



Восточно-Американская Епархія Русской Православной Церкви Заграницей
Eastern American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

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PROPOSAL
to the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

To help launch the
Pastoral Resources Program (PRP)
of the Eastern American Diocese

Introduction

The Eastern American Diocese has 178 priests and deacons who faithfully toil in the Vineyard of Christ, saving the thousands of souls that come to our churches and monasteries in search of salvation. Because of the financial difficulties facing the parishes, it is often impossible for many of these clergymen to receive a proper theological education or pastoral training. His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, and members of the Diocesan Council have discussed at great length the need to help our clergymen through a series of educational and practical programs. With the blessing of Metropolitan Hilarion, the Pastoral Resources Program (PRP) was launched in 2010 to organize continuing education projects and seminars with the goal of assisting diocesan clergy. Given the burdens of pastoral care, family responsibilities, secular work, and parish administration, clergy need time to refresh their spirits and pastoral skills. Many of our clergy are also converts to the Orthodox faith and often times they come with a variety of educational experiences that don't always coincide with Orthodox beliefs. In most denominations, continuing education is a requirement for all clergy, but no such programs exist in ROCOR.

The PRP utilizes the vast resources of the diocesan website to connect with clergy in the Eastern American Diocese and all over the world. The PRP addresses contemporary pastoral issues through interactive seminars and forums. Working with the youth and seminarians will also be a crucial aspect of the PRP, as the youth are the future clergy and faithful of our Church.

Substantial funding is necessary in order for the Pastoral Resources Program to be successful in its mission to help the clergy of the Eastern American Diocese. This proposal outlines a series of seminars that we hope to organize in 2012 with the help of the Fund for Assistance. With God's help, these projects will help our current and future clergy to better serve the Holy Church.

Teaching through Tradition & Experience

“Teaching through Tradition & Experience” is the first project under the Pastoral Resources Program. Based on the experiences of past clergy conferences, there is great demand for interactive seminars to educate our current and future clergy on a wide variety of pastoral issues. During the Autumnal Pastoral Conference held at Holy Trinity Monastery in October 2011, a roundtable discussion was organized between clergy and seminarians. This type of interaction received overwhelming support from clergy and seminarians alike. The Diocesan Council wishes to build upon that experience and organize a series of interactive seminars for our clergy and seminarians.

ROCOR has two official theological programs in the US; Holy Trinity Seminary and the Pastoral School of the Chicago Diocese. Both of these institutions offer excellent theological programs but in order for our clergy to benefit from them, they must commit several years to complete the courses. The Pastoral Resources Program is designed to help clergy who cannot afford the time or money to enroll in Holy Trinity Seminary or the Pastoral School. Most of our clergy work full-time jobs and, between parish and family obligations, have very little time for pastoral training. The PRP would offer educational seminars that deal specifically with real issues with which the average parish priest in America comes in contact. Issues such as liturgics, homiletics, confession, marriage counseling, working with drug addiction, and prison ministry are just some of the topics that would be covered in these seminars. Our clergy must deal with these issues every day, but many of them have never received any sort of training or education in these subjects.

In order to maximize the full potential of these seminars, the Diocesan Media Office will record all of the discussions and seminars, so that they can be published online in video, audio, and printed form. This unique approach to media will ensure that all diocesan clergy, as well as clergy from around the world, can benefit from these seminars through the Internet. It would be impossible for all of our clergy to attend several events per year, so by publishing the seminar materials online, they can learn from home when it is most convenient for them. Further, publication of these materials on the diocesan website will eternalize the seminars, allowing future generations helpful access to learning materials they will need to better aid the Church and one another. In order for this to happen, it is important that the programs be organized and recorded properly.

Pastoral Seminars & Retreats

- Pastoral seminars will focus on a wide variety of pastoral issues facing our clergy every day. Topics include confession, counseling, Orthodox psychotherapy, homiletics, liturgics, avoiding pastoral “burnout,” and much more. The goal of the seminars is to address issues pertaining to pastoral care.
- Keynote speakers will be invited to give lectures and presentations which will be accompanied by interactive discussions with a panel of bishops and clergy.
- Specific topics will be decided upon based on direct input from diocesan clergy.
- Seminars will be held in all different parts of the Diocese, so that all of the clergy will have an opportunity to participate.
- There are different ways in which these seminars and retreats can be organized. Some seminars will be arranged with smaller groups of clergy in an effort to keep costs down. Three-day retreats will focus on giving our clergy an opportunity to gather and spend time together while educating themselves on key pastoral topics.
- Regardless of the type of seminar or retreat, all of the materials will be broadcasted online.

