

Vladivostok Sunrise Russia Mission

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

Issue Number One Hundred Ninety Two November, 2026

Autumn's Sacrament: "Anointing of the Sick"

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

The first Sunday of October is always a special day to prepare for winter in Vladivostok which has big snowfalls and icy roads which might restrict travel during the days ahead. We offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to the elderly of our parish and those who are seriously ill or soon to have an operation. This year thirteen of our parishioners took advantage of the opportunity and were anointed at Sunday Mass when we could all pray for them.



Anointing of the head and then the hands



Roses from the altar on the Feast of the Assumption gave us the color theme of this issue of the Sunrise.



Victoria wearing her white baptismal garment, and her family with Brother Francis and Fr Edwin

After Mass our Father Edwin Intan, C.J.D.—newly ordained—performed his first baptism. Congratulations to him and to Victoria who was baptized. Now she can look forward to her First Communion and Confirmation. And Fr Edwin looks forward to his favorite work: Charity with the poor.



Tea after Mass of the Anointing of the Sick in Holy Trinity Parish, Romanovka

News Notes

● For the new school year we had the special **blessing of students and teachers** after mass in September that we do every year as the school year begins. We always love to give a nice big apple to each student and teacher after the blessing. It makes the blessing be concrete! We tell them that we hope each school subject looks as good to them as that big apple, and, for the teachers, that each student is as attractive as that apple. Of course, sometimes they start munching the apple before they leave church!

With the school year begins more evangelization and



Blessing the students and teachers (and the apples!)

classes for those who want to know more about the Catholic faith, and those planning to receive sacraments.

● We are getting ready for **three more ordinations**—one priest and two deacons. The priesthood candidate is Deacon Lloyd from the Philippines. Brother Jackson from Pakistan is now here with us as a deacon candidate. He finished the seminary for us in Pakistan as an exemplary student. He is currently helping edit our magazine for those who want to be donors to our CJD houses in Indonesia or Vietnam. We call it "CJDWorld".

Brother Joseph from Vietnam is also a deacon candidate. That will make our Vietnamese parishioners very happy, too! He will be able to work with Vietnamese Catholics throughout the Far East here in Russia.

● We had **such a happy event** on Sunday September 20! Two of our special parishioners came to visit us and attend the Sunday mass. Sr Oksana Peretruchena came from Italy where she is assigned and works already several years. She and her family were faithful parishioners. She joined a religious order in Italy. The second was Fr. Eugene Balanyov. He was born in Balshoi Kamen, (between Vladivostok and Nakhodka) was baptized here in our parish, became a businessman, but then came to work with me in our parish evangelization program. He was a great, intelligent helper and often travelled with me to the parishes we were founding. Then he decided on a call to the priesthood, attended a seminary in Belarus and was ordained there. Now he is a parish priest in Minsk. It was wonderful to see him again, and he had the Sunday mass here and preached.—a dream come true! ("I always said, 'He has the gift of gab!'")—Fr Myron)



Sister Oksana at Sunday Tea



Father Evgeny preaching at Sunday Mass.

● We've added two parishes to our Russian mission since last year: **Annunciation parish** in Arsenyev and **Nativity Parish** in Ussurysk. Our Father Vicky Samuel, C.J.D., has become the pastor of those parishes. So that is seven parishes helped by Mary Mother of God Mission Society, plus Caritas, our charitable organization, plus the university chaplaincy at two big universities. Add to that ur seminarians who are studying to become priests to work in Russia.



The Nativity Parish building in Ussurysk. It was built by Korean Catholics for a charity center. Now it is used as a Korean school, and the parish uses part of the building. The Korean priests are gone, so our Fr Vicky Samuel;C.J.D., takes care of the parish. There are still 15 homeless and crippled men living in the building, too.



The Arsenyev church of the Annunciation where Fr Vicky is also Pastor.



Fr Vicky Samuel, C.J.D.

- Two of our parishes—Holy Trinity in Romanovka and St Joseph in Artyom—are in need of major building projects! Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk is in need of a microbus! It could be a used one. A used bus from Japan—high quality--will cost $24,000 (gulp!) They need the bus because that city is in a financial crisis. City buses no longer work. Mom and kids remain because there is nobody to buy their apartments if they wanted to move. There are many single parents because dads have moved to other places for jobs. Our Women's Support Center there is our busiest and needs transportation possibilities. Our benefactors here in Russia supply our Center in Lesozavodsk with lots of used clothing, some foodstuffs for which our clients are very grateful and use up everything. But somebody else needs to help with the purchase of the microbus. Maybe it will interest you that "Lesozavodsk" in English is "wood factory" and formerly there were furniture factories there which were the major source of work, together with the TransSiberian Railroad. Since then, most factories are gone, some mayors have been imprisoned for corruption, and the people continue to suffer, especially one parent families.

