

# VESTNIK



Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia  
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*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.*



Mexico



Chile



Kosovo



Pakistan

## Mexico: Relief for Fr Nektariy

**Your outpouring of love brings comfort to a suffering monk**

In July we wrote to you about Schema Archimandrite Fr Nektariy (Haji Petropoulos) who is truly proving to be a shining light of Orthodoxy in Mexico.

Fr Nektariy has determined that it is his sacred duty to protect and help the Russian community throughout

Mexico. But he is taking care not only of the spiritual needs of the Orthodox community.

The harsh realities of life in Mexico have resulted in Fr. Nektariy stepping in to actually save lives. Despite countless threats to his own personal safety, he



Without your help, Fr Nektariy was working 14 hours a day in three different jobs to pay rent on the monastery building. But today, he can devote his time to his parishioners' needs. All thanks to you!



continues to save women and children from the evils of sex trafficking. He has also saved countless women from domestic violence, and without complaint suffers constant threats from the husbands whose wives he has helped.

The diocese is extremely poor. Fr. Nektariy and the other monks work outside of the monastery to make extra money to help it survive. Fr. Nektariy is currently working 14 hours a day in different jobs, just in order to pay the rent. The owners of the monastery building often raise the rent (illegally), by 100 or even 200%.

Due to his extreme poor health with painful kidney stones, diverticulitis and other ailments, Fr. Nektariy is also faced with the high cost of monthly medical bills. And yet when a parishioner needs financial aid or help paying costly legal fees, he or she will never be turned away.

Fr. Nektariy is desperate to continue his work, but needs to move to a new

building. While he is waiting for a building promised to him by the Mexican government, he still needs to pay the rent.

And that's what you have been helping him do. And not just that.

Every time we've spoken with Fr Nektariy, the truth slipped out unawares. He confided to us just how terribly worried he is that he won't be able to continue his work... that the monastery (the only ROCOR one in South America) will have to shut down, and the monks – move to a small apartment. And what will happen to all their parishioners?

But you came to the rescue. Again.

Thanks to your amazing generosity, we have collected even slightly more than Fr Nektariy needs to survive the next two years! Thank you so very much!

Many of those who couldn't donate, sent unbelievably touching loving messages. Some were very concerned about him working too much, others sent medical advice and addresses of doctors who can help him; many sent fervent prayers and kind wishes.

The outpouring of love for Fr Nektariy

we have witnessed has inspired us. You constantly amaze us: with your generosity, your kindness, and your tender-heartedness...

It is good to feel so much love for a good man. Thank you from Fr Nektariy and from all of us at FFA!

## Each one of our stories starts with prayer – for you - who make it possible

### A Letter from FFA President

Dear friend,

Our beneficiaries tell us - sometimes with tears in their eyes - how grateful they are to you – who daily turn their lives around. Because very often without you, there wouldn't have been anybody there to help them.

Today, I want to share something amazing. One of the priests you so generously supported last year wrote to tell me that he prays for you at **every single Liturgy** he serves, and will continue to do so until his dying day.

This is the type of gratitude that you so richly deserve. And I wanted to let you know that you have it – from all of us here at FFA - the beneficiaries, and the staff.

We love and appreciate you, and pray for your health and salvation.

**Our one wish is that we could someday meet you and give you a big hug for all the amazing things you have done for our Church.**

Thank you, thank you, thank you! And may the Lord save you!

Mark Selawry  
FFA President



**Fr Alex's financial situation became so bad, his electricity and water were shut off. But you came in and helped him get back on his feet. Thank you!**



