have changed, and their numbers have grown from a simple string quartet (1st violin, 2nd violin, viola and cello) to an active membership of “up to eleven”, depending on the sacred and classical repertoire that they play. In addition to the strings we have flute, oboe and continuo pipe organ; and occasionally trumpet, trombone, bassoon, tuba, lute and harp.

Diana was director and first violist for 2 years. In 2003 she entered the cloistered convent of Carmelite Nuns in Novosibirsk, 3500 miles away from home, becoming Sister Christina. (She may have the distinction of being the first-ever Russian Carmelite nun in history, but I do not know enough about the history of the Carmelites in Russia before the revolution of 1917 to be sure.) Only one

member from the original ensemble of 2001 has stayed a member for all 20 years: violist Mikhail Rikovanov, who just last month received an invitation to become a member of the symphony orchestra of the Marinski Theater.

The present director and first violist, Regina Dobweechina was chosen by Diana. (It is only a coincidence that she shares the name with the ensemble. Several years after she became director she said to me, “I hope people don’t think I named it after myself!) Regina is one of the finest solo violinists in the state, and often is featured as a soloist at other venues.

Regina Angelorum has the reputation of being the best chamber music ensemble in Vladivostok. Their concerts are always sold out and are the font of much joy and inspiration. I have had the privilege of attending all of them – beyond my fondest dream. “*Ad multos annos, Regina Angelorum!*” Thank you, members, for your dedication, disciplined rehearsal schedule and consummate artistry!

Baby Talk

From the Women’s Support Centers



Just wait ‘til I get out of this straightjacket—You’re gonna get it!

[Svyatislav September 30, 2021]

My One Story

I came to Vladivostok a number of years ago with FOCUS, and while there I visited Nakhodka and Lesozavodsk as well. I cannot describe to you how life-changing the love I was shown on that trip was, both by the brothers and sisters at the church and by the many Russian strangers I met while there. It has transformed my life in ways I can’t and won’t try to describe here, and I want them to know that there are Americans who love them very much and wish none of this [conflict] were happening.

Please, if you do not mind, tell them I pray for them often, for their safety. Please tell them I love the people I met so dearly I still practice my Russian daily in case we meet again, or in case I find them again on Facebook. My life has changed in many, many ways since I was in Vladivostok, but there have been no days that passed without my remembering the kindness I was shown by the strangers I met. I love them so very much, at the core of their souls, for the ways they changed my understanding of the expanse of human friendship and kindness, and there is nothing that will make me forget this or fail to love them. I wish we lived in a better world where we were not asked to hate each other at all, but...even in this world, I love them dearly and will always pray for them.

Andy Forest

How to Communicate with us

To make a donation or order a Mass using your money card, go here:

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

To watch our Russian Sunday mass, (8:00 pm Central Time Saturdays) go here: <https://vk.com/public211190633>.

Internet

English language: www.vladmission.org

Russian language: www.catholic.vladivostok.ru

www.catholicvl.ru

Sisters in Jesus the Lord in English: www.cjd.cc

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News Notes

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



● Our **first Vietnamese community** is in Saigon in a rented space that the members repaired themselves. So far all the members are seminarians including Brother Dominic Kien (3rd from left) who is the temporary superior, waiting for Fr Luis Van Dam—our first Vietnamese vocation—to come from Las Vegas. Also in the picture are Bro Dominic Duy, Bro Philip Le, Bro Joseph Nguyen, Bro John Baptist Bui, and Bro Joseph Tran (whom we gladly nicknamed “Nicolai”). Some study in the Vietnamese seminary and some on-line in the Philippine seminary in English. The community is a daughter house of our Vladivostok community.

● The **Caritas Women’s Support Centers** are working to promote their work in changing times after 25 years of successful help to women and children in our Territory of Primorye. The Artyom Center is moving to quarters more centrally located in the city. The Vladivostok center is preparing to relocate to the city center, too, while the second center in Vladivostok is developing its services, especially to women suffering from AIDS. The Nakhodka Center has moved to the new Our Lady of the Pacific Catholic Church. The Arsenyev Center is struggling after the sickness of its leader. The Lesozavodsk Center is very busy because of the poor economy of that city, where, besides counsel and help to mothers, used clothing is much in demand.

