



June 2021

VESTNIK

News from the frontlines of our Church



A hungry priest? Not on your watch...

YOU MEAN THE WORLD TO FR ALEKSANDER. HERE'S WHY...

Like every priest who's ever applied for help to the Fund for Assistance, Fr Aleksander had nowhere else to turn to.

The poverty of the mission is so great that at one point Fr Aleksander and Matushka sold their wedding rings just to be able to keep the mission going.

Without help from generous people like you, the missions' days would have been numbered. Fr Aleksander's family could barely afford to buy rice. And many of the parishioners – devout Orthodox Christians who lived in similar poverty – would have lost their priest and their church. **But then came YOU...**





You are the reason the mission in Bali is growing and strengthening in Christ!

Now, thanks to your incredible kindness, the mission is doing as well as possible. Fr Aleksander is not only serving his parishioners, he is growing his parish. Right before Pascha, he converted and baptized eight more people!

Thanks to you, the mission in Bali is growing. Because you didn't let their priest starve... And because you took care of his modest earthly needs, he is able to preach the Gospel and help spiritually hungry people find Jesus Christ.

May God bless your kind heart always!

Thank you for feeding the hungry and helping spread the Gospel to the ends of the Earth!

Mexico: You Just Can't Stop Caring, can You?



Have you heard? Mexico has been hard-hit by the pandemic. But thanks to you, people are surviving.

For years, the tiny monastery struggled under incredibly heavy burdens. The small brotherhood works like bees: studying at universities, translating Orthodox literature into Spanish, painting icons, making candles, taking care of a very large and very poor flock.

Heading the monastery is Fr Nektariy, a small man in his 50s. But a giant of the Orthodox Faith. And one of the most highly educated people we've ever had the honor to meet.

Because of the pandemic, Fr Nektariy lost most of his jobs – and the income the monastery relies on to survive.



But you heeded God's call and took care of this luminary of our Faith. Here's how...

Thanks to you and kind people like you, Fr Nektariy and the brethren of Holy Trinity Monastery were able to survive 2020 and help others.

Unsurprisingly, even though Fr Nektariy suddenly had so much more time, he took on even more work – of *healing*.

And this is what you've helped this amazing man do:

To this day – for a full year – he has been treating patients in his community.



Most of the people he has treated have fully recovered from COVID! The brethren were able to celebrate Pascha at the monastery, albeit with many precautions.

No matter what's going on in the world, our Church is very much alive as long as you are part of Her. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

FR NEKTARIY IS PRAYING FOR EACH OF YOU WHO HELPED HIM.

HE ASKED TO SAY: "CHRIST IS RISEN!" TO YOU AND TO CONVEY HIS OVERWHELMING GRATITUDE FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

**Life offers only two options for people like Marie:
The terror of abandonment or the comfort of your love.**

You're creating a tiny slice of Heaven in Haiti!

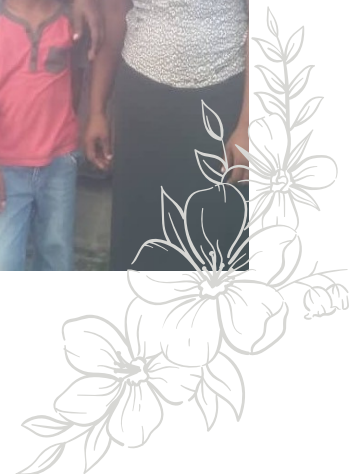
This is Marie Laguerre and her two children. Marie is a single mother.

Thanks to you and other incredibly generous people like you... Marie can pay her rent and get medicine for her son (he has serious health problems).

Before you came into their lives, Marie and her children felt unwanted and unloved.

There was nobody to help them. But you cherish, love, and care for them. Thank you.

May God bless your generous heart!



"Don't Stop Learning"- How You Helped Orthodox Choir Directors During COVID

This time, you helped create multi-jurisdictional waves among Orthodox directors. Here's how.

Thanks to you, **over 70 Orthodox choir directors from multiple jurisdictions met online** and learned how to improve their directing – so their parishes pray better. (Who doesn't need better prayers these days?!)

You probably know that ***too many choir directors feel under-prepared*** when they find themselves in charge of a parish choir.

Many have no musical training at all. Some are converts, never had experience singing in (let alone directing) an Orthodox choir, don't know the tones, the rubrics, etc.

The list of problems is impressive. But you helped!

Because **you know** that the prayer life of a parish depends on the way the choir sounds.

A choir can either help or hinder prayer. But, we're preaching to the choir... (pun intended).

Here's how you helped directors from over 70 different Orthodox parishes:



Vladimir Gorbik taught 70 choir directors - thanks to YOU!

Because of your generosity, these choir directors were able to train *online* with Vladimir Gorbik (chief choir director at the Holy Trinity-St Sergius Lavra in Russia) for 10 days.

You may have heard of the many master classes Gorbik has held in the United States to help choir directors in the Western world over the last 10 years.

Thanks in part to our donors who helped hold this online event, Vladimir also started an online program helping struggling Orthodox choir directors – **The Gorbik Method.**

The idea behind this program is to help any church musician – regardless of their level – to get the help they need in directing a church choir.

This would have been impossible without your help!

We've since heard that many of our own ROCOR choir directors have already improved their directing thanks to this online event.

Thank you for caring so much about the music in our Church!

P.O.Box 272, Glen Cove, NY 11542 917-817-2925 FundForAssistance.org