- Recently we heard of the death of **Fr Ignatsi Pavluss,** the founder of the parish in Irkutsk in Siberia back in 1990. The first time I came to Russia in 1990 to look for the bishop in Novosibirsk to see if we could come to his diocese as priests and work, I had an airplane stop in Irkutsk on the way from Anchorage. I was wondering how I could find the bishop in Novosibirsk because I had no information of his whereabouts, although I had studied the Russian language in college, so I figured I could cope with the situation. Lo and behold, a Catholic priest walked into the waiting room!—It was Fr Ignatsi! He was getting ready for a flight to Moscow! He already knew the bishop's address and phone number which he shared with me! Eternal Rest grant to him, O Lord!

- Bumper crop! Valeri, one of our Lesozavodsk parishioners had a bumper crop of potatoes this year, so he loaded our truck with bags of potatoes for poorer parishioners' needs! They were perfect for the second Sunday of October when our parish celebrates "Thanksgiving for the Harvest" Day. God bless him! He has been our parishioners for 35 years already, and never misses mass if possible!

- **From Russian Speaking Kazakhstan from Fr Filipus Lasa, C.J.D.:**

"I received a new assignment from the Bishop, namely to handle one of the parishes whose parish priest had returned to Italy because he had entered retirement and his contract with the Karaganda diocese had expired. So, currently I am helping in three parishes at once. Practically serving Mass in two different parishes every Sunday and serving in the Basilica on weekdays. This task is a bit difficult for me because I have to serve in three far away places in one day.

"We lost two priests in this diocese. One returned to Poland last year to join one of the religious communities there. The other returned to Italy this month due to retirement age and the completion of his contract with the Diocese. There are more and more jobs, while there are fewer and fewer priests. We have difficulty managing time for our own needs in the community, such as cooking, washing, cleaning the house, etc. And you know that Father Augustine was gone for June to arrange a permanent visa for Kazakhstan. While he is gone it gave me more jobs to do."

[Maybe we will be able to send more Russian-speaking priests from our seminarians studying in Russia? Pray for vocations, and thanks for supporting our seminarians.—ed.]

Let the little children come to me!

By Rev Pradeep Mulupuri, C.J.D.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14

I am Father Pradeep, CJD, currently serving in Vladivostok, Russia. Because we do not have permanent residency here in Russia, we serve on a religious visa, which is valid for only three months. Whenever I return home to renew my visa, I work at my uncle's orphanage, Share and Care Children's House, where I serve as spiritual director.

Share and Care Children's House is home to nearly 35 children, ranging in age from 3 to 20 years. The children attend schools from upper kindergarten (UKG) through higher education, depending on their abilities and aspirations. At present, all our students are excelling academically, earning distinctions and first ranks in fields such as Medicine (MBBS), BSc Nursing, college programs, and design courses. All of them study in private schools, which, of course, involves significant expenses.

It is always a great joy to be with these children of God. This time, in particular, I had a deeply enriching experience. I led them in prayers, offered Mass for them early in the morning, went shopping for groceries, and even dropped them off at school in an auto rickshaw—a three-wheeled vehicle common in India. These simple moments brought me immense happiness and reminded me of the beauty of serving God through His little ones.

Since I was just newly ordained, I also had the privilege of celebrating my First Mass with the children. They beautifully arranged everything, from the notice board welcoming and congratulating me, to the altar decorations. They greeted me with songs, applause, and garlands. Though half of the students are not Catholic, they still join us for Mass and prayers with great devotion. It was truly amazing. After Holy Mass, I arranged a special meal for them, serving a variety of Indian dishes. We sang together, played party games, shared the delicious meal, and concluded with a prayer of thanksgiving. These simple moments brought me immense happiness and reminded me of the beauty of serving God through His little ones.

Share and Care Children's Home currently operates in a rented private property, which requires monthly rent payments. To provide a more stable and permanent home for the children, we have purchased land and have begun construction of a new building for both the school and the orphanage.



