12/10/2021

FIRST CHAPEL FOR INDIGENOUS NANAI PEOPLE CONSECRATED IN RUSSIAN FAR EAST



The first chapel for the indigenous Nanai people was consecrated in the far eastern Russian city of Khabarovsk last week.

The building was consecrated on Wednesday, October 6, the Day of the Nanai Script, by Archpriest Sergei Samsonov, the head of the Commission for Interaction with Indigenous Peoples, reports the Priamur Metropolia of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The chapel is located at the local Nanai Cultural Center. The Nanai are a Tungusic people of East Asia, with significant populations in the Russian Far East and the Heilongjiang Province in northeast China. According to the 2010 census, there were 12,003 Nanai in Russia, whose mother tongue belongs to the Manchu-Tungusic family of languages.

The Nanai script is celebrated on October 6, the feast of St. Innocent of Moscow, the enlightener, baptist, and creator of the alphabet for the far eastern indigenous peoples.

The parishioners stayed for a tea party with the priest after the service.

The cultural center holds events to teach schoolchildren about the Nanai culture, as well as for adults. People often turn to the center to learn about St. Innocent who enlightened the indigenous peoples of Amur.

The Gospel of Luke was translated into the Nanai language in 2012.



orthochristian.com