



Patriarch Kirill's enthronement anniversary celebrations led by Patriarch of Serbia at ROC Belgrade Representation

On February 1, 2015, the Russian Church Belgrade Representation celebrated in its church of the Holy Trinity the 6th anniversary of the enthronement of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia. The congregation was led in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy by His Holiness Irenaeus, Patriarch of Serbia.

There were a great many parishioners including Russians, Serbs and people of other nations. Among the worshippers was Russian Ambassador A. Chepurin, Byelorussian Ambassador V. Chushev, Russia's trade representative in Serbia A. Khripunov and representatives of Russian cooperation agencies in Serbia. There was also Ms Mileta Radojevic, director of the Office for Religious Affairs of the Republic of Serbia.

His Holiness Irenaeus was assisted by Serbian clergy and the rector of the ROC Representation in Belgrade, Archpriest Vitalij Tarasjev.

Addressing the congregation, Patriarch Irenaeus called them to keep praying to Prince Vladimir Equal-to-the-Apostles, saying that 'the baptism of Rus' turned the Slavs into a great Christian people. Is it possible to imagine the Orthodox world today without the Russian people? No'.

Speaking about the 6th anniversary of the enthronement of Patriarch Kirill, Patriarch Irenaeus said in particular, 'In times of great temptations, the Lord sends great historical persons to His children. Today too, there are new regiments of foes go against His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, against the Russian Church, against the whole Orthodoxy. There is nothing new in it. This battle has been going on from the beginning of times. In this confrontation, Local Orthodox Churches are parts of the one body whose Head is the Lord Himself. All our battles are led by the Lord; therefore, we will inevitably overcome our foes with the word of truth and justice'.

In conclusion of the celebrations, Archpriest Vitalij Tarsjev as rector of the ROC Belgrade Representation gave a grand reception in honour of the 6th anniversary of the ascension of His Holiness Kirill to the Patriarchal Throne of Moscow.
