

Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Seventy March, 2023



2022 Women's Support Centers' "Adopt-a-Births"
Thanks, Benefactors, for the kids you helped!



Most Holy Mother of God Pray for Us



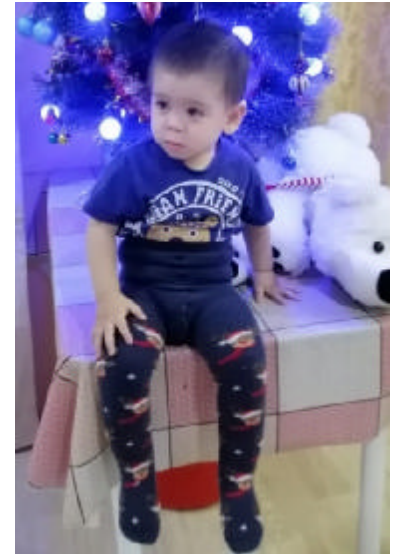
Some Kids the Women's Support Centers helped in 2022.



barely making a living.

This boy lives not far from Vladivostok. There are five children in the family whom we have helped several times. The family was living on the welfare check of one child, as mom bought them a house in a small village with the money she received from the government, so that they could raise pigs and chickens. They are just

This guy has a little sister seven months old. They live in a village not far from Nakhodka where they bought a house. There are tigers in the area, so when we brought them some help we were afraid to leave the car. Mom came to the car. They are raising animals to help feed the family.



Living in a small town, this family of five children and mom are in need. Dad was killed working in a sawmill. Mom really expresses her gratitude to donors.



Mom is AIDS infected, but dad disappeared after mom became pregnant. The police looked for him for three months during which time mom lived at Hope House, a protestant based shelter. Dad and mom were reconciled, and now everything is okay.



These twins and their family moved away, but they often write their gratitude for help

provided to the family of four children. They have received a partly completed house which they will try to finish.

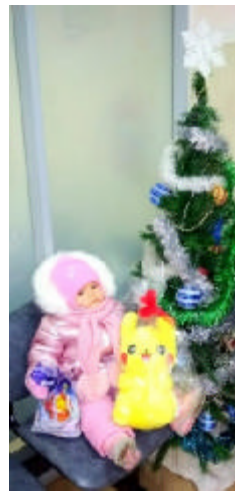


At first mom, who is an AIDS patient, refused her child who was born with a cleft palate, so the girl for a while was in an orphanage. But then mom came for the girl and they moved into grandma's house. Soon an operation for the child will be begun.

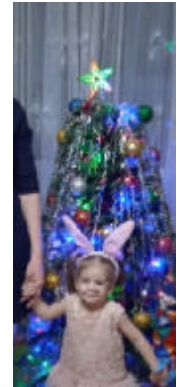


Center.

The mother of this girl used to take drugs, and she became infected with AIDS. Now she is drug-free but her pregnancy was very difficult. The child is AIDS-free. Mom is a medic and volunteers at the AIDS



This little boy's mother came out of prison infected with AIDS. We help her with diapers and baby formula. Her older two children were taken from her during the prison time. She lived with her mother but now found a good husband who is the boy's father. They are pregnant again and have their own home.



Mom got out of prison, and met a man who has a good job. A healthy baby girl was born, and now they are pregnant again. She no longer needs help.



Sedanka, Home of Bishop Slivovsky

By Tatyana Shaposhnikova, Parish Archivist

The suburb of Vladivostok which was known in Chinese as "Toponimike" is Sedanka which has a river of the same name, is well known to parishioners. There Bishop Karl Genrickovich Slivovsky spent his last several years in exile in a two-story wooden house. The area has an interesting history and was called "Primorsky Switzerland" because of the steep hills surrounding the Sedanka River where there were red fish in season. On the banks of the river many fine dachas were built by the well-known bosses of the timber industry and some parishioners of Bishop Slivovsky, like the Sinkevich brothers, the businessman Y. Brenner, architect Younghandel, Vladivostok businessmen, and foreign ambassadors. At the beginning of the 20th Century, Sedanka River was fully navigable with many smaller

boats with recreating citizens, and there were barges from the match factory of businessman Suvorov and the oil production facilities of the Vacovich Brothers. The family of the American businessman Smitov used to come here for picnics as recorded by the witness of Eleonor Prey (Eleonor Lord Prey, "Letters from Vladivostok" (1894-1930), published in 2010.)

