



## **Moscow Patriarchate's representative attends opening ceremony of the Association of Russian-Speaking Compatriots in northern Turkey**



On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Rev. Georgy Sergeyev, who is responsible for taking pastoral care of the Russian Orthodox Church's flock in the territory of the Republic of Turkey, took part in the opening ceremony of the Russian-Speaking Association for Education, Culture and Friendship of the Black Sea Region. The ceremony was held in the city of Samsun in the north of Turkey.

Among those in attendance were representatives of the governor and administration of the city of Samsun, as well as Mr. Alexander Sotnichenko, counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation, and Mr. Roman Penkin, deputy head of the Rossotrudnichestvo Representation in Turkey.

In his greeting speech Fr. Georgy noted that the Association of the Russian-Speaking Compatriots is the

first such organization opened in the region and emphasized the necessity of joint efforts of the local Orthodox Christians in establishing the new community of the Russian Orthodox Church on the country's Black Sea coast.

The representative of the Moscow Patriarchate wished blessed success to the Association in its work aimed at promoting the Russian culture, language and art and maintaining friendly relations between the two countries.

Within the framework of the opening ceremony, a meeting with compatriots took place with the view of discussing the organization of divine services in the region.

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