



## **DECR chairman meets with Russian expatriates at the Russian Church Outside Russia's church of the Assumption in Asuncion**

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On July 3, 2011, during his visit to Paraguay for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence, Metropolitan Hilarion, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, visited the church of the Assumption of the Russian Church Outside Russia, in Asuncion.

Together with Metropolitan Platon of Argentina and South America, Metropolitan Hilarion said the Office of the Dead in memory of Russian emigrants who had lived in Paraguay. Present at the service were Russian diplomats and expatriates. As a token of his visit, Metropolitan Hilarion presented the Parish of the Assumption with an icon of the Most Holy Mother of God.

After the lity, the DECR chairman met with members of the Association of Russians and Their Descendants at the house of Prof. Xenia Yermolyeva of the Paraguayan Catholic University. Addressing the gathering, Metropolitan Hilarion called them to cherish the Orthodox faith and hand down the spiritual traditions they inherited from ancestors to generations to come.

*DECR Communication Service*