



# Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Seventy Four November, 2023

## The 25th Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference

*By Fr Nikita Kushnaryev, C.J.D.*

We can no longer imagine that our summer will pass without the Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference. And so, from August 10 to 16, in our parish of the Most Holy Mother of God in Vladivostok, an already more than traditional (25th in a row!) Conference of Catholic Youth took place. The youth from the parishes of Yakutsk, Blagoveshchensk, Khabarovsk and, of course, Vladivostok gathered. This year we chose Saint Teresa of the Infant Jesus (St. Teresa of Lisieux) as the patroness of our meeting, and therefore our joint reflections were devoted to her biography and spirituality of the "small path". The choice was due to the 100th anniversary of the beatification of the saint of Lisieux, who, by the way, was also proclaimed the patroness of Catholics in Russia.

Traditionally, our time has been dedicated to communal prayer, relaxation, getting acquainted, presentations and discussions. We really wanted to bring the spirituality of St. Teresa closer to young Catholics so that they can realize their path to God in the midst of everyday activities, and remember that our holiness is the holiness of Jesus himself, who works in us. The missionary aspect of the spirituality of St. Teresa is also important for young people, because she was burning with the desire to proclaim the Word of God, although she spent her life within the walls of the monastery. And again, small achievements in the way of evangelizing our brothers and sisters, small sacrifices that we can make in the intention of spreading the gospel for God, make a big difference.

We devoted the first half of our day to theory. The second half was the implementation of the information received in practice. Saint Teresa, although she became a Doctor of the Church, has always been a woman of action. Therefore, under her patronage, we did not just walk around Vladivostok, getting acquainted with its history and architecture, but constantly trained in how to be open to another person. We were able to celebrate Mass at the



*The Czech soldiers who fought during the Russian Revolution and were buried at the Sea Cemetery were probably mostly Catholics.*

Czechoslovakian section of the Sea Cemetery in Vladivostok, praying for mercy for those who ended their young lives away from home and family. This prayer

*Vladimir Alekseev from Arsenyev led the Conference, here with chaplain Fr Nikita Kushnarev, C.J.D.*



Most Holy Mother of God Pray for Us

became an expression of our great hope in God, for whom everyone is alive, who remembers every person, every breath, even if addressed to Him amidst the sometimes strange vicissitudes of human history. We were able not only to pray for the departed, but also to become involved in the hope of St. Teresa in the infinite mercy of God. In this vein, even the beauty of the Far Eastern nature and the greatness of the Pacific Ocean helped us look at the world through the eyes of the saint from Lisieux, impressed by the Providence of the Lord about every creature, large and small.



*The Conference included university students from Africa.*

## The History of "Rachel's Vineyard Retreats" in Russia.

*By Nadezhda Morozova*

"Be merciful, therefore, even as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36)

In his ministry, Father Myron Effing has often encountered the suffering of women (and men) after the sin of abortion. Many experience a sense of shame, the pain of loss, often self-destructive behavior appears. Later this behavior was called "post-abortion syndrome."

In 1986, Dr. Teresa Kaminsky Burke from America, after the creation of a Treatment Center, initiated the first therapeutic support group for women who had an abortion: "Rachel's Vineyard - The Psychological and Spiritual Path to Post-Abortion Healing" was first published in 1994. Teresa Burke adapted the program for weekend retreats in 1995. Rachel's Vineyard is currently an international program.

I would like to write a lot about each of the days spent together, but now is the time to sum up. Our joint prayer, fellowship, learning new things, should bear fruit in our Christian life. We met new friends--in heaven and on earth. Now our job is to stay connected by supporting each other. Good luck, friends! See you again at the Far Eastern Catholic Youth Conference next year!



*The oceanside was a good place to rest!*

To help women in Russia recover from post-abortion syndrome, Father Myron invited Diane Szurlis from Ketchikan, Alaska, to the Parish of the Holy Mother of God of Vladivostok for the first retreat of Rachel's Vineyard in Russia.

