

CHILDREN TAKE A “HOLIDAY WITH JESUS”

Vacation Bible School gathers the children for faith formation in a fun-filled program.

By Sister Jean Marie Williams, DC

Children gathered at the Church of the Nativity for their summer “Holiday with Jesus.” What a fabulous holiday! There were games, music, crafts, friends and food! The emphasis was on Jesus, as God-with-us, and that made the week-long “Holiday with Jesus” special for youngsters in the city of Magadan and the village of Ola.

Each day began with prayer with and blessing by Fr. Jan Radon, the associate pastor of St. Therese of Liseux parish in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski who comes to Magadan when Fr. Michael Shields is away. There was a snack afterward, followed by a lesson, music practice and crafts. The four-hour day ended with a hot lunch.

On the last day, Fr. Jan presided at a special Mass for the participants and their families and friends. The children, dressed in white for the occasion, did the readings, sang and played hand bells during the Mass. At the Prayers of the Faithful each child read a special intention, one of which was: “For those people who gave money so we could enjoy this special time together, let us pray to the Lord.”

At the end of Mass Fr. Jan called family members forward to stand with their child. Then he gave them a special blessing.

“Holiday with Jesus” continued the next week at the Chapel of the Holy Family, a mission of the Magadan parish located in the fishing village of Ola, about 40 kilometers from Magadan with seven youngsters, ages 5 to 14. The schedule for the week-long program was similar to the one followed at the Magadan parish.

A special Mass for the children and their family members was celebrated by Fr. Jan on the last day. Youngsters proclaimed the readings, sang and prayed for donors whose generous gifts made their “Holiday with Jesus” possible. After Communion there was a special presentation: a rap version of a song to our Guardian Angels. Everyone clapped and sang along.

Throughout our two-week “Holiday with Jesus” all who participated felt the love of God in and through one another. What a blessed holiday, indeed!



Galia, our children’s catechist, helps the children with the vacation bible school craft project. Galia and her team took two groups of children on a “Holiday with Jesus,” full of prayer, faith formation, games, music, crafts, food and fun.

Support Magadan In the Future

We celebrate your faithful prayers and support of the Church in Russia, but Magadan’s many challenges will require on-going ministries. Will you consider helping the work of the Church of the Nativity of Jesus long into the future?

Remembering the Mission to Magadan in your will is one of many ways you can provide long-term ministries for the people of Siberia. If you have already planned a gift for Magadan, or are considering making a gift, please let us know. For additional information, contact Jim Caldarola at (907) 297-7700, or your estate planning professional.



Fr. Jan talks with the children about their daily lesson during the parish vacation bible school. Your generosity assures that faith formation ministries are provided for children, youth and adults in the Russian Far East. Thank you for your support of the Mission to Magadan.

THANK YOU

Contribute online to the "Magadan Russian Mission" at www.archdioceseofanchorage.org/donate with a Visa or Mastercard or call the Anchorage Archdiocese (907) 297-7700. Send letters and packages directly to Magadan allowing at least eight weeks delivery for packages and two weeks for letters.

Please address mail to Fr. Shields must be present for pick-up. Declare each box's value as less than \$90 on U.S. Customs forms. Please send monetary contributions to the Mission to Magadan in Anchorage.

RUSSIA
685000 Magadan
Glavpochtant, Box 171
Fr. Michael Shields

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*Holy Mother Mary
of Magadan
Pray for us.*



*Archdiocese of
Anchorage, Alaska*

MISSION TO MAGADAN

"Preaching the Gospel in Far East Russia"

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FATHER MIKE SHARES THE VISION AT PARISHES IN THE U.S.

Telling the Magadan story helps raise awareness of the need for ministries in Far East Russia

I shared our story and vision of the Mission in Magadan during my recent preaching trip. In our little parish, the needs are bigger than the incomes of our local people.

