



The thanksgiving verses from Eph. 5:9-21 and the Gospel according to Luke (17:12-19) were read; special prayers for His Holiness Patriarch Kirill were included in the Litany of Fervent Supplication.

Metropolitan Philaret of Minsk and Slutsk, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus, said a prayer of thanksgiving after the Liturgy.

Metropolitan Vladimir of St. Petersburg and Ladoga read out the congratulatory address from the members of the Holy Synod and presented His Holiness with a copy of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God.

Archpriest Maxim Shevtsov, a cleric of the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour and a member of the Diocesan Council, greeted His Holiness on behalf of the Moscow Diocesan Council and Moscow clergymen. Archpriest Vladimir Divakov, Patriarch's secretary for Moscow, and Moscow clergymen presented His Holiness with an altar