



## **Delegation of Turkey's Presidency of Religious Affairs visit St. Sergius Monastery of the Trinity and Moscow Theological Schools**



On April 9, 2014, the delegation of Turkey's Presidency of Religious Affairs, while on a visit to Russia for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the joint working group, visited the St. Sergius Monastery of the Holy Trinity and Moscow Theological Schools. The guests were accompanied by Rev. Dimitry Safonov, head of the DECR section for interreligious contacts and Rev. Mikhail Bogdanov, DECR protocol section.

After a tour of the monastery's architectural sights and major shrines, the delegation met with the rector of Moscow Theological Schools, Archbishop Yevgeny of Vereya, who introduced them to the history and the present life of the academy and seminary, as well as various aspects of the training process and students' life. The leader of the delegation, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Paçacı, head of the Presidency of Religious Affairs foreign relations department, expressed interest in developing contacts between theological schools in Turkey and Moscow Theological Academy and thanked His Eminence for the possibility to meet. Archbishop Yevgeny presented the guests with albums on the history of the

monastery as tokens of the meeting.

The guests visited the MTA Church Archaeology Museum and met with students of the department of church art. The students told them about their recent trip to Turkey with the aim to study Christian monuments. Among the speakers was Ms. N. Kvlividze, head of the MTA department of church art.

Answering questions from students, Prof. Mehmet Paçacı spoke about the protection of architectural and cultural monuments including measures for preserving traces of Christian heritage in them and stressed the need for a competent approach to be made in studying them. Present at the meeting were students of the Academy's MA course.

*DECR Communication Service*

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