Until recently, everything was progressing well. However, our expenses have grown significantly due to rising costs of essentials, private school fees, and the ongoing construction of the new building. At present, we are finding it increasingly difficult to manage our financial situation. Our mission remains clear: to educate these children and help them become self-reliant. We do not wish to fail in this God-given mission. We place our trust in God's Providence and in the generosity of His children. Your prayers and support mean the world to us. Amen.



Vladivostok Sunrise *Edited and produced in Russia by V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D. Printed in Modesto, California by Parks Printing.*

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

Our History

About Fr. Stanislav Lavrinovich

By Tatyana Shapozhnikova, Parish Archivist

It sometimes happens that letters unexpectedly arrive in the parish archives, filling in missing pages in the history of the parish or the ministry of the priests. Just recently, we received a letter from Jan Borovsky from Poland, in which he tells of his relative, Stanislav Lavrinovich, who served as pastor of the Vladivostok parish. Jan Borovsky writes:

"First, let me explain how I became interested in Fr. Stanislav Lavrinovich. Even as a child, my grandmother showed me photographs of two priests, saying they were our relatives. While researching my family history, I came across my great-grandmother's baptismal certificate, where Fr. Julian Lavrinovich was listed as the godfather. Then I remembered one of the photographs with the priests and thought, 'Aha, so this is my great-grandmother, and this priest is Fr. Julian Lavrinovich, and the other priest is his brother, Fr. Stanislav Lavrinovich.' Then I found other photographs, and so my hypothesis was confirmed. The brother of Father Julian was Father Stanislav, about whom there was a long-standing legend that he was executed by the Bolsheviks in Siberia." Jan Borovsky's letter also included several photographs of Father Stanislav Lavrinovich, which we never had. Jan Borovsky contacted the parish archives with a request to send documents describing the priest's service in the Far East. For the parishioners of the Vladivostok parish, Father Lavrinovich will be remembered as a patriot who began construction of the new cathedral and revived Polish Catholic life not only in Vladivostok but throughout the Far East.

Stanislav Lavrinovich was born on October 8, 1866, on the Palishki estate in the Kovno Governorate to a noble family. He dreamed of becoming a military man, but after graduating from military school, Stanislav unexpectedly entered the Mogilev Roman Catholic Theological Seminary, where his younger brother, Julian Lavrinovich, was already studying. After graduating from seminary and receiving his ordination, Father Stanislav became vicar of the Neuteran Church in the Vitebsk Governorate. Parishioners wrote of Father Lavrinovich as a kind, sensitive, and hardworking priest. However, fate had other plans, and on December 13, 1903, Father Stanislav Lavrinovich was appointed vicar of the far away Vladivostok Catholic Church. After visiting his parents at their estate, the priest set out on a long journey and… got lost. A telegram arrived from Vladivostok: "He has not arrived," and his parents reported: "He has already left." Everyone was terribly worried—the priest was missing! Disturbing news arrived from the pastor of the Orenburg



The visit of Bishop Cepliac

parish, reporting that Father Stanislav had contracted typhus en route and was taken off the train at Kinel station, unconscious. After several weeks of severe unconsciousness, the priest regained consciousness and immediately sent a letter to the Mogilev Archdiocese, stating "that he was unexpectedly struck down by typhus. He is now gradually recovering and learning to walk again, but unfortunately, he has developed a complication—pleurisy—and is forced to drink kumiss to avoid tuberculosis. Due to this circumstance, he is currently unable to travel to his destination."

Father Lavrinovich was only able to travel to the Far East in 1904. He settled in Blagoveshchensk, where he was charged with visiting all Far Eastern parishes. A year later, Father Lavrinovich received another order from the Mogilev Archdiocese transferring him permanently to Vladivostok and appointing him pastor of the Vladivostok catholic parish. According to this order, the priest was obligated to visit all parishes in the Far East. Here, villages and hamlets, garrisons, and exile settlements are scattered across thousands of kilometers of impassable roads and dense taiga. Every Catholic awaited the arrival of a pastor to fulfill their needs. The priest reached his faithful Christians, sometimes on foot, sometimes by horse and boat, and sometimes by dog sled. The parish registers of the Far Eastern parishes detail the priest's pastoral journeys.

