



# Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission



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

Issue Number One Hundred Eighty Eight March, 2026



*Fr Peter, Fr Pradeep, and Fr Edwin on their ordination day, with our three current novices, who served at the ordination mass.*

## Three Priests Ordained for Vladivostok!

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

Sunday, December 21 was a great day for us in Russia. Our Bishop Kirill of the Russian Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk came to ordain three of our C.J.D. brothers to the priesthood! With three of our priests already over 70 years old—myself, Fr Daniel Maurer, and Fr Sebastian DSilva—We were so glad that our brothers were ordained deacons last April. But we were waiting for their ordination to the priesthood. And it happened just in time for Christmas masses at all the parishes in our state, the size of Wisconsin. Here are details for you!



**Fr Edwin Intan, C.J.D.** is the oldest of the three new priests. Here is a photo taken at his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party in the Philippines. He is also the most experienced! He lived and worked in Japan, Korea, and Russia, and speaks

all those languages, including his native Cebuano and Tagalog—and English, of course. He even said the Spanish Mass here for Christmas. He was the founder of a

charitable organization in the Philippines which cares for homeless and street people. His passion to care for the poor was fueled by his childhood when his parents died in an automobile accident, and he was the eldest child and felt responsible for his orphaned siblings.



**Father Peter Nsamba, C.J.D.**, came to us from Uganda in Africa. He is known for his congeniality and laughter, but that didn't keep him from completing his bachelor's degree in Theology at the Jesuit's Ateneo De Manila University's Loyola School of Theology. He has been on demand in Uganda, too, especially

with ministry to those seeking to join the Church, and doing many baptisms as a deacon. Besides parish work, he will be invaluable here in Vladivostok working with the many foreign university students.

### Fr Pradeep Chand Mulupuri, C.J.D.

Fr. Pradeep is from Andhra Pradesh, India. During his diaconate with us he has been especially helpful as a car driver and purchasing agent. But more important, as a deacon, he has often taken care of our parishes in Arsenyev and Ussuryisk when the pastor was absent. When he has to be in his native India, he often works with his uncle



who is the founder and operator of an orphanage for children who are very poor and needy. Now his uncle is founding a school for these children.

Most Holy Mother of God Pray for Us



Bishop Kirill with all the ministers and new priests

## Stories from the Women's Support Centers

By Women's Support Center's Volunteers

**Story about "Yana".** She was registered with our Vladivostok Women's Support Center until she was three years old. We helped her with formula, used clothes, and diapers (photo at the end of the text).

There are cases in which the involvement of specialists is essential both to help the patient and to preserve their family. This is a vital mission in every sense. In one such case, the staff of the Primorsky government's AIDS Center and a volunteer from the Vladivostok Women's Support Center demonstrated the most active and heartfelt support.

In this story, the mother's ex-husband's relatives took her daughter away from her (HIV)-positive mother without a court order and prevented them from communicating with each other for over a year. However, the woman was not antisocial, had undergone excellent treatment, and was employed. The in-laws explained their actions by saying that the child's father (who, incidentally, was also infected) had taken a new, healthy wife, and now the new daughter-in-law would be able to replace the old one in everything, including raising the girl.

The mother, deprived of her daughter, was in despair and made various attempts to get her beloved child back. She spent the night in the building where her child was left, begged not to be deprived of the opportunity to see her, and even called the police, but the issue remained unresolved. Specialists from the AIDS Center of the Regional Clinical Hospital No. 2 came to the aid of their patient. They provided comprehensive support and helped resolve the matter legally.

The court settled the conflict. Its decision allowed the mother to defend her good name and, most importantly, to get her daughter back. This victory would not have been achieved without the active participation of the social worker, volunteers, and lawyers at the AIDS Center, as well as the guardianship authorities, who sided with the mother in this difficult situation.

A week has passed since the last, fateful court hearing. "All these days, the woman and her daughter have been unable to separate. At the same time, the stepmother, who "experienced a breakup with her "daughter," understands that she can't deprive her child of contact with the father. And this weekend, she reconciled with her ex-husband and his family, and they all celebrated Yana's birthday together."

### Story about "Vika".

Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk has been operating the Lesozavodsk Women's Support Center for 27 years already. Anyone can come in for an appointment or call us.

One day, a woman called. She was on bed rest in the maternity ward of the central city hospital and knew about the Women's Support Center because she had received care at our center with her first child. She asked us to help a woman named Vika, who was about to give birth and needed financial and spiritual support.

