

# 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 MONASTERY



HOLY CROSS MONASTERY



REFUGEES IN UKRAINE



## How you Saved Holy Trinity Monastery in Mexico City

*Fr Nektariy gave his all to his monastery. The burden nearly killed him. But then you stepped in.*

**W**e wrote to you recently about the desperate situation of Fr Nektariy and the Holy Trinity Monastery in Mexico City. Fr Nektariy is sick and on the brink of a physical collapse, and the brethren were forced to make the heartbreaking decision to close the monastery's doors forever.

Fortunately for them, for all the parishioners of the monastery, and for our Church, you did not let this happen. The response has been overwhelming and we are so incredibly grateful! **We now have enough to keep the monastery open for a year!**



*Fr Nektariy thanks you with a sign: "Thank you for saving our monastery!" (in Russian).*



## What your help will allow Fr Nektariy to do:

- Keep the parish open;
- Have time to minister better to our communities;
- Reopen the monastery bakery shop, which used to bring 60 % of the monastery income, thus making the monastery self-sufficient!
- Invest in the monastery apiary, which is almost lost. This will allow the brethren to sell honey and make their own beeswax candles.

**Thank you for saving the only  
ROCOR parish and monastery in Mexico!**





# Hundreds of miles away from home

*Frightened and hungry, they had nowhere to go.  
But you came in and helped them find shelter and comfort.*

**W**hen the armed conflict started in Ukraine, thousands of people lost their homes, property, and livelihood. Thousands fled Southeastern Ukraine for the small town of Svytogorsk (Eastern Ukraine) with a population of only 3,500. The small town of Svytogorsk (“Holy Mountain”) is a great spiritual center of Donbass thanks to the presence of the Holy Dormition Lavra.

Abbess Arsenia, who runs the monastery hospice, assumed responsibility for providing medical care to the refugees. “Sedatives and heart medication were our first concern,” says the abbess. “Later we discovered that, among the refugees, there was no small number of asthmatics, diabetics, and individuals handicapped since childhood. The situation was complicated further because many were on the verge of collapse, and their medications were running low, so we began first by replenishing their provisions. The world is not without good people... Significant aid was provided by ROCOR through the Fund for Assistance.”

During the most violent days the small town held over 30,000 refugees, who came hoping to be saved by the Intercession of the Theotokos.

Varvara K. from Gorlovka fled with her handicapped son when serious fighting began. She was immediately admitted into the monastery, and now lives there. “They helped me find medicine for my son. Now I know what it means to be in God’s bosom.”



*“Significant aid was provided by ROCOR through the Fund for Assistance.”*

**Thanks in part to donors like you, the monastery was able to provide meals for 3,000 to 4,000 refugees daily, as well as medicine, shelter, and clothing.**

Today around 11,000 refugees live in the monastery, including 3,000 children and 5,000 seniors.

Thanks to your kindness, the monastery was able to provide the children with basic school supplies, so they could continue their education in local schools.

“From our hearts we thank you for your active support, love, and assistance. May the Lord, who said: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” reward you with His great mercy for all the good you have done to us, sinners!” wrote Archbishop Arseny of Svytogorsk, Deputy Abbot of Svytogorsk Lavra.

*Christ's Gospel is so full of references to agriculture. When one of our neighbors was helping me in the garden this summer, he asked me how many seeds to plant. I said, "He who sows sparingly, reaps sparingly." He was amazed at that response. It was like a light bulb went off in his head. The Gospel came alive for him. ...He put down as much seed as he could.*  
- Hierodeacon Sergius



## At Holy Cross Monastery farming brings community closer to God

*You helped the brotherhood find a new way of preaching the Gospel... through their garden*

**O**ur favorite example of your generosity is the expanding farm at Holy Cross Monastery. Thanks to your kind help, the brethren are now able to supply nearly 75% of own vegetables and 90% of their own own eggs. There's fresh goat milk every day from Pascha to Thanksgiving.

As a result of growing their own food and getting much better nutrition, their grocery bills have shrunk, and their health has improved, so much so, that visitors have commented on how much healthier they look! And they use organic and sustainable farming practices.

"As a frequent visitor to the monastery I have long been concerned for the monks' overall health and well-being due the uncertain

quality of the food they were able to buy. The recent significant improvements in the monastery's agricultural production have contributed to a noticeable improvement in their health. Glory to God! "Innocent (Reishman)

