



## **DECR chairman meets with Primate of the Catholic Church in Poland**

On 19 May 2018, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations (DECR), currently in Warsaw with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, was invited to the secretariat of the Polish Bishops' Conference and met with Archbishop Wojciech Polak of Gniezno, Primate of the Polish Catholic Church.

They were joined at the meeting by deputy general secretary of the Polish Bishops' Conference Rev. Jarosław Mrowczynski, press secretary of the Conference Rev. Paweł Rytel-Andrianik, head of the Catholic information agency Marcin Przeciszewski, and Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, DECR secretary for inter-Orthodox relations; and Alexander Yershov, personal assistant to the DECR chairman.

Plans of the development of bilateral relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church in Poland were discussed in a warm and cordial atmosphere. It was noted that the tone for these relations has been set by the Joint Message to the Peoples of Russia and Poland signed by Metropolitan Józef Michalik, President of the Polish Bishops' Conference, and His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia during his visit to Poland in August 2012. The Message still holds true.

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