Here, from 1910 to 1912, on the shore of the river the General Consul of Imperial Japan built a 2-story dacha. It was built with the latest technology. It had its own independent lighting, water supply and piping, central heating, and elevator to the upper floor. On the south side of the building there was a sunroom with tropical plants, gold fish in ponds, The windows were decorated with intricate frames with colorful stained glass. Around the house grew pines, ferns, and white lilacs. After 1922 the Japanese diplomat left Primorye and Soviet citizens settled in. They divided the floors among several families, then added space for themselves, built stoves in their sections, Sadly all the technological items were destroyed. At the end of the 1920's Casimira Piotrovsky, a parishioner of the Vladivostok parish, rented a small added space there. She was an active member of the charitable organization "Good Relations" and of Polish House. Before her eyes the tragic events of the Vladivostok parish unfolded—the emigration of parishioners, the repression of religion, the actions against priests.

In Vladivostok, Bishop Slivovsky lived in one of the rooms of the nationalized parish house under the constant supervision of the Soviet authorities, while his correspondence was constantly checked and his



Pilgrimage by parishioners to the Bishop's house in 2010.

movements were monitored. The position of the bishop became more and more threatening. He was very lonely and communicated only with the rector of the parish, Fr George Yurkevich. On September 15, 1929, the Polish Consul Mr. Simonovich, while passing through Vladivostok, asked the student Voldemar Peltz to visit Slivovsky. The student saw His Eminence in an almost empty room, completely devoid of any church items. The bishop was dressed in civilian clothes and looked like a decrepit old man. Slivovsky was terribly frightened, began to wave his hands and began to ask in a whisper that the student leave immediately, otherwise misfortune would happen. The misfortune happened in a month. The bishop was literally thrown out into the street, ordered to leave the city. He, along with his faithful Chinese cook and a chest of personal belongings, was offered a small room in a building on Sedanka by Casimira. There the bishop lived until his death, being kept under house arrest with the supervision of the authorities. His last years of life in Sedanka are described in the manuscript of Brother Zachariusz Banas (Pamiętnik Br. Zachariasza Banasia. Syg. 301. Cz.III. Archiwum OO Bernardynów. Kraków). The Brother was the last to see Bishop Karol Slivovsky and Fr Gergi Yurkevich alive. Returning from Poland to Harbin in 1931, the brother made a short stop in Vladivostok, as he was instructed by the Roman church authorities to find Slivovsky and find out the details of his fate. This was not easy to do.

From Yurkevich, the brother learned: "There is no bishop in Vladivostok. He was taken to the forest, to Sedanka, He lives there under supervision. Is ill". Parishioner Elizaveta Vigurskaya also told her brother about the bishop: "I often visit Slivovsky, as soon as I get something to eat from the Catholics, I immediately take it to him. It is forbidden to do this, but first I go to my friends on Sedanka, who live near his house, and then I

make my way to the bishop along an inconspicuous path. On March 19, 1931, having changed into old clothes, Brother Zakhariush went by local train to meet the famous spiritual one: "We took the dacha train to Sedanka. I walked along a forest path and saw a small two-story house, a woman's face appeared in the window. Casimira Piotrovskaya kindly invited me to come in: "The bishop is very sick, yesterday he went to confession [to Fr Georgy Yurkevich], but has not been getting out of bed for a whole week." She went into the next room. "The bishop said that he would get up and come out to you. Everything is going very well, yesterday we had another check, so there will be no guests today."

The bishop came out, dressed in a suit and even with a tie, only in a bishop's cap and with a bishop's ring on his finger. I look at him with concern - he is tall, worn out. I helped the bishop to sit down at the table, and he began to talk about his life. The head of a Chinese man appeared at the door. The bishop explained that the Chinese had served as his cook for many years: "We would starve to death if he abandoned us!" After tea we went to his room to talk. On one side of this tiny room stood a bed and a washbasin, on the other a wardrobe and a large chest with a change of clothes, a few suitcases and a small table. There was no free space. The bishop asked: "Well, do you like the bishop's chambers? This is all that I have received in my old age for my many years of pastoral work. And then he expressed fear: "You brother, for the sake of meeting with me, decided on such a dangerous road? After all, if we were caught here, then we would all go to the gallows or go to prison! Saying this, the bishop burst into tears. "I began to get ready to go back. As I kissed the bishop's hand, I saw that it was withered and trembling.



The house as we remember it.

Hugging goodbye, we hugged each other for a long time. I said goodbye to Bishop Karol Slivovsky forever."

