June 3, 2026 Sts Constantine and Helen

Dear friend,

I hope that you open this letter and your mood instantly lifts. Because I bring good news. And this news is all of **your own making.**

Had it not been for you and other kind, compassionate, and generous donors like you, none of these stories would have happened. Glory to God for everything. I'm so grateful for you <3

Argentina: They Lost So Much. But They Did Not Leave – Thanks to your kindness

In Buenos Aires, one small ROCOR parish is quietly coming back to life – thanks in no small part to faithful donors like you.

Twelve years ago, Fr. Boris Gladyshev arrived to serve a struggling community deeply wounded by schism, poverty, and years of loss.

At one point, only five people attended services regularly. Families left the country. Even the parish's devoted choir director and baker eventually had to leave Argentina.

Still, Fr. Boris and his family stayed.

Today, despite crushing inflation and financial hardship, nearly 40 people gather on Sundays at Holy Resurrection parish.

More local Argentinians are discovering Orthodoxy. Services are celebrated in both Slavonic and Spanish. The choir is growing. After Liturgy, parishioners share a humble meal together — a small but powerful sign of hope and community.

"We think of it as our mission," Fr. Boris says simply.

What makes this story especially moving is that Fr. Boris is not only rebuilding a parish – he is building its future.

Together with Matushka Ksenia, he is teaching others to sing, bake prosphora, clean, and care for the church so that the community will remain strong for generations to come.

Your support through the Fund for Assistance to ROCOR helps sustain clergy families like the Gladyshevs who continue serving faithfully in difficult places. Because of your kindness, this parish is no longer disappearing. It is growing. Thank you!

A Mission Kept Alive by Faith – and by You

Seventeen years ago, an Orthodox mission in Bali began in the simplest possible way: inside a priest's home.

Today, because of faithful friends like you, that mission is still alive.

Fr. Aleksander Kobesi has spent nearly two decades quietly serving Orthodox Christians on a small Indonesian island where Orthodoxy is almost unknown. Along the way, he has faced obstacles that would have discouraged many people.

When local authorities no longer permitted services in his home, Fr. Aleksander rented another space for worship. But money was so tight that he sold his own wedding ring to pay the rent. Still, he continued.

Over 17 years, the mission has been forced to move three times. The parish still worships in rented space today. Meanwhile, dozens of larger Protestant and Roman Catholic churches around them have permanent buildings and established congregations.

But through every hardship, your support has helped this tiny Orthodox flock endure.

Today, 30 faithful parishioners remain in Bali. Some converts have moved away. Some have reposed in the Lord. Yet every Sunday, the community gathers for prayer, fellowship, and something beautifully simple: a cup of coffee or tea shared together after the Divine Liturgy.

That small moment of fellowship is possible because donors like you cared enough to help.

Your generosity has also helped Fr. Aleksander secure legal recognition for the Orthodox Church in Indonesia — no small achievement in a country where religious activity is closely regulated by the government.

Through years of patient work and cooperation with local religious leaders, Orthodoxy is now officially recognized.

Fr. Aleksander continues to serve wherever he is needed — even ministering to non-Orthodox Christians in a local prison.

"My parishioners are always praying for the donors," he writes.

Please know this: your kindness is not abstract. It is not forgotten. Thank you.

Ukraine: Your Kindness Became a Paschal Blessing

Because of your generosity, thousands of people received a reminder this Pascha that they were not forgotten.

Across Ukraine, your kindness reached families, hospital patients, and vulnerable children with the joy of Christ's Resurrection, often in places where daily life has been marked by uncertainty, hardship, and loss.

This year alone, kind donors like you helped provide:

- 1,000 kulich Easter breads to suffering families in Kherson
- 1,500 Paschal gifts in Kiev
- Visits to 300 children in a children's hospital

- Help for children living in two special-needs homes

These are more than numbers.

Each kulich delivered was a sign of hope. Each visit reminded someone that the Church remembered them. Each gift quietly proclaimed the words of Pascha: Christ is Risen!

Again and again, those receiving help asked that their gratitude be passed on to you.

"Thank you for your kindness," one message said simply. "We are praying for you for supporting us through difficult years. We pray that the good Lord protects you and your family all the days of your life."

Please know that your compassion is bearing fruit far beyond what you can see. In hospitals, orphanages, in wounded cities, in hearts that needed hope. Thank you for making this Pascha brighter for so many.

Russian Ecclesiastical Mission: You Answered Their Cry for Help

When war and uncertainty once again threatened the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem, faithful friends like you responded with extraordinary compassion.

Thanks to your generosity, more than $70,000 was raised to help support Fr. Roman and the monastics who are enduring tremendous hardship amid violence, shortages, and constant instability.

