

2016

# ANNUAL REPORT



Fund for Assistance to the  
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia  
P.O. Box 272  
Glen Cove, NY 11542  
[contact@fundforassistance.org](mailto:contact@fundforassistance.org)

*The mission of the Fund for Assistance is to support the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, specifically, the moral-spiritual education of youth, aid to its clergy and distribution of emergency relief to its missions.*



# hanks

## **Heartfelt Gratitude from All of Us at the FFA**

I've lost counts how many times I appealed to you for help last year. Not for us, but for all those in need: Fr Nektariy in Mexico, Fr Alexei in Chile, our brothers & sisters in Haiti, our youth who so need us to support them at the time of their coming of age...

And you have responded with such incredible generosity!

I just wanted to say that I am awed, honored and overjoyed by being in partnership with amazing people like you – who often give their last \$5 to help someone in need.

**Your generosity is not only strengthening our beloved Church, but also helping you lay up a treasure in the Kingdom of Heaven.**

But most of all, I want to thank you – again and again – for being so kind!

This is what this issue is about: our kind thoughts and prayers in return for your awe-inspiring love and kindness to our Church.

*Mark Selawry  
FFA president*



## A thankful look at what your donations do



*Alena Plavsic, FFA Development Manager (left) & Veronika Alekseyenko, FFA Communications Manager (right)*

Last year, hundreds of ROCOR members have benefited from the wonderful generosity of our donors. Our Church members' needs are as varied as they are themselves. Some – especially young people - need a supportive community of their peers to be encouraged to stay within the Church. Others –unpaid and underpaid clergy - need some help to tide them over, until their parish is in a better situation. While still others – like our brothers and sisters in Haiti - depend on us for the very bread on their table.

### FFA Development Manager, Alena Plavsic, reveals how at the FFA every donation you send, from small to large, makes a big impact.

*Deacon Andrei Psarev: What inspires you in your work at Ffa?*

I am inspired when we receive regular help: it's as if you come to work and find yet another gift from somebody, even though it's not for you personally. Nevertheless, when you open PayPal and see yet another donation from the same name, you

think to yourself, "What a wonderful person!" Somebody sends in \$2, \$5, \$10, \$15, \$150 and you get to open it and say, "wow, how generous!" In other words, you've got a veritable generator of positive emotions and good thoughts about people right there.

*DAP: What is special about Ffa donors?*

They are so happy to be helping the Church! (...) You see the fruits of people's hard work – some of our donors literally send in their last dollar. Many times we receive letters to this effect here: take this dollar, that's all I can give you, I am on the poverty line myself. And still, they make this sacrifice and send this dollar in, because to them, that's helping the Church. And then you see how their last dollar goes on to make wonderful things happen.

*DAP: What would you say to those who are reading this interview?*

In the first place, we can say, "Thank you for reading this". Secondly, "Thank you for your interest in supporting the

Church." Thirdly, "Without you, we are nothing" The Church needs our help. If you are able to, please support us. If you are not, pray for us. This makes us truly grateful. I can honestly say that all our work reflects tremendous respect and gratitude for our supporters. (...) We are truly grateful for any help to the Church. It's so great that people want to help Her, because the Church never forgets and God never forgets. Besides, they are not only helping themselves and others here on earth but are also storing up a treasure for themselves in the heavens.

*Read the full interview on [ROCORstudies.org](http://ROCORstudies.org)*

## Personal messages from Alena, FfA staff, and beneficiaries



*Nicholas Ohotin,  
FfA Synod Liaison*

"Thank you! And please, keep it up! There are so many people out there who need your help, especially the young people." – *Archpriest George Lagodich, St. Herman's Youth Committee EAD, treasurer.*

"As the son of a ROCOR priest, I witnessed firsthand the life of an overworked, underpaid (and sometimes it seemed an absentee) father of four, a hardship that took its toll on us all. We also saw in his subdued demeanor at the end of a long day how he shouldered the spiritual and emotional burdens of his flock.

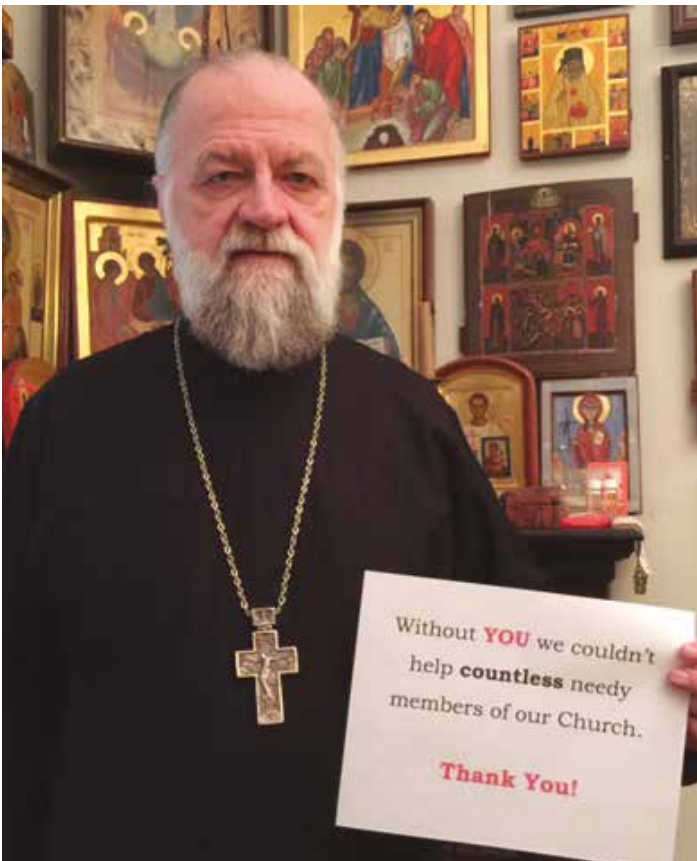
The FfA's appeals on behalf of our clergymen always hit home for me. I am delighted that so many of you support the next generation of our clergymen.” – *Nicholas Ohotin, FfA Synod Liaison*



