

March 16, 2014

Dear Friends and Family,

You are daily in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you for praying for us! The fruits of your prayers are evident here.

On January 14th, Sr. Faustina Marie arrived in Vladivostok. She and Sr. Catherine Marie have begun teaching Montessori lessons to the three to five-year-olds in the orphanage three days a week. They have two or three children at a time, and they give individual lessons to the children using hands-on Montessori teaching materials. The children love the lessons! It is one of the only times they have one-on-one time with an adult in a peaceful, quiet environment. Many are developmentally behind, and some do not even speak yet, but they have responded so well to the lessons! One little girl, who arrived stiff and fearful the first day, came to us eagerly on the second day and worked attentively and contently with one set of materials for forty five minutes straight. We are so delighted to be working with these precious little ones!

On January 16th, we moved into our convent on Russian Island. We are so grateful to have our own place where we can welcome students from the university to pray with us and to learn more about the Catholic Faith. We had the first Mass in our convent chapel on February 14th. Renovations continue on the second apartment, where we hope to eventually welcome retreatants to pray and rest.

On March 8th, Women's Day, we gave a rose to each of the women at the elderly home. The women were truly grateful. One woman, upon smelling the rose, said "It's real!" and kissed it to show her delight. Two women said they had never received a rose in their lives.



Once a month, we travel six hours by car with Fr. Myron to Lesozavodsk, where he says Mass and hears confessions for the parishioners and we work with the children. Most of the children, ranging in age from three to fifteen, have never been to church or been taught anything about God. We teach them religious songs and Bible stories, do skits and crafts, and teach them basic truths of the Catholic Faith.

We pray that this Lent may be very fruitful for each of you. May the crosses and trials in your life lead you to more fully rejoice in the resurrection of Christ and new life in Him!

With love and prayers,

Sisters Maria Stella, Catherine Marie, & Faustina Marie