



# **ST ALEXANDER NEVSKY**

## **DIOCESAN CATHEDRAL**

### **Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**

200 Alexander Avenue · Howell, NJ 07731 USA  
Phone: (732) 364-3330 · nevskysobor@gmail.com  
[www.stalexandernevskycathedral.org](http://www.stalexandernevskycathedral.org)

September 16/29, 2017

*Holy Great-Martyress Euphemia the All-Praised*

Dear in the Lord Brothers & Sisters!

It is with deep sorrow that we finally report to you that the parish of St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral will not be able to purchase Russian House "Rodina" and the property surrounding it.

We are grateful to Mr. Alexander Bondarev for working with us over the past two years as we searched for a way to effect the purchase of Russian House "Rodina" by the cathedral parish.

With our blessing, the parish council tried to gather the requisite one million dollars to purchase Rodina and its property. Several appeals were sent out, including to Russia and Ukraine. We approached many donors, and sent out electronic mailers.

Several parishioners heard our call, and lent the parish \$275,000 toward the purchase of the Rodina property. Also collected was \$54,000 in individual donations.

The parish contacted three local banks with a request for a mortgage to accomplish the purchase. The first two banks denied the parish a mortgage out of hand, while the third agreed only to provide \$500,000 and only for one year, with a high rate of interest. Throughout the year, the parish had to demonstrate to the bank that we had the ability to afford the monthly mortgage payments.

We discussed this issue and came to the conclusion that the parish would not be able to afford this kind of financial obligation to the bank. Thus, the last offer we made to Mr. Bondarev was to ask that the price of the property be dropped to \$500,000, which was refused. We understand Mr. Bondarev's position on this issue. By the same token, our options at this juncture are exhausted.

Nevertheless, the parish council has not abandoned the idea of building St. John of Shanghai Benevolent House, which would allow people to live next to the church. This idea received widespread support amongst our parishioners. Thus, the parish council hopes, if possible, to realize this project – albeit on a smaller scale – on existing church property.

We also want to inform you that, for several years now, we have been receiving complaints about the unsatisfactory and even dangerous condition of our parking lot and the stairs leading up to the cathedral. Thanks to several donors, the parish has \$46,000 to accomplish this project. With our blessing, the parish council has resolved to lay new asphalt in the parking lot. Work begins in October, and will cost \$62,000.

We are glad to report that, of the \$53,946 donated, only \$4,168 has been used for attorney fees, mailers, and care for the Rodina property. The remainder – \$49,778 – could be greatly helpful in accomplishing the above-mentioned projects.

The parish council is very grateful to all of the donors and to everyone who responded and supported our efforts in purchasing Russian House "Rodina." We understand how important your donations are to you, and are offering to return to you the amounts you submitted. In order to accomplish this, we ask that you contact the parish administration within 30 days.

If you would prefer to donate these funds toward the needs of the church or for repair work, we ask that you indicate this below.

We call down on all of you and your labors God's blessing.



Metropolitan of Eastern America & New York  
*Cathedral Rector*

-----  
First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (inc. zip code): \_\_\_\_\_

- please return my donation       transfer my donation to St. John's Benevolent House
- transfer my donation to the cathedral's parking lot project and to repair the cathedral stairs