Vika later came in for an appointment, and we learned her story. Her mother and grandmother were alcoholics; her mother's rights were restricted and Vika was placed in a shelter as a child. Her mother did not change lifestyle and was deprived of parental rights over her.

At age 11, Vika was placed in a foster family with nine other children. She speaks highly of the foster family. The entire family attended church, and Vika was baptized. She attended a special school; she stutters severely and has developmental delays. In May 2025, Vika gave birth to a boy. The child's father refused to be involved in their lives, leaving her destitute in the maternity hospital. The child was born with a birth defect. Volunteers at the Women's Support Center helped with food and diapers.

Vika is now 19 years old; she received our help to apply for child support and received an apartment from the state. Her life is improving.

The city of Lesozavodsk has a population of 35,000, and the mortality rate is twice the birth rate. The antenatal clinic is staffed by midwives and has no doctors. The maternity hospital only handles emergency deliveries. For planned deliveries, women must travel to Dalnerechensk, Spassk, or Vladivostok because there are no local doctors. So the work of the Women's Support Center continues to be very important in the city. Thank you, Benefactors!



### 2025's Adopt-a-Birth and Adopt-a-Mom Kids

Thanks, benefactors, for your help with this Women's Support Center program to help poor children with special needs at birth or to help their moms. These pictured children were helped at our WSCs in Vladivostok,

Ussuryisk, Nakhodka, and Lesozavodsk. To contribute to this program, just mark "Adopt-a" as your purpose on your donation document. Especially in Lesozavodsk where there is no doctor in the birth hospital, but only midwives, babies with problems have to be taken elsewhere for treatment.

## Back in 1921!\*

LETTER FROM MR. SLIVOVSKY, RECTOR OF THE VLADIVOSTOK PARISH, TO THE APOSTOLIC MESSENGER ARCHBISHOP MON. DE GUEBRIANT (Jean-Baptiste-Marie de Guebriant)

“Vladivostok, October 6, 1921

“On February 2, a great celebration took place on the occasion of the consecration of the new Vladivostok church. I organized a solemn procession with the Holy Gifts - for the first time - through the streets of the city to the new building from the old chapel. This was an unprecedented event in the Catholic life of Vladivostok. Our Catholics joyfully joined in these ceremonies; some entered the church with tears in their eyes. I myself was very excited, because until your visit I doubted whether we would have time to complete the preparation of the sanctuary, where I could finally place the Holy Eucharist. More than 2,000 people took part in the procession and the mass; naturally, more than half of them were Russians. I celebrated the solemn mass, during which I was assisted by Father Marius Kluge and Father Alexander Eisymont (note: secretary of the archbishop and vicar of the parish of St. Stanislaus in Harbin). Before the mass, Father Marius gave a short speech in French, English and German. After the confession of faith (Credo), Father Wladyslaw Ostrovsky (note: rector of the Harbin parish) preached in Polish and Russian.

“After the mass, the parishioners organized a dinner, to which the Prime Minister Mr. Merkulov, members of the Duma, the French consul, and consuls of other countries arrived; about 300 people in all. Several toasts were made one after another; among the first was one to the health of Your Grace, who has rendered us such significant assistance in completing the construction of the building.

“Even in its poverty, the church looks majestic and could really serve as a cathedral. We still have no altars, no paintings, no confessional. Despite the economic crisis, which is causing us more and more anxiety here, I have found two benefactors who are thinking of purchasing and delivering an organ from France. They have authorized me to write to Your Eminence on this matter and ask you how much an organ with two manuals and pedals will cost us. It must also be taken into account that we live in a land of fogs, and therefore extreme humidity.

“The seminary, unfortunately, is not yet ready. We hope to have all the preparations completed by October 24. We have 10 candidates: in all, we are in charge of fifteen people, including Father Marius, a boy and a Chinese cook, and after many adjustments of our monthly budget in accordance with Vladivostok prices, we have found that



*The first mass in the church, February 2, 1921*

the expenses will exceed the figure set in the version of the budget approved by Your Eminence.

“I am trying to do my best, to acquire everything at the best price, but, unfortunately, everything is becoming more expensive day by day. I will need to finish covering the roof of the seminary, and for this I will need at least 300 yen or 1800 francs. I was promised 15 iron beds, but the promise was not fulfilled, which means that a new item will be added to my usual expenses. “I console myself with the thought that beginnings are always difficult, and that the good God will help us. This

year I have experienced some wonderful days that filled my soul with inexpressible joy; these were the days of Your Grace's visit and the consecration of the new church: now I look forward to meeting you again on the occasion of the opening of the seminary. Blessed be God for all this! With deep gratitude to Your Grace."

