



## **Patriarch Kirill congratulates Belarus's President Alexander Lukashenko on his 60th birthday**

*Below is the congratulatory message sent by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia to Belarus's President Alexander Lukashenko on the occasion of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday:*

**His Excellency Alexander G. Lukashenko**

**President of the Republic of Belarus**

Your Excellency, Highly Esteemed Alexander Grigoryevich:

Kindly accept my cordial congratulations on the remarkable date – your 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, together with wishes of good health, spiritual fortitude and abundant help from the Lord in your work as President of the Republic of Belarus.

With your brilliant gifts including your ability to hear people, to understand problems important for them and with your great experience you have effectively tackled numerous problems faced by the country and taken well-considered decisions on which the well-being of your compatriots depends.

It is gratifying to note that the years of your presidency have been marked with all-round development of public and social life in the Republic of Belarus and consolidation of fraternal relations and allied relations with other Slavic nations who are bound by a common faith, history and moral and cultural values.

On behalf of the whole Russian Orthodox Church I would like to thank you for the consideration and support that you give to the Exarchate of Belarus. I am confident that the constructive and fruitful cooperation between state and church lead to the creation of a spiritually strong, healthy and stable society.

May Merciful God bless your work for the benefit of the Byelorussian people, giving you patience and further success in your lofty and important presidential service.

With deep respect,

**+ Kirill**

**Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia**

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