

**MARCH FOR LIFE: JANUARY, 2011
KANSAS CITY – ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI,
DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE**



L-R: Sr. Catherine Marie, Sr. Maria Stella, and Erica Goedken (postulant), in front of the U.S. Supreme Court Building. Photo courtesy of Janah Putnam.

**SACRED MUSIC CONCERT FOR
OUR PARISH: FEBRUARY, 2011**



L-R: Sr. Maria Stella, harp and organ; Sr. Catherine Marie, flute; Joe Bonello, voice; Erica Goedken, flute; Ryan Koster (seminarian), violin. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Missouri.

BOOTHS AT CONFERENCES

Recent booths: FOCUS conference, Denver, CO, 2011; Kansas Catholic Colleges Conference, Topeka, KS; a vocations conference in St. Charles, Illinois; Institute on Religious Life, Mundelein, Illinois. We have also been speaking at parishes, Serra clubs, and Catholic schools here in Kansas City about our mission work in Russia.



Sr. Maria Damiana, C.J.D., in front of our booth at the Bishop Helmsing Institute Catholic Family Conference, Kansas City, MO, March 19, 2011. She will graduate from this diocesan institute with her three-year Catechetical Certificate in June.

**VISIT TO UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**



L-R: Marta Kolomayets, Kelly Smith, Tessa Kocan, Sr. Catherine Marie, Sr. Maria Stella, Sonia Hrynewych, Matthew Matuszak, Vasil Nazar. Photo courtesy of Alex Kuzma.

Sr. Catherine Marie and Sr. Maria Stella recently greatly enjoyed a visit to the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (UCEF) in Chicago, Illinois, which “fosters the communion of Ukrainian Americans with the Ukrainian nation and of Roman Catholics in the West with the largest Eastern Catholic Church” (www.ucef.org). UCEF also raises funds for the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, Ukraine. It turns out that burgundy is the UCU color! The visit was facilitated by UCEF staff member Theresa “Tessa” Kocan, who accompanied Sr. Maria Stella on her first three-month mission trip to Vladivostok in 2009. +

PRAYER, COMMUNITY LIFE, THE WEARING OF THE RELIGIOUS HABIT, AND EVANGELIZATION —PART 1

By Sr. Catherine Marie Morse, C.J.D.



Much of our evangelization as active-contemplative religious comes through the contemplative aspects of our life, the necessary counterpart to our work in the world. Living the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, in community, singing the Liturgy of the Hours and participating at Mass in the parish church, and being clearly identified as sisters by the wearing of religious habits are some of these contemplative aspects. We have been realizing how much the Lord makes use of vowed community life, prayer in common with the laity, and the wearing of the religious habit, as means of introducing people to the Faith and the reality of eternal life.

Living in community is a powerful means of evangelization, provided that we respond with love to our sisters and all whom we meet. Love is the root of the three religious vows, or evangelical counsels. In order truly to live out our vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, we must strive to give an extraordinary example of Christian charity.

In our vow of poverty, we possess nothing of our own; we share everything in common. We are happy to live simply so that we can give ourselves wholeheartedly to the Lord, freely serving the Church and the needy. In our vow of chastity, when lived perfectly, we love God with an undivided heart, mind, and soul; we devote our entire selves to His work of saving souls, interceding for the Church, and helping others to come to know Him. We seek to love each person as God loves him or her. In our vow of obedience, we are called to seek always to do the will of our superior, and not only that, but to desire what she desires, to seek to bring her joy. Through and with our superior, we seek total obedience to the voice of Christ, which we hear through the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. When we live these vows in love, we

become a powerful witness to the truth that God is among us and that there is a life after death.

We have found that wearing the religious habit is a tremendous help in living out the vows, because it is a daily visual reminder of the life each sister has chosen, a sign of her espousal to Christ, a reminder both for her and for others. People recognize the symbolism of the habit as soon as they see us, and they know immediately what life we profess to live. When we live out our vows and wear the habit, we become a quietly shining witness to the world, a community of love, persons bonded together seeking the good and happiness of one another, which enables us to share Christ's love with everyone we meet outside the convent.

The sight of a community fully living religious life can have a tremendous effect even on someone who otherwise seeks to ignore God. Of course, no community is perfect, but through the grace of God and much prayer, religious do have a transforming effect on the world every day. You may wonder why anyone would make permanent vows and give up personal possessions, the prospect of raising a family, and the opportunity to make one's own choices each day, all for a life in common where you have little of the comforts that most people cherish. The tradition of the Church affirms that this communal life points toward eternal life, to which the comforts of this present world cannot compare, a life of seeing God face-to-face, a life in which there is no evil, sin, or suffering, a life that will never end.+

To be continued in our next issue.

TO CONTACT SISTERS OR CANONS:

Sisters in Jesus the Lord (C.J.D.)

Canonissae in Jesu Domino

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Sisters in Jesus the Lord is a Public Association of the Faithful – canonesses working toward the revival of the Roman Catholic Church in the Russian Far East, based in Kansas City, Missouri.
Jesus—Through Him, With Him, and In Him.

Mary Mother of God Mission Society

1736 Milestone Circle, Modesto, CA 95357
(209) 408-0728 www.vladmission.org

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

Spring/Summer, 2011
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*Blessed John Paul II,
pray for us!*

~ HOW CAN I HELP? ~

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

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, please email us at cjdprayerpartner@gmail.com, or send us your mailing address.

Could God Be Calling YOU to Be a Sister or Priest for Russia?

In Russia, we are serving in an area the size of the continental United States and Canada combined, with fewer than 100 priests or sisters. Could you or someone you know, be called to give your life to God to help Catholics in the Russian Far East? Please pray with us and ask God how you can help most.

▪ **“ADOPT A SISTER!”**

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



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WISH LIST:

Frequent Flier miles: Capital One, any amount. Other types, preferably at least 25,000 miles at a time.
Handbells: for our sacred music here and in Russia.