

# MISSION RUSSIA

Sisters in *Jesus* the Lord

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## YEAR OF FATIMA - YEAR OF BLESSINGS

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Mother Julia, Sr. Catherine Marie, Sr. Faustina Marie, Bishop Robert Finn, Sr. Maria Damiana, Sr. Gemma Maria, Sara (postulant), and Sr. Maria Stella after the Mass of Profession of Vows on March 25, 2017.

### **The Triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart** By Mother Julia Kubista

This centennial year of Our Lady of Fatima's apparitions has brought our community many blessings. Please join us in thanking Our Blessed Mother and pray that we follow her guidance always, especially in her wishes for Russia.

When we arrived in Kansas City eight years ago, we found a strong and active World Apostolate of Fatima group. Each month they faithfully organize the First Saturday devotions, which have been a great delight and blessing for us. At one recent First Saturday Mass, the priest's homily pointed out that the world was in crisis then, as it is now, and that Mary's message was ...

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### **Three Sisters Profess Vows**

On the Solemnity of the Annunciation, March 25, 2017, the Sisters in Jesus the Lord, along with many relatives and friends, were blessed with the occasion of the Mass of Perpetual Vows of Sister Maria Damiana Lee, CJD, and Sister Faustina Marie Goedken, CJD, and the First Religious Profession of Sister Gemma Maria Stein, CJD. It was an unforgettable occasion. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make it such a special event, to all who attended, and to those who could not be present but who keep us ever in prayer.

May our espousal to Jesus point to the truth that each person finds in himself a sincere gift of himself, and may the faithful living of our vows be a witness that God alone can fully satisfy the human heart. +

## Triumph of Mary's Heart, continued from p. 1

that the simple cure for the crisis was in our hands. She told us to say the Rosary daily and to offer up the sacrifices of our everyday lives in union with her Son's passion and death. The priest said that we all have suffering in our lives, and that we should embrace it, "dive right into it," uniting it to the Lord's suffering. We have the power and duty to play a significant part in bringing about in the world the triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart. Is there anyone who is not longing for that? +



Sr. Maria Damiana, Sr. Gemma Maria, and Sr. Faustina Marie before the Mass of Profession of Vows. The sisters were given handmade rosaries consisting of three different colored beads: burgundy, representing the habit; white, for purity; and black, for dying to self.



The sisters receive from Bishop Finn their new titles: Sr. Maria Damiana of Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, CJD, and Sr. Faustina Marie of the Incarnate Word, CJD. Deacon John Purk and Deacon Mike Elsey assist.

## Coronation of Our Lady of Fatima Statue

By Sr. Maria Stella Whittier, CJD

As sisters who are giving our lives to help revive the Catholic Church in Russia, we have seen some exciting results in this 100th anniversary year of Mary's apparitions in Fatima.

On August 20, 2017, the first solemn coronation of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Russia took place, in the presence of five bishops, 32 priests, 27 sisters, including our Sr. Faustina Marie, and many Russian lay Catholic faithful, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Irkutsk, Russia, in our Diocese of St. Joseph. Some participants traveled 2½ days by train to attend this event. The Diocese of St. Joseph is one of only four dioceses in Russia, and is the largest geographical diocese in the world, approximately the size of the continental United States.



Our bishop, Bishop Kirill Klimovitch, described the coronation of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Irkutsk as an expression of gratitude. He said that the crown symbolizes the coming to fruition of Our Lady's promises at Fatima, for "over the course of [25] years, little by little, people are returning to God, seeking to live according to the Gospel, with moral and spiritual values...the Blessed Virgin Mary is our queen. We are so grateful for all that the Lord has already done to revive the Faith, and at the same time we hear the call to each one of us to not stop there, to continue to pray for our country, for Russia."

He went on to remember the millions of martyrs in the Soviet Union, more than in all the previous centuries from the time of Christ combined until now. He declared, "Today's solemn occasion represents the work and effort of all who prayed and worshiped God in this land. Today we must remember the clergy, religious, and faithful of the last century, among whom were true martyrs and witnesses to the Faith." Bishop Joseph Werth of Novosibirsk, who has served in Russia since 1992, remembered all the Europeans and Americans who prayed faithfully for Soviet Russia, and he exhorted the faithful to "remember the cost of religious freedom: the blood and suffering of so many." +



Sr. Catherine Marie, Sr. Faustina Marie, Sara, Sr. Gemma Maria, Sr. Maria Damiana, Sr. Maria Stella, and Mother Julia sing the Russian Ave Maria at the reception following the vow Mass.

## A Reflection on Final Vows

By Sister Faustina Marie Goedken, CJD

*Be at peace with not knowing.*

This is the message the Holy Spirit whispered in my heart again and again while on a 28-day silent retreat in preparation for taking final vows: *Be at peace with not knowing. The future is uncertain to you but not to God. He is Infinite Goodness. Nothing will come that He will not give you the grace to handle. Be at peace with not knowing how He will give it. Nothing will come that He will not work out for your ultimate good. Be at peace with not knowing how He will do it. Take the next step that He shows you to take, and be at peace with not knowing all the outcomes. Trust Him. When the next step isn't clear, be at peace with not knowing. Continue to fulfill your responsibilities with love, for that already is His will.*

I professed final vows with immense peace in my heart. Not knowing all the outcomes of the commitment, I knew that He is good and His will is good. On vow day, I felt the joy of walking in His will and of being loved by Him. I felt His love saturating me from within and surrounding me from without. Family and friends who came to share the day magnified His love and joy.

Now, as moments of uncertainty arise from day to day, I trust that God will show me the next step in His time. I remain faithful to the responsibilities that are already known to me. When anxiety tries to sneak in, I continue to hear the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit: *Be at peace with not knowing.* +

Photo: Sr. Maria Damiana and Sr. Faustina Marie assist Sr. Gemma Maria in exchanging the novice veil for the professed veil.  
*Jesus, help us to live in You so that, as others recognize in our veils the sign of our espousal, they may come to know You better for having passed us by.*

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### News Notes

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- In December, Sr. Catherine Marie completed her two-year online master's degree in psychology through Divine Mercy University. Already, the course is bearing fruit in the lives of parishioners and youth in Vladivostok, to whom Sister offers counsel. Thank you to all who helped make the degree possible!
- Two new postulants have joined us this year. They are embracing religious life and enjoy studying Russian.
- In July and August, eleven FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionaries joined the sisters in Vladivostok to run the children's summer camp in Lesozavodsk and the annual Catholic Russian Far East Young Adult Conference. Thank you, FOCUS, for your beautiful witness of faith, love, and joy!



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Sr. Catherine Marie and Sr. Maria Stella on Russian Island.

## 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, send us a note, or email us at [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 information: [www.cjd.cc](http://www.cjd.cc) and [www.vladmission.com](http://www.vladmission.com), or call us at (816) 353-2177.



Photo: Sr. Catherine Marie with her newly confirmed goddaughter Natalia.

### 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:**  
Sisters in Jesus the Lord

**Send to:**  
Sisters in Jesus the Lord  
7009 Blue Ridge Blvd  
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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.