



Metropolitan Hilarion attends a meeting of the Moscow State Conservatoire Board of Guardians

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On June 6, 2011, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, took part in a meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Tchaikovsky State Conservatoire in Moscow.

The board includes governmental officials, representatives of the business community and prominent scholars and cultural figures. Mr. Ye. Primakov, former president of Russia's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is its honorary chairman.

Prof. A. Sokolov, rector of the conservatoire, made a report on the major events in its life in the first six months of the year 2011. He reported in particular about the participation of the Board of Guardians in various art projects and economic issues, in the establishment of a designated capital fund and a foundation for support in restoration of the organ in the conservatoire's Grand Hall.

Metropolitan Hilarion presented the conservatoire with an icon of St. Cecilia with a particle of her relics. He informed the meeting that, with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, the conservatoire's Grand Hall and the stained-glass window with the icon of St. Cecilia will be blessed in a solemn ceremony on June 10.

An icon of this saint venerated as patron of musicians including church choir singers was installed in the window opening across the stalls when the conservatoire's Grand Hall was built at the turn of the 20th century. The unique stained-glass window was lost in 1941 during the bombardment of Moscow. It has taken a serious historical study to restore it to its original beauty in our days. The stained-glass window was restored to its former place on May 23, 2011.

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