

# MISSION RUSSIA

Sisters in *Jesus* the Lord

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Spring 2016

## Visit of Papal Nuncio to Russia and Blessing of Convent



Front, L-R: MaryJo Peyton, Sr. Faustina, CJD,  
Sr. Jolanta, OP, Jessica Hoke.

Back L-R: Fr. Daniel Maurer, CJD, Br. Alexei, SVD,  
Archbishop Jurkovič, Vicky Trevillyan,  
Bishop Kirill, Sr. Catherine Marie, CJD.

The closing of 2015 and the beginning of 2016 have already been full of blessings! On November 16, 2015, the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, Bishop Kirill Klimovitch of our Diocese of Irkutsk, Russia, blessed our convent, Dom Marii, and our St. John the Evangelist Chapel on Russian Island.

In honor of the 75th birthday of Fr. Myron Effing, CJD, on February 7, and his 25 years as pastor here in Vladivostok, the apostolic nuncio to Russia, Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, and Bishop Kirill Klimovitch spent several days in Vladivostok. On February 6, they concelebrated Mass in our convent chapel! Other guests included an SVD brother; a Dominican sister from the Catholic parish in Blagoveshchensk; and Vicky Trevillyan, Jessica Hoke, and MaryJo Peyton from the Mary Mother of God Mission Society, Modesto, California. Archbishop Jurkovič and Bishop Kirill gave us advice for moving ahead with the purchase of more apartments in Dom Marii. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial assistance!+

## Student Ministry at Dom Marii

Young adults and students from the nearby Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) have already begun visiting us at Dom Marii. The parish youth group meets at our convent once a month, students sometimes attend our weekly Mass, and a student has started coming regularly for Lectio Divina.

Sr. Faustina enrolled full-time in Russian language study at FEFU in November, 2015. Through her contacts on campus, we had many new students at our 2nd annual New Year's Eve Party at Dom Marii. We started with Mass celebrated by Fr. Daniel Maurer, CJD, and 25 people attended! Students were from Russia, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Japan, and they were joined by some of our brothers from Indonesia, India, and the Philippines.

Following the Mass, there was a time of reflection, with questions printed in the students' native languages, and then a pot-luck supper, Christmas carols, games, dances from Indonesia, a fire in the fireplace, sparklers at midnight, and fireworks from the hotel next door! Guests from the city spent the night, and the next day, we had Morning Prayer and breakfast before heading to the city for New Year's Day Mass. We are excited to continue expanding our work with students, and we look forward to FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionaries coming again this summer.+



Mass with Fr. Dan Maurer, CJD, on New Year's Eve at Dom Marii with students from FEFU.

## Pro-life News... Women's Support Center



Sr. Catherine Marie and a joyful expectant mother

She gave birth to a son on January 25. She was on bed rest in the hospital the last two months of her pregnancy, and, thanks to benefactors, we were able to help supplement her diet, purchase needed medicine and vitamins, diapers, and materials needed for the birth. Most important have been daily phone calls of encouragement! With the purchase and remodeling of another apartment, we hope to have a pro-life center at Dom Marii.

## World Pro-life Prayer Congress in Fatima, Portugal



Sisters with Msgr. Philip Reilly of Helpers of God's Precious Infants, life-long champion of mothers and the unborn.

Thanks to the generosity of pro-life benefactors, two of our sisters attended the World Pro-life Prayer Congress in Fatima, Portugal, this past October 1-8. This congress and our time of pilgrimage in Fatima were so special that we will feature them in our next issue.

## Fr. Myron's 75th Birthday - February 7th!



L-R: Sr. Maria Stella, Fr. Myron Effing, Sr. Faustina, Sr. Catherine Marie, February 7, 2016

## New Pipe Organ



Organ blessing and dedication concert, Nov. 15, 2015.

Some of the attendees at the concert were:  
L-R Fr. Daniel Maurer; Bishop Kirill Klimovitch; Jennifer Pascual, organist, St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York; Marina Omelchenko, organist, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Moscow; Sr. Maria Stella, Elvira Gribanova, Most Holy Mother of God Parish, Vladivostok; Cealwyn Tagle, builder of the Diego Cera pipe organ, Philippines.



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See recent photos of the  
sisters and their inspiring work.

## Pilgrimage to see the Pope in Philadelphia, PA, USA



Picture taken after Pope's Mass: L-R Sr. Maria Damiana, Sr. Gemma Maria, Viktor and Natasha Anisimov, Sr. Catherine Marie, Mother Julia.

