



## **DECR chairman sends message of greetings to His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem on his Name Day**

*Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, congratulated His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem on his Name Day. The text of the message is given below.*

Your Beatitude,

I would like to extend to you my respectful and heartfelt greetings with the commemoration day of your heavenly patron, Holy Martyr Theophilus of Sebaste – your Name Day – as well as with your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Through the prayers of this witness to the Lord, you zealously perform your responsible Primatial service, *contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints* (Jude 1:3). Standing at the helm of the Mother of Churches, you take tireless care of the great Christian shrines, as well as of numerous pilgrims who flock to the Holy Land from across the globe.

On this day of celebration I prayerfully wish to Your Beatitude bodily and spiritual strength, God's help and many and blessed years of Primatial ministry for the benefit of the Church of Christ.

With respect and love in the Lord,