



## **Metropolitan Vladimir of Kishinev and All Moldova meets Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople**

During his pilgrimage to Byzantine holy places in Turkey from July 10 to 17, Metropolitan Vladimir of Kishinev and All Moldova, leading a group of pilgrims from Russia, Ukraine and Moldova, with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, met with Patriarch Bartholomew at his residence in Istanbul.

Metropolitan Vladimir told Patriarch Bartholomew about the church life in countries of the former Soviet Union and problems faced and achievements made by the Orthodox Church of Moldova.

Patriarch Bartholomew showed a great interest in the problems raised and displayed a profound awareness of the church situation in the region. He expressed hope that all the difficulties would be soon overcome so that Orthodox witness might be strengthened and the religious and historical status of Orthodoxy in Moldova could be preserved in face of the challenges brought about by today's world. He also introduced the pilgrims to the present situation in the Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Patriarchate's agenda.

The hierarchs expressed a high appreciation of the dialogue which took place and underscored the importance of consolidating inter-Orthodox unity and cooperation of which the organization of pilgrimages to holy places is a constructive and positive sign.

In conclusion of the talk Patriarch Bartholomew conveyed best wishes to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia and pronounced benediction over the pilgrims and their journey back home.

*DECR Communication Service*