

# MISSION ✝ RUSSIA

Sisters in *Jesus* the Lord

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www.cjd.cc

Christmas, 2009

## TWO SISTERS IN RUSSIA



November 14, 2009: Sr. Catherine Marie, CJD, and Sr. Maria Stella, CJD, in Vladivostok—the sign says, “No Swimming Allowed!”



Sr. Catherine Marie with two children from a rehabilitation center in Vladivostok.

## WEARING THE HABIT IN RUSSIA

This is the first time that our sisters have been able to wear the religious habit all the time in Russia, and the results have been very positive:

-The patients at the home for the elderly are more at ease with us, and have talked about their own experiences with religion.

-Several Russians approached us wanting to learn more about the Faith when we were outside near our parish buildings.

-Twice now we have met Russian Orthodox priests, once at the hospice, and once after an Orthodox liturgy, and they were both kind and interested in learning more about our community, since they



Sr. Maria Stella, in Vladivostok at a free home for the elderly poor, with Lioba who is wearing her new lovely scarf donated by a knit/crochet group of ladies in Peachtree City, Georgia, USA! (We have been asked to wear face-masks to reduce the risk of our bringing the H1N1 flu to the patients.)

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could tell we were sisters. We also met an Orthodox layman who asked that we pray for his son, since “you pray a lot, right?”

-We have had one experience we did not expect— a Muslim man asked Sr. Catherine Marie for a date, thinking she was Muslim!

-We learned of a clearance store in downtown Vladivostok, and thought we would look at down coats, since the wind-chilled temperatures were below zero degrees Fahrenheit, and a blizzard was raging. The store manager approached us, saying that she was intrigued by the way we were dressed. It turns out that her best friend married an American in Kansas City! As she confirmed that we were religious sisters, she told us that each year at the end of January, they have big sales, and whatever does not sell is normally thrown away. She gave us her card, and said that we can have all the items she can not sell! Now the parish will be able to provide some clothing from Vladivostok to patients at the hospice, pregnant mothers, and other people in need. We are to call her in early February.+

## OUR CURRENT WORK IN RUSSIA...

- ❖ Praying the Liturgy of the Hours in Russian each morning and evening in the main church with our brother community, the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord
- ❖ Music at Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Church: organ, flute, harp, choir, composing!
- ❖ Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats in Vladivostok (Nov 2009) and Magadan (Jan 2010)
- ❖ Helping with various projects in the parish center
- ❖ Volunteering at the local hospice and with children
- ❖ Visiting Orthodox churches and meeting with Orthodox clergy and nuns
- ❖ Teaching English at the parish
- ❖ Daily experience of the Russian language and culture.



## VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT

This is an opportunity for single women to spend a weekend with us at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish in Raytown, Missouri. There will be talks by priests, time for silent prayer, sung Liturgy of the Hours with the sisters, and the opportunity to talk one-on-one with a sister.

**March 12-14, 2010**

Please contact us if you would like to attend! [info@cjdc.cc](mailto:info@cjdc.cc) or (816) 353-2177 See our website under “Retreats” for more details.



L-R: Sr. Maria Stella, Sr. Catherine Marie, Sr. Maria Damiana, with Fr. Steven Rogers, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Raytown, Missouri, as he places the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel’s tabernacle before the sisters left for Russia. (Sr. Julia took the photo.)

**We need your continued financial support and prayers in order to send well-trained, faith-filled missionary sisters to Russia.**

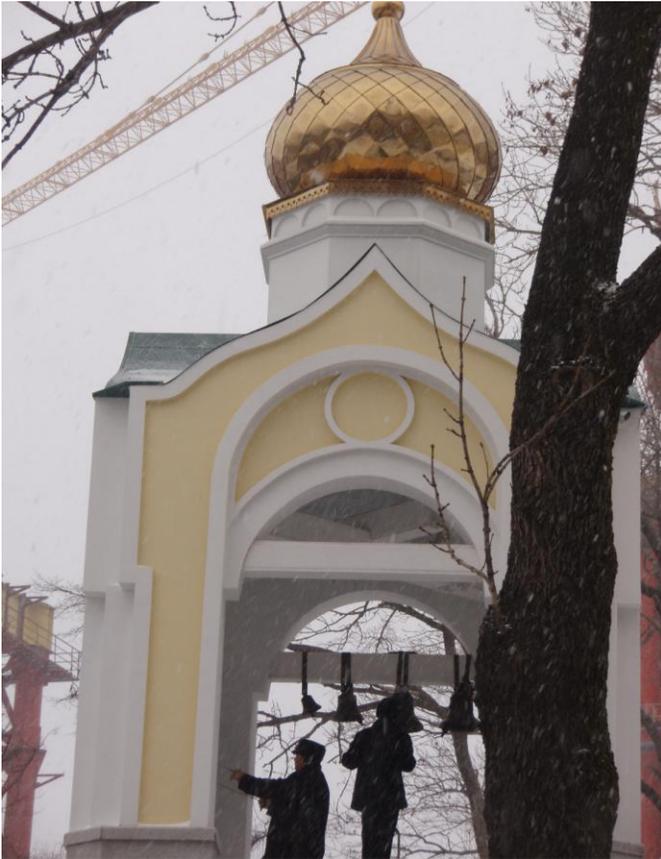
We especially need frequent flier miles to continue sending our sisters to Russia. Present visa regulations allow only a three-month stay. Volunteers are most needed and always welcome. To volunteer, please call us at (816) 353-2177 with your contact information.

