



## **DECR chairman greets Primate of the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem with his Nameday**

*Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, sent the following greeting to His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem and All Palestine with his Nameday:*

Your Beatitude:

Please accept my heartfelt greeting with Your Nameday on the commemoration day of the holy martyr Theophilos of Sebaste.

The virtuous life of this witness of Christ gives You strength for carrying the heavy cross of the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem. While performing the entrusted to You lofty and responsible ministry, You are offering up zealous prayers at the Holy Sepulchre for the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of God's holy Churches, beseeching the Creator to grant His mercies and benevolence to the people of Palestine.

On this festive day I pray to the Lord to safeguard from misfortunes and sorrows 'under the shelter of his wings" (cf. Ps 61:5) the Most Holy Mother of all the Churches and to bestow upon Your Beatitude physical and spiritual strength and abundant help in Your primatial labours.

With respect and love in the Lord,

**Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk**

**Chairman**

**Department for External Church Relations**

**Moscow Patriarchate**