



THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Department for External Church Relations

Congratulations from the Primate of the Russian Church to His Holiness Patriarch Tawadros II of the Coptic Church on his 70th birthday



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus' congratulated His Holiness Patriarch Tawadros II of the Coptic Church on his 70th birthday and the tenth anniversary of his enthronement.

**HIS HOLINESS TAWADROS II
POPE OF ALEXANDRIA
AND PATRIARCH OF THE SEE OF SAINT MARK
IN ALL AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

Your Holiness,
Beloved Brother in the Lord,

Please accept my heartfelt greetings on your 70th birthday and the 10th anniversary of your election to the ancient Patriarchal Throne of Saint Mark.

Having received from your pious parents *precious faith... through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ* (2 Pet 1:1), in your youth you embarked on the path of church ministry *in the beauty of holiness* (1Chr 16:29). The Lord willed to place you at the helm of the Patriarchal office so that you may use the God-granted talents for the benefit of the Christian people of Egypt.

It is gratifying to note that the decade of your Primatial service has been a period of flourishing spiritual life for the Coptic Church, which has enhanced its role and standing in the world. As *green leaves on a thick tree* (Sir 14:18), new communities of the Coptic believers appear today in many countries, including Russia.

I highly value my acquaintance with Your Holiness and appreciate the attention you invariably devote to strengthening the historical ties of friendship between the Moscow Patriarchate and the Coptic Church. It is my heartfelt hope that these relationships continue to develop just as successfully in future, *being fruitful in every good work* (Col 1:10).

In consideration of your achievements, as well as on the occasion of the aforementioned significant dates I deem it fair to award you with the Order of Glory and Honour, 1st class.

On this memorable day I wish to Your Holiness bountiful mercies from the Lord, good health, longevity, and success in your Primatial ministry.

**+KIRILL
PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUS'**