

# MISSION RUSSIA

Sisters in *Jesus* the Lord

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WWW.CJD.CC

Spring 2021



**ABOUNDING  
IN MERCY**



## Newly-Baptized Experiences the Joy of Life in Christ



Mother Stella assists Nadya on the day of her Baptism.

In January, Nadya was baptized at Most Holy Mother of God Church in Vladivostok. Three years ago, Nadya's ten-year-old daughter, Alisa, asked her mom to take her to church. Alisa began catechism classes at the church, was baptized and received her First Holy Communion at age eleven, and is now preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. When preparing for First Communion, Alisa read about Blessed Laura Vicuna, who gave her life at a young age for the salvation of her mother. Moved by this story and by love for her mother, Alisa asked her mother, Nadya, to be baptized. After much reflection, Nadya decided to attend classes for Baptism, and she chose Mother Stella to be her godmother. Immediately after her Baptism in January, with serenity and joy on her face, Nadya said, "I am so happy!" May God give her the grace of growing ever deeper in faith! +

## Ash Wednesday Retreat for University Students

On Ash Wednesday, university students gathered with the sisters on Russian Island for a day of prayer and fasting. The day included talks on the meaning of Lent and how God's grace is available in a special way during this time of preparation for Easter. The students reflected together on the Gospel from Mass, brainstormed about ways they as a group could perform acts of mercy this Lent, and wrote out their personal Lenten resolutions addressed to God. The retreat day ended with Confession and Mass. Two students who had not been to Confession in years were given the grace to go and receive the gift of forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

One student, Theodore, shared, "This Lent, God is giving me an opportunity to receive a special grace that I have never received before and will never receive again. If I accept, I will never be the same. I don't want to miss this opportunity." Theodore and his girlfriend, who is pursuing Baptism, are preparing to be married in

*Continued on p. 2, Ash Wednesday*



University students gather with the sisters in Dom Marii.

## Ash Wednesday, continued from p. 1

the Church in April.

Another student, Crystel, told the sisters, “The [university student] group is a spiritual family that we come to for refuge. We know we are sinners, and your love has drawn us to conversion to Christ. Here, we feel loved and accepted, and at the same time we are challenged to grow.”

May God be praised for the graces He pours out for the salvation of souls! +



Sr. Catherine and Sr. Faustina ice skate with university students on the frozen bay near Dom Marii.

## Rachel's Vineyard Reunions

Participants in Rachel's Vineyard retreats for healing after abortion expressed a desire to meet on a regular basis for continued healing and spiritual support. Sister Catherine and other retreat leaders coordinated a monthly Rachel's Vineyard reunion in Dom Marii. The first reunion took place in February, and meetings continue on the second Saturday of each month. Past retreatants can bring their spouses, and, together with retreat leaders, they share a meal, prayer, and spiritual conversation.

May Dom Marii continue to be a place of encountering the healing love and mercy of God! +

## Progress on Dom Marii

Despite several delays due to ice storms, quarantines, and new discoveries of needed repairs, renovations on Dom Marii have progressed. Inner walls, flooring and ceilings have been removed from four apartments. Cement floors have been poured on the first floor. New wooden floors have been put in on the second floor. Metal supports have been installed to strengthen the outer walls and window frames. Electricity and plumbing have been installed in one apartment.

Since February, a new construction team has been working hard to advance the renovations, starting with the future conference room and kitchen/dining room.

Thank you for your continued generous support and prayers for this future convent and retreat center for students and other Catholics in the Russian far East.+

## Parish Lenten Retreat

On the first Saturday of Lent, parishioners of Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Parish in Vladivostok gathered for a retreat day to enter more deeply into the spirit of Lent. Thirteen adults and seven children attended. Fr. Nikita, CJD, gave two talks to the adults. The participants enjoyed time for silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross, Confession, Mass, and conversing together over lunch. Meanwhile, Sr. Faustina and Br. Elia, CJD, led activities for the children. The children's lessons and crafts centered around remaining in Jesus, who said that He is the true vine and we are the branches (John 15). In addition, each child molded a standing clay cross and made his or her own Stations of the Cross booklet to use while praying at home. +



Sr. Faustina and children mold clay crosses at the parish Lenten retreat day in Vladivostok.

## Outreach in Lesozavodsk



Sr. Catherine visits Ludmila, a homebound parishioner in Lesozavodsk. Ludmila is very happy to receive Holy Communion in her home, as she is unable, due to her health, to attend Mass. Fr. Myron drives five hours by car to Lesozavodsk once a month to celebrate Mass for the small community of faithful parishioners there. When the sisters are able to go with Fr. Myron, they bring Holy Communion to the elderly parishioners and help catechize the children who come to Mass.

## Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes



Sr. Damiana and parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Raytown process with yellow roses to honor Mary on the patronal feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.



Sr. Catherine prays with Nazar in Lesozavodsk. Nazar and his two older brothers were baptized last year and have joined the Catholic parish of the Visitation in Lesozavodsk. The parish has Mass on the last Saturday of each month. On the remaining Saturdays, the parish gathers to pray the Rosary and read the coming Sunday's Mass readings.



*Livestreamed Mass*  
Sundays 12:00 pm Vladivostok time  
(Saturdays 9:00 pm EST)  
*Most Holy Mother of God*  
*Catholic Church*  
Vladivostok, Russia.  
[www.facebook.com/parishvvo](http://www.facebook.com/parishvvo)

Contact Sisters in Jesus the Lord

[www.cjd.cc](http://www.cjd.cc) (816) 353-2177



[www.facebook.com/sistersinjesusthelord33](http://www.facebook.com/sistersinjesusthelord33)

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Sisters in Jesus the Lord  
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Raytown, MO 64133-5629

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“... the ocean of My mercy... My love and mercy know no bounds.”  
(Jesus’ words to St. Faustina, par. 718)

## 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 website for more information: [www.cjd.cc](http://www.cjd.cc) and [www.facebook.com/sistersinjesusthelord33](https://www.facebook.com/sistersinjesusthelord33).



Photo: Sister Catherine and parishioner Yanina at a Parish Family Day on Russian Island.

### 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

Raytown, MO 64133-5629

### 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.

**Please share this newsletter with all who might be interested in Our Lady of Fatima’s request to convert Russia.**