“Thank you for strengthening our church and faith by supporting our youth, clergy, and those in need.” – *Mark Selawry, FfA President*



“Thank you for shouldering with us the Cross of those most needy of the Church” – *Nicolas Schidlovsky, FfA Board Member*



“What a wonderful thing it is when members of our Church reach out to meet the needs not only of their local parishes, but also the needs of the entire Church. This is an indication of our common desire to fulfill the words of St. Paul, "Carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the Law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Thank you to each and every one of our donors who are working to build up the Body of Christ. Every donation is precious to the Lord!” – *Archpriest Victor Potapov, FfA Board Member*

## 2016 Financial Report

REVENUE	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$493,140.48</b>
Unrestricted Donations	234,719.21
Appeals - General, Calendar, Pasha, Emergency Relief, Thanksgiving, Giving Tuesday, Annual Report, Newsletters & for the Needy	160,719.21
Individual Donations, Wills & Estates	74,000.00
Mexican Monastery	80,164.61
Haiti Mission & Haiti School Donations	51,663.67
Chile	37,141.91
Haiti - HOFR Donations	32,350
Decani Monastery	30,431.99
Other Donations - Holy Land, Pakistan, Clergy, Needy in Ukraine, Philippines, Uganda, Holy Trinity Monastery, Youth, Hermitage of Holy Cross, Novo-Diveevo, Seminaries, St. Anthony's Monastery, REM	23,266.01
Loan Repayments	2,000
Musical Conference Refund	1,000
Foreign Check Exchange	379.75
IRS Tax Credit	23.33

BENEVOLENT DISBURSEMENTS & EXPENSES	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$384,073.65</b>
Benevolent Disbursements	291,812.37
Clergy Welfare Fund - Includes disbursements to several clergyman from specific appeals	59,339.97
Haiti - HOFR Program	43,500
Mexican Monastery	39,225.56
Haiti Mission & Haiti School	39,001.81
Decani Monastery	29,694.9
Youth Ministry - Primarely unrestricted donations were used for Youth Ministry needs	27,700
Chile	13,900
Other Needs - Holy Land (Mt. Olives, Gethsemane, Bethany), Ukrainian Refugees, Pakistan, Philippines, Uganda, Synodal Liturgic Music Commission, Holy Trinity Monastery, Hermitage of Holy Cross, Novo-Diveevo	39,450.13
Fundraising Appeals Expenses	24,428.9
Insurance	1,296
Office Expenses including petty cash	21,312.62
Wages includes payroll taxes & payroll fees	42,789.32
Foreign check Exchange	565.6
Returned Checks	200
Deposit Error	50
Bank Fees & Adjustments	1,618.84

<b>2016 INCOME (LOSS)*</b>	<b>\$109,066.83</b>
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FINANCIAL STATUS	
Income (Loss)*	\$109,066.83
Balance from 2015	366,798.57
Stopped Checks	7,061
Interest	\$1,103.85
<b>AMOUNT FORWARD TO 1/1/17</b>	<b>\$484,030.25</b>
In Checking Account	\$486,057.70
Outstanding Checks	-2,027.45
<b>ON DEPOSIT AS OF 12/31/16</b>	<b>\$484,030.25</b>

NOTE: All specifically designasted donarions are given to the designated causes, sometimes done in the next fiscal year.

## Your wrote to us

*From our amazing donors*

We are incredibly blessed to have different people support our work: we have some high-end donors, who give freely from their ample reserves, and others, who give the last money they could spare.

We know that all of you give with an open hand and an open heart, giving your hard-earned money (that you could have easily spent on yourself) to someone in need. And we love and appreciate you for it! You are amazing people who show love to your Church and your fellow man. Thank you!

Here are a few excerpts from your letters we wanted to share with everyone.

**“I belong to the Serbian Orthodox Church, am retired on Social Security and can’t afford to give \$60 (this is how much we asked for). I would give it if I could afford it (she gave \$10!). I always make a small donation to ROCOR whenever asked. Our Bishop Longin is a dear friend of your Archbishop Peter.”**



*Alexander Kulesha, FfA treasurer*

What a wonderful instance of Orthodox Christians supporting each other’s Churches!

**“I am sorry for the small amount. I wish I could do more...”**

Thank you to all who think this. And to all who cannot give, but wish to do so. We are so very grateful for your kind thoughts prayerful support!

**“I cannot contribute, but I continue to pray for you...” – Thank you! Where would we be without your prayers?!**

And this could be addressed to each one of YOU: “Thank you for all you do for our Church” Yes! Thank you for saving our Church daily – one member at a time!

### **Our Promise**

**Your money – your decision: 100% of all donations directly fund the cause indicated by the donor. Stay updated on how your kindness supports the Church you love: subscribe to our email newsletter on our website:**

**[fundforassistance.org](http://fundforassistance.org)**



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*Help us save money on paper: sign up for our e-mail updates on our website! Thank you for your support!*