

# MISSION RUSSIA

Sisters in *Jesus* the Lord

Vol. 9, No. 1

WWW.CJD.CC

Spring 2013



Photographer: Br. Edwin, CJD

Pre-Lenten retreat: young adults of our parish in Vladivostok with our sisters and Fr. John Gibbons, OFM, of Ussuriisk, Russia

## SISTERS IN VLADIVOSTOK:

### RENOVATIONS ON MARY'S HOUSE CONTINUE!

Greetings from Sr. Maria Stella and Sr. Catherine Marie! We are back in Russia and have just submitted our applications for our three-year residency permits. If those are approved in August 2013, then by August 2014, we can apply for the equivalent of a Russian green card. Very soon, we will have an ongoing presence both in Vladivostok and in Kansas City! We are so grateful to God for His many blessings, and for your prayerful support.

The parish in Vladivostok is doing well. Ten young adults recently devoted their entire Saturday to a day of quiet retreat before the Blessed Sacrament in preparation for Lent. The day included conferences, Confession, the Liturgy of the Hours, and Mass. We have been traveling once a week to the village of Romanovka to teach music, English, and art to under-privileged children, and we are continuing to visit the orphanage and nursing home for the elderly poor. We are also excited to be working with Fr. Daniel Maurer, CJD, on the third edition of the Catholic parish hymnal, doing research, editing, and adding harmonies to enhance the quality of music at Mass.

Last summer, Friends of the Missions, a nonprofit organization of American professional men and women who donate their time and training to the missions, came to Vladivostok. Among other good works, they started building new walls and a bathroom in the apartment that

we are turning into a retreat center for students and parishioners. We are deeply grateful for their generous service.

The university was scheduled to open on Russian Island this fall, beginning in October. However, due to complications in the process of building and moving, classes will not begin on the island until October 2013. This means that we have more time to work on our new center, "Mary's House." The young adults at our parish in Vladivostok are eagerly waiting for our Newman Center and retreat center to open. We continue developing the plans for the pro-life center which will also be located there.

The American volunteers from Friends of the Missions would like to return to Vladivostok in September to do more work on our apartment! They would be repairing our plumbing, wiring, roof, and more, but they need financial assistance with the airfare and supplies. That is not all the good news, though. Only a few months ago, four more apartments in the same building came up for sale!+

Sr. Maria Stella & Sr. Catherine Marie



Photo courtesy of CJD

Bishop Robert Finn, Sr. Faustina Marie Goedken

## ESPOUSAL TO CHRIST

On January 5, 2013, the eve of the great missionary Feast of the Epiphany, Bishop Robert W. Finn of our Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph received my vows to

*Please continue on page 2*

## World Day for Consecrated Life

Photo courtesy of CID



Catholic religious working in the Far-Eastern region of the Diocese of Irkutsk, Russia, who met in Khabarovsk on February 2nd to celebrate the World Day for Consecrated Life.

Bishop Cyril Klimovitch, of the Diocese of Irkutsk, Russia, the diocese in which our Russian parish is located, asked all religious to gather in their respective regions on February 2nd, World Day for Consecrated Life and Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, for a day of prayer, reflection, and celebration. Sr. Maria Stella and Sr. Catherine Marie traveled north by train for twelve hours to the city of Khabarovsk to attend the meeting. The day included Holy Mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and meditation on the evangelical counsels. Then followed a discussion in which we shared the fruits of our meditation, a talk on consecrated life, and recreation in which we told anecdotes and sang songs. The day concluded with time for each religious to share his/her experience of the joys and hardships of rekindling the faith of Catholics in Russia. + Sr. Catherine Marie

*Espousal to Christ continued from front page*

become a spouse of Christ with the Sisters in Jesus the Lord for the next three years. On that day, I truly felt the joy of being a bride of Christ.

What does it mean to be a spouse of Christ? In a marriage, a man and a woman make a total gift of themselves to each other. They bind themselves to one another for life, and each seeks to please the other out of love. A woman, in aiming to please her husband, may make the house pleasant and clean, fix her spouse's favorite dinner, and greet him warmly when he returns home. She not only seeks to please him herself, but she also fosters this same desire in her children. While her husband is away, she may inspire her children to make a gift for their father or to do their chores extra well for him. The love of husband and wife is beautiful and fruitful.

