



March 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

News from the frontlines of our Church

It's hard not to notice all the suffering that surrounds us these days. We witness conflict amongst our Orthodox brethren, poverty, pestilence, and sometimes just bad luck.

Amidst all this suffering, I am encouraged, humbled and thankful that our glorious Church stands steadfast in Her service to us, through prayers, Her clergy, and through Her institutions such as the Fund for Assistance. Without your donations, so much pain would still be felt. Whatever little suffering we have managed to alleviate, we do so in service to Christ, together. Thank you!

Yours,

Mark Selawry

P.S. The full version of the annual report is available at [FundForAssistance.org](http://FundForAssistance.org)

## Your Gift At Work in the Church

How you are helping train ROCOR's greatest asset



Thanks to kind people like you, kids are able to experience a different kind of life... a life centered around Christ, the Church, and the Sacraments.

**This is what makes the St. Herman's Youth Conferences life-changing.**

Kind donors like you sponsored three St. Herman's Conferences in 2023.

Maybe you've heard comments about how youth events are an unnecessary expense... But people who say this could not be more wrong.

Even at a young age, many of these kids already carry deep spiritual wounds that only the Church can heal. But for various reasons, these kids don't feel that they are able to ask for help at home or in their parish.

**This is where St. Herman's Conferences fill the void.** Lifelong friendships start here, the liturgical music careers of cantors and clergy begin here, and future marriages are founded with introductions here. But, most importantly – many young people's Christian education takes root here.

So, thank you so very much for supporting St. Herman's Youth Conferences.



One day soon, some of these kids will give you Holy Communion... Others will direct the choir in your parish... Some of them – with Christ’s help – will steer our Church through the turbulent waters of the future.

But they need your help and support to rebuild the ranks of our Church.

And that’s why we need you. Please continue to support our Church’s future by giving for the St. Herman’s Conferences. **Just follow the QR code to leave a donation. Every dollar helps!**



May the Lord bless you and our next generation forever.

To see reports from each of the three St. Herman’s Conferences, please visit our website, [www.FundForAssistance.org](http://www.FundForAssistance.org).

**Great news about a monk your love has supported!**

## **Mexico: Fr. Nektariy receives a prestigious award**



**Fr Nektariy is honored with the Tlahuicole Award**

Holy Trinity Monastery in Mexico has helped dozens of families who became refugees during the Ukrainian crisis. Through our connections with UNHCR and RC/CARITAS, Fr. Nektariy has managed to help an uncounted number of refugees from Russia in the past two years to legally immigrate to the U.S. or legally stay in Mexico.

All these things have been fully accomplished through the work of the Holy Trinity monastic community – and **with your help.**

If you’ve been following Fr. Nektariy’s life through our newsletters, you know that he and the other monastics support the monastery by working multiple jobs. They offer care and comfort to all who approach them. They teach, translate Orthodox literature into Spanish, and lead people to find the light of Christ.

The monks’ life is not easy. Fr. Nektariy suffers from several serious health concerns, and the economic situation in Mexico is often unstable, making it difficult to achieve self-sufficiency without at least some outside help... But, worst of all, there are those who desperately hate the kind, mild, godly monks who spend their life in prayer...

**As with most missions, good news from Mexico means that they are alive and continuing their work to the glory of the Lord.**

**But this time, everything is different... (see next page)**





Fr. Nektariy has received prestigious “Tlahuicole Award” from the State of Tlaxcala for his work in Mexico in the field of religious freedom, and for assistance to international refugees.

**Axios and many more fruitful years to Fr. Nektariy!**

If you’d like to support Fr. Nektariy’s work, please follow the QR code you see in this article. **The monastery is in desperate needs of monthly support! Please give today.**



**How you saved the ROCOR mission in Korea**  
**Your timely compassion ensured the survival of Orthodoxy in the Land of the Morning Calm**

Last July, Fr. Paul Kang, the head of the tiny (and very interesting!) mission in Okgye-dong, South Korea, contacted the Fund for Assistance, because things were desperate.

The landlord of the parish property (ROCOR really needs to buy its own properties, don’t you think?) came into the church yelling, poking Fr. Paul in the chest with his finger, and demanding his money **RIGHT NOW**.

\$10,000 now, or he’ll change the locks and the parish would lose their prayer space.

For years, the tiny mission in South Korea had been self-sufficient, **funded by its own clergy**.

Seeing how difficult poverty was for the mission and for his father, who was the priest at the time, the current head of the mission, Fr. Paul Kang got a Ph.D. in Physics, and became a successful entrepreneur. Fr. Paul (mostly) single-handedly supported the work of the mission, as well as book translation and publication for several years.

But his business went bankrupt and – since he was supporting it on his own dime – so did the mission.

