



ВОСТОЧНО-АМЕРИКАНСКАЯ ЕПАРХИЯ
Русская Православная Церковь Заграницей

EASTERN AMERICAN DIOCESE
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

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*Holy Hierarch Tikhon the Confessor,
Patriarch of Moscow & All Russia*

**Appeal for a Plate Collection for the Fund for Assistance
to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia on Thanksgiving Day**

Thanksgiving Day is a special occasion, when we gather in our churches and in our homes to give thanks to the Lord for the multitude of earthly and spiritual benefits bestowed upon us. At the same time, we remember those who are in need. There are many Orthodox families and communities who are less fortunate than us and are in need, not only in this country, but in other countries where our Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR) has parishes and missions. Especially in light of the COVID epidemic in 2020 and 2021, we must remember that, even if we are struggling, there are others in need of our love and assistance.

We, as members of the Body of Christ, must remember that, "If one part suffereth, every part suffereth with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoiceth with it" (I Cor. 12:26). Let us be mindful of this truth, especially on Thanksgiving Day. Thanksgiving means showing gratitude not only through prayerful words, but especially through our actions – thus becoming fellow workers in the service of Christ Jesus (Romans 16:3). For the Lord said: "For I was hungry and ye gave Me food, I was thirsty and ye gave Me drink, I was a stranger and ye welcomed Me, naked, and ye clothed Me; I was sick, and ye visited Me; I was in prison, and ye came unto Me" (Matthew 25:35-36). By assisting others, we are serving Christ.

For more than 60 years, ROCOR's Fund for Assistance has been an effective vehicle to provide support for the less fortunate within our worldwide community, with specific emphasis on the moral and spiritual education of youth, aid to its clergy, and distribution of emergency relief to its missions.

Today, members of the Synod of Bishops and I are calling upon you to support the Fund through a special collection at the cross. You can also make more generous donations by visiting the Fund's website: www.fundforassistance.org.

With love in Christ,

+ *Hilarion*

Metropolitan of Eastern America & New York
First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia