Metropolitan Hilarion speaks at global Christian youth forum in Manila



On 8th – 10th August 2019, the Jesus Global Youth Day took place at the Mall of Asia Arena in the city of Manila, the Philippines, bringing together over thirty thousand participants from more than 100 countries.

With the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, attended the forum.

On 9th August, Metropolitan Hilarion addressed the audience of 30 thousand young people, speaking about the importance of the personality of the Lord Jesus Christ in the life of a Christian. The DECR chairman also told the young people from various continents who gathered together in Manila about the Orthodox faith, the Russian Orthodox Church and its history in the 20th century, making a special emphasis on the revival of church life in the recent thirty years.

“Such upturn in religious life in the territory of the former atheistic empire cannot be caused by natural or socio-political factors alone, but clearly is of supernatural character. This revival does not spring from our human efforts. Its main reason is the personality of our Lord Jesus Christ – God Incarnate and Saviour of the world,” the DECR chairman said.

Among those present at the meeting were Mr. Teodoro Locsin, Foreign Affairs Secretary of the Philippines; Mr. Igor Khovayev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Philippines; Metropolitan Sergy of Singapore and Southeast Asia, Patriarchal Exarch of Southeast Asia; Metropolitan Pavel of Khanty-Mansiysk and Surgut, acting administrator of the diocese of the Philippines and Vietnam; Mr. K. Mayorov, third secretary of Russia’s Embassy in the Philippines; Hieromonk Pitirim (Dondenko), secretary of the Exarchate; Hieromonk Alexy (Lapshin), cleric of the Iveron Church in Manila; and Mr. D. Lavrentyev, secretary of the Exarchate.

Accompanying the DECR chairman on his visit to the Philippines were Hieromonk Ioann (Kopeykin), vice-rector for development at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Theological Institute of Postgraduate Studies; Hieromonk Nikolay (Ono), cleric of the Russian Orthodox Church’s Metochion in Tokyo, Japan; Mr. Philip Champion, DECR staff member; and Subdeacon Vyacheslav Lee.

On behalf of the organizers of the Jesus Global Youth Day American Pastor Ron Luce warmly greeted the guests from the Russian Orthodox Church, noting that for the majority of those present Metropolitan Hilarion’s address was the first face-to-face encounter with an Orthodox pastor.

DECR Communication Service

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