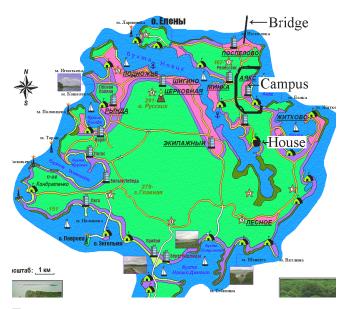
MISSION † RUSSIA

SISTERS IN JESUS THE LORD

Vol. 7, No. 1

FIRST CJD SISTERS' CONVENT IN RUSSIA!



Father Myron Effing, C.J.D., the pastor of Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Church in Vladivostok, Russia, and the superior of our brother community, the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord, emailed us on April 6 to say that an apartment was for sale on Russian Island. He already owns part of the building, and has been waiting for years for more apartments to come available for purchase. We have been praying since January to Sr. Marie de Mandat-Grancey, D.C., who located the Blessed Virgin Mary's house in Ephesus, Turkey, to find us a convent in Russia wherever the Blessed Mother would like us to start our work. Sr. Marie's cause was opened here in Kansas City, Missouri, on January 21, 2011, with our Bishop Robert Finn as postulator.

Father Myron describes the location of the apartment building as follows: "Our house is located near the road between the campus and the rest of the island. The road leads to the biggest city on the island and to the museum areas. At the present time it [our house] is a couple of blocks from the medical clinic and the grocery store."

Russian Island is across the bay from Vladivostok. A bridge is currently being built to connect the island and

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Spring/Summer, 2011

the city. Once the bridge is complete, our convent will be only a 20-minute drive to the Catholic church on the mainland. The new university being built near our convent is intended for up to 100,000 students from the Russian Far-East and nearby countries. Fr. Myron's plans for the island include our convent, a new crisis pregnancy center, and a Catholic chapel near campus, where eventually daily Mass would be offered.

We feel so blessed at the perfect location of this apartment. The cost for our new convent is \$83,000.00. It is a second-floor, fully-furnished apartment with a living room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, shower, and hot water. In order to attend daily Mass, we will not be able to live in our Russian convent until the bridge is finished, but that is not far-off; the bridge is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2012.

Any contribution you can make towards the purchase of our first convent in Russia will be greatly appreciated by us, and fully tax-deductible for you! We have decided to call our convent *Dom Marii*, "Mary's House." Our Lady of Fatima and Sr. Marie, pray for us!+

THREE SISTERS IN RUSSIA

Sr. Maria Stella, C.J.D., Sr. Catherine Marie, C.J.D., and our postulant, Erica, are in Vladivostok, Russia, from May 28 to August 26. They will be joined by volunteers from Virginia and Minnesota. Also coming in July is a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) mission team. Could Vladivostok be becoming a popular destination? Wouldn't you like to come, too? We are very grateful to our donors for three round-trip frequent-flier tickets to Moscow. This time we flew via Europe and across Russia rather than via Seoul. +

We need your continued financial support and prayers to purchase the new convent and to send well-trained, faith-filled missionary sisters to Russian Island to work with the parishes and university students.

To donate specifically toward the cost of the new convent, please write "Mary's House" in the memo line.

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:

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Canonissae in Jesu Domino 7049 Blue Ridge Blvd, Raytown, MO 64133-5679 (816) 353-2177 www.cjd.cc info@cjd.cc

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 Sisters in Jesus the Lord 7049 Blue Ridge Blvd Raytown, MO 64133-5679 Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage Paid St. Paul, MN Permit No. 1831

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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.



Make donations online: 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

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.