

## His Holiness Patriarch Kirill congratulates Bishop Theodore, elected Patriarch of the Coptic Church

On 4 November 2012, Bishop Theodore of Beheira became the 118<sup>th</sup> Pope and Patriarch of the Coptic Church. His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia sent the following message of greetings to Bishop Theodore on the occasion of his election as the 118<sup>th</sup> Primate of the Coptic Church.

## The Right Rev. THEODORE

Elected Pope of Alexandria and

Patriarch of the Coptic Church

Your Grace,

Please accept my congratulations on the occasion of your election as 118<sup>th</sup> Primate of the Coptic Church.

You have been destined to serve as Patriarch at a difficult time in the history of Egypt and her ancient Church. The economic, political and social hardships experienced by your country demand that every religious leader show wisdom, patience and spiritual discretion.

I trust that through your prayers and effective efforts, civic accord and stability will be built in the blessed land of Egypt. The Russian Orthodox Church sincerely sympathizes with her fellow Christians and lifts up tireless prayers for peace in the region.

From my heart, I wish Your Grace sound health, firm commitment to Christian witness and God's abundant help in your carrying the heavy cross of Primatial service.

With love in Christ,

## + KIRILL

## PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA

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