Even though many of our parishioners live in poverty, they work very hard to serve others and minister in the name of the Church. I share our vision to invite others, like you, to become friends of the mission and help us make your vision for Far East Russia a reality.

I began my trip at the Heart Beat International convention - a pro-life organization that works to set up centers throughout the world to counsel against abortion. I found great friends including a center in the Ukraine that can help us with Russian language publications.

I traveled to Houston to visit my extended family, Pat and David Lassen, and share the vision with two parishes and several prayer groups. It is always a joy to find everywhere such deep interest and faithful Catholics. I have many now friends of the mission in Houston and I know they are praying for us.

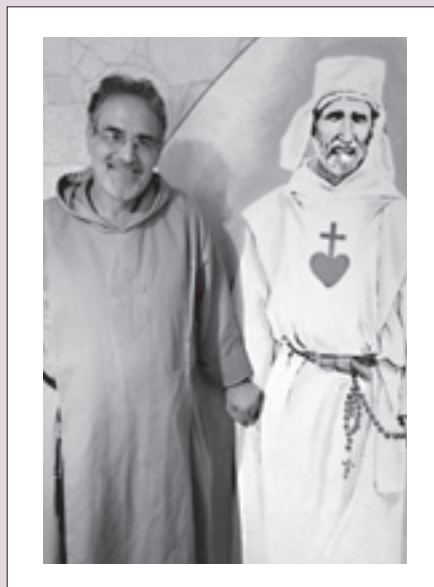
I also saw my sisters and nephews. What a treasure a family is! I have been in Russia now for sixteen years and am more aware of the gift of family because of the distance and difficulty to be together.

I preached in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. and a lovely parish community in D.C. welcomed me for a little retreat. I ended up with Fr. Benedict Groeshel for a retreat to help me prepare to return home to Russia.

So Praise be to Jesus and to Him be given all the glory and honor. I give a deep, faithful bow to all our friends of the Mission. We love you and pray for you here in the former prison camps where Christ is being worshiped and faith renewed one soul at a time.

In the hearts of Mary & Jesus,

Fr Michael Shields



Fr. Mike stands next to a mural of Brother Charles Foucauld in the newly renovated chapel in Sokol. Your generosity to the mission helps provide sacred space for Mass in small communities near Magadan, like Sokol and Ola.

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A GIFT TO RECEIVE, CELEBRATE & PROTECT

Pro-Life Conference Expands Educational Opportunities To Address High Abortion Rate



A baby is fed during a gathering of young mothers. The parish's pro-life activities include counseling, resources, a food pantry, support meetings and sometimes housing for young mothers who need help.

The parish of the Nativity of Jesus is 20 years old and a pro-life conference titled "Life: A Gift to Receive, Celebrate and Protect" will be central to our anniversary observances in November.

The conference will be targeted towards three groups of people that can affect the abortion rate here in Magadan. One is the doctors and health care workers, the second is for the church communities to help them with the pro-life advocacy ministries, and the third is for young women to help them understand the resources and life giving alternatives available for them.

A doctor from Poland will present the information for the doctors and nurses health professionals – to educate them about the medical reality of abortion. A

three-dimensional model showing a child in the womb at different stages of development will be available for every doctor in Magadan. These models come from our generous friends of the Mission in Missouri.

The focus for the Protestant and Orthodox leaders will be to develop strategies for our shared work together to support pro-life ministries. Lectures and workshops invite clergy and church workers from around the city to work together in our common goal to protect life.

There will be workshops to help women who are pregnant choose an alternative other than abortion. Young women from our program will share their stories about the joy that giving birth brought to them, even though their family encouraged abortion.

Many materials will be available for conference participants on life issues from abortion to euthanasia these materials will also be presented to any teacher or administrator in the school system that would like to use them for educational purposes.

Thank you to the Lynch Family Foundation for their generosity to make this conference possible.

