

# VESTNIK



Fund for Assistance to the  
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia  
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*The mission of the Fund for Assistance is to support the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, specifically, the moral-spiritual education of youth, aid to its clergy and distribution of emergency relief to its missions.*



THE MITEY MITES



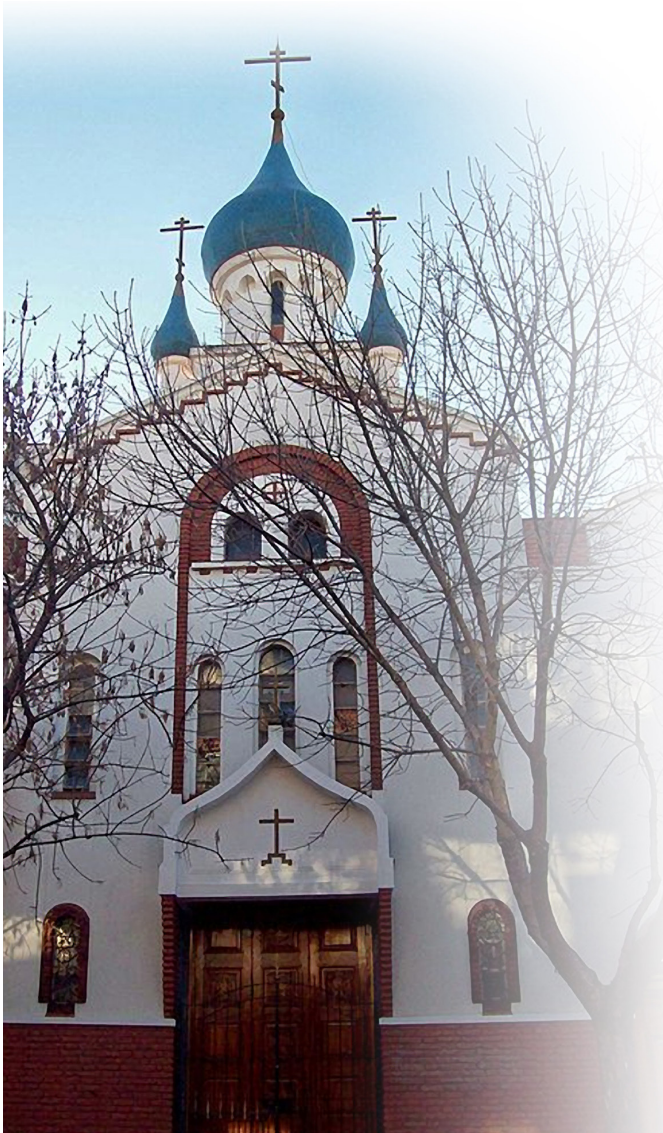
YOUTH SUPPORT



HAITI

## How **You** Kept a Parish Open in Buenos Aires

*Your compassion allowed a priest to continue serving his church*



“The situation at the Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Buenos Aires was sad, but simple: if they couldn’t find the funds to support their priest, who doesn’t have a work permit in Argentina, he would have to leave the country. Because even priests cannot feed their families without an income.

We asked you for help, and you rose marvelously to the occasion. We hoped to raise \$36,000 to enable Fr. Sergio Silva to stay in Buenos Aires and serve the parish full-time. Thanks to your compassion, we have already collected \$24,000!

Just a little bit more, and with your help, the parish will have funds to support their priest for a full year! If you haven’t yet given, please help! Fr. Sergio prays for each donor who helped him by name at all Liturgies he serves.

## Why Do We Give? - the Mitey Mites

*A small parish in McKinney, TX is training its youngest generation in alms-giving.*



***Every dollar donated goes directly to the cause specified. We are always impressed by FFA's responsiveness, organization, and stewardship. It is one of the best ways that we can contribute to the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ.***

A few years ago, members of the St Nicholas parish were discussing ways to teach kids about sharing; eventually resulting in a delightful weekly tradition called “The Mitey Mites”; an initiative that has supported various FFA causes through raising funds over the years, including the Orthodox Mission in Haiti, Holy Cross Hermitage (Wayne, WV), Holy Trinity Monastery (Jordanville, NY), the clergy fund and more.

The name comes from the story of the poor widow who could only give two mites (the smallest coin in Israel at the time), while the rich gave large sums, and yet our Lord Jesus Christ said that she gave the most out of all.

Fr. Seraphim Holland, rector of the parish, asked parishioners to save their pocket change throughout the week to contribute to a weekly collection for specific needs and missions.

“It is very “Mitey,” says Fr. Seraphim. “The money collected is usually near a hundred dollars. All the children bring their folded and mutilated bills (they can be very creative) and coins, and are very excited to plop them noisily into the bowl.”

***FFA: What do you wish others knew about FFA?***

***Fr. Seraphim: FFA needs your support and will be a good steward of your hard-earned money. They will help you to help those who need your help. We often feel more confident that our “widow’s mite” is helping something that we truly believe in without reservation.***





# Five Reasons you should never SUPPORT Youth Events



## 1) Friends are overrated. There's always Facebook!

There's a very high chance young people will feel a sense of belonging outside of social media sites. Do you really want that?!

*"It's a little bit lonely, being Orthodox in America. But gatherings like St. Herman's make it a whole lot less so," - Matthew, 15.*

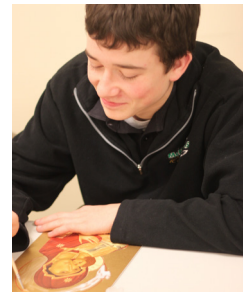
*"When young people have an opportunity to spend time together, it strengthens them and helps them go back to their parish reinvigorated," Rev. Gregory Joyce.*

## 2) Kids might actually ENJOY learning about the Church

What if they find out about the history of the Church or about our Liturgy? Keep them in the dark!!!

