



Summer 2022

VESTNIK

News from the frontlines of our Church

Dear Friend,

You and I meet on this page today because of a series of big and small miracles that have happened to us along the way.

I'm here today because of a single interaction with a wonderful priest back when I was 13.

I'm sure he doesn't remember it. But I always will. Because his kindness, unconditional love, and acceptance made me want to stay in church. I wouldn't be here today without that tiny one-minute interaction.

Because one minute is often enough to do something life-changing. And I'm writing to you today because you are that one person for the people described in this newsletter.

You're the one who didn't turn away. Who gave a helping hand. Who shared a little bit of your heart.

Perhaps it was so easy for you that you barely remember. But they remember. Because you changed their life.

And God remembers.

Please know there's someone out there – far away – who prays for your salvation. Because you changed their life.

This what this newsletter is all about.

May God bless you for the love you show your Church and Her most vulnerable people.

Alena Plavsic
Development Manager
Fund For Assistance to ROCOR

Ukraine



This is a picture of Ludmilla and her 8 children.

You wouldn't know from the photo, but this family has suffered a tragedy. Their house and everything in it were destroyed in a bombing. They lost everything they owned.

Today they live in a barn they fixed up as a sort of house.

When their world fell apart, you didn't remain indifferent. You surrounded Ludmilla and her children with the love from your heart.

It's thanks to kind people like you that Ludmilla's family have food, personal care products, dishwashing liquid, diapers, and clothes.

Ludmilla will never forget you!

Thank you!

Haiti

The situation of the ROCOR Mission in Haiti is stable, despite the political and economic troubles and violence.

Life is very difficult. Fuel is scarce, gang wars and kidnapping are rampant. It is total anarchy.

But parish life goes on – thanks to you. Our brothers and sisters adapted even to these most terrifying circumstances. And they do not stop praying to God.

Some parishes begin Sunday services much earlier in the morning – so that they can be and out of churches before the gang members wake up and go out looking for trouble.



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The parishes are still trying their best. Parish schools are still functioning, as well as literacy classes for adults, even renovation in some churches.

All our brothers and sisters in Haiti want is to be able to live in peace, make a living to feed their families, and pray to God.

*In a world gone mad,
your assistance is an answer to their prayers.*

May Christ God bless you for your kind help!

Mexico



When Natalia* came to the ROCOR mission in Mexico City, her heart – and her body – were sore and bruised. After three years of marriage to her Mexican husband, the relationship went wrong. Pablo beat Natalia, kicked her out of the house, took her passport, and told her she'd never see their two children again.

Speaking very basic Spanish, having no money and no documents... Where could Natalia go to be safe? Who could help her fight for her kids?

Fortunately, Natalia found her way to the Holy Trinity Monastery, where Fr. Nektariy – head of the ROCOR Mission in Mexico City – helped her find a place to stay, and put her in touch with a good lawyer.

Today – many months later – Natalia is reunited with her beloved kids. This couldn't have happened if it weren't for your help. Because you supported Fr. Nektariy and Holy Trinity Monastery in Mexico City, Natalia was able to get the help she so desperately needed.

You're always in her prayers.

Because you opened your heart when she had nowhere to go.

She will never forget that.

*personal details have been changed to protect privacy

Haiti – Fr. Augustin

This piece of news makes me really happy. Remember Fr. Augustin Gesnel from Les Cayes? He's the priest who received a seminary education in France and came back to serve his people. Aside from being highly educated, Fr. Augustin is also a bit of an entrepreneur. He's always looking for ways to make his parish, his family, and his parishioners self-sufficient.



Recently, Fr. Augustin came up with a great idea to guarantee employment and cash flow for the parish. He wants to get a dump truck, so that he can sell river sand. Despite the difficult situation, there's lots of construction in Haiti, and Fr. Augustin spotted how he can fill a need and make a living.

So we started collecting for a dump truck and I'm happy to report that we already have enough for half a truck! Just another \$6,400 and Fr. Augustin is going to take his area of Haiti by storm (or, should I say, by sand?).

*None of the things above would have happened
without your help.*

Thank you for caring so much about our Church!

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