



## **DECR chairman begins visit to Czechia**

After completing his visit to the USA on February 13, 2011, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, arrived on February 14 in Czechia for a visit on the invitation of His Beatitude Christopher, Metropolitan of the Czech Lands and Slovakia.

The welcoming party at the airport in Prague included Metropolitan Christopher, Archimandrite Sergiy (Ivannikov), rector of the church of the Dormition-on-Olsany, Archimandrite Seraphim (Shemyatovsky) of the diocese of Michalovce and Kosice, Archpriest Vladimir Ambrosimov, rector of the church of St. George at the Russian embassy, Archpriest Nikolay Lischenyuk, rector of the Russian Orthodox church representation in Karlovy Vary, and Mr. V. Kolmakov, counsellor of the Russian embassy in Prague.

Metropolitan Hilarion is to celebrate the Divine Liturgy together with Metropolitan Christopher at the Karlovy Vary representation on the Day of the Meeting of Our Lord, to visit the residence of the head of the Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia and the St. Liudmila Religious Education Center, to meet with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Ms. Miroslava Némčová, Inter-Christian Council of Churches Chairman Rev. Joel Ruml, Russian Ambassador S. Kiselev and Russian Consul in Karlovy Vary S. Scherbakov. He will also present the Czech version of his book 'The Spiritual World of St. Isaac the Syrian'.

On his trip to Czechia, His Eminence Hilarion is accompanied by Rev. Igor Yakimchuk, DECR secretary for inter-Christian relations, and Hierodeacon Ioann (Kopeikin), assistant to the DECR chairman.

