



August 5/ July 23, 2024 "Pochaev" Icon of the Mother of God.

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

Here's what happened thanks to your help:

Ukraine: The Wheels are Turning – Thanks to You

In the last couple of months, you have done the *nearly impossible*. You have provided a van for the persecuted Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC).

Because of the state of the roads in this war-torn country, the previous van broke down completely. Which meant that the people who depended on the UOC's Benevolent Fund to deliver food and medicine to them now couldn't be reached.

Thanks to kind people like you, they now have a van, which allows them to travel to remote villages to bring food packages and medical supplies.

This means that you helped them bring food to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and medicine – to the suffering. May God bless you for your kindness!

Bali: How You Help with a Crucial Ministry Need

Our tiny ROCOR mission in Bali has been facing another challenge... You see, people in search of meaning flock to the Orthodox Church. But some of them – through various temptations – begin to doubt whether they have chosen the right path.

And then – as often happens in Bali – they receive a visit from the local Protestant or Catholic clergy, who even offer money or some type of assistance in return for a religious conversion. So, a well-spoken visitor ends up stealing souls bought dearly by Christ's suffering.

That's terrible news for the mission. But Fr. Aleksander is not giving up. He found a way to prevent this from happening again. You see, the problem is – people sometimes don't want to or can't travel to church. And often end up converting to a different religion out of sheer loneliness.

So, Fr. Aleksander started visiting his parishioners. And that's how a part of your donations has been spent.

You provided the means to get the priest to the people – even if they can't get to church themselves.

After deep conversations and fellowship with parishioners, Fr. Aleksander is confident that this problem is now preventable.

“Faith assistance to the parishioners must continue so that the people's faith is strong enough to withstand temptation,” Fr. Aleksandr says. So, thank you for helping Fr. Aleksander take care of – and keep – his spiritual flock

Argentina: You Kept this Priest's Family Warm and Safe

Like many residents of Argentina, Fr. Boris Gladyshev and his family have taken a big hit from the latest “creative economics” in Argentina. A couple of years ago, they had enough money to survive – by living frugally, taking the bus instead of buying a car, and wearing secondhand clothes.

But in the last few months, even the thriftiest ways became insufficient. Prices and inflation in Argentina have soared. Despite this winter being the coldest in many years, Fr. Boris and Matushka Ksenia turned down the heat in their apartment, and rationed gas and electricity to be able to pay their bills. But it still wasn't enough. Their situation quickly deteriorated.

They were constantly cold and very worried.

So, you stepped in. Thanks to the kindness of people like you, today Fr. Boris and his family are warm, their bills are paid, and they have food on the table. They are still struggling, but the weight you took off their shoulders is immense. They feel your support. Your love made their home and their hearts warm. You gave them comfort and hope.

“Thanks to your help, we can continue serving, we can keep and further develop our mission here,” Fr. Boris wrote. May God bless you!

Haiti: Your Kindness Means They Have a Future

Every time you donate to Haiti, you – like the Lord Himself – help a widow and an orphan.

Take Madeleine, for example. Her husband perished in the earthquake of 2010. And she was left alone with two boys. For years she struggled – working at a school for the deaf, and doing odd jobs. All to make enough money to feed her children and send them to school.

But now, she can no longer go to work. The way to work passes through an area overtaken by violent gangs. And Madeleine – at only 47 – has debilitating arthritis and respiratory problems.

But you know what? She and her family have a roof over her head, they have food, they have medicine, and her two boys are working hard at their studies.

All thanks to kind people like you. None of these things would have been possible without your help.

“I want my children to learn a trade, so they can have a better future,” Madeleine says. “I am eternally grateful to our donors; their support gives us hope that we can have happy days”

Pakistan: Your Kindness is a Breath of Fresh Air, Literally

When temperatures go above 90°F in the US, state governments issue heat warnings and hospitals see an increase in admissions for heat-related illnesses (apparently there are seven!).

But when the mercury soars past the low 100s and over 110°F, then not having proper cooling equipment could be deadly.

That’s what the ROCOR mission in Pakistan has been struggling with this summer.

Fr. Joseph has been renting a generator and a large desert fan to keep the church relatively cool, so that parishioners don’t faint or die from extreme heat.

If you remember, the Orthodox community here is terribly poor. So, it’s unlikely they have another safe place for staying cool, because they don't have A/C at home.

Members of the ROCOR mission in Pakistan will be able to pray together. And Christ will be in their midst as they pray for you (by name!) and for the world that seems to be going madder every second...

This, in turn, means that you will be saving – not just one, but *many people* – from a very real possibility of death.

And that means that you will be “fulfilling the law of Christ” by carrying (and lightening) your brothers’ burdens (Gal. 6:2).

Thank you!

Bethany: How Your Kindness Created a Bulwark of Orthodoxy

Stuck between warring Israel and Palestine, Sister Maria and the Bethany Community of the Resurrection of Christ are... in a tight spot.

And even when all is quiet between these two countries, when the warring local factions occasionally put their differences on hold, they remember that they have a “captive” Orthodox Christian school to pick on... Which the Arab Muslim neighbors very often do.

If they’re feeling mildly aggressive, they will simply climb over the walls, steal whatever tickles their fancy, cut hoses, etc. – do low-grade damage.

If they are feeling more aggressive, then they up the ante: they try to inflict structural damage, cut tires on cars, and so on...

That was going on even before the war started in October. Now, the school and monastery are suffering from the Israelis, too. Israel controls water that comes into Palestine. Since the war, they’ve cut it down by 60%...

In addition, recently the nuns have had trouble buying gas tanks. And if there’s no gas – there’s no cooking...

“We’re used to having problems with electricity and water,” Mother Maria said. “But having no gas is scary.”

But thankfully, you stepped in. And thanks to you, and considering the situation, they’re now doing pretty well!

They have raised the walls, so that unfriendly neighbors can’t climb over them. They’ve built an outside wood oven. So now they can cook outside and have even started making their own bread. They’ve fixed a water pump that allows the community and school to store water. Which means – they have enough water to drink.

So, you’ve given the nuns and the school safety, water, bread, and – most importantly – a sense of security.

Thank you for keeping the nuns, the clergy, the teachers, and the students safe!

May God bless you.

With love in Christ,



Mark Selawry
FFA President

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.

Patrick's Will says a lot about him. What does yours say about you?

A few years ago, a wonderful man named Patrick (William) Brien, from Somerville, New Jersey, left a bequest for the Fund for Assistance before he went to be with God.

Eight years later, Patrick's bequest to the Fund for Assistance is helping to shape the history of our whole Church.

It is thanks to remarkable persons such as Patrick that the Fund for Assistance is able to continue its important work – vitally helping hundreds of our Church members, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and making our Church stronger year by year.

In fact, some of the things in this newsletter were accomplished thanks to the funds Patrick left us.

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