On June 10, 2004, the volunteers of the parish and Diane Szurlis held the first Russian retreat of "Rachel's Vineyard" in Vladivostok.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats offer a unique body-oriented approach that combines emotional and spiritual components. The healing path includes creative Living Bible sessions and rituals that engage the mind, body, and soul. The Bible, combined with sacraments, prayer, group work, psychotherapy, reflection, and discussion based on Jesus Christ and the Word of God, allows the retreatants to work effectively with grief. This unique program is a safe and effective way of recovery for traumatized people and those who have already spent years in psychotherapy, for those who need repentance and forgiveness from their traumatic experience.

The Child in Heaven theology says, "Reconciliation with God and the unborn child is not something to be



earned or something to be rejected. It is given by Jesus, who died and rose from the dead, of His own will to those who have suffered terribly. The greatest desire of His heart is to lead all those who have gone through the hell of abortion and do not want to lose their souls in self-condemnation and despair, because on the cross he already paid the price of our salvation., so he will cleanse the soul and prepare it for his coming: "Behold, I will make everything new." Through the power of the cross and the conversion of parents, Christ overcomes the diabolical influence of abortion. What has been trampled on has been restored anew: the relationship between parent and child.

In Russia, our program has been working successfully all these years; Vladivostok, Magadan, Ussurysk, Novosibirsk, Moscow, St. Petersburg, etc., as well as in Belarus and Kazakhstan. The geography of the retreats are constantly expanding, which means that more and more men and women receive healing.

Mother Teresa wrote about it: "Jesus said that he came to call sinners, not the righteous. I pray that those participating in Rachel's Vineyard, desiring to be free and healed by Jesus, find Him the source of true joy, peace and love, and allow God to restore their wholeness and happiness. I pray strongly for you."

I want to express my gratitude to all the volunteers who have helped with the retreats. I am Head of the Protect Life program of the Vladivostok Deanery, Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk, Nadezhda Morozova.

For participation in the program, please call +7-914-659-8734

## News Notes

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

● **Craig Patrick Trevillyan Sr**, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and son, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday morning of August 17, 2023, at the age of 65. He was a great volunteer and donor for Mary Mother of God Mission Society. At one time our office was located in his garage!

He was born on July 5, 1958 in Fullerton, California. In 1977 he met his wife Vicky in Modesto, California, and married in 1979 at Our Lady of Fatima Church. He spent most of his career in the building trade. While Craig was able, he lovingly taught his three sons many of his carpentry and mechanical skills.

A member of St. Joseph Church, Craig loved praying the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet daily, along with many other prayers to help others. Craig was a caring and devoted husband and father. Although he faced



insurmountable obstacles with his health, he made the safety and happiness of his family a priority. He was always there for his family and ensured that love was abundant in his home. He was successful in providing his family with faith, love, happiness, humor and gratitude. Through the strength of his deep faith and with the love and support of his wife and family closest to him, Craig overcame many physical and medical challenges for many years. His positive and optimistic attitude was contagious and those who were fortunate enough to know him were rewarded with his vibrance of life and caring personality. Craig was a true inspiration to everyone who knew him. Countless nurses and doctors along his journey were amazed at his joyful disposition throughout his constant medical challenges. He left those who knew him with the gift of compassion and love, and his memory will live on in our love and prayers.

Craig is adoringly remembered by generations of children for his gift of storytelling. He mesmerized all with scary or witty tales, which usually began with, "It was a night just like tonight...!" He was a man of great courage, and hunger for happiness in life. Craig gave himself to his community through charitable works with Make-A-Wish Foundation and as a consistent supporter of Catholic Radio. Craig was an active volunteer for many years with Mary Mother of God Mission Society. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord!

- The church of one of our sister parishes, the beautiful **St Joseph's in Salem, Oregon**, was the victim of an early morning fire. Apparently, a homeless person started a fire in the dumpster alongside the church and it spread to the roof. Although the sanctuary is a loss, and the rest of the church suffered major water damage, miraculously the tabernacle and crucifix seem untouched. Please pray for our sister parish. For the new pastor of 2 months ago, this is quite literally his baptism by fire!



