



DEACON ANDREI PSAREV WITH HIS FAMILY

# Fund for Assistance to ROCOR 2013 Annual Report

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## The year you changed everything: Fr Andrei's story

**Every time you give to FFA, someone like Deacon Andrei Psarev works hard to honor your generosity. Because without you, his story may have been very different.**

Jordanville, NY, is not an easy place to live — especially if you have a family to support.

There are very few employment opportunities, even for someone as highly educated as Deacon Andrei Psarev, who is pursuing a PhD in Byzantine studies and writing a unique textbook on the history of our Church, so he can serve ROCOR even better.

"If someone told me 20 years ago that I would be bringing up three kids, and supporting my wife and my mother-in-law, while working three

jobs and writing my PhD thesis, I'd never have believed them," he said.

With five people depending on him for survival, Fr Andrei is not simply trying to pay a few extra bills — he struggles to feed his family. No matter how much they scrimp and save, they need to cover a significant deficit every single month.

"Last year I had to work three low-paying jobs on top of my duties as a professor. This is a matter of mere survival. As a result, I have been unable to apply myself to my academic projects," he said.

**Aside from his teaching, Fr Andrei's biggest contribution to the Church is his website: [ROCORstudies.org](http://ROCORstudies.org), (continued on p. 2)**



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which combines rare historical material with deep scholarly analysis– the only one of its kind in the world. Church scholars all over the world have come to depend on this site for unique historical information, interviews and photos, most of which are not available anywhere else.

A steadfast dedication to the Church has led Fr Andrei Psarev and his family of five to settle in Jordanville, NY, within a short distance from Holy Trinity Monastery. He serves at the monastery and teaches future clergymen at Holy Trinity Seminary and the Pastoral School of Chicago.

And if his poverty prevents him from serving the Church, what were all the years of suffering for?

Although we are not in a position to solve his main problem yet, with your generous help, we've been able

to help Fr Andrei and all the church scholars who love and use his website! Thanks to your generosity, Fr Andrei received a small stipend.

This allowed him to work on his dissertation, search for new historical materials, and update his incredibly useful site.

**“The support of you – ROCOR members – has meant so much to me,” said Fr Andrei. “It encourages me, letting me know that what I am doing is needed by my Church.”**

We are so grateful to you, our donors, for giving us the opportunity to help this amazing person. Because he is doing what nobody else seems to be doing in the world (at least to such a degree) – he dedicated his



life to the history of our Church!

**THANK YOU FOR KEEPING  
OUR CHURCH STRONG!**

## In 2013 YOU:

- **Ensured the Future of our Church**  
You sent 165 young people to St Herman's youth conferences where they gained a deeper knowledge and appreciation of our faith.
- **Gave four clergy families peace of mind**  
Most of our clergy are uninsured. Thanks to you, four clergy families had health insurance!
- **Supported the scholars of our Church**  
Your support allowed us to provide stipends to 13 excellent ROCOR scholars
- **Ensured the life of 5 parishes**  
You allowed five priests to continue serving their parish

And much more!

**In 2013 YOU directly assisted 351 people and many more indirectly! Thank you!**

**Thank YOU for keeping our Church strong!**

## The miracle you created at Holy Cross Hermitage

Your outpouring of support for Holy Cross Hermitage in Wayne, WV, in 2013 has meant that one person's life there was changed. And by supporting him, you helped the whole community of this wonderful monastery.



"Christ is Risen!" – rang Igumen Seraphim's triumphant voice through the small packed church. "Truly He is Risen!" – replied brethren and parishioners alike, many with tears of joy. Pascha of 2014 was even more joyous for them than usual. After months of pain and suffering, months of aggressive treatment for his cancer, Fr Seraphim was finally able to serve again.

Only a short time before, he would spend weeks in a reclining chair, trying to beat the pain and exhaustion from operations and radiation therapy, sleeping 2-3 hours a night, suffering from radiation burns that seeped into his tissues from inside out, long after the therapy sessions were over. He had a hard time moving around, he couldn't serve, but he never stopped seeing the scores of people who came to him every week for confession, advice, and a few loving words.

"It was amazing how he kept talking to people, confessing and consoling them in their troubles every day throughout his sickness," says Hieromonk Alexander (Frizell).

Even when he himself needed consolation and rest.

Igumen Seraphim (Voepel) holds a special place in the hearts of monastics and friends of Holy Cross Hermitage. He is not only one of the builders of the small monastery in West Virginia, but also father-confessor, guide and driving force of the monastery.

When people found out about his diagnosis and the possibility of him not being able to make it, many were devastated.

