Metropolitan Hilarion takes part in the opening of the Days of Orthodox Book in Paris

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The First Days of Orthodox Book opened at the *La mutuelle Saint-Christophe* Assurance in Paris on February 17, 2012, under the auspices of the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops of France (AEOR). The Days have been initiated by Orthodoxie.com web-site and supported by the *Cerf* Publishing House, *La Vie* weekly, and *La Procure* bookstores.

Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, took part in the opening ceremony at the invitation of the AEOR president, Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, and with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia. Taking part in the ceremony were bishops from the AEOR; representatives of clergy of the Local Orthodox Churches; I. Solovyov, Counsellor for Cultural Affairs of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to the French Republic; representatives of public circles and intellectual elite of France; publishers; professors and students of St. Sergius Orthodox Institute and of the Russian Orthodox Theological seminary. Its choir sang religious hymns at the beginning of the ceremony.

Metropolitan Emmanuel delivered an introductory address, in which he underscored a special place of the book in the life of the Church. He welcomed a guest of honour, Metropolitan Hilarion, saying that they have been friends for many years and have had a long experience of cooperation in the field of inter-Orthodox relations.

The DECR chairman presented a report in French on the particular features of teaching and liturgical life of the Orthodox Church. While greeting the audience, Metropolitan Hilarion expressed special gratitude to the *Cerf* Publishing House for propagation and distribution of Orthodox literature in the French-speaking countries.

The second volume of the French edition of Metropolitan Hilarion's book entitled *Orthodox Christianity* was presented. The book systematically expounds on the teaching of the Orthodox Church.

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