Discussions with Seminarians

- Upon request of the students and faculty of Holy Trinity Seminary, the PRP will organize interactive discussions between seminarians and clergy in Jordanville. It is vitally important for the Diocese to help our seminarians, so that they might be better prepared to face the challenges awaiting them in their pastoral service to the Church.
- Several priests, young and old, will be selected to travel to Jordanville and meet with the seminarians during a one-day session. These discussions will be recorded and later published on the diocesan site to share with seminarians all over the world, thus continuing the work begun at the seminar.
- Funding is crucial for this project in order for the monastery to avoid bearing the additional costs of organizing the discussions.

Budget

The funds from the FFA will be used cover the costs of organizing these events. The goal of the PRP is to organize seminars that are free to clergy of the Diocese. Depending on the location of the seminar, some may also offer free lodging.

Funds are needed for:

- Arranging speakers for the seminars – travel and lodging expenses, as well as small stipends.
- Covering the cost of food, supplies and materials.
- Purchasing recording equipment to record the lectures and discussions so that they can be published. It is significantly cheaper to purchase our own equipment that can be used for many years, instead of hiring professional video crews to film the seminars at a great cost.
- Hiring conference organizers to run the seminars and discussions in a way that they can be recorded. Specific topics and questions must be organized in advance so that the seminars are structured and easily recorded for publication. A well-structured and properly recorded seminar will later be transformed into a video and audio podcast.
- Hiring staff to edit and publish seminar materials on the diocesan website. Depending on the seminar and topic, some portions will be transcribed and printed, while others will be broadcast as videos. Workers will be paid per project depending on the total number of words transcribed and translated. The PRP seeks to pay a modest wage of \$.06 per word which will include transcribing and editing from audio and translation into Russian or English. Video editors will be required to edit and produce Internet-ready videos of the seminars.

EXPENSES:

1. Video camera and editing equipment: \$7,425.00

2. One-Day Seminars: Cost to organize 4 seminars: \$10,200.00

These seminars will be organized for a small group of five clergymen to discuss one particular subject with one main speaker. The seminar would be filmed and then broadcasted on the Internet in a series dealing with specific pastoral topics.

3. Three-Day Seminar & Retreat: Cost for 2 retreats: \$18,375.00

- These seminars will be organized for groups of 25 clergy at Holy Cross Monastery in Wayne, WV and Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, NY. The seminars will last two days, with a Divine Liturgy on the third day.

4. Discussions with Seminarians: Cost for 4 seminars: \$8,000.00

- These discussions will be one-day affairs and have the lowest cost, because they only require speakers and videographers.

GRAND TOTAL: \$44,000.00

Conclusion

By focusing on “Teaching through Tradition & Experience,” the PRP will provide opportunities for education and interaction between the clergy of our Diocese. With God’s help, the Pastoral Resources Program will unite the clergy by addressing their spiritual and pastoral needs. The most valuable asset that our Diocese has is its clergy. ROCOR clergy are some of the most dedicated and hardworking clergymen in America, who often go to great lengths in order to carry out their pastoral service. An investment in the PRP is an investment in ROCOR clergy. In order for the PRP to be a success, substantial funding is necessary. The Diocese does not have the means to fund this critical program, but we firmly believe that with the help of the Fund for Assistance, the Pastoral Resources Program will be a success, and new benefactors and sponsors will step up to continue the project.

We humbly request that the Fund for Assistance donate \$44,000.00 to begin the work of the Pastoral Resources Program. These funds will be part of a separate budget dedicated entirely to the PRP and will be used for the projects listed in this proposal. It is important to note that the FFA’s investment will not end when the seminars end, because all of the resources and materials collected during these projects will be published online to share with all the faithful of ROCOR and will remain there for future use. Credit will be given to the FFA on every project, and the Diocesan Media Office will send articles and photographs from each project, so that the fruits of our combined labors can be shared with FFA’s benefactors and supporters. We pray that the Fund for Assistance will help us tend to the many different pastoral needs of our current and future clergy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Diocesan Council,
with the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, by:



Archpriest Serge Lukianov
Secretary of the Eastern American Diocese
November 15, 2011



cc: Met. Hilarion and Members of the Diocesan Council

*Note: This proposal was approved by the Fund for Assistance to ROCOR on December 2, 2011.
Glory be to God!*