

Why is it named “Omega”?

Omega is a symbol of the future and of one’s goal in life. It speaks about a student’s search, not only for his major and career, but also about organizing one’s values toward accomplishing life’s purpose, and especially its ultimate purpose, salvation in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “I am the Alpha and the Omega” (Rev 21:6), the beginning and the goal of our life.

Who is involved in it?

The potential audience is the 70,000 strong student population of Vladivostok, the “third capital” of Russia, and Russia’s “San Francisco”, the goal of the TransSiberian railroad. Also involved are parishioners of Most Holy Mother of God Parish in Vladivostok, volunteers of Caritas and FOMIP (Russian charitable organizations), and anyone interested in our programs.



Long-term volunteer who teaches English.

What is the present program?

Currently the Omega Project has these components:

- Crisis pregnancy and Pro-life work from Caritas Women’s Support Centers
- University teachers of Spanish, English, and Theology
- Free English as a second language courses

- A magazine for young women, “Love and Reason”
- Holy Day and Holy Seasonal preparation and retreats
- A professional church choir
- Volunteer opportunities at local orphanages
- Volunteer opportunities at the local hospice for the dying
- An annual theological forum
- Omega Film Critics Program
- Summer Youth Retreat program
- Alanon and AA programs
- University training in Catholic Social Teaching for selected scholars
- Speaker’s Bureau on Catholic or Life issues
- Temporary emergency housing
- Drop-In Center for students



A student helping entertain needy youth.

Who leads the project?

A committee of Catholic college and university professors together with the Catholic clergy provide policies. The various programs are administered by persons appointed for the need. Currently, the Caritas Women’s Support Centers are headed by Sister Evgenia Lazaro, s.c.s.a., the theological programs by Mr Kirill Voitsel, M.Div., the film festival by Mr Victor Anisimov, the Caritas Charitable Programs Director is Mrs Lily Silina. The chaplain of the Project is the V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D., Dean of the Vladivostok Deanery, Diocese of St Joseph in Irkutsk.

What are the plans for the future?

We must be more active and more available to the large number of students. We must have better places of meeting, and more adjacent to student housing facilities. We need to provide more education to our staff members. We have to find better ways of advertising our programs to students. We have to prepare for the new 100,000 student megauniversity which is to be built in Vladivostok on Russian Island.

What facilities does the program have?

We currently have the use of the Juan Bonall Youth Center belonging to the Sisters of Charity of St Anne. We also have a two-room apartment that can be used for emergency needs. We make use of the facilities of Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Parish.



Working with orphans.

What needs do you have?

We need to upgrade the facilities for retreats and meetings on Russian Island. We must plan and implement an advertising program to attract more students. We need premises closer to the larger universities. We need to provide more printed material for the programs. We need more volunteers to work in

the programs. We need to provide a better forum for the evangelization of unbaptized students.

Where can I read more?

www.vladmission.org/omega

Where can I get more personal information?

Write to Fr Myron Effing at:

myron@catholic.vladivostok.ru

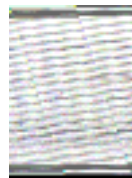
How can I help?

We definitely need financial help, and your donation to this program through Mary Mother of God Mission Society is tax deductible. Perhaps your parish would like to get involved in this program, either regularly or on a one-time basis. We are looking for volunteers to help in the program from several weeks to several years.



Where do I send donations?

Mary Mother of God Mission Society
1854 Jefferson Ave
St Paul MN 55105
(651)690-1933



Mary Mother of God Mission Society
1813 Oakdale Road Ste 11
Modesto CA 95355
www.vladmission.org
(209)408-0728

The Omega Project...



What is it??

The Omega project is a series of programs meant for university level students of Vladivostok's 15 institutions of higher learning. They provide opportunities for students and faculty to be in contact with Catholic teaching about God, about family and life issues, and about the social teaching of the Church, as well as to provide social opportunities for students of our faith. It is Vladivostok's "Newman Center" and one of our main evangelization programs.