## **Chile: A Journey of hope for Fr Alexei**

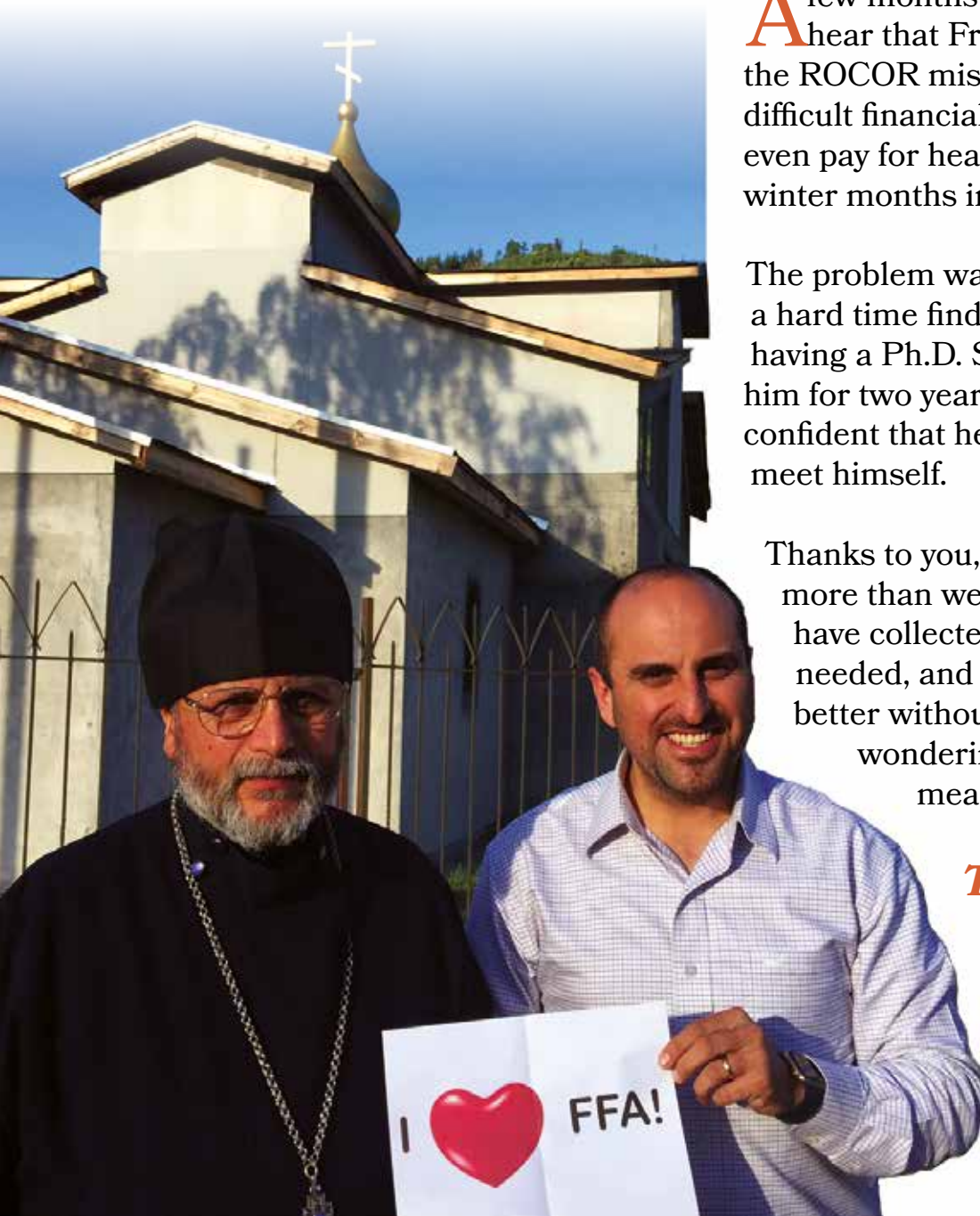
***Your generous support saved Fr Alexei from destitution***

A few months ago we were terrified to hear that Fr Alexei Aedo Villugron of the ROCOR mission in Chile was in a very difficult financial situation. He couldn't even pay for heating and water during the winter months in South America.

The problem was that Fr Alexei is having a hard time finding a regular job, despite having a Ph.D. So he asked us to support him for two years, after which he is confident that he will be able to make ends meet himself.

Thanks to you, we have collected even more than we hoped! To date we have collected even more than we needed, and Fr Alexei is doing much better without the constant stress of wondering where the family's next meal is coming from.

***Thank you so much for supporting our clergy in need!***



# Kosovo: Your loving-kindness in action

How you clothed and fed our Serbian brothers

 ne day last spring, while doing missionary work in Kosovo, Fr Nektarios Serfes of the Decani Monastery Relief Fund asked a young child what he eats every day.

"Cabbage: Monday through Saturday," he said with a smile.

"What do you eat on Sunday," Fr Nektarios then asked him.

"We eat chicken after church. We can't wait to go to church and come home to have chicken!"

The plight of our Orthodox brothers and sisters isn't limited to desecration of historic churches and cemeteries. Daily in Kosovo, chickens and cows are being stolen. A barn full of hay for the livestock the Serbs have been collecting for two years was burned down by Muslims. No chickens, no cows, and now sadly enough - no hay for the remaining animals! Needless to say, Orthodox Serbs fast



**Our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Kosovo were suffering from hunger and poverty. But you helped to feed, clothe and protect them.**

**RUZALKA!**

during Great Lent.

**But this year it looked like their cabbage diet would continue past Pascha.**

**But then you came in.**

We knew that when we sent out an e-appeal last spring to save our Serbian brothers and sisters in Kosovo, you would feel as strongly as we did, remembering that ROCOR owes its very existence to the Serbian Orthodox Church.

**And weren't you simply amazing!**

**Thanks to your unbelievable kindness, we have collected over \$25K for our Serbian brothers in Kosovo.**

All those in need have received what they needed: some got livestock, some – firewood, others a refrigerator or tractor. All thanks to you! Prayers for you now sound in Serbia, as well as in many other countries. And we are so grateful for your help!

## **Pakistan:** Orthodox parish grows in one of the most dangerous places for Christians on Earth – *thanks to you*

**P**riest Joseph Farooq lives in a dangerous world. It is well known that Pakistan is perhaps one of the most hostile places on Earth to live if you are a Christian.



Without kindhearted people like you, the ROCOR mission in Pakistan would not have survived.

Yet the ROCOR mission in Pakistan is not only surviving but flourishing – thanks to your generous help!

Fr Joseph has established a strong parish, a women's literacy group and a children's ministry. He visits his parishioners often and shares with them the wisdom of the Orthodox Church.

Here is how you have supported members of the mission so far.

You have:

- Paid the rent on the church building and office.
- Paid school fees for children from poor families
- Provided food for the hungry
- Gave summer clothes to widows who only had warm winter clothes in 100F weather

Fr Joseph sends you blessings and many thanks: **“It is my passion to preach and promote the Orthodox faith to my people. It is only possible with your kind and generous support. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for collecting and raising funds for mission needs in Pakistan. May God always bless you!”**

***Thank you so much!***

### ***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***



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