

November 17, 2009
№ 11-27/09

**To all monastery, parish, and mission rectors
Of the Eastern American Diocese**

Fr. Rodion Aragon, only ROCOR priest in Costa Rica was said to be terminally ill with stomach cancer November, 11, wrote Fr. Daniel McKenzie to the Fund for Assistance to ROCOR.

He was hospitalized due to a mysterious illness that kept him in great pain and prevented him from eating. The doctors couldn't find out what was wrong with him until November 11, when he was diagnosed with terminal stomach cancer.

They were unable to operate on him and simply closed the incision. After he awoke, he was in such pain that the doctors put him back to sleep.

Fr. Rodion enrolled into the Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville and was planning to continue his education. The large Russian population in Costa Rica is in the process of building a church in the Pskov style and looking forward to a bright future with Fr. Rodion at the helm.

I hereby authorize monastery, parish, and mission rectors to carry out plate collections at the end of any Sunday Divine Liturgy, for the needs of Fr. Rodion's family. Collected funds can be sent to the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

+Hilarion

Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York