The bishop died on January 5, 1933 at the age of 78. That morning, ten-year-old Regina Stanko brought, as usual, milk for the bishop. At the door she was greeted by

a tearful Casimira and said: "He no longer needs milk, he is dead." Regina remembers that the funeral took place the day after the death. The coffin with the body of the deceased was taken on a sleigh to a small Orthodox cemetery, located on the territory of the former Orthodox bishop's residence. The coffin was metal, closed, since Casimira later wanted to take the body of the bishop to Poland. The parish trustee Julian Nevero, several parishioners with children, as well as the consuls of America and Germany, saw off the deceased. The bishop in the coffin was dressed in a white chasuble and miter, next to the body lay a bishop's staff. Modest flowers grew on the bishop's grave and there was an iron cross with a tablet. Casimira Piotrovskaya left for Poland without obtaining permission to remove the body. Before leaving, she distributed the rest of the bishop's belongings to the parishioners. Some of them were kept with the Stanko family, including the episcopal chest. Now these rarities have been transferred to the Catholic parish of Vladivostok.

This two-story house has survived to this day. In 1923, the streets in the village on Sedanka were given names - they received the names of Russian artists Shishkin, Serov, Repin, Aivazovsky. And the street where the bishop lived became known as Vereshchagin. The parishioner Regina Stanko came to Vladivostok from Tomsk at the invitation of Fr Myron in 2003. Father Myron met the people living in this house, presented them with a book by Miroslava Efimova about the history of the Catholic parish and Bishop Slivovsky. Pilgrimages were made to this house, where Bishop Slivovsky lived in exile and died. The possibility of installing a memorial plaque on the same outbuilding attached to the house was discussed. In 2022, the owners of the apartment where the bishop lived put it up for sale. The parish decided to buy it in order to make there a spiritual center and a memorial apartment for Bishop Slivovsky. Temporary difficulties prevented this



Results of the fire on November 6, 2022

project from being carried out quickly. But in prayers to the Servant of God Slivovsky, the parishioners turned for help.

Unfortunately, the project failed to materialize. On the night of November 29, 2022, a fire almost completely destroyed the bishop's house. The epicenter of the fire was located in the same room where the bishop lived. Sparks from the heating stove caused a fire that spread to the roof of the house, to the second and first floors. The residents of two apartments only managed to run out into the street, grabbing their documents. Until the morning, five fire engines and the Ministry of Emergency Situations tried to cope with the fire. The result was sad - the house cannot be restored, two families were left homeless. This is a big loss for the parish, too—a memorable place. A place of pilgrimage where one could touch history and pray to the bishop, for parishioners, remembering all those who died and were buried without a Catholic rite. Father Daniel Maurer prayed: "Merciful God, in the revolutions and wars of the 20th century, many of Your faithful disciples, practicing their faith and trying to help their neighbors, found themselves without the possibility of a consoling clergy, serving church rites. The new government forbade them to talk about God, they could not receive the Sacraments in order to maintain their relationship with Jesus Christ and continue to live in His grace. When they approached the end of their earthly life and it was necessary to think about eternal life with You, Lord, they did not have the rite of church prayers for the dying, and after death there was no last funeral service. Although we Catholics continue to pray for the eternal rest of Bishop Slivovsky, we think that he is now freed from all those sins committed during his last years in exile here in Sedanka, that he has long been happy with You in heaven. Here in this place, we will remember the people who were deprived of the Mothering Care of Your Church, who died without prayers and were buried without a church rite. Mercifully gather them all into the Most Sacred Heart of Your Son Jesus Christ and reward them with eternal rest with You in heavenly paradise forever and ever. Amen."



What is left of the Bishop's room where he died.

Baby Talk

From the Women's Support Centers



**How could He have hung on
the Cross so long?**

[Zakhar June 16, 2021]

News Notes

● As of February 1, 2023, **Mrs Vicky Trevillyan** has decided to retire from her position as **National Coordinator** for Mary Mother of God Mission Society. She has completed 15 years of great and difficult work for us, but, don't worry, she isn't going far away! She will be assisting the new National Coordinator, her daughter-in-law, **Mrs Jessica Hoke Trevillyan** who has been Vicky's assistant already for 12 years! Among Vicky's successes as National Coordinator is the program of "icon sales" at parishes just about everywhere, and the success and expansion of MMOG's "Gifts of Faith" religious gift shop

in Modesto. Maybe the phrase "national coordinator" is a misnomer, as the job has evolved into more of an "international coordinator" with the expansion of our work in Russia and Kazakhstan, as well as in America. Vicky says, "The Vladivostok mission has been an integral part of my spiritual and temporal growth for 20 years. I wish to remain in MMOG's employment serving for the Glory of God, our donors, and supporting Jessica behind the scenes as she has done so well for me for many years." Thank you, Vicky, for your great work and commitment. Thanks for continuing with our mission!



