



## **Metropolitan Hilarion meets with Croatian Ambassador to Russia**

On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, met with H.E. Igor Pokaz, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Croatia to the Russian Federation.

Metropolitan Hilarion said that he had warm recollections of his visit to Croatia last August. He expressed his satisfaction with the results of the referendum held recently in Croatia as the majority spoke against the equation of same-sex unions with traditional marriages.

Metropolitan Hilarion appreciated official status which the Croatian authorities assigned to the Cyrillic alphabet along with the Latin one to keep language balance. He underscored that this move testified to the respect for the role of the Cyrillic alphabet in Croatian history and culture.

Ambassador Pokaz thanked Metropolitan Hilarion for the meeting and conveyed to him greetings from

Ivo Josipović, President of the Republic of Croatia. He added that he feels at home in Russia and described the current situation with the church-state relations in the Republic.

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