\*Source: "Annals of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the Provinces of Quebec and Montreal" New Series. Number one hundred and thirty-seven. June 1922. Pp. 129-131. Montreal, Harbour & Dupont, 249 East, Lagashtier Street.



Inside the church as it looks today

## News Notes

### • MMOG GIVING DAY 2026: March 25 Feast of the Annunciation

This year's goal is **Seminarian Expenses**. Our seminarians are from Pakistan, India, Africa, as well as Russia. Foreigners often have to leave Russia and return every three months. That is quite an expense, but well worth it to then have priests! You can help!

• Thanks be to God and to our benefactors that our Adopt-a-Baby and Adopt-Mom Programs for newborn babies who need special medical help at birth are very popular with benefactors of our **Women's Support**

**Centers**. It means that the list of donors is longer than the available babies! So it takes time for the donors get the photo of the children they want to save. On the other hand, our **Guardian Angel Program** needs benefactors. This program is a regular donation for a child who needs long-term support. We've had over 100 Guardian Angels since the program started, but, of course, many of those children have "graduated" from the program already. But new children are available.

• Recently a benefactor asked how much we pay **for rent** for our **four Women's Support Centers**. The fact is that three of them are located in parish buildings, so they don't need to pay rent. The fourth one is simply operating from the home of the leader. She hasn't asked for any rent, but donates the use as her part of the charitable work of the Center.

Our Women's Support Centers also help us with marriage preparation, and especially they help anyone interested in **natural family planning**.

• Various groups of **AA** continue to meet in our various parish buildings. Perhaps that is part of the reason that the median age of death in Russia has risen from 55 to 77. Many years ago Fr Myron was happy to speak at over 80 schools and colleges in Russia about the scientific theory of alcoholism. No one, as far as we knew, ever even heard of the scientific theory here. Of course, like any other disease, without a scientific theory, how do you work on a cure? AA was begun in our part of Russia by AA volunteers from Alaska when Alaska Airlines and Aeroflot Airlines had regular weekly flights from Anchorage.

• Our work with **students** from the various universities in Vladivostok has increased, thanks to the return of our C.J.D. sisters from Missouri, and with the completion of the repairs of their building on Russian Island. The sisters have also recently hosted meetings of **Project Rachael** on Russian Island. Thursday nights there is a meeting, prayer, and activities for Russian language university students, and Friday for other language students, including, often, students from the medical school at the Far Eastern Federal University on Russian Island. The Friday night meeting usually includes an evening meal prepared by our Sisters of St Anne Community from Spain, who also continue to work in the after-school program in Romanovka.

• This year Fr Myron is teaching the **adult catechetics classes** after Sunday Mass. He is talking about the biblical background for each of the seven sacraments. Next will be the Ten Commandments and the "commandments" of the church. Later it will be preparation for baptism, for marriage, for religious life and holy orders.

- On January 11 we held the annual **Christmas Christian Choir Festival** in our church. After a roaring snowstorm we thought maybe no one would come, even the choirs! But everybody loves this festival, and it is the only time we various Christian religions get together in Vladivostok. So all the choirs came to sing before a full house! The choirs are all only amateur choirs from the Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Catholic, and Armenian churches. Each choir sings its best music for this year, and then all the choirs sing together praise to the Newborn King. It is always like a family reunion, with snacks together in the parish house afterward.

- Thanks to the **National Catholic Register** which published a nice article by Fr Daniel Maurer, C.J.D. about our life in Russia:  
<https://www.ncregister.com/features/from-russia-with-christ-s-love>

- March 24 will be the **Chrism Mass** for our deanery, which will be held this year in our church of the Most Holy Mother of God in Vladivostok. We are also expecting our Bishop Kirill Klimovich, D.D., to ordain one of our brothers to the diaconate at that mass, and also to offer the Sacrament of Confirmation to adults who have not yet been confirmed. Their preparation included February and now March. Thanks for your prayer support.

*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/\*](http://vladmission.org/get-involved/donate/)

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

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

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*The finale is always a vision of unity.*

## Baby Talk

**From the Women's Support Centers**



**“I could be a seminarian, too!”**

**Gregory September 3, 2024**

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

## Opportunities

♥ **Giving Day!** We are so excited to have 3 newly ordained priest in Russia! What a blessing. This year, we want to continue to provide support for our future priests through our **Seminarian Program**. This year our **Giving Day** will be held on **March 25<sup>th</sup>**. Our goal this year is to raise funds for seminarian expenses. Please see the attached flyer for more info.