*Salem's tabernacle. In Hawaii, the Catholic church was also spared.*

- We had our annual **Assumption procession** with prayers and blessings this year on Sunday, August 13. I was still not totally on my feet, so Fr Nikita took care of the masses. It is our main parish feastday, because January 1 is not convenient for Russians who have a big New Year's celebration on our feast day, so we pick Assumption instead.



*Clouds of smoke!*

Actually, for the Assumption Mass, everything went normal until Fr Nikita put clouds of incense in the censer for the offertory. The fire alarm system went off, and we scrambled to turn it off. Nobody knew how, so after ten minutes I suggested to Fr Nikita that he take the people outside and do the procession while we looked for a way to turn off the system. (The procession is usually AFTER mass.) That he did. After phone calls to several people, nobody knew how to turn the system off. Finally someone said that Fr Nikita had a "remote" to turn it off. But the batteries were dead in the remote. Our office worker Vladimir ran to his car, saying he had some batteries in the car, and when he returned, he couldn't open the remote with his fingernails, so Bro Edwin ran upstairs for a screw-driver. Finally he got the system off. Meanwhile Fr Nikita finished the procession, did the 4th station and benediction at the 3rd altar outside, and then we continued the rest of the mass there outside on the 3rd station altar. It was quite an experience, but the weather was fine, and the parishioners received communion under both kinds outside. Most people were happy, except those who left early, maybe because some people are allergic to the incense. We'll have to find out how to turn off the system, or use less incense!





● We have a new helper, Brother Edwin Intan, C.J.D. from the Philippines. He is a seminarian ready for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood who finished the seminary in the Philippines *Cum Laude*. More

recently he has been doing great mission work in the Philippine islands where there are still uncatechized Catholics among the native peoples who live on small, distant islands or in mountainous areas. His Russian language is great! (And so is his Korean, Japanese, Tagalog, Cebuano, Indonesian, and English!!) My hope is that he will be able to take my place if and when I “kick the bucket”. Plan ahead—I’m already 82 years old!

● On September 3 we had the annual blessing of students and teachers for the beginning of the school year. The beginning of the school year was delayed by a week this year because of all the flooding in various parts of the Primorsky Territory. After the blessing I like to give the students and teachers an apple saying, (for teachers) “I hope each student will be as loved by you as this delicious apple!” And to all the students, “I hope all your subjects of study will be as appetizing as this apple!”



*It was a crowd of learners from kindergarten to medical students from the University.*

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### 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/>



*Red apples are better but two-tones also taste good!*

● In October, the Church of Our Lady of the Pacific, in Nakhodka, Russian Federation is scheduled to be consecrated, but it will be too late for the deadline for the November Sunrise, so here are a few advanced items related to the parish.



The **emblem** of the Parish of Our Lady of the Pacific in Nakhodka is comprised of a representation of Pacific Ocean waves and the mountains of Nakhodka, together with symbols of the rising sun (for the Russian Far East and Mary as the beginning of the New Testament), a moon crescent, and a morning star (The crescent represents womanhood, and the rising star—usually the planet Venus—announces the coming of the sun) with the letter “M” for the Virgin Mary, with a crown to represent an icon, and a small cross to represent the child Jesus (when she will be pregnant.)

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

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

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

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



The original “**Our Lady of the Pacific,**” a statue enshrined in the Cathedral on the Island of Guam. A wooden statue, it was found floating in the water near Guam even before the missionaries arrived, and was honored by the pagan natives as “Our Lady of the Shed”. It was probably from the Spanish ship “Conception” that went down near the Island of Saipan, not far from Guam. So the parish feastday is celebrated on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

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

## Baby Talk

From the Women’s Support Centers



ZZZ, like a pea in a pod!