Metropolitan Nicholas himself asked that FFA help the Korean Orthodox Mission survive...

You answered and the money was collected in just **FIVE** days, allowing Fr. Paul to pay the rent and have some money left over!

To support Fr. Paul Kang with a donation, please point your phone at the QR code.

**May the Lord bless you for helping this tiny mission continue its work!**



**ROCOR is growing!**

We’ve been approached about assisting several more ROCOR missions around the world: in the Dominican Republic, the Trinidad, Cuba, Jamaica, and more.

Is there a particular mission you’d like to hear more about?





## Haiti: Responding to power and violence with love & prayer

News from Haiti is still disturbing... Shooting, looting, and so much suffering...



Our mission is surviving as best it can. Normal life has come to a screeching halt. Unemployment, grinding poverty, hunger, inflation, and violence are old news.

As Matushka Rose Legouté wrote, **“the mission celebrated Holy Nativity with joy in their hearts and a hope for a return to order.”**

Sadly, their annual Nativity festal lunch, for which the clergy and faithful used to gather for years, had to be cancelled.

In your charity, please pray for the mission in Haiti. Things are bad. And they desperately need extra prayers and monetary support. Even \$5/month will help feed a family of four for a whole week!

## Pakistan: How you provided Christmas gifts to a whole parish

Here's a letter for you from Fr. Joseph Farooq, head of the ROCOR mission in Pakistan:

In Pakistan, Christians get very rare opportunities to celebrate social events together. So our church provides them an opportunity for their spiritual growth and strengthening their faith; this also a chance to share joy and happiness and to eat good food.

Our women's group at the Saint Matrona Adult Education and Sewing Center and the Youth of Saint Michael the Archangel prepared food for 400 of the faithful. It was a very blessed time for all of us.

Thank you, dear ones, for your support and care for our little flock in Pakistan! We cannot do without you!

With love,

Fr. Joseph



# Ukrainian Christians persevere in the face of humiliations, slander, and attacks

Did you know that the Ukrainian government officially canceled Old Calendar Nativity and Theophany? The whole might of the propaganda machine came crashing down on the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Here's what our sources in Ukraine tell us.

There were numerous announcements in the media warning Christians that the **Old Calendar had been canceled(!)**.

Worse yet, a new rule requires members of the canonical Church to physically destroy(!) the churches they have built themselves if something is wrong with the documents. And there's pretty much always something wrong.

The big historical churches which were confiscated and given to the noncanonical church are empty.

The faithful gather in private houses or apartments, trying to be quiet.

**And please give today. Every dollar helps the suffering. You can just point your phone at the QR code, which will take you to our PayPal link. Or you can always give a donation on our website, [www.FundForAssistance.org/donate](http://www.FundForAssistance.org/donate).**

In Lvov, the faithful started gathering at the priest's house (which he legally owns) after the confiscation of their church, but a mob broke the fence and the door, trying to scare people away.

But not all news is bad.

Although persecuted, the faithful keep cheerful and try to do some good to their people. Thanks to your help, humanitarian aid was delivered to several regions, hundreds of people have received hot meals and humanitarian packs, and over 500 children received Christmas presents and school bags.

**"You are the only ones who are helping us. The Red Cross is not helping, the government is not helping,"** said our contact in the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Please pray for them and continue to support them when their own government is trying to destroy them – just like the Soviet government did 100 years ago...



**Your kindness  
fed suffering  
people in  
Svyatogorsk  
Monastery and  
other places**

# **ROCOR church musicians receive much needed help – thanks to you.**

## **Here's How You Keep ROCOR Music Alive**

So much of the beauty and theology of Holy Orthodoxy is found in its hymnody, and a good choir can truly transport worshippers from earth to Heaven. **That's why kind donors like you have generously supported choir work.**

In 2023, donors like you – who care deeply about keeping up the ROCOR musical tradition – have supported a total of *three choral training events*:

- A choir conference in Ottawa, featuring multiple lectures on the musical heritage of Rachmaninoff and all things choral singing, including a conducting masterclass by Dr. Vladimir Morosan, Founder and President of Musica Russica;
- An intense two weeks of a choral conducting program in Nanuet, New York, led by the Summer School of Liturgical Music, where students took classes in Church Slavonic, Typicon, Church Music History, Liturgical Performance, Practice, Music Theory, Sight Singing, Choral Methods, and Voice;
- A laser-focused choral/conductor training program in Staten Island, New York, led by Maestro Vladimir Gorbik, focusing on developing Orthodox sound and correct diction, as well as conducting technique and correct hand articulation for directing any part of the divine services, including conducting the tones. (*Visit [www.FundForAssistance.org](http://www.FundForAssistance.org) to read "ROCOR's Maestro" – how you helped Vladimir Gorbik's fantastic work training ROCOR singers and directors!*)

**Thanks to you, several dozen ROCOR church musicians have benefitted from these choral events.**

They came away with more knowledge and skills, as well as having made friends and joined a support network. They went back to their choirs invigorated and ready to serve the Lord – and their parishes – better.