Immediately after moving to Vladivostok in January 1906, Father Stanislav ministered to the Catholics of Vladivostok, Nikolsk-Ussuriysk, and the Nadezhdinskaya station. At the end of May, he set out on a long journey through the Far Eastern lands. The vast expanses of the region he covered were astounding. In May and June, Lavrinovich met with Catholics in Khabarovsk, then traveled to the Amur Region—Blagoveshchensk, the villages of Rogachevka, Serebryanka, Ust-Gorbychka,

Ulma, and Beloyarovo. Then, along the Amur River, the priest traveled to the city of Nikolaevsk, where he had been awaited for a year to perform baptisms, funerals, and weddings. In August, his journey took him to Sakhalin Island to visit exiled settlers in the villages of Palevo, Derbinskoye, Rykovo, Varkovo, Andreyevo-Ivanovskoye, and the posts of Aleksandrovsky and Korsakov. By September, Father Lavrinovich had baptized over 50 children. Only in October did Lavrinovich return to Vladivostok. There, an important undertaking awaited him: preparations for the construction of a cathedral. There were over 4,000 Catholic civilians and approximately 10,000 Catholic military personnel in Vladivostok. All construction work was handled by the Catholic Construction Committee, headed by Father Lavrinovich.



The site of the consecration of the foundation stone of the future cathedral. In the second row, center, is Vicar Bishop Jan Ciepliak; on the left is Kurat Lavrinovich. 1909.

The entire year of 1907 was spent in exhausting correspondence with the government's Department of Spiritual Affairs regarding construction funding and ministry in the Vladivostok parish, as the number of parishioners rapidly grew alongside the growth of the young but promising seaport and military fortress. Fortunately, military chaplain Stanislav Dombrowski arrived to assist the pastor, freeing him from missionary trips throughout the Far East. Ultimately, Father Lavrinovich's arguments for building a new cathedral were so compelling that, at the request of the Metropolitan of the Mogilev Archdiocese, the Department of Spiritual Affairs allocated 10,000 rubles for the construction in early 1908, with the local Polish colony collecting an equal amount. That same year, a dated foundation stone was laid, and the foundation of the future church was laid. For the entire year, Father Lavrinovich remained confined to Vladivostok and only visited the Catholics of Khabarovsk in November and December. Military chaplain Boleslav Yanovich arrived to assist him with his missionary trips. In July 1909, Vicar Bishop Jan Ciepliak of the Mogilev Archdiocese visited the Far Eastern parishes. In Vladivostok, he performed the blessing of the foundation stone. After the ceremony, the bishop posed for a photo with a group of believers on the mountainside. This photo is kept in the parish archives.

The following year, construction of the cathedral paused, and Father Lavrinovich set out on a missionary trip to remote settlements. He was especially eagerly awaited by the exiled settlers of Sakhalin. Following his trip, Father Lavrinovich wrote to the Mogilev Archdiocese requesting the appointment of a dedicated priest to Sakhalin, which was accomplished that fall. Father Vladislav Mirzhvinsky arrived to minister to the Catholics of Sakhalin.

Father Lavrinovich performed the last sacraments in the Vladivostok parish on Christmas Eve, 1911. He participated in Holy Mass with the new pastor, Karol Genrikhovich Slivovsky. Construction of the church only began in 1912, when Father Lavrinovich was appointed pastor. Lavrinovich was offered a new position as pastor of the Tambov Catholic Church. It can be assumed that this appointment pleased the priest, as he was moving to the western part of the country, closer to his home. During his service in the Far East, the priest's mother died, and his father was often ill, asking his son in letters to visit him. His service in Tambov proceeded smoothly, but upon receiving news of his father's death, Lavrinovich fell ill, likely due to the effects of typhus and the difficult missionary work in the Far East. In the summer of 1917, Father Lavrinovich was transferred to the position of pastor of the Radom Catholic Church in the Chausovsky District, where he served for five years.

It was a difficult time – devastation, the horrors of the civil war, famine, and poverty among the parishioners. The pastor had to care for his flock and take whatever measures he could to save the church. The era of militant atheism had begun. How could faith and church property be preserved in such difficult times? All relics, church vessels, icons, and priests' vestments were removed from Catholic and Orthodox churches, and parish libraries were destroyed and looted. Only a fanatically devoted person could preserve these church objects. Such was Father Stanislav Lavrinovich.

To be Continued in Sunrise #193.

Happy preparations for Christmas, everyone!

Opportunities

♥ Mary Mother of God Mission Society has traveled throughout the USA and Canada—and as far as Ireland and the Philippines—to share our mission and bring support to our work. Every venue, near or far, large or small, brings vital prayers, volunteers, and funding that continues our work in Eastern Russia. We thank all our volunteers who have worked tirelessly on our behalf. From the priests, religious and lay speakers who facilitate the mission talks at parishes to the many volunteers and staff who travel to Catholic conferences spreading awareness of our presence in Russia. Their generosity enabled us to attend conferences in **N. Carolina, California, Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois** this year and give mission talks in many parishes across 11 states. We are blessed, but we must persevere in raising awareness and support for our mission so we can preach the Gospel, teach the faith, aid the poor elderly, and care for mothers and babies in and around our mission in Russia.

