

MISSION RUSSIA

Sisters in *Jesus* the Lord

Vol. 20 No. 1

WWW.CJD.CC

Christmas 2024



IN YOU IS UNITY



✧ *Newly Blessed Altar* ✧



Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr. blesses the altar and icon for the Sisters in Jesus the Lord chapel of Our Lady of Fatima at their convent in St. Joseph, Missouri, on June 29.



Fr. Stephen Hansen and the sisters after the first Mass on the newly blessed altar. The altar was beautifully carved and donated by a local craftsman from St. Joseph, Missouri. Thank you to all who gave of their time and talent for the glory and worship of God and prepared a place for us!

✧ *Family Conference* ✧



The first Mass in the sisters' convent chapel in St. Joseph in January. Many volunteers who donated countless hours to renovate the convent attended.



The sisters with a family at the Catholic Family Conference in Khabarovsk, Russia, in November.



Mother Stella and Sr. Faustina after unwrapping the Our Lady of Fatima icon for the sisters' chapel in St. Joseph, Missouri. The icon was written in Vladimir, Russia, donated by the man who carved our altar, and hand-carried by Mother Stella to the U.S. in June. The original was completed in 2006 and hangs in a restored, historic Catholic church in Pushkina, near St. Petersburg.

Our Lady of Fatima Icon

by Mother Maria Stella, CJD

The icon of Our Lady of Fatima, named "In You is Unity," has special meaning for us because Mary has been the main patroness of Russia for centuries. Cardinal Ratzinger once wrote that only the Holy Spirit knows how to unite all the Christian Churches, even though it is not humanly possible because of unforgiveness, pride, stubbornness, etc. The Holy Spirit is the spouse of the Blessed Mother. Russians love Mary, so she will play a particular role here in bringing Christians together. This icon was created through the efforts of a "Catholic priest who contacted Sister Lucia of Fatima and an Orthodox icon writer who received permission to work from his monk confessor" (read the full history at <https://onepeterfive.com/fatimaicon/>).

In You Is Unity

*"Do whatever He tells you."
This is the song of my life.
You see the thorns piercing my heart
His heart was pierced for you
Follow Him! Listen to Him!
Let Him draw you!
It is time to awaken love—
Love for your brother. Love for me. Love for Him.*

~ Poem written on retreat July 2024 ~

*May the love of our Infant Savior fill
your hearts this Christmas!*

Youth Conference



Sr. Faustina with youth at the Steubenville Youth Conference Missouri in July. Sister was a chaperone for the event.

Girls' Altar Sodality



Girls from the Cathedral of St. Joseph gather at the sisters' convent for formation, prayer, and fellowship.

Contact Sisters in Jesus the Lord

www.cjd.cc cjd@cjd.cc

See website to listen to the Sisters' singing.

✧Catechesis✧



Sr. Joanna with Avery, whom she helped to prepare for First Holy Communion at the Cathedral in St. Joseph, Missouri.



Five-year-old Anya delights in playing a clapping game with Sr. Faustina. Anya has Down's Syndrome and has been coming to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium in Vladivostok for weekly lessons.



Frieda and Delia enjoy an autumn walk with the sisters. The girls were baptized in Vladivostok on Easter. Frieda is now preparing for First Communion, and Delia participates in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

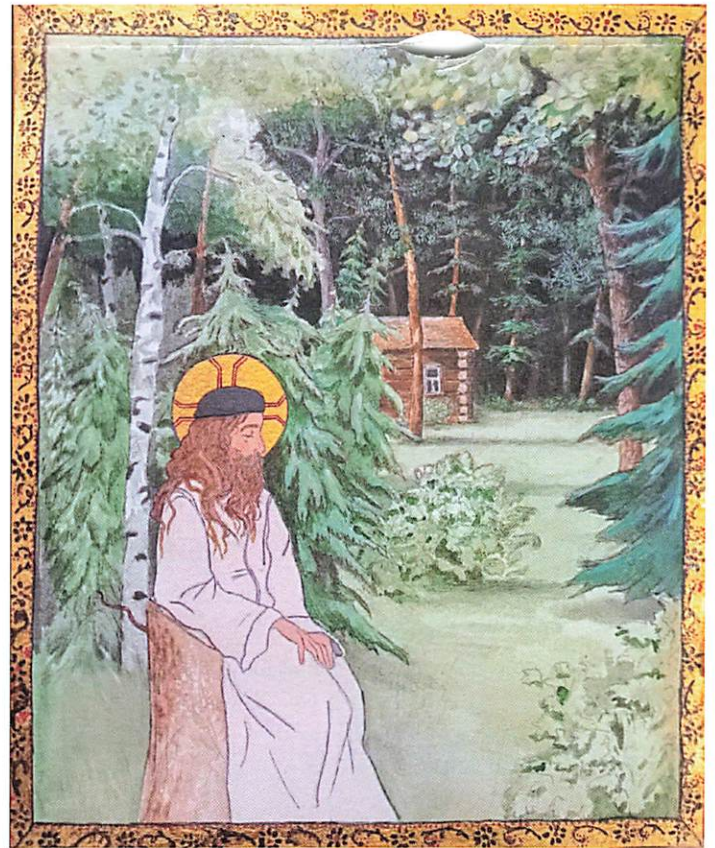


We are in the process of updating our recordkeeping.
Please help us by sending your **current email address, phone number,**
and **communication preferences to donors@cjd.cc.**



✧ A Word from the Poustinia ✧ by Sr. Joanna Marie, CJD

Poustinia is the Russian word for "desert." In Old Russia, there were some who felt called by God to live as the desert fathers and mothers of the Church did. Although much of the wilderness of Russia is far lusher than the arid Sahara, the poustinks, or desert-dwellers, of Russia settled in the woods, far enough from the habitable world so that they could be with God in solitude, but close enough to villages, so that they could avail themselves to those in need. Whatever they received from God in prayer, they knew that it was for the whole world. The poustinia demands the poverty of exterior simplicity, as well as that of the inner man. The poustinik's only treasure is God. In "selling all of his possessions," temporal as well as spiritual, the poustinik's very being *transforms into* wealth, as he becomes filled with his only Possession: Christ. But, first, he must learn to stop holding on to other things, particularly his false idea of himself. He must learn to see himself as both a sinner in need of the Savior, as well as one who is called to be a brilliant icon of the Son of God. The poustinik is called not only to embrace the poverty, humility, and childlikeness of Christ, but also the very Humanity of Christ, Who is the true Prototype of the poustinik.



"Christ the Poustinik," painted by Sr. Joanna.
We have each made poustinia days this fall, inspired by Catherine de Hueck Doherty's book, *Poustinia*.

Christmas 2024

Sisters in Jesus the Lord
Cathedral Convent of St. Joseph
512 N. 11th St.
St. Joseph, MO 64501

Non-Profit
US Postage
PAID
Wing
Printing Co.

Electronic Service Requested



Merry Christmas from St.
Anna Wang of China,
St. Seraphim of Sarov,
and Queen Esther!



MIXED AADC 640 000009 0002708
GEORGE SILLER
911 Coral Ridge Ct
Prosper, TX 75078-7932

How can I help?

BE A PRAYER PARTNER

We send a list of prayer intentions by email each month to our prayer partners. To become a prayer partner with us, please email us at 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.



Photo: Sisters'
retreat at
Lake Baikal in
September

SEND A SISTER TO RUSSIA

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
Cathedral Convent of St. Joseph
512 N. 11th St.
St. Joseph, MO 64501-1825

Wish List

Frequent flier miles: Capital One, any amount; other types, preferably 25,000 miles or more at a time.

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