*"At these conferences I always really like the lectures about the saints" - Peter, 20.*

*"You'll definitely be enriched in your faith" - Matthew, 15.*



## 3) Kids might accidentally become more ACTIVE in your parish

What if a young person wants to take over cleaning the floors after church?!

*"These young people will be the temporal leaders of the Church: the future priests, parish council members, choir directors, etc. - the people who will help lead the churches. When they have a good spiritual foundation that the St Herman's program can provide for them, it really helps them get along the way as a spiritual person," Rev. Gregory Joyce*

## 4) What if young people have ...F-U-N?! *"Conferences like these really help to stay in the faith and see that there are other people like them" Daria, 15.*

What's fun got to do with Orthodoxy?

*"We can read the Gospel as many times as we like, but we will never find a prohibition against having fun. Saving your soul should be fun" Rev. Gregory Joyce*

## 5) Strengthening your faith is simply dangerous

Better not give them any chances. What if they want to dedicate their lives to Church?! It's happened before!

*"Kids are in a community of like-minded young people who are also dedicated to the life of the Church. That faith can be really contagious" -Metropolitan Jonah (Paffhausen)*

*Thank you for supporting events like St Herman's Youth Conferences! We are gearing up for supporting 3 St. Herman's conferences this year. Please don't believe any of the reasons above and support the future of our wonderful Church. We wrote this because we know you do care very much. And we love you for it. Thank you for being there for our youth and our Church!*

Watch the video *"Why you should never attend St Herman's"* on our website, Facebook and YouTube page!



## Blessings and challenges at the Orthodox Mission in Haiti: Interview with Priest Gregoire Legouté

*Priest Gregoire Legouté, one of the two older priests of the Orthodox Mission in Haiti, told us about the ways FFA donors like you have changed the lives of the mission members for the better, and about the challenges they face daily.*

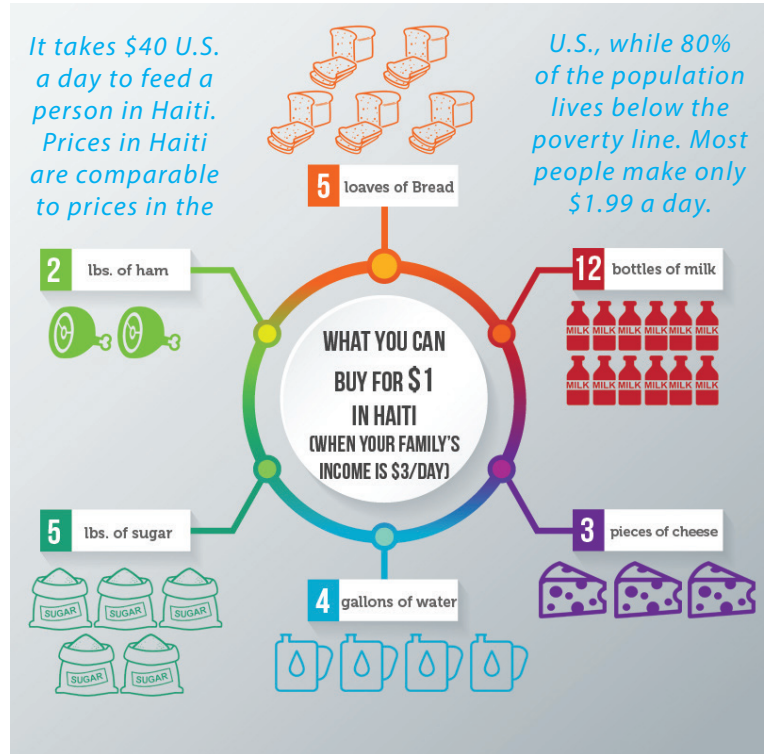


### FFA: Why is it important to support the mission?

Fr. Gregoire Legouté: Most of our parishioners are unemployed. Finding work is not an easy feat in Haiti, even if you have several diplomas. Life is very expensive here. You work for gourdes (Haitian National currency. 55 Haitian Gourdes = \$1 U.S. – ed., August 2015), but you buy in dollars. Because of the drought, the plantations have been lost. There are political problems and insecurity, which deter investors. Having employment is very rare.

People come to the mission for help daily: some look for food or medication, some look for help paying for their children’s school. Members of the community, parishioners in need – they all think that the priest will be able to give them at least a little something.

We give them our clothes, if they ask for them, food (mostly rice and peas) that we have at the school canteen, some money, and – most importantly – hope. The mission is well-known in Haiti for its acts of charity.



### FFA: What would you like the Orthodox World to know about the mission?

Fr. Gregoire Legouté: We would like everyone to know that the Orthodox Mission in Haiti is alive. That the Orthodox community in Haiti is very spiritual and God-loving.

**Watch the interview with Fr. Gregoire on our website, Facebook or YouTube page!**

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you could still be  
helping your Church!**

*Leave a gift in your Will to your favorite charity... and you will create a personal legacy that will last forever! Our informative new brochure "A Guide to Wills and Bequests" explains everything you need to know in non-technical terms. To request your free copy, please call Alena Plavsic at (917)817-2925 or email [alena@fundforassistance.org](mailto:alena@fundforassistance.org)*

#### Our Promise

**Your money – your decision: 100% of all donations directly fund the cause indicated by the donor.  
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[fundforassistance.org](http://fundforassistance.org)**



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