



Metropolitan Hilarion delivers lecture at Uppsala University



On May 14, 2014, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for External Church Relations and rector of the Ss Cyril and Methodius Institute of Post-Graduate Studies, with a blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, visited Uppsala University, Sweden.

In the morning of May 14, Metropolitan Hilarion read a lecture on “The Tradition of the Church and Academic Theology” at the Faculty of Theology. Before the lecture, he was welcomed by the dean of the faculty, Prof. Mikael Stenmark. The lecture was attended by professors, post-graduate students, staff members of the Uppsala Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies and representatives of Christian churches.

After the lecture, His Eminence answered numerous questions from the audience. Asked about his vision of modern academic theology, he said that in his opinion “it is impossible to be a theologian without adhering to a particular tradition. A tradition can be really understood only from within. Therefore, a scholar cannot be called theologian in the full sense if he does not identify with a particular religious tradition, be it Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Muslim or Jewish”.

Metropolitan Hilarion’s visit includes a meeting with the rector of the university, the dean of the Faculty of Theology and staff members of the Center for Russian Studies, as well as the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Ss Cyril and Methodius Institute and the university’s Faculty of Theology, and participation in a round-table conference on Social Ethics and the Orthodox Tradition.

The delegation accompanying Metropolitan Hilarion includes Archpriest Vladimir Shmaliy and Hieromonk Ioann (Kopeikin), pro-rectors of the Ss Cyril and Methodius Institute, and A. Shishkov, a staff member of the Synodal Biblical and Theological Commission.

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