“When the head of your family has a life-threatening disease, it’s very hard,” said Fr Alexander. “There was lots of fear, questions as to whether he’d be able to endure all this.”

On top of that, the brethren knew they couldn’t afford the cancer treatments. **But then you came in!**

“Thanks to your generous help we were able to cover over \$15,000 for Fr Seraphim’s medical costs, which no insurance would have covered,” said Fr Alexander.

The brethren were also able to buy a reliable car to take Fr Seraphim to the hospital for daily treatments.

**Today, Igumen Seraphim is cancer-free. This is, in part, thanks to your timely and kind help.**

“Having Fr. Seraphim healthy again is invaluable for the community as he vigilantly looks after the spiritual needs not only of every member of the monastic community, but hundreds of visitors each year as well,” said Fr Alexander.

May God bless you for your great generosity!



**“Thank you for your generous support to our monastery during my struggle with cancer. It has meant a great deal to me personally and to our whole community.”**

Igumen Seraphim

# Jordanville Update: How you touched lives at Holy Trinity Monastery

Your tremendous response to our fundraising drive for Holy Trinity Monastery resulted in over \$168,000 in assistance in 2013. Thanks to your generosity, the brethren have been able to make improvements in several areas of their life, which would not have been possible had they not benefited from your financial support. Our mission prevents us from sponsoring repairs, but there was a lot of interest from our donors to help the monastery, so we agreed to help the brethren with day-to-day expenses, which freed up funds for the needed repairs. Here's how you helped Holy Trinity Monastery in 2013 in the words of monastery accountant *Hieromonk Theophylact*.



## Healthier Food - 40%

"We have reached a good balance, so that we can perform our obediences and prayers. We have more fresh fruit, vegetables and protein every day, so we maintain our health."



## New Infirmary - 5%

"We now have a real infirmary with equipment for first aid, and also rooms with hospital beds for ill monastics. Here they can be given frequent Communion and can listen to the services which are piped into the infirmary."



## Mobile chair for Fr Job - 1%

"Our oldest monk Fr. Job suffers from severe arthritis. He has been dragging himself to church with two crutches for years. He now has a mobile chair, so he can ride to church by himself."



## Health Insurance - 50%

"We cannot afford insurance for everyone. This money was spent on medical care (insurance and medical bills) for the monastics and teachers."

# Your generosity in action - a day at the FFA

In response to questions from our donors, Development Manager Alena Plavsic gives you a glimpse into our daily lives.

## What kind of people does the FFA help?

**AP:** We get a lot of requests nearly every week - from ROCOR members from all over the world. But we have a strict mandate that we must abide by: we support clergy, youth and emergency relief.

## How do you choose whom to assist?

**AP:** Aside from our responsibility to our donors to stick to the mandate, we do not always have the funds to help everyone in need. We regularly get really heart-wrenching cases that we simply cannot help, because they don't fit the mandate, or we don't have the funds. One was from a really admirable member of ROCOR who spent years working for the benefit of our Church, instead of pursuing a more lucrative career elsewhere. It would have been easy with his background. Instead he chose to devote his life to the Church, but had to work as a garbage collector to pay his bills. Because he wasn't clergy, we couldn't help. It was very sad.

## Many of FFA clients are members of the Eastern American Diocese. Why is that?

**AP:** Our activities are not limited to the Eastern American Diocese. In 2013 we sponsored St Herman's youth conferences in all three dioceses in the US, an Orthodox family retreat in Germany, a small mission in the Chicago and Mid-America Diocese, a struggling priest in Uganda, and three projects in the South American diocese: needy priests in Argentina and in Chile, and a small monastery in Mexico.

## Where does your funding come from?

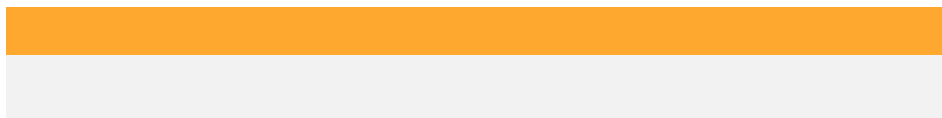
**AP:** All funding comes from our generous donors and Board members. We have no endowment or any other source of income.

## What is the one thing you wish donors knew about FFA?

**AP:** We want you to know how much we appreciate what our donors do for our Church! I never stop being amazed by the love our donors have for our Church. Some write us touching notes, actually apologizing for the smallness of their gift. Others make sure to send us a monthly gift or an extra gift when they have unexpected money. I want to say to all our donors: we are so grateful to have you as our friends. Your thoughts, prayers and moral support are incredibly important! We couldn't do a thing without you.