*God bless you for your  
generosity*

## CATHOLIC-ORTHODOX UNITY?

By Sr. Julia Mary, MM

Religious sisters headed to work for the Roman Catholic Church in Russia would naturally have a heartfelt desire to see the 1000-year-old schism between the Orthodox and Catholics ended. This is certainly true of the Sisters in Jesus the Lord, who have said daily, since fall of 2007, a prayer which includes the words, "O Most Blessed Virgin



Bell tower, Orthodox Church of the Dormition of Mary, Vladivostok, Russia.

Mary...join all in one faith that, at last, the words of Christ may be fulfilled: "There shall be one fold and one shepherd." Our website has the entire prayer.

You can imagine our delight when we heard, through Zenit News (zenit.org) on Dec. 1, that, after a meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, with delegates from the Orthodox and Catholic Churches, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I affirmed that progress was being made on the path to Catholic-Orthodox unity...that the meeting "confirms the desire to eliminate the impediments accumulated in the course of a millennium to attain the fullness of communion."

Then, on Dec. 3, His Holiness Benedict XVI received in audience Dmitri Medvedev, president of the Russian Federation. Following their meeting, a report from the Vatican Information Service stated:

"During the cordial discussions pleasure was expressed on both sides at the cordial relations that currently exist between them, and it was agreed to establish full diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the Russian Federation.

Following an exchange of opinions on the international economic and political situation -- also in the light of the Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, of which the Holy Father presented the president a copy in Russian -- attention turned to the challenges currently facing security and peace. The talks then turned to cultural and social questions of mutual interest, such as the value of the family and the contribution believers make to life in Russia."

If a solution for reuniting the Orthodox and Catholics is found someday by the leaders of both churches, much work will remain to make it a reality in the parishes throughout Russia. We join you in continuing to pray for this unity, which would greatly benefit the one Mystical Body of Christ, and delight Our Lord. Also, please pray for the Sisters in Jesus the Lord, who are already working toward that unity.+

### TO CONTACT SISTERS OR CANONS:

#### **Sisters in Jesus the Lord**

**7049 Blue Ridge Blvd, Raytown, MO 64133-5679**  
**(816) 353-2177 [www.cjd.cc](http://www.cjd.cc) [info@cjd.cc](mailto:info@cjd.cc)**

Sisters in Jesus the Lord is a diocesan recognized Private Association of the Faithful seeking to "bring people to Jesus and Jesus to people" (John Paul II), working toward the revival of the Roman Catholic Church in the Russian Far-East.

#### **Mary Mother of God Mission Society**

**1736 Milestone Circle, Modesto, CA 95357**

**(209) 408-0728 [www.vladmission.org](http://www.vladmission.org)**

A lay mission organization supporting the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord, our brother community in Vladivostok, Russia.

*Merry Christmas 2009*  
Sisters in Jesus the Lord  
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**~ HOW CAN I HELP? ~**

▪ **BE A PRAYER PARTNER**  
**WITH SISTERS IN JESUS THE LORD!**

We have two sisters in Russia right now. Please pray that young women who have a vocation to the missionary life will come and that our community will develop according to God's plan.

We send a list of prayer intentions via email each month to all our prayer partners.

To become a prayer partner with us, please email us at [cjdprayerpartner@gmail.com](mailto:cjdprayerpartner@gmail.com), or send us your postal address.



*A Savior is born for us!*  
*Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*

▪ **“ADOPT A SISTER!”**

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



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