



Winter 2022

# VESTNIK

News from the frontlines of our Church

Dear Friend,

The people you've helped and I are sending you gratitude and prayers for everything you've done for our Church in 2022.

A lot has happened in the past year. There was so much pain... and so much need.

But there was also a bright light of hope. And it came from you and from other kind and generous people like you.

I've heard many times that you're not doing what you do for my gratitude.

Forgive me, I feel like if I don't tell you that I think you're doing a great thing for our Church, my heart will simply burst into a million pieces.

As I know you wouldn't want that, I'll boldly proceed to tell you about the great things your help has accomplished!

## *Ukraine*

You may not believe this, but thanks **YOU**, the Fund for Assistance is the largest single source of Orthodox-affiliated humanitarian aid in Ukraine today.

Your mercy and heartfelt support of the Ukrainian people has made a HUGE difference.



In fact, Priest Serhii Ekshiyani, head of the UOC's Synodal Social Humanitarian Department, sent us a video thanking YOU for all of the help you have provided to those suffering in Ukraine. The video is available on our YouTube channel and on our website.

This is truly a time of trial for the Ukrainian people – many people from every walk of life are on the cusp of poverty and are forced to move, having lost everything they had, along with their homes. They are resettling from the conflict zones all across Ukraine – **many have nothing.**

Thanks to your help, the UOC had the opportunity to support them all, purchasing and supplying them with needed items:

- groceries
- household supplies
- items to keep warm (blankets and heaters)



The Church has been transporting these supplies all over the country: Kherson, Kharkov, Izyum, Zaporozhye, Dnepr...

**So many people have trouble getting a single meal a day!**

Members of the Social Humanitarian Department prepare hot lunches, distributing 200-300 servings at the Kiev Train Station and at the churches in Kiev.

Pensioners – people who have worked their part **and earned the right to a good life in their old age – are now on the cusp of poverty**, because their pensions and the minimum wage do not correspond to the needs people face to live normally, feed themselves, or purchase medicine. **This is the largest complaint people have: that they must purchase either high-calorie foods OR medicines.**

Also, thanks to your help, the Church was able to help two elderly pensioners to receive surgery; their situation had become critical and they were unable to walk. Knee replacement surgery is expensive and of course they did not have the means to afford it.

**THAT'S RIGHT – Thanks to your generosity, two people can WALK AGAIN.  
THANK YOU!**

Please watch the video from Fr. Serhii and those who received help from you through the FFA. The war is still going on, and we can't keep doing these amazing things without you.

## *Youth*

I know it's cliché, but I think you'll agree anyway that the youth are the future of the Church.

And by supporting the Fund for Assistance,  
you're supporting our youth!

HERE'S ONE EXAMPLE:

The Saint Herman Youth Conference had humble beginnings in 1980 in Jordanville: it was a way for young people to spend their Christmas break (when most families weren't celebrating yet!) with fellow Orthodox youth in a safe and spiritually productive way.

Today, there are three conferences (in Western America, Mid-America, and Eastern America), and thanks to you, **the Fund for Assistance supports all three.**



*2022 St. Herman Conference at Holy Trinity Church in Vineland, NJ*

In addition to spending time with other Orthodox youth (how many people get to meet other Orthodox students at school??) and making friends for life, the Youth Conferences offer:

- guest lecturers that address pressing moral issues of today
- question-and-answer sessions with knowledgeable clergy
- roundtable discussions to share concerns and experiences
- invaluable time with other Orthodox young people, and
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY: participation in the divine services!**

I know you value our Orthodox youth, and we share that priority. These conferences strength these bright young minds in their Orthodox Faith. In many cases, relationships here even lead to marriage and families. ... and the Church gets bigger.

**Some even become our future priests, deacons, matushkas,  
monks, nuns, and choir directors!**

Orthodox youth coast-to-coast benefit and grow in the Church because of YOUR SUPPORT. Thank you!!

### *Pakistan*

I have great news about our mission in Pakistan.

First of all, thanks to you, the head of the mission Fr. Joseph Farooq finally has a car. Which means that he can visit his parishioners, perform divine services, and bring the Sacraments to his parishioners who live in very remote areas.

Not that he hasn't been doing it before.

For many years, Fr. Joseph would rely on his trusty motorbike to "bring church" to the Orthodox Christians in the area. But the bike got old, it needed constant (and expensive) maintenance, and at 53, it was harder and harder for Fr. Joseph to drive 400 miles weekly.

You see, driving in Pakistan is... something else. If you really want to know, I suggest you look it up on YouTube. I did when I was doing research for this newsletter – and I couldn't watch for more than a few seconds. It was terrifying. To put it concisely: there are lots of people and NO rules.



