



## **A regular shift of the Orthodox summer camp for children and teenagers in Belgium completes its work**

The 12<sup>th</sup> shift of the summer camp organized by the Orthodox youth brotherhoods in the Netherlands and Belgium was held from July 29 to August 5, 2012, in Emmen, Netherlands. The tradition of holding summer camps was founded some 25 years ago by the Orthodox Brotherhood of St. Nicholas, the website of the Archdiocese of Brussels and Belgium reports.

The shift was organized with the blessing of the Orthodox Bishops' Conference in Benelux, which unites representatives of all the canonical Orthodox jurisdictions in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg. The pastoral care of the camp was provided by three clerics of the Russian Orthodox dioceses of Brussels and Belgium and The Hague and the Netherlands, Archpriest Alexander Yavorski, Leven, Father Hildo Bos, Amsterdam, and Deacon Dimitry Yatsun, Antwerp, as well as Father Boris (Chalchal) of the St. Elijah Monastery in Saint-Hubert.

There were 52 children in the camp with 20 leaders from Holland and Belgium. The theme of the shift was the first words of the Creed 'I Believe'. It was studied in religious instruction classes, as well as games and talks in various age groups.

It has become a tradition that the senior group children of 15-16 paint an icon on canvass for the tent church. This year, they painted an icon of the Annunciation with the help of tracing.

On August 4, the last day but one, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated. The children sang and acted as helpers. After the liturgy, they rehearsed songs and performances for the closing party which was concluded with a common prayer by candlelight in the forest.

*DECR Communication Service*