



March 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

News from the frontlines of our Church

In 2024, your kind support meant that our Church survived many challenges!

I and the many people you've helped last year are sending you gratitude and prayers for everything you've done for our Church in 2024.

Thank you for being an angel in disguise for so many suffering Orthodox Christians!

I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful things that have happened thanks to your help!

PARAGUAY

You helped a priest buy the bare necessities

Last year, ROCOR gained several new missions all over the world. This is wonderful news, because our Church is growing, people are seeking Christ and His Kingdom, and more and more people are finding answers to their questions in Orthodoxy.

However...

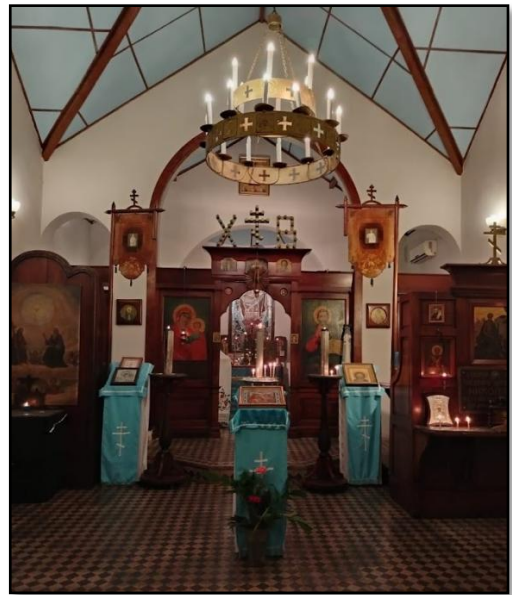
This means that these new missions need support.

And – glory to God – you've found a way to support them!

Take Archpriest Sergei Kazarin from the ROCOR mission in Paraguay, for example. The mission parish reopened after many decades of occasional visits by Orthodox priests from various jurisdictions.

Needless to say, Fr. Sergei – a cheerful, energetic man in his 60s, had precious little to start his service, and organize any kind of home life. He had to leave his wife in Russia, because they simply couldn't survive on \$100 per month. His clothes and shoes eventually wore out and he couldn't buy new ones. There was no heating in his house, and he had to borrow a gas tank to make tea and cook.

But then *you* came in.



After a couple of months of your support, Fr. Sergei sounds very upbeat:

Thanks to you, Nativity services were held in Paraguay for the first time since 2018!

“Thanks to you, we paid all of our bills: electricity, water, internet. I bought my own bottled gas, so now I can cook. We bought a Christmas tree and put it in front of the church. So now passersby ask us to open the gate so they can take a picture in front of the tree (Christmas trees are exotic in Paraguay).

“We held Nativity services for the first time since 2018. I bought a large pot to use for holy water (which hasn't been blessed since 2018!).

“I now have new bedding (I used to sleep on torn secondhand sheets), I'm going to buy myself black shoes – Bishop John reprimanded me for wearing brown ones.

“Life is getting much better. Thank you!”

This was all done thanks to your immeasurable kindness. Thank God for you!



*Follow the QR code to leave a donation.
As you can see from Fr. Sergei's story,
every donation can change a life!*

St. Herman's Youth Conferences

How you're ensuring the future of our Church



Thanks to your generous support, in 2024 there were three St. Herman's Youth Conferences to accommodate the next generation of Orthodox Christians to carry on the torch of our Holy Faith into the future.



Around 350 young people travelled to participate in the most popular Orthodox youth event of the year.

Here's what one of the organizers of St. Herman's Midwest, Fr. Nicholas Parks, says:

“The work we are doing is nothing less than creating a village for our Orthodox young people,

many of whom don't have any peers in their home parishes. Through this annual conference, each young person is able to see the Church for what it is – something larger than their home parish or mission, something bigger than their own priest. Through this conference, each young person can make a large network of new Orthodox acquaintances and hopefully several friends, and every year or two somebody meets a future husband or wife. Through this conference, many of the young people come closer to Christ and to the life of their home parishes.”

Participants listened to talks on various church-related topics, learned how they can put their talents to use within the Church, learned how to bake proshora, color wooden eggs, make prayer ropes, incense, and even coffee.

All youth participated in church services, sang, and many made their confessions and received Holy Communion.

If you've ever supported the Fund for Assistance, you deserve deep thanks, because you also supported the St. Herman's Conferences. Without you, none of these things would have been possible. Thank you.

Pakistan

Your love brings good food and joy

Christians in Pakistan have a very difficult life. They are abused and segregated. Many live in slums. Yet, the ROCOR community keeps growing – despite the danger and difficulties.