♥ **Can you help too?** If there is a Catholic conference near you, please let us know. We can try and find volunteers to represent us at these conferences or maybe you would like to help at our booth? We provide all the information you need and gratefully cover all meals and travel expenses, if needed. Please call or email Vicky at the mission office. 209-408-0728, vicky@vladmission.org

♥ **Interested in traveling to Southern California** for a few days? We can use 2 more volunteers to help us at our booth at the **Archdiocese of Los Angeles Religious Education Congress, April 22-25, 2027**. This Congress typically has thousands of attendees, so we need the help at our booth!

♥ **Congratulations to Catherine Riley** for a very fruitful event at the **Charlotte, NC Eucharistic Congress!** Catherine went above and beyond and collected over 50 Mass stipends for our priests, signed up many new subscribers to our *Vladivostok Sunrise*, collected donations and sold several thousands of dollars in merchandise to bring financial help to the mission. Not to mention Catherine distributed hundreds of pieces of our mission literature! Catherine's children made a beautiful poster for the booth, with her husband helped with the technology.



Catherine's dear friend, Becca Dugal, helped transport materials and set up the booth.

Thank you, Riley family and friends!



♥ **COOKBOOK CHRISTMAS SPECIAL- $25!**

Creations from any of our 494 international recipes in our ***Abundant Blessing*** cookbook will be the hit of your holiday celebrations! Our recipes are compiled from our priests, religious, parishioners and friends from all over the world. From old fashioned family recipes to exotic creations, you will surprise your family and guests with our easy and fun to make recipes. Includes 16 pages of helpful hints in the kitchen and mission pictures. Proceeds benefit our **Women's Support Centers and Seminarians.**



Join this month's feast compiled from our delectable recipes. We create a beautiful holiday spread toasting to our feast with goblets of **Sangria** (Spain pg 38). These compliment our **Brie in Puff Pastry** (France/USA pg 198). Joining our grand opening are **Lemony Hummus** (Middle East pg 3) paired with **Roto Chanai** {Flat Bread} (Southeast Asia pg 24). **Cucumber salad with Sour Cream** (Poland pg 40) introduces the rich flavors of our main course **Christmas Roast Goose** (Germany pg 59). Each slice is topped with dollop of **Cranberry Orange Relish** (USA pg 311) and cradled in a bed of fluffy **Carrot and Pumpkin Rissotto** (Italy pg 51). Put a sparkle in your pallet to complete our holiday plate with **Russian Sour Cabbage** (Russia pg 175). Last but not least, top off your holiday party with **Pavlova** {Meringue Cake} **w Kiwi Slices** (New Zealand pg 35). You can order your cookbook(s) through our online store www.store.vladmission.org, call or email 209-408-0728, vicky@vladmission.org. ***Abundant Blessings*** cookbooks make a unique **Christmas gift!** Only $25 plus S/H for each cookbook!

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From the development desk...

Dear Friends:

Thank you for supporting our many **seminarians** throughout the year. We are especially grateful for your generosity on **Giving Day**, which raised over $30,000 to help prepare our future priests, and for your faithful support all year long.

Meet Br. Ruben Duce Turreda Jr. "I am from Catanduanes, Philippines. My father, Ruben, is 59 years old and works as a mechanic. My mother, Donna, is 57 years old and is a retired primary school teacher. I have one sister and five brothers. Two of my siblings are still studying: one in high school and one at university.

"I want to become a priest because I desire to serve God in this vocation and to serve His people, particularly in Russia.

"I have been a member of the CJD Order for two years and I am currently in the process of obtaining a visa to enroll in a seminary in Kazakhstan to study Theology. If all goes well, I will begin my first year of Theology.

"Before joining the community in Russia, I was a missionary with the Missionaries of the Poor. I left home in 2013, at the age of sixteen, shortly after completing high school. After a year, I was sent to Jamaica, where I served for eight years, followed by assignments in Paraguay and Haiti. I returned home in 2024 after eleven years away. I treasure those years, and I was deeply grateful to see my parents and siblings again after such a long time. I now serve the Church in Russia, and I continue to witness God's works and miracles in my life. He is the reason I do this."



Many blessings to you all,
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