[Violetta December 19, 2022]

## Opportunities

- ♥ Give the gift of eternal life this Christmas! **Request Masses** for your loved ones or special intentions. Masses will be celebrated by our Canons Regular In Jesus The Lord priests. You or your designated recipient will receive a Mass card and prayer card. Suggested Mass stipend is \$15.
- ♥ Want to schedule an enjoyable activity for your parishioners and a fundraiser for our mission this year? Ask your pastor if you may host a weekend Russian Icon sale after Masses at your parish. ‘Tis the

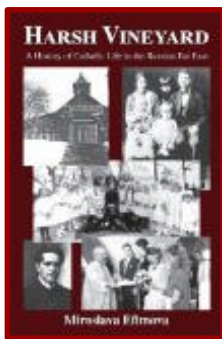




season! The mission office provides all the religious goods needed. **Russian and Greek icons and gifts,** statues, rosaries and other religious goods for all the sacraments while bringing awareness of the Vladivostok Mission to your fellow parishioners. You and your team may

also designate where your fundraising efforts go, i.e. Women's Centers, Adopt a Mother, Seminarian Education, Emergency Fund, General, etc. Please contact Vicky or Jessica 209-408-0728 or [usoffice@vladmission.org](mailto:usoffice@vladmission.org) for details.

♥ **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. Free gift wrap upon request. Cost is \$21.99, (includes \$4.99 S/H)

♥ Looking for an easy dessert to make with your children or grandchildren this holiday season? Our **Abundant Blessings** cookbook has the perfect **Nut Puff** recipe from our very own Vicky Trevillyan. Not only is this recipe easy and kid-friendly, it only takes 15 minutes to bake! **Abundant Blessings** has over 400 great recipes including Chocolate Chinese Noodle Candy, Grandma Della's Rocky Road, and No-Bake Strawberry Cookies. And delicious Butterscotch Wonders have only three



ingredients! Recipes come from all over the world, from mission supporters, priests, nuns, and seminarians. To get your copy, order online at [www.vladmission.org/cookbook](http://www.vladmission.org/cookbook) or at [www.store.vladmission.org](http://www.store.vladmission.org) under Miscellaneous > Kitchen, for \$35.99. The price includes shipping in the continental US and all sales go to benefit our Women's Support Centers and our CJD seminarians.

♥ Here's an easy way to help the mission! Share this newsletter with your pastor. Request permission to place a few copies of our bi-monthly **Vladivostok Sunrise** newsletter at your parish.

♥ What a great blessing to have so many vocations for Russia! Supporting our many **seminarians** is our **greatest need**. The average yearly expense for one seminarian for tuition, clothing, school supplies, food, transportation and some travel is \$10,700. Perhaps even more now with the inflation of just about everything. Any amount of help would greatly support our young men to the priesthood!



Another photo of Craig Travillyan with religious items to be sent to plaza sales at Catholic parishes that he packed.

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## From the development desk...

### A Great Loss—Craig Trevillyan

*By Vicky Trevillyan*

Craig was a long time mission volunteer and my husband when I was Mary Mother of God Mission Society's National Coordinator. Though Craig suffered daily with debilitating medical conditions for decades, he always kept an optimistic and positive attitude, never to complain. Very few knew of his great suffering.

From the early years at St. Joseph Parish in Modesto, Craig was cheerfully right in the thick of volunteering for the mission by helping plan and set up fundraising dinners, participating in the prayer gatherings for the mission and the numerous plaza sales, as much as his disabilities would allow. When the national office moved to Modesto, Craig was always available to help wherever needed, attending the mission conference booths to talk about the mission, updating addresses in the database, calling volunteers and preparing the newsletter for mailing.

Above all, Craig's most generous and loving sacrifice to the mission was his total support given to me

during my many hours and days away from home to develop and bring support to revive the Catholic Church in Russia. Craig told me that when the decision was made for me to accept the invitation to become the National Coordinator, "I prayed to St Joseph and understood that I will be like St Joseph, silent and in the background, while you help bring Jesus to the people." Craig received the Apostolic Pardon shortly before he died at the hands of Pastor Fr Sam West of St. Joseph Parish in Modesto.



Thank you to all of our volunteers who have helped our mission, in so many ways. God bless you!  
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