As a spouse of Christ, I have accepted His proposal to bind myself more fully to Him. Through the vows of

chastity, poverty, and obedience, I give Him my affections, possessions, and will. I desire to please Him and to make Him known and loved, that all His children may please Him, and in pleasing Him, may share in His joy, now and forever. Any offering, no matter how small, united to Christ's sacrifice on the cross takes on the merits of His perfect offering and helps Jesus save souls. Confident of this, I aim to offer all I am, and all I say, think, and do, to the Father in union with Jesus, so that many souls, beloved children of God, may be saved.

The calling to be a spouse of Christ is one of which I am not worthy. In fact, I am *helpless* to be a good sister on my own. But even the offering of this very helplessness pleases Jesus. He told St. Faustina, "I am mercy itself; therefore, I ask you to offer Me your misery and this very helplessness of yours and, in this way, you will delight My Heart" (*Diary of St. Faustina*, par. 1775). Confident in His merciful love, I ask Jesus to make me be a good and faithful spouse. I offer Him myself, helplessness and all, and I rejoice in knowing that this delights His Heart. + Sr. Faustina Marie Goedken



Faustina-messia.com/forname\_ang.htm

## 2 New CDs on Catholics in the USSR and Today: Fr. Walter Cizek, SJ And our own Sr. Maria Stella, CJD

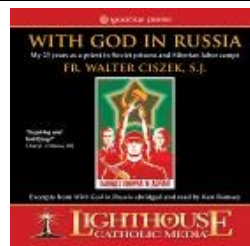


Image: Lighthouse Catholic Media

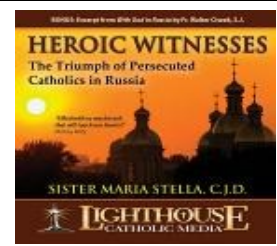


Image: Lighthouse Catholic Media

Two new Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs, *With God in Russia* by Fr. Walter Cizek, SJ, and *Heroic Witnesses* by Sr. Maria Stella, CJD, shed light on religious suffering in the USSR. *With God in Russia* is an audio-recording of excerpts from the classic book by the same title, in which Fr. Walter Cizek portrays the persecution that he, among countless Catholics and other Christians, experienced in Soviet Russia in prisons and prison camps.

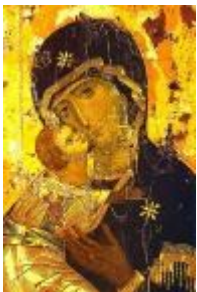
In *Heroic Witnesses*, Sr. Maria Stella speaks about the history of Catholic priests, sisters, and laity in Russia from 1917 to the present and post-Communist efforts to revive the Catholic Church in the Russian Far East. The CDs are now available at [www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/store/speakers](http://www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/store/speakers). + Sr. Maria Damiana

---

## Today's World Needs Saints!

---

Copyright free image courtesy of Wikimedia commons



One powerful devotion spreading across the U.S. during the Year of Faith is the Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary. In his book, *33 Days to Morning Glory*, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, says that this consecration is the "surest, easiest, shortest, and the most perfect means to becoming a saint." He explains how this consecration was lived out by St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian

Kolbe, Bl. Teresa of Calcutta, and Bl. John Paul II. One example of the efficacy of Marian consecration is that after Bl. John Paul II consecrated Russia to Jesus through Mary, the Iron Curtain fell, and now the Faith is being reawakened there. What a treasure this consecration is for anyone wanting to follow Our Lord's command to be perfect and to be truly active in saving the world.+

Mother Julia Mary

Photographer: Theresa O'Donnell



A Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat includes a memorial service during which we honor the children lost through abortion.