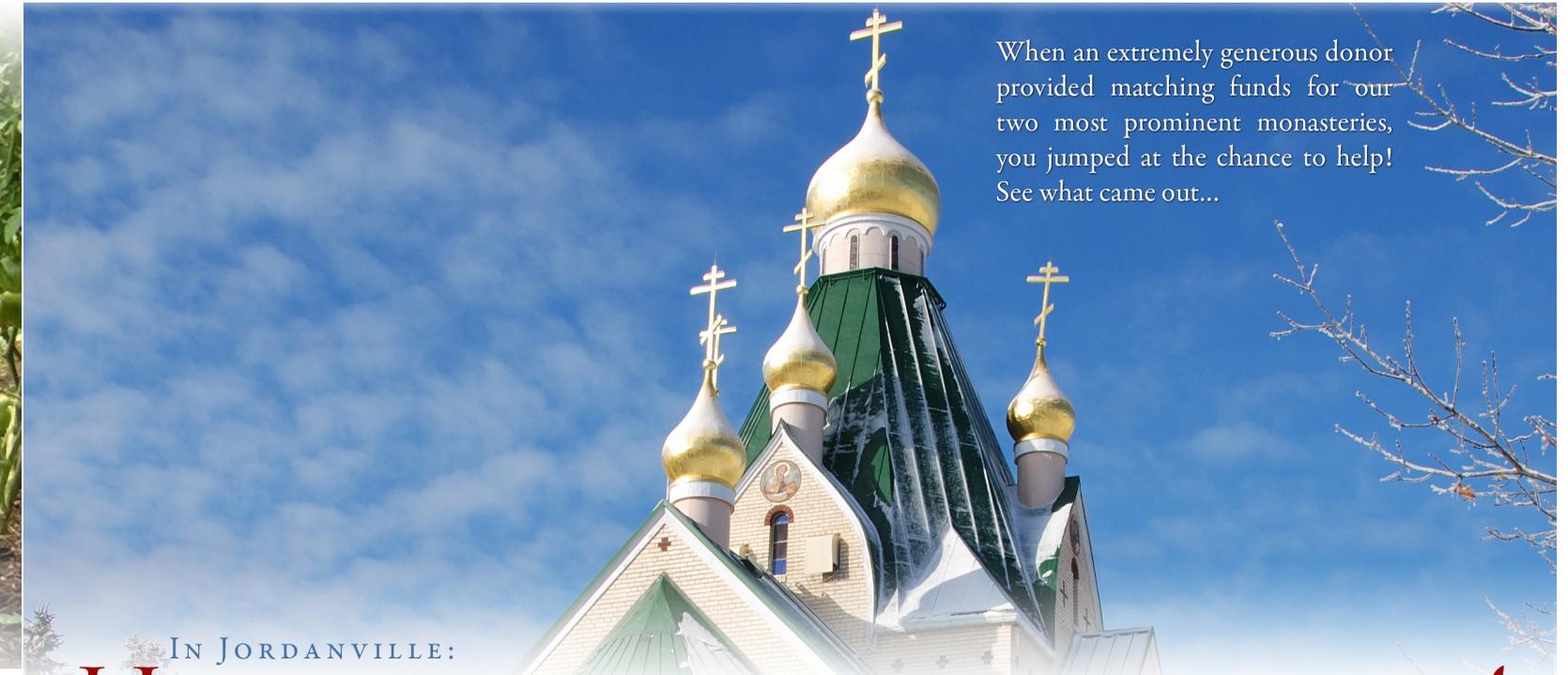
But that's not even the best part. Here's what's absolutely amazing: Hierodeacon Sergius – the head farmer at the monastery – says farming is impossible without help from neighbors.

"When we work with our neighbors here in West Virginia, they are coming into contact

with Orthodoxy. Even the local Farm to School director visited us hoping to establish a relationship between the monastery and our local school children. That's really exciting. Of course when they come, they will hear us speak about farming from a Christian perspective including topics such as: Creation or Repentance, i.e. working the earth as repentance (drawing close to God) instead of trying to create Utopia on earth."

**And if it hadn't been for you, the monastery would have probably ceased to exist three years ago. Glory to God for you - our generous donors!**





When an extremely generous donor provided matching funds for our two most prominent monasteries, you jumped at the chance to help! See what came out...

IN JORDANVILLE:

## HOW HOPE SHINES, BECAUSE OF YOU!



**F**or many upstate New Yorkers, Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville - with its golden cupola, the shining crosses, and the bearded men in long black ryassas - seems exotic, even intimidating...

“Many people say they always wanted to visit, but were afraid,” said monastery Treasurer, Fr Theophylact. So the brethren gave them a chance to visit en masse.

**With your generous assistance the monastery is now able to organize an Open House Day every year.** This year, 300 people came. The brethren welcomed the visitors, gave lectures about Church History and Orthodoxy, and tours around the beautiful church and grounds, and, of course, showed them real Russian Orthodox hospitality by feeding them traditional Russian food at the refectory.



People drove up from as far as Albany, as well as many locals and some Amish neighbors. All were pleased with the welcome they received. And guess what? They have been coming back for services. So with your help, the brethren are continuing to preach the Gospel to all!



For Holy Trinity Monastery your support this summer meant that the brethren could improve their health, and therefore, productivity, by sourcing organic produce from local farmers. Did you know that when you don't eat meat, consuming higher quality vegetables is even more important? As Fr Theophylact explained, “since our monastics rely primarily on vegetables for the lion's share of their diet, it's incredibly important that they are eating healthy vegetables.”



To go a step further, the monastery is planning on restarting its own vegetable garden again. Doing so will also help lower the costs (and further increase the nutritional quality) associated with feeding the 50 permanent residents, in addition to up to 200 pilgrims that visit during the busy summer weekends.

What's a monk's main purpose? To pray. Sadly, Fr Job, the monastery's oldest monastic brother, who has lived here for over half a century, is too infirm to walk to church every day, especially in bad weather.

He has been living in the same cell for 60 years now and is, understandably, reluctant to move, even though the daily trip to church would be much shorter.

Fr Job has not been very well. He's had heart problems and other health issues. The only thing he can really do is go to Church – there he finds consolation and strength to do what a monk is supposed to do: pray for the rest of us in the world.

**Thanks to you, the brethren were able to buy a golf cart that allows Fr Job to go anywhere on the grounds he needs to go. And he is very grateful!**

As you know, Jordanville is located in a very remote rural area, but there is a ton of action going on at all times. The monastery gets a lot of visitors. There is always someone to be picked up at the airport, someone sick to be seen, someone in need of assistance to be helped.



You allowed them to do that – by providing enough funds to buy a much newer car (on auction) than they ordinarily would get. For years they would rely on car donations, only to deal with a multitude of repairs.

The FFA sends lists of those who send funds to the HTM, which are used in daily liturgies served. So, when you donate to the HTM, not only do you help support an icon of ROCOR, but you also support your soul in being prayed for! This is a real win-win situation.



#### **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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