Thanks to your generosity, this Nativity was especially happy. Fr. Joseph – the head of the mission – was able to visit his parishioners who live in different cities. He served Liturgy with them, visited, talked with them and brought them food for distribution. From you.

This way, these poor people who never have enough food to eat, many of whom work for years in bonded labor – making \$1-\$3 per day, had a real feast and more dry goods for later.

Thank you for bringing your generosity to Orthodox Christians in Pakistan!



Your love meant a Merry Christmas in Pakistan!



Haiti

How you fixed a leaky roof at school

Most of our Orthodox schools in Haiti have neither windows, nor doors. Some barely have walls and a roof.

But these schools give new hope to members of the mission. They give their children a possibility to gain a better future through education.



One of the Orthodox schools in Haiti has had a leaky roof for weeks. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, we were able to send money to them so they could fix it!

The roof has been fixed, and the children had a party with good food and even presents.



Russian Ecclesiastical Mission

You're keeping a ROCOR presence in the Holy Land!

At the end of the year, we wrote to you about the terrible situation that our monastic community in the Holy Land found themselves in: a combination of COVID and war dried up the flow of pilgrims. Which meant that there had been no income for a very long time. The monastics were barely surviving.

It would have been easier to just pack up and go back home.

But that would have been tantamount to betraying our Church. Because ill-disposed neighbors have been hankering after our holy places for a long time. They use the same strategy century after century: watch, wait, and pounce. They are already rubbing their hands in glee – anticipating ROCOR's downfall.



Glory to God, you didn't let this tragedy happen. Your love and generosity saved our Church's holy places and our monastics. And please know – they will repay you (with dividends!) with their prayers.

Your timely help has allowed Archimandrite Roman to pay outstanding bills, fix a few leaks, pay salaries, and provide food, medicine, and water to the monastic community.

You did all of this. Thank you so much. May the Lord remember your generosity when you stand in front of Him at the Last Judgement.

Glory to God for kind people who love the Church!

**Our Church is growing –
thanks to you!**

Your generosity allowed us to collect around \$6,000 for the brand new ROCOR missions around the world – Jamaica, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Trinidad & Tobago, and other countries.

The money may be used to train locals to become clergy in their native lands, or help support current priests.

The amount is small, but you have planted the seed. The result may not be seen for some time, but it will appear. As Jesus said, “one sows and another reaps” (John 4:37).

Thank you for planting the seed.

On the next page, you'll find our financial report for 2024.

E-mail me at info@fundforassistance.org if you have any questions about it.

If you had time to glance through this letter, I hope you were struck with two beautiful things:

1. How much even a small donation can accomplish!
2. How many people are praying for you!

Thank you for all that you do for our Church! May God shield your loving heart with His love in return for your beautiful kindness!

With love in Christ,



Mark Selawry
FFA President



*Your kindness makes
all the difference!*

P.S. If you know anyone who – like you – wants to help our Church, please share this letter with them. And thank you for putting your faith into action by helping the amazing people above.

P.P.S. And thank you SO very much for caring about all these different members of our Church. Please know that they and I love and pray for you because of your kindness.

FFA Year End 2024 Summary Financial Report

U.S. Dollars

	Year 2024	Year 2023	%
Unrestricted Donations			
Regular Contributions	254,485	281,534	-9.6
Appeals & Programs	39,740	20,543	93.4
Total Unrestricted Donations	294,225	302,077	-2.6
Designated Donations			
Regular Contributions	87,263	96,462	-9.5
Appeals & Programs	394,925	316,984	24.6
Total Designated Donations	482,188	413,446	16.6
Total Donations	776,413	715,523	8.5
Interest Revenue	11,768	13,888	-15.3
Benevolent Disbursements			
Missions & Monasteries	355,331	220,491	61.2
Clergy Support	30,100	35,610	-15.5
Educational	50,959	53,612	-4.9
Youth Ministry	36,718	32,625	12.5
Other	37,057	132,611	-72.1
Total Benevolent Disbursements	510,165	474,949	7.4
Operating Expenses			
Appeals	36,187	43,969	-17.7
Office Expenses	7,094	6,783	4.6
Wages & Salaries	189,836	185,757	2.2
Insurance	3,012	2,036	47.9
Travel & Meetings	9,198	1,805	409.6
IT & Communications	6,146	5,900	4.2
Accounting & Legal	26,048	48	54166.7
Bank Fees	2,545	2,800	-9.1
Training	1,501	333	350.8
Consulting	16,000	0	100
Total Operating Expenses	297,567	249,431	19.3
Net Gain/Loss	-19,551	5,031	-488.6
Financial Status as of Dec. 31, 2024	826,694	846,245	-2.3