And then Fr. Joseph often had to ride in the wind and rain, weaving around potholes, in a hurry to visit a dying parishioner... All the while bringing the consecrated Body and Blood of Christ perched precariously in the back seat...

Basically, the situation was not working. And you stepped in.

Thanks to you, Fr. Joseph now drives a nice newish Toyota Corolla, which has also become a blessing to his whole community in many other ways.

Ever since you bought the car for him, Fr. Joseph has been approached by his friends, neighbors, and parishioners for help with getting things delivered or rushing someone to the hospital.

There's no end of the good your donations have done to this tiny but mighty mission. Thank you!



P.S. If you haven't heard about this case, it's probably because you're not on our e-mail list! We'd SO love to have you there! Go to [www.fundforassistance.org](http://www.fundforassistance.org) and scroll down to join our e-mail list! You'll get insider information and access to fun things we do, like online chats with people you've helped!

### ***Kurenkovs – Eviction canceled!***

Sometimes in our work here at FFA we come across simply unbelievable cases.

In December, I wrote to you about an absolutely dire situation with a clergy couple from Boston, MA.

*The clergyman and his wife are not as young as they once were...*

*...both lost a lot of work because of COVID... (over a **year** ago)...*

*...Father doesn't get paid at his parish...*

*...their old car completely broke down...*

*...they had to rely on the help of neighbors and friends to get to places like grocery stores or job interviews...*

*...they were also 5 (FIVE!) months behind on their rent...*

***And the worst part was...***

When they received an eviction notice in the mail, informing them that they would be evicted out of their apartment on December 25th... Yes, Christmas Day...

Yes, I know the apartment complex management were “just doing their job,” but how much more Ebenezer Scrooge can you get?!

So you stepped in.

Not only did you help Fr. Alexander and Mat. Tatiana pay rent, you also collected enough for a down payment on a new car.



Thank you so much for taking care of our Church and Her clergy in need!

P.S. Take a look at what Fr. Alexander and Mat. Tania want to tell you personally! Go to our YouTube channel (Fund4Assistance) and type in [This is how you helped this clergy couple.](#)

On the next page, you'll find our financial report for 2022.

E-mail me at [@fundforassistance.org](mailto:@fundforassistance.org) if you have any questions about it.

<b>FFA Year End 2022 Summary Financial Report</b>			
<b>USDollars</b>			
	<b>Year 2022</b>	<b>Year 2021</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Unrestricted Donations</b>			
Regular contributions	221,546	259,867	-14.7
Appeals and programs	31,339	10,240	206.0
Other			
<b>Total Unrestricted Donations</b>	<b>252,885</b>	<b>270,107</b>	<b>-6.4</b>
<b>Designated Donations</b>			
Regular contributions	152,721	211,890	-27.9
Appeals and programs	420,274	244,590	71.8
Last wills & Testaments	0	0	100.0
Other	0	0	
<b>Total Designated Donations</b>	<b>572,995</b>	<b>456,480</b>	<b>25.5</b>
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>825,880</b>	<b>726,587</b>	<b>13.7</b>
<b>Interest Revenue</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>-56.3</b>
<b>Benevolent Disbursements</b>			
Missions and Monasteries	245,871	706,268	-65.2
Clergy support	41,600	103,512	-59.8
Educational	94,111	23,500	300.5
Youth Ministry	17,000	19,500	-12.8
Other (Ukraine)	403,408	0	100.0
<b>Total Benevolent Disbursements</b>	<b>801,990</b>	<b>852,780</b>	<b>-6.0</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Appeals	31,234	33,967	-8.0
Office Expenses	4,317	14,640	-70.5
Wages & Salaries	170,852	174,806	-2.3
Insurance	1,800	3,257	-44.7
Travel & Meetings	2,010	593	239.0
IT & Communications	8,811	5,073	73.7
Accounting & Legal	90	0	100.0
Bank Fees	2,419	3,030	-20.2
Training	4,537	450	908.2
Other	882	0	100.0
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>226,952</b>	<b>235,816</b>	<b>-3.8</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>-202,887</b>	<b>-361,609</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Financial Status as of Dec 31, 2022</b>			
Net Gain/<Loss>	(202,887)	(361,609)	
Balance from Prior Year	1,044,101	1,405,710	
<b>AMOUNT FORWARD TO 1/1/2023</b>	<b>841,214</b>	<b>1,044,101</b>	

This would have been impossible without your help. Thank you for caring so much about the wellbeing of our Church!

If you had time to glance through this letter, I hope you were struck with two beautiful things:

1. How much even a small donation can accomplish!
2. How many people are praying for you!

Thank you for all that you do for our Church! May God shield your loving heart with His love in return for your beautiful kindness!

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.

**Seven 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 [alena@ffarocor.org](mailto:alena@ffarocor.org).