Nadezhda Morozova of Lesozavodsk is the Territory leader of all the Centers. She has been working with the Centers and their leaders to solve problems and increase the visibility of the Centers. Financing for the Centers is provided by Mary Mother of God Mission Society and from Russian benefactors. Recently Nadezhda asked me to open another center, this time in Ussurysk. Working on it!



Nadezhda Morozova holding a new brochure.

● The **Sisters in Jesus the Lord (C.J.D.) of the Holy Family**, the southern province of our sisters in Indonesia, had a recent meeting with Fr Desideratus Amdingsaputro, C.J.D. The sisters also had the joy of the blessing of the cornerstone for their new convent in Kotabaru on Flores Island by the Archbishop of Ende, Vincentius Sensi Potokota, D.D. The sisters are now financially independent of Mary Mother of God Mission Society. They are supported by Indonesian Catholics. Their work is with orphans and children, and helping in parishes.



The site of the new convent, with a spectacular view of the ocean on one side and mountains in the other. The land was donated by a local parishioner.



The superiors, Sister Angela and Sister Rosa are to the left and right of Fr “Usno”. (Isn’t that easier to say than “Desideratus Amdingsaputro”?)

- The **Sisters in Jesus the Lord (C.J.D.) of St Monica** attended the final vows of our brothers in Indonesia. It was also a time for them to be together because they work in five different dioceses in northern Indonesia and in the country of Timor Leste. At their house in Jakarta they care for 42 orphans and are rejoicing that our Fr Hubertus Jacobus is able to be with them regularly now for mass as he is presently studying in Jakarta. Even the children sing the Liturgy of the Hours with the sisters!



- The priests of the Russian Far East gathered with Bishop Kirill Klimovich on April 5 in Vladivostok for the annual **Chrism Mass**. Besides the Vladivostok priests, others came from Yakutsk, Nakhodka, Khabarovsk, Uzhnosakhalinsk, and Blagoveschensk. The bishop had another Chrism Mass for the part of the Diocese of St Joseph that is in Siberia on April 12.



- **Fr Mark Dao, C.J.D.** baptized his **first Vietnamese babies** on in Vladivostok on March 20. He was ordained a priest in Vietnam, but couldn’t come to Russia because of the absence of flights during the Covid event. So it was a special event of joy for him to finally be able to fulfill his ministry in Russia. We already have 50 Vietnamese parishioners.

- I was so surprised by a recent phone call. Margarita Ivnitskaya in Tomsk, Siberia called to remind us that she still had in her possession one last item that was **owned by Bishop Slivovsky**, our sainthood candidate who died in 1933 in exile. I had forgotten about it! It is the trunk which was in the bishop’s room where he died in which he kept his personal items. Many of those personal items had already been given to us by Margarita’s mother, Regina Stanko whose father had buried the bishop, there being no priests available in Russia in those terrible days of persecution. The trunk with contents had been taken to Tomsk with the Stanko family as they escaped persecution themselves! Now the trunk is on its way to us, and it will be part of the relics of the bishop. Stay tuned as the process of the Bishop’s canonization proceeds!



“Rita” on the left, Regina on the right, and Rita’s son Andre between them. Regina was a hero of the Soviet Union for her physician services to wounded soldiers during WWII.

Opportunities

♥ Every year, the workers at our **Women's Support Centers** provide information and support to hundreds of women who walk through the doors. But did you know they also visit with women in need at their homes and in the hospital? Such personal attention goes a long way toward encouraging a pregnant woman who may not find support among her friends, her husband or boyfriend, or family members. During 2020, WSC staff made 123 visits to women at their homes and 446 visits to women in the hospital. Each visit involves auto costs, gas, or bus fare—just some of the expenses that make up the approximately \$700 per month to support a center.

♥ Enjoy traveling? We are in need of **speakers** this year who wish to tell of our mission in parishes. We send priests, religious, Spanish speaking and lay volunteers to designated parishes, sometimes to nearby states, to tell of our mission after Masses. Talks are provided by the mission. Each year we contact dioceses throughout the USA requesting **to share our mission** in their parishes. We are very grateful to those dioceses who extend their invitation for us to visit and speak during weekend Masses. We are in need of speakers to help. Please contact the mission office for information.

