



THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Department for External Church Relations

DECR chairman greets His Holiness and Beatitude Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia with his Name Day

Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, congratulated His Holiness and Beatitude Ilia, Archbishop of Mtskheta and Tbilisi, Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, on his Name Day.

His Holiness and Beatitude ILIA

Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia

Your Holiness and Beatitude,

Please accept my cordial greetings with your Name Day.

You have been the head of the Georgian Orthodox Church for many years, having gained high and deserved authority in the Orthodox world. The Primates of Churches, as well as archpastors and pastors of various countries have deep respect for your Primatial labours and your efforts aimed at promoting fraternal relations between Christians. Just like your heavenly patron, Prophet Elijah, you strengthen in faith and hope the people of God who see in you a *good shepherd* that *gives his life for the sheep* (Jn. 10:11), takes care of his flock and loves it.

I wish to Your Holiness and Beatitude spiritual and bodily strength and God's unceasing blessed help in your ministry for the good of the Church and of the people of Georgia.

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