---

## Rachel's Vineyard Retreats: The Holy Spirit at Work Internationally

---

As many of you are aware, Sr. Catherine Marie and I have been helping facilitate Rachel's Vineyard retreats for post-abortion healing in the Russian Far East since 2009. In July, 2012, we received approval from Rachel's Vineyard International to start a new site for Rachel's Vineyard in our home Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri. In October, 2012, we were invited to attend, on the way home from Russia, the 6th World Pro-life Prayer Congress in Vienna, Austria. Dr. Theresa Burke, a Catholic American psychologist, the founder in 1999 of the Rachel's Vineyard retreats, attended the conference and afterwards led a four-day training for Rachel's Vineyard leaders, including four priests. With English as the common language, the training

included a full retreat for participants from Albania, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Austria, Romania, Slovenia, and the United States. This was invaluable training for us, and we were amazed once again at how beautifully the Holy Spirit leads this retreat, no matter in which country it is held. In October, 2012, we led a retreat in Russia, and we plan more for 2013. In November, 2012, we led a retreat in Kansas City, Missouri, and we have two more planned there for 2013: April 12-14 and November 15-17.

Rachel's Vineyard gets its name from a verse in the Bible that says, "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more" (Matt. 2:18; cf. Jer. 31:15). Since its beginning, it has helped more than 200,000 women and men recover from the abortion experience. Rachel's Vineyard sites are located throughout the U.S., and there are thirty-five international locations on six continents. It has been translated into numerous languages, including Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Korean, German, and Vietnamese. It is by no means the only recovery program, but it has proved to be very effective.

Rachel's Vineyard retreats bring healing to post-abortive women and men by focusing on healing and reconciling four relationships in their lives — their relationships with God, with the aborted child, with the other people involved, and with themselves. The retreatants are given a safe and completely confidential environment in which they are able to open up and express the feelings they have been suppressing for a long time. As Bl. John Paul II once said, "It is the Spirit who heals the wounds of the heart, pulls down the barriers that separate us from God and divide us from one another, and at the same time, restores the joy of the Father's love and of fraternal unity" (Homily, 4-30-00). At each retreat, the women and men are comforted and guided by a team that includes at least one mental health professional, a priest, and a group of trained volunteers, some of whom serve as peer counselors having personally experienced distress after an abortion. The retreatants realize that they are not alone in their grief and that there is hope for healing because others, too, have healed from the pain of abortion.

This year marks the tragic 40th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. With more than 50 million abortions in 40 years, many Americans are in need of spiritual, psychological, and physical healing. Rachel's Vineyard retreats are open to anyone who has been affected by an abortion, whether it be the mother, father, aunt, uncle, grandparents, sister, brother, cousin, abortion provider, or anyone who helped someone procure an abortion. Each person can turn to God and receive forgiveness and healing from the grave sin of abortion, because God wants to heal those wounds and restore peace in the heart.

Perhaps you know some people who have not yet taken the time to look at that part of their past? Please refer them to [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) to find the nearest retreat.+

Sr. Maria Stella 3

*Spring 2013*

Sisters in Jesus the Lord  
7049 Blue Ridge Blvd  
Raytown, MO 64133-5679

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Twin Cities MN  
Permit No. 1831

Address Service Requested



*Христос воскрес! Christ is risen!*

## How may I help Sisters in Jesus the Lord?

### BE A PRAYER PARTNER

We send a monthly list of prayer intentions by email or postal mail to our prayer partners. To become a prayer partner with us, send a note to us at the address listed on this page or email us at [cjdprayerpartner@gmail.com](mailto:cjdprayerpartner@gmail.com).

### HELP US TO CONTINUE THE WORK ON OUR NEW CENTER!

Mary's House will be the main **center for our work in Russia**, and it will include our convent. Currently, we have two one-bedroom apartments. To have enough space for a **small convent, retreat center, pro-life center and student center, we will need to buy four more one-bedroom apartments**. We are waiting for the city officials to notify us of the pricing. Our current apartments cost us **\$80,000 each**, so we expect a similar price for each of the remaining apartments. We are currently supported **solely by donations** from **generous people like you**.

### 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  
7049 Blue Ridge Blvd  
Raytown, MO 64133-5679  
(816) 353-2177

### 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. Even with frequent flier miles, it still costs \$1000.00 per sister.