Fr Myron, Jessica Trevillyan, and Vicky Trevillyan

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.

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.catholicvl.ru

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

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Mary Mother of God Mission Society is listed in the Official Catholic Directory under the Diocese of Stockton, CA.

Opportunities

♥ Day of Giving! Day of Giving! Day of Giving!

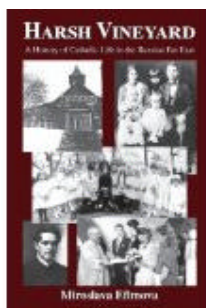
We hope you will participate in our Day of Giving on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25th. We are praying to Our Lady for her intercession to raise funds for a van to help in our mission work. Please see page 8 for details.

♥ Over 3900 babies have been saved from abortion through our Women's Support Centers' two programs, **Adopt A Birth Program** and **Adopt A Mother Program**. \$50 will save a baby from abortion through our Adopt A Birth Project. This small gift can make the difference for a destitute mother choosing abortion vs. paying the delivery cost of having her child. \$125 to our Adopt A Mother program helps moms get on their feet in the first few months after delivery, many of whom have just turned away from having an abortion, buying baby formula and clothes, and vitamins for mom and baby.

♥ Double Your Donation. Check with your employer to see if they offer a "**Matching Gifts Program**". Companies that do, will match the amount of your donation to your favorite charity. Typically, the matched funds from your employer are submitted at the end of the year. The name of the program might differ slightly from company to company. This is a great way to double your help to the mission!

♥ **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 \$21 includes S/H in the continental United States .

♥ Please support our **Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord (CJD) seminarians** who are or will be working in Russia. We have 8 priests, 2 deacons and 11 CJD seminarians. The yearly cost to support 1 seminarian averages \$10,000 per year. Can you help us form these young men to the priesthood?

♥ Do you know of a **Catholic conference** near you? Please let us know! Contact Vicky at the mission office. We will arrange to attend a booth to have our representatives share the news of our mission.

♥ Would you like to help us by being a representative for the mission at an upcoming conference?

Men's Conference (3/25)	Worcester MA
IRL National Meeting (4/14-16))	Mundelein IL
YCP Conference (4/21-23)	Frisco TX
Chesterton Conference (4/21)	Libertyville IL
Ignited by Truth (4/28-29)	Raleigh NC
Marian Conference (4/28-30)	Nashville TN
Catholic Men's Conference (4/29)	San Antonio TX
St. Louis Marian Conference (5/19-21)	St. Louis MO
Marian Eucharistic (5/19-21)	Ave Maria FL
Catholic Media Conference (6/6-9)	Baltimore MD
Napa Institute (7/26-30)	Napa CA
Eucharistic Congress (9/8-9)	Charlotte, NC
Las Vegas Diocesan Conference (9/8-9)	Las Vegas, NV
ICSC (10/1-4)	Orlando FL
Jesus 2023 Conference (10/20)	Kansas City MO
MI Women's Conference (10/21)	Lansing MI
Catholic Women's Conference (10/28)	Philadelphia PA

Vladivostok Mission
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From the development desk...

Dear Friends, Happy Lent!

This year Mary Mother of God Mission Society will be celebrating the Feast of the Annunciation by having a **Day of Giving** to help the Vladivostok mission with a special need. This day will be on Saturday, March 25th. We are hoping to raise enough funds to purchase a much needed van for the priests. Currently they are driving a 1990 Nissan Le Grande which is totally rusted out and not safe to drive any more. It will have to be junked.

We are looking to purchase a 7-passenger, 2020 Toyota Noah. It is expected to cost \$23,800. We need it for physically transferring donations such as used clothing, food donations, etc., between the parishes and the Women's Support Centers. We will use the van to help University students attend church meetings and attend mass, since the University is so far away. We would also use it to transport novices to meetings and liturgies, like the Bishop's Holy Oils Mass. We'll help transport attendees and staff at the Youth Conferences and retreat days, as well as transfer the novices to language school on school days, especially in bad or extra cold weather.

We hope you'll mark your calendars for this Day of Giving. You can donate by credit card or PayPal on our



website, www.vladmission.org, using Venmo @MaryMotherofGod-MissionSociety or by sending a check to the mission office in the US, 1736 Milestone Cir. Modesto CA 95357. Please note Day of Giving.

Follow our Giving Day progress on Instagram @MARYMOTHEROFGODMISSIONSOCIETY

Thank you all for your kindness and generosity. God bless you and your family.

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