Go Green: Mission to Magadan e-Newletter

The Mission to Magadan monthly e-mail newsletter allows you to receive updates delivered straight to your computer. You can subscribe by visiting www.archdioceseofanchorage.org/stewardship/magadan.htm or e-mail nfredrick@caa-ak.org. Let us know if you want to receive only the e-mail newsletter.


Did you know that Fr. Mike's home diocese, the Archdiocese of Anchorage, provides communication and stewardship support for the Mission to Magadan? All financial gifts are processed through the Archdiocese of Anchorage to provide a safe and secure way to help support the Church's work in Far East Russia. Thank you for your support of the Mission to Magadan.



Fr. Mike holds a small group session for parish leaders to demonstrate the Alpha course method. The Alpha course has been successful in Magadan and has encouraged many people to join the Church.

PARISH EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVANGELIZATION

Fr. Mike Teaches Others the Success of The Alpha Course


We have a huge mission field here and the Alpha course is a successful way to bring people to Christ and His Church.

As is true in most of Russia, only a small percentage of people in Magadan attend church regularly. We have a huge mission field here and the Alpha course is a successful way to bring people to Christ and His Church. Alpha is a pre-catechetical introduction to the basic truths of Christianity. It is primarily designed for those outside of the Church or faith parishioners. The Church of the Nativity of Jesus sponsored an important conference

in August to share our success with the “soft” evangelization techniques used in the Alpha course.

What is easier than to invite a friend to a delightful dinner, interesting conversation, lovely music and prayer? The ten-week Alpha course has served our parish well for five years with over twenty new parishioners entering into RCIA after the Alpha course.

There is great opportunity and spiritual need here in Magadan. We decided to share this way of evangelization with other parishes so they can work to bring Christ to more people in this place of former camps of Stalin. Our Alpha training team was made up of friends from Holland, two young women from Vladivostok, and our local team leaders provided the music and witness.

We had over sixty people at the conference. Two churches are planning to hold the Alpha course this year. Through the Alpha course, we see one more way for more and more souls to say “yes” to the invitation to come to faith and live this joyful life in His Church.

MAGADAN PARISH PREPARES FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

November marks the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the Church of the Nativity of Jesus in the Siberian port town of Magadan, Russia. The celebrations will include liturgies, conferences, visits from several bishops and friends of the Mission to Magadan, and heart-filled thanks to you, our friend.

Your generous support and prayers has been vital to the success and on-going ministries of our work here. Watch for our next issue of the Mission to Magadan newsletter where we will revisit many of the import events in the history of the parish.



A rainbow is captured over the Church of the Nativity of Jesus in a 2004 photograph. As the parish prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary, your faithful support is remembered for transforming a small mission into a thriving parish that serves the area's Catholics and reaches out to people in need in the name of Christ.

YOUR GIFTS CAN HELP MANY

Sending clothes is another way for you to help the young families.

The Health Department continues its ban on distribution of used clothes for infants and toddlers, so we are only allowed to give new clothing in its original packing or with the tags attached. Baby and children's clothes are very expensive in Magadan. You could provide a great help to these young families by providing very basic clothing needs. Thank you so much for helping us in this way!

Please send all the packages directly to Russia. Address the mail to Fr. Shields and declare the value of the parcel as less than \$90 on the U.S. customs form, or we have to pay import duty tax.

Here is the proper format to address the parcel:
RUSSIA
685000 Magadan
Glavpochtant, Box 171
Fr. Michael Shields

Do not send parcels to Anchorage!!

Please know that the Archdiocese of Anchorage cannot forward parcels to us here in Magadan. If you send a parcel there, they will forward it to our grateful friends at Catholic Social Services in Anchorage and the items will benefit people in Alaska. However, the package will not make it to Magadan!!

MISSION TO MAGADAN ONLINE
www.magadancatholic.org

The Magadan Mission is online with information in both English & Russian! The Russian pages feature translations of Apologetics articles and ready answers to questions about the Catholic faith.

Email us at:
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