### ♥ Meet Seminarian Br. Joseph De Nguyen Duy! I was

born into a farming family in northern Vietnam. My family has nine members: my father, my mother, and seven brothers. One of my brothers is a monk and a deacon; I am the fifth child among my brothers. All of my remaining brothers are married and are working in various professions in Vietnam.



I am in Vietnam studying Theology in the South of Vietnam, HoChiMinh city. I am a third-year student at the Paul Nguyễn Văn Bình Theological Institute. I came to know the CJD Order because I desire to become a missionary for places that lack or have very few missionaries. I met Fr. Daniel when he came to Vietnam in September 2023. He met with me, and we talked together about the CJD Order. Therefore, I decided to complete all the necessary procedures to fly to Russia, to my beloved Vladivostok. I began my novitiate program on December 7, 2023, and made my vows on December 8, 2024.

I was born and raised in a communist country where there are still many limitations regarding religion and consecrated life. Nevertheless, religious vocations are relatively abundant, and in many places priests and religious do not have pastoral assignments, or they work in ministries that are not fully aligned with the charism of their congregations.

When I met Fr. Myron and Fr. Daniel, I asked myself: why would an American priest come to Russia? Why would they choose Russia as the place to which they would dedicate their entire lives? Then I asked myself: what should I do in response to the call of Jesus—to proclaim the Gospel, to baptize all people, and above all, to ‘follow Him’?

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♥ If you would like to help **sponsor a seminarian**, please contact our mission office.

♥ **Catholic Conferences** help our mission spread awareness of our missionary work and charitable programs. We are able to attend these conferences with the help of volunteers who man our sales and literature tables. Here is a list of some of the conferences we would like to attend as vendors. Can you help us? If you also know of any Catholic Conferences, small or large, in your area, please let us know. Contact Vicky in our mission office at 209-408-0728 or [vicky@vladmission.org](mailto:vicky@vladmission.org) . Thank you!

- **April 10-12, 2026**, National Institute of Religious Life - University of St Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL
- **May 15-17, 2026**, Marian Conference – Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, FL
- **July 24-25, 2026**, Catholic Women’s Conference – San Antonio TX
- **July 31-Aug 2, 2026**, Midwest Catholic Family Conference - Wichita, KS
- **September 2026** Catholic Answers Conference – San Diego, CA
- **September 2026** Eucharistic Congress - Charlotte, NC
- **September 11-12, 2026**, Archdiocese of Las Vegas Conference - Las Vegas NV
- **September 26-27, 2026**, Christ Our Life - Des Moines IA

♥ You may **request Masses** or special intentions for your loved ones that will be celebrated by our Canons Regular In Jesus the Lord priest. You or your designated recipient will receive a Mass card. The suggested Mass stipend is \$15.

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My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the following people or intentions, include the address you would like your card sent to:

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

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## From the development desk...

Dear Friends:

This issue of our Vladivostok Sunrise is filled with the history of our founder, Fr. Myron, and we continue here to highlight a beautiful article written in January of this year by Jonah McKeown, of the National Catholic Registry.

**“From Russia With Christ’s Love: An American Missionary Priest Reflects on 30 Years of Ministry in Vladivostok”** was written after interviewing Fr. Daniel Mauer, C.J.D. at the end of last year. Mr. McKeown wrote of the struggles Fathers Myron and Daniel faced when first arriving in Russia as well as the challenges they would continue to face throughout the years. He also wrote of the milestones and accomplishments they were able to reach over the years and the light at the end of the tunnel that we prayed would be found:

*“No matter how much persecution the Church has gone through, [the Church in Russia] is on its feet again. It really is,” Father Maurer said.*

The article ending with a quote from Fr. Daniel with great insight on the Russian people:

*“The Russians know how to suffer. They’ve suffered for such a long time, and yet they don’t get angry and they*



*Removal of the additional floors which were added while Most Holy Mother of God Cathedral was used as an archive building during the Communist era*

*don’t get mean. ... It’s one of the things that has surprised me, and interests me, about the people of Russia.”*

To read the article in its entirety, please visit:

<https://www.ncregister.com/features/from-russia-with-christ-s-love>

Many blessings to you all,  
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