The truth is, your kindness and generosity make sure that our church music keeps sounding beautiful – for the glory of God! Thank you!

**If you feel especially strongly about the need to train more choral singers in ROCOR, please give now by pointing your phone at the QR code at the bottom of this article. Because without your help, many choral singers and conductors will be left without the training they need!**



**If you read this newsletter and feel that the need is overwhelming, don't despair. It's always been like this. And yet, God has never let us down. Despite all the challenges, our Church is still going strong. It's clear that He wants us to keep going – with His help. Remember: the gates of Hell shall not prevail against the Church! Please give today to support the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, pray for us, or inquire how to leave a gift in your Will.**

May God bless you for your kindness.  
Mark Selawry, FFA President



| <b>FFA Year End 2023 Summary Financial Report</b> |  |                  |                  |               |
|---|--|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>USDollars</b>                                  |  |                  |                  |               |
|   |  |                  |                  |               |
|   |  | <b>Year 2023</b> | <b>Year 2022</b> | <b>%</b>      |
| <b>Unrestricted Donations</b>                     |  |                  |                  |               |
| Regular contributions                             |  | 281,534          | 236,632          | 19.0          |
| Appeals and programs                              |  | 20,543           | 16,253           | 26.4          |
| Other   |  |                  |                  |               |
|   |  |                  |                  |               |
|   |  |                  |                  |               |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Donations</b>               |  | <b>302,077</b>   | <b>252,885</b>   | <b>19.5</b>   |
| <b>Designated Donations</b>                       |  |                  |                  |               |
| Regular contributions                             |  | 96,462           | 152,721          | -36.8         |
| Appeals and programs                              |  | 316,984          | 420,274          | -24.6         |
| Last wills & Testaments                           |  | 0                | 0                | 100.0         |
| Other   |  | 0                | 0                |               |
|   |  |                  |                  |               |
| <b>Total Designated Donations</b>                 |  | <b>413,446</b>   | <b>572,995</b>   | <b>-27.8</b>  |
|   |  |                  |                  |               |
| <b>Total Donations</b>                            |  | <b>715,523</b>   | <b>825,880</b>   | <b>-13.4</b>  |
|   |  |                  |                  |               |
| <b>Interest Revenue</b>                           |  | <b>13,888</b>    | <b>175</b>       | <b>7836.0</b> |
| <b>Benevolent Disbursements</b>                   |  |                  |                  |               |
| Missions and Monasteries                          |  | 220,491          | 234,491          | -6.0          |
| Clergy support                                    |  | 35,610           | 50,380           | -29.3         |
| Educational                                       |  | 53,612           | 94,111           | -43.0         |
| Youth Ministry                                    |  | 32,625           | 17,000           | 91.9          |
| Other   |  | 132,611          | 406,008          | -67.3         |
|   |  |                  |                  |               |
| <b>Total Benevolent Disbursements</b>             |  | <b>474,949</b>   | <b>801,990</b>   | <b>-40.8</b>  |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>                         |  |                  |                  |               |
| Appeals   |  | 41,369           | 31,234           | 32.4          |
| Office Expenses                                   |  | 4,414            | 2,317            | 90.5          |
| Wages & Salaries                                  |  | 188,126          | 172,852          | 8.8           |
| Insurance   |  | 2,036            | 1,800            | 13.1          |
| Travel & Meetings                                 |  | 1,805            | 2,010            | -10.2         |
| IT & Communications                               |  | 5,900            | 8,811            | -33.0         |
| Accounting & Legal                                |  | 48               | 90               | -46.7         |
| Bank Fees   |  | 2,800            | 2,420            | 15.7          |
| Training  |  | 333              | 4,537            | -92.7         |
| Other   |  | 2,600            | 882              | 194.8         |
|   |  |                  |                  |               |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b>                   |  | <b>249,431</b>   | <b>226,953</b>   | <b>9.9</b>    |
|   |  |                  |                  |               |
| <b>Net Gain/Loss</b>                              |  | <b>5,031</b>     | <b>-202,888</b>  | <b>100.0</b>  |
| <b>Financial Status as of Dec 31, 2023</b>        |  |                  |                  |               |
| Net Gain/<Loss>                                   |  | 5,031            | (202,888)        |               |
| Balance from Prior Year                           |  | 841,213          | 1,044,101        |               |
|   |  |                  |                  |               |
| <b>AMOUNT FORWARD TO 1/1/2024</b>                 |  | <b>846,244</b>   | <b>841,213</b>   |               |