



## **Cardinal André Vingt-Trois thanks DECR chairman on behalf of French Christians**

On November 26, 2012, the chairman of the DECR Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, sent to Cardinal André Vingt-Trois, Archbishop of France, a letter expressing concern over reports coming from France that the ruling Socialist Party drafted a bill providing for the legalization of same-sex marriages. He also expressed solidarity and support for Cardinal André Vingt-Trois in this consistent and uncompromising stand 'representing the truly Christian point of view on this problem'.

In his reply sent to the Department for External Church Relations, Cardinal André Vingt-Trois thanked Metropolitan Hilarion for the support he expressed on behalf of the Moscow Patriarchate. 'We seek to defend common sense and respect for the creation as much as it is possible for us', he said in his letter. The cardinal also presented his fraternal feelings and asked to convey respectful regards to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.

France's National Assembly (the lower chamber of the parliament) at its meeting on February 12, 2013, adopted a bill which legalizes same-sex marriages in France and allows such families to adopt children. Out of 577 National Assembly deputies, 329 were for and 229 were against the bill.

*DECR Communication Service*