

# MISSION RUSSIA

Sisters in *Jesus* the Lord

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FRESH BLOSSOMS OF THE SPIRIT



## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is Launched in Vladivostok

In November 2017, the sisters launched Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) for the pre-school children at Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Parish in Vladivostok, Russia. CGS is a Montessori-based children's catechesis program centered on Scripture and the liturgy. To aid the children's learning and prayer, the sisters made (and continue to make) hands-on materials for the atrium (CGS classroom), including a model altar, three-dimensional figurines of Bible

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Sr. Faustina Marie paints clay figurines of the Twelve Apostles for teaching Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.



Fr. Daniel Maurer, CJD, with participants at the first Mass for university students in Dom Marii.

## First Student Mass on Russian Island

On March 17, 2018, six students gathered in Dom Marii for the first weekly student Mass on Russian Island. Fr. Daniel Maurer, CJD, celebrated the liturgy and gave an inspiring homily about what an historical event it was for the students to be participating in such a Mass. Students from Russia, Africa, South America, and Indonesia were present.

Recently, our student Mass expanded to include two neighbors! A mother and daughter came to Easter Mass at the main church in Vladivostok and met Fr. Myron Effing, CJD. When he found out they lived on Russian Island, he invited them to come to the student Mass. It is only a ten-minute walk for them through the woods! Little by little, the word is spreading about the Mass. +

*"We know well that with Jesus  
life becomes richer  
and that with Him it is easier to find  
meaning in everything.  
This is why we evangelize."*

Pope Francis  
*Evangelii Gaudium*, 266

# Catholic Student Group Expands

The Catholic university student group, which began meeting regularly last year, is developing. Each Wednesday evening, the sisters host a gathering in Dom Marii for Russian-speaking students to study the Bible and share a meal together. This year, as the number of English-speaking foreign students continues to grow, the sisters have begun a second group for English-speaking students to meet once a month for prayer, supper, and a spiritual talk.

On Christmas Day, the sisters hosted an international student Christmas party with dinner and carols to celebrate the birth of Jesus. December 25th is a regular work/school day in Russia, so the celebration was especially meaningful for those who were far from home, as a reminder of the love of God, Who became a poor baby to bring us salvation. After the party, one foreign student commented, "I was feeling down all day, thinking of my family gathering at home, but now I'm happy. If Christmas will be like this every year, I want to be here every year."

The sisters also held a couple of ice-skating events to foster friendships. Experienced skaters assisted students from warmer climates who had never been on the ice before.

The camaraderie and solidarity that have developed among the students is inspiring. One African student lost his mother this year. Fr. Daniel offered to celebrate a Memorial Mass for her, and twenty students came to offer their condolences and to pray with their friend as he grieved far from home. +



University students pray in the sisters' chapel.



Sr. Faustina Marie and children gather around the prayer table in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium in the Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Church, Vladivostok.

## Catechesis, continued from p. 1

characters, and small Mass vestments. Thank you to all who donated supplies and helped make materials for the atrium!

The faith and love of the children for Jesus is beautiful to see. One day during the lesson, four-year-old Liera prayed, "I love You, Jesus. I hope everything goes well for You. May You never die." Recently at Mass, two of the little ones who used to spend the entire liturgy in the playroom came and knelt in the front row during the consecration. As the priest raised the Body of Christ, they bowed their foreheads to the floor, and they did the same for the Precious Blood. Thank You, Jesus, for speaking to the hearts of children!

In June and July, several of our sisters will be continuing their training for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Thank you for your prayers and support, which have made possible the training and the acquiring of materials! +



Students from the university join the sisters for ice-skating on the bay by Dom Marii. The ice rink is just a five-minute walk from the convent!



Students gather after a memorial Mass for the mother of one of the university students.

## Come, Holy Spirit By Mother Julia Kubista

Robert Cardinal Sarah's excellent book, *The Power of Silence*, emphasizes how important it is to bring silence into our daily lives, so as to know the indwelling God and to grow spiritually. "[T]he Son of God entrusted humanity into the hands of the Holy Spirit, who spreads the love of the Father and silently distributes his light and wisdom." (p. 77) Each Pentecost gives the baptized a fresh start in growing in appreciation of having the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Most Holy Trinity, dwelling in us. I read once that He does not like to push His way into our lives, but longs to be invited. How royally blessed we are to have His help for the asking. Please join us in beseeching Him daily for His light and wisdom. +

- In October, our two postulants arrived in Russia to experience the mission, learn Russian, and participate in the ministries of the sisters.
- The sisters have purchased the last apartment in Dom Marii. Now renovations can begin. Thank you for your prayers and support!
- In June, all of the sisters will be in the United States to make a retreat, visit their families, attend catechesis training, and to be together as a community.



Mother Julia Mary, Sr. Maria Damiana, and Sr. Gemma Maria enjoyed meeting Brother Kumud Chandra, CJD, at the Institute on Religious Life meeting in Mundelein, Illinois, in April. Brother Kumud is a member of the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord, our brother community. He is from India, professed his vows in Vladivostok, and now serves in the United States.



Sr. Catherine Marie congratulates parishioner Yanina on the birth of her first baby, Kirill. Yanina's husband, Emil, is taking the picture. The sisters provided material, emotional, and spiritual support to them before the baby's birth and will continue to assist them as they raise their child.

*O Holy Spirit,*  
 I offer You the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus;  
 His Most Precious Blood;  
 the sorrowful, humble, pure, and obedient  
 Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
 to repair for all my offenses and negligences.  
 I consecrate myself unreservedly to You.  
 I place all my trust in You.  
 Help me to make You better known and loved  
 throughout the world.  
 Give me an intense zeal for souls to console Jesus.  
 Strengthen my love and confidence  
 in our Blessed Mother.

A prayer from a pamphlet by the Living Rosary Society,  
 Dickinson, TX

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Organizers Yulia and Ina pose with Sr. Catherine Marie after the parish Easter talent show in Vladivostok.

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



Photo: Nine-year-old Maxim grills at the parish apologetics group picnic hosted by the sisters 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:**  
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### 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.