## What is it important to support FFA?

**AP:** I get to see how a little help to one person can drastically change the life of a whole Orthodox community for the better: priests with large families are able to continue serving their parishes, instead of having to take on *several more jobs* to make ends meet; young people stay in Church because they attended a conference or pilgrimage. It's amazing. Thank you for the funding, and if I could say, please, keep it coming. Your impact is amazing!



## **2013 Financial Report**

<b>REVENUE</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 692,485.39</b>
Unrestricted Donations	452,951.76
<b>Appeals</b> - Calendar, Pasha, Emergency Relief, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Hurricane Sandy & Needy	102,951.76
<b>Individual Donations, Wills &amp; Estates</b>	350,000.00
Holy Trinity Monastery	94,387.85
Haiti Mission & HOFR Donations	67,905.20
Medical Insurance, Payments & Contributions	19,450.70
Clergy Welfare Fund	22,646.14
<b>Other Donations</b> - Uganda, Hermitage of Holy Cross, Mexican Monastery, Education & Seminaries, Youth Ministry, Homeless, REM, Chile, Costa Rica, Holy Land, St. John Academy, Vestnik, Synod Church, EAD	30,172.16
Returned Wire	1,819.08
Medical Insurance Refund	3,135.00
ADP Wages & Tax Reversal	17.50
<b>DISBURSEMENTS &amp; EXPENSES</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 627,755.23</b>
Benevolent Disbursements	507,078.82
Holy Trinity Monastery	168,242.27
Clergy Health Insurance	94,272.00
Clergy Welfare Fund	74,151.48
Youth Ministry	47,720.00
Haiti Mission HOFR Program	36,000.00
Eastern American Diocese of ROCOR	27,481.88
Education & Seminaries	17,405.00
<b>Other Needs</b> - Uganda, Hermitage of Holy Cross, Chile, Hurricane Sandy Victims, Holy Transfiguration Church, St. Nicholas Church, REM, St. Brigid's Orthodox Mission	41,806.19
Fundraising Appeals Expenses	46,546.26
Insurance	2,412.00
Health Insurance	2,829.00
Office Expenses, includes travel	13,825.27
Wages includes wages, taxes & payroll fees	33,316.92
Returned Checks	18,485.00
Bank Fees & Adjustments	3,261.96
<b>INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ 64,730.16</b>

<b>FINANCIAL STATUS</b>	
Income (Loss)	\$ 64,730.16
Balance from 2012	320,765.94
Stopped Checks	7,690.00
Interest	\$ 1,209.49
<b>AMOUNT FORWARD TO 1/1/14</b>	<b>\$ 394,395.59</b>
In Checking Account	\$ 72,509.24
Money Market Accounts	325,286.35
Outstanding Checks	(3,400.00)
<b>ON DEPOSIT AS OF 12/31/13</b>	<b>\$ 394,395.59</b>

- NOTES: 1. All specifically designated donations are given to the designated causes, sometimes done in the next fiscal year.  
 2. The unusually high Returned Checks value was due to one contribution that was sent by a check that was not covered. This contribution was then received by our fund in 2014.  
 3. Returned Wire was resent upon receipt of proper banking information.

# We love to hear from you!

Please let us know why you donate or volunteer, how we are doing, what we could improve!

For more details and other news, please visit our site at [fundforassistance.org](http://fundforassistance.org)

## Help us help others

In 2013 the Fund for Assistance was obliged on more than one occasion to delve into its operating account in order to help those in need. We ask your support not only in achieving our stated goals, but also in supporting the Fund for Assistance itself, so that we might continue to work for the benefit of our Church.

## Volunteer work in the Fund for Assistance

We are in need of assistance in disseminating information on our work, collecting funds, writing articles, conducting interviews, translating and editing documents, photography, programming, and general day-to-day operations. Help us help ROCOR! Together we can accomplish much!

For more information, please contact Alena Plavšić by phone at 917-817-2925 or at [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.**

Help us save money on paper: sign up for our e-mail updates on our website!

Thank you for your support!

# Pssst! You probably noticed...

That this report is in English only...

The reason: we are trying to cut paper and mailing costs, which come out of our ... you guessed it:

FFA General "nuts and bolts" fund! Times are tough, so we had to cut corners.

The less we have for operational expenses, the less work we can do for our Church. And we want to do much more because we owe it to Her and to you!

Please let us know if you *really* want to receive our publications in Russian, too! We'll try our best for you.

**Why? Because without you, we are nothing. YOU keep our Church strong. THANK YOU from all of us at the Fund for Assistance to our wonderful Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia!**

By the way, all materials are bilingual on our website: [fundforassistance.org](http://fundforassistance.org)