



## **Polish Catholic bishops thank Patriarch Kirill for support**

The President of the Polish Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Józef Michalik, Metropolitan of Przemyśl, thanked His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia for his spiritual support to Polish Christians whose feelings were insulted by the blasphemous act committed against the greatest shrine of this country - the Częstochowa Icon of the Mother of God. On 9 December 2012, at Jasna Góra, where the Icon is kept, an evil-doer dashed paint in the miracle-working icon which, thanks to protective glass, was not damaged.

In his letter to Patriarch Kirill, Archbishop Józef Michalik notes that today we live in an unhealthy atmosphere created by people who are spiritually lost and have no respect for shrines. Archbishop Józef Michalik emphasizes that manifestations of tolerance towards everything, what a soul defiled by sin and evil can make up, will in future give rise to evil and destroy the culture based on Christian values.

According to Archbishop Józef Michalik, in this, difficult for European secular society, situation, Christians are called upon to remind people that their falling away from God and His commandments will in the end turn against them and put into question the very existence of human society. At the conclusion of his letter, on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland, Archbishop Józef Michalik wished His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, bishops, clergymen and the faithful of the Russian Orthodox Church strong faith and blessings from the Saviour, born into the world.