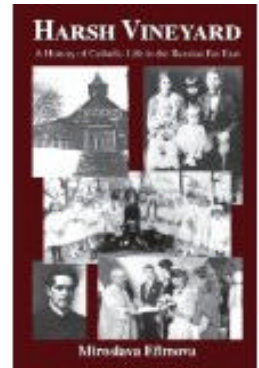
♥ Would your parish or apostolate like to help prepare our **bi-monthly Vladivostok Sunrise newsletter** for mailing? Please contact our mission office for details.

♥ The Vladivostok parish maintains an **emergency fund** for parishioners and others who are known to us who are dealing with unexpected and dire situations. In early 2021, we helped a large family in Nakhodka that needed medical care for their handicapped child. And in Lesozavodsk, a mother of 4 boys was killed in an automobile accident. We were able to assist the grandmother, who is now raising the boys. Donations of any size to this fund are always welcome. Please note, "Emergency Fund" on your check or online donation.

♥ Our priests are getting older. Fr Myron celebrated his 81st birthday this year and Fr Dan his 71st birthday! Can you help them prepare for the future in the **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 for taking care of our elder priests!](#)

♥ *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

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. Free gift wrap upon request. Cost is \$16.50, plus \$3.99 S/H



♥ **Eat like a priest!** Create entire meals just from the priests' recipes in our popular **Abundant Blessings** cookbook. Start off with Fr Myron's Ludin Salad. Then load up on carbs with Fr Dan Lapolla's Tyrolean



Dumplings. Pound down a couple of slices of Fr Dan's Pizza Dan. And wrap up the meal with a delicious dessert of Carrot Halwa from Fr Sebastian. All recipes can be found in our cookbook, with sales supporting seminarian education and our Women's Support Centers. You can order the cookbook for \$33.99 (which covers

the book plus shipping in the continental USA) at www.vladmission.org/cookbook or at www.store.vladmission.org under Miscellaneous > Kitchen.

♥ A very big "thank you!" to our benefactors for funding the **parish playground equipment and landscaping**. One generous donor has covered the entire cost, so the additional gifts we received for this project will go to funding more equipment and playground landscaping. The children and families of the parish will enjoy many hours of fun and exercise and community gatherings thanks to you!

♥ Want to schedule an enjoyable activity and fundraiser for our mission this year? Ask your pastor if you may host a weekend Russian Icon Sale after Masses at your parish. The mission office provides all the religious goods needed. Sell **Russian and Greek icons and gifts**, statues, rosaries and other religious goods for all the sacraments while bringing awareness of the Vladivostok Mission to your fellow parishioners. You and your team may also designate where your fundraising efforts go, i.e. Women's Centers, Adopt a Mother, Seminarian Education,

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From the development desk...

Dear Friends:

Happy Easter Octave!

During this holiest time of the year, we prayerfully celebrate the beauty and gifts of the Faith given to us by our loving Father in heaven. May we never forget that during the Communist rule in Russia for over 70 years our faith was outlawed, prayer was forbidden, Mass was banned, the Holy Eucharist denied, Churches destroyed, and millions martyred for their faith.

Today we are grateful our brothers and sisters in Russia are able to joyfully celebrate the holy sacrifice of the Mass, receive the Holy Eucharist, pray freely, and witness their churches being rebuilt. We are deeply grateful to YOU, our mission families out there, who support Fr Myron and Fr Daniel to accomplish and continue the many important works to **revive the Roman Catholic Church in Russia**. Here are just a few of the many works you directly help make happen each day in the Vladivostok mission:

- Preach the gospel and keep churches open for our 500+ Roman Catholic parishioners in our care in Eastern Russia
- Baptize new babies and RCIA candidates
- Teach catechism classes for the children of our parishes

- Bring to completion, construction of the church of Our Lady of the Pacific in Nakhodka
 - Organize and facilitate week long Catholic Youth conferences
 - Translate and print Russian hymnals and missals
 - Continue outreach to hundreds of families, mothers and babies each month to save lives from and the effects of abortion
 - Provide food, clothing, and medical help to many poor elderly and children in multiple villages and cities
 - Develop vocations to bring priests to the world
- Thank you God. Thank you all.** We are one family under God. We pray for you always.

God bless you.

Sincerely, Vicky Trevillyan, USA Mission Desk
usoffice@vladmission.org 209-408-0728



*Getting ashes
on Ash
Wednesday*