While we cannot share every detail, please know this: your gifts brought real relief at a moment of real fear. Most importantly, your kindness reminded these faithful servants of God that they are not suffering alone.

Thank you for standing with them - and for keeping them in your prayers.

Paschal Greetings from Jamaica

This Pascha, the ROCOR Mission in Jamaica sent a joyful video message thanking faithful supporters like you for your kindness and prayers. (See it on our Facebook page!)

For small missions like this one, your generosity truly is *lifeblood*.

Because of donors like you, the mission is able to maintain a welcoming rental location in Kingston, Jamaica — a place where people can gather for worship, discover Orthodoxy, and experience the beauty of the Church for the first time.

Your gifts are helping plant and sustain Orthodox Christianity in a place where the mission is still small, but growing with hope.

The community in Jamaica wanted you to know how deeply grateful they are for your continued support.

And especially during this radiant Paschal season, they are praying that the Lord abundantly bless you and your loved ones for the compassion you have shown them.

Strengthening the Voice of the Church in Europe

This January, more than 35 singers, choir directors, and readers from across Europe and North America gathered in London for the Seventh Pan-European Russian Orthodox Liturgical Music Conference.

Thanks to generous supporters like you, participants from countries including the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Ireland, and the United States were able to come together to pray, sing, learn, and strengthen the sacred tradition of Orthodox liturgical music.

For many small ROCOR parishes in Europe, opportunities like this are rare. Tiny choirs often struggle with limited resources, distance, and isolation.

But during these four days, participants rehearsed together, attended lectures and workshops, discussed the challenges facing parish choirs, and sang beautiful hierarchical services under the guidance of experienced conductors.

Just as importantly, the conference strengthened spiritual bonds between Orthodox Christians across Europe during a time of great uncertainty in the world.

Organizers shared that the quality of church singing has noticeably improved since these conferences first began — an encouraging sign that this work is bearing fruit.

Your support through FFA helped make the event affordable and accessible for those eager to preserve and grow the Orthodox musical tradition for future generations.

Thank you for helping keep the voice of the Church alive and flourishing.

Preserving Memory. Strengthening the Future.

What happens when a Church forgets its history? Little by little, it forgets its identity too. That's why the work of Protodeacon Andrei Psarev matters so deeply.

For years, Fr. Andrei, professor of Church History and Canon Law at Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, has dedicated himself to preserving the story of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia: its suffering, sacrifices, faithfulness, and survival through exile and upheaval.

In 2008, he founded "ROCOR Studies," an online project devoted to the history of the Russian Church Abroad. What began as a scholarly effort has since grown into international conferences bringing together historians, clergy, and researchers from around the world.

Most recently, in Munich, scholars gathered to mark the centennial of ROCOR's German Diocese — reflecting on a century of struggle, perseverance, and God's providence in the life of the Russian diaspora Church.

This may not seem as visible as feeding the hungry or repairing a church roof. But it is deeply important work. And it's still going on – thanks to kind people like yourself. Because when the Church remembers where She has been, She is better prepared for where She must go.

Thanks to the support of donors like you, Fr. Andrei has been able to continue this ministry of teaching, writing, research, and scholarship for many years.

Your generosity is helping preserve the memory of ROCOR, so future generations will still know the story of faith that carried the Church through some of history's darkest years.

Dear <Informal Salutation>,

As you've seen throughout this newsletter, your kindness is reaching people in remarkable ways.

Because of you, missions remain open. Struggling clergy families receive help. Children, hospital patients, and the forgotten experience Christ's love in tangible ways. Choirs sing. Parishes grow. The history and future of ROCOR are being preserved.

Again and again, the people we serve ask us to thank you for your prayers, compassion, and faithful support.

In difficult times, your generosity becomes *a source of hope and stability* for countless people around the world. Thank you for standing with the Church — and with those who need it most.

Mark Selawry
Fund for Assistance to ROCOR
President

P.S. What Will Your Will Say About You?

Several years ago, a faithful supporter quietly remembered the Fund for Assistance in his will before departing to the Lord.

Years later, that final act of generosity is still bearing fruit.

His bequest continues helping struggling clergy families, supporting missions, feeding the hungry, caring for those in crisis, and strengthening the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia in places most people will never see.

In fact, some of the ministries you've read about in this newsletter were made possible, in part, because *one person* chose to leave behind not only possessions… but compassion.

That's the extraordinary thing about a legacy gift. Long after we are gone, our values continue speaking.

Our faith continues working. Our love continues helping others.

And perhaps that raises an important question for all of us:

What story will your will tell?

Order your free bequest guide today to see how easy it is to leave a gift that will strengthen your Church for generations to come. Call us at 917-817-2925 or e-mail info@fundforassistance.org