



**PRIEURE DES GRANGES**

*Père André Gouzes op.*

***To our Future Patrons  
and Donors***

*Sylvanès, 5 October 2007*

***A Fund-Raising Appeal for an Artistic Undertaking  
in Russian Iconography***

*Dear Sir, Madam,*

*You may be interested in having your name associated with a great project : the decoration of the interior of the Russian Orthodox Church in Sylvanès (France) with the creation of a grand iconostasis, together with the painting of frescoes for the dome ceiling.*

*The Russian Church in Sylvanès is the fruit of the exchanges and friendships between Sylvanès Abbey and Russia that have branched out over the years. The exceptional nature of the site has lent itself to hospitality, in regular meetings with Russian intellectuals and artists, together with those of the Orthodox faith, and with the approval of the Russian Patriarchate. Both the national and international press alike have given this coverage, and the church was honoured with an award in the Ukraine. As recently as the summer of 2007, at a festival of religious documentaries held in Belorussia, a special prize was awarded to « The Little Russian Sister from Sylvanès Abbey », a film about this church, by Vladimir Kozlov.*

*A Russian artist would be ready to undertake this ambitious work. But we lack the financial means, and are therefore in search of funds.*

*A project to restore a nearby spa will very soon materialize, and this will incite an ever-widening public to visit this magnificent monument, that ought to have its interior decorated as quickly as possible.*

*Enclosed you will find documentation on our appeal, in addition to a history of this church.*

*It is my sincerest hope that you will take a strong interest in this undertaking.*

*With my very best regards,*

*Père André Gouzes, op.*