

From Bishop Tikhon OCA

Here is my answer to the question that Al Green addressed to me here:

***Vladyka, bless, How about ROCOR, ROCA, ROCiE, HOCNA (for starters)
Are they outside the Orthodox church, too?

ROCOR, whose First Hierarch is, I understand, commemorated by Patriarch Pavle at Proskomedija, and Which is, as well, a temporarily separated Part of the Church of Russia inside the Orthodox Church: inside the Orthodox Church as a part of the Church of Russia.

ROCA is an enemy of the Church of Russia, that is the Church of Russia that is one of the Local Churches that constitute the Orthodox Church, and it is headed by someone who fled the Church of Russia the Church of Russia's ROCOR branch, after being disowned by them both. ROCiE is an enemy of the Church of Russia, and is an entirely autocephalous and self-consecrating and self-validating member not of the Church but of the mischief-making part of the faith communities making up the Orthodox miscellany. HOCNA is likewise a member of the Orthodox miscellany, but is never mischief-making, and it is a faith community that produces printed materials of great value to Orthodox liturgy in English, translations fully worthy of and on the same high level as the texts in the original languages. One must admire their self-control and general lack of interest in the interminable contests for "Best Orthodox" that concern the entirely self-involved and self-aggrandizing rest of that Orthodox miscellany. Morality, of course, is not an indication of being in the Orthodox Church, since morality may be found among peoples that have not yet heard of Christ, and Immorality has plagued all Churches and faith communities and the Orthodox miscellany; nevertheless, HOCNA has, for the past several years, no reason to consider itself more immoral than any other member of the miscellany nor any of the Orthodox Churches.

I'm sure that Al is well-acquainted with the standard for membership on the normal-orthodox list: that standard is the same standard as the one determining who is in the Orthodox Church, and it includes ROCOR, but none of those other acronyms. By ROCOR, of course, I mean the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, Inc. and not anything like the fanciful, wistful, and unrealistic "ROCOR (V)" which is an entirely comic and fictitious acronym which ROCiE sometimes uses for itself. By the way, I think that "ROCiE" has been trashed by ROCiE and that they must have some new acronym: they've just turned against the "in exile" business, in one of their more recent volte faces

Love,

+Tikhon, Bishop of San Francisco and the West, Orthodox Church in America