



## **DECR chairman congratulates His Holiness Patriarch Neofit on his Nameday**

*Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, sent the following greetings to the Primate of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church:*

Your Holiness:

Please accept my heartfelt greetings with the feast day of your heavenly patron.

Life of the holy martyr Neofit who showed the angel-like asceticism, remaining firm in his martyrdom, has always inspired members of the Holy Orthodox Church to patience and perseverance amidst trials and difficulties of their earthly life.

The heavenly intercession of this saint whose name you received on Your becoming a monk has supported you as you were ascending the spiritual ladder of monasticism and ministry to the Church. The holy martyr Neofit is venerated by all Bulgarian Orthodox Christians for whom you care as Primate of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

May the Lord through the prayers of the holy martyr Neofit bestow upon Your Holiness his peace which 'surpasses all understanding' (Phil 4:7), physical strength and audacity in prayers for Your God-loving flock.

With respectful love in the Lord,

**+Hilarion**

**Metropolitan of Volokolamsk**

**Chairman**

**Department for External Church Relations**

**Moscow Patriarchate**