Our sisters in the USA traveled by bus with other people from the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph to Philadelphia to see Pope Francis! As you see, they met friends from the parish in Vladivostok: Viktor, who has worked for Fr. Myron Effing for the past 23 years, and his wife, Natasha, who is co-leader of Rachel's Vineyard. They also saw friends from FOCUS and from the St. Agnes Church and School in St. Paul, Minnesota.

- As of November 4, 2015, we have a new bishop of Kansas City - St. Joseph: Most Reverend James Johnston.
- Sr. Maria Stella traveled to Magadan, Russia, Nov. 25 - Dec. 1, 2015, with Natasha Anisimova (see photo, left) to restart Rachel's Vineyard there.
- Jan. 4-6, 2016, We had our fourth Rachel's Vineyard retreat for post-abortion healing on Russian Island.
- On Jan. 4, Sr. Faustina renewed her temporary vows for three years.
- On Feb. 7, Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Raytown celebrated its patronal feast day. Sr. Maria Damiana and the Adult Faith Formation Committee, along with many parishioners worked hard to make the day a success.
- For Catholic Schools Week, our sisters in Kansas City spoke at many local catholic schools about vocations.
- On April 22-24, pray for the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in Kansas City, MO.

### Post-Abortion Healing Part 2 of 2 (continued from Fall 2015 issue) By Sr. Gemma Maria Stein

When people first arrive for a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, there may be feelings of anxiety and vulnerability, which is only natural, considering that they are walking into a room full of complete strangers to share part of their life stories that some of them may not have revealed to anyone before. Nevertheless, Rachel's Vineyard has a strict confidentiality policy, and participants may rest assured that they are in a safe environment.

Throughout the weekend, people not only share their stories, but they also participate in several activities known as Living Scripture exercises. In each of these, a Bible passage is read, often from the Gospels, and participants are invited to imagine themselves in the place of a certain character in that scene. While on the outside they may seem simple enough, these experiences are profoundly powerful...they lead one to the depths of the heart, where true healing begins.

There are many beautiful lessons learned through this retreat. It shows that no matter how many different circumstances influence our lives, no matter how many

mistakes we may make along the way, no matter how many past regrets we may have, we are still united in our sacred humanity, in that image and likeness of God that the overly secular world tries to deny. The truth is that God is always there, ready to forgive us, if only we would let Him. He has loved each and every one of us from all eternity, and He will never cease to love us, and His Mercy is without end for those who seek it.

In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the team that I work with will host two retreats, one in April and the other in October. Please keep the participants in your prayers. Also, please pray for the Rachel's Vineyard work in Russia, as the other sisters and their team continue to reach out to those in need there as well. Thank you for your support, and God bless you.

Are there people in your life who are suffering from an abortion, whether it is their own or that of a loved one? If they are searching for help, please let them know about Rachel's Vineyard. There is a toll-free hotline 1-877-HOPE-4-ME, and the website is [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

Spring 2016

Sisters in Jesus the Lord  
7009 Blue Ridge Blvd  
Raytown, MO 64133-5629

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All of the sisters wish you  
a most Blessed Easter

## How can I help?

### BE A PRAYER PARTNER

We send a list of prayer intentions by email or regular mail (if no email) each month to our prayer partners. To become a prayer partner with us, call 816-353-2177, send a note, or email [cjdprayerpartner@gmail.com](mailto:cjdprayerpartner@gmail.com).

Is God asking YOU to be a priest or sister  
for Russia



Many missionaries are needed! Please join us in praying for vocations to serve the Roman Catholic Church in the Russian Far East.

See our websites for more info:  
[www.cjd.cc](http://www.cjd.cc) & [www.vladmission.com](http://www.vladmission.com).  
Facebook: sistersinjesusthelord33.

Image: Our Lady of Fatima Icon, St. Petersburg, Russia

### SEND A SISTER TO RUSSIA

*No gift is too small! All donations are tax-deductible.*

**Make donations online:** [www.cjd.cc](http://www.cjd.cc)

**Make checks payable to:**  
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### Wish List

**Frequent flier miles:** Capital One, any amount; other types, preferably 25,000 miles or more at a time.

**Mission Travel:** Help us get to our mission. It costs approximately \$2,000.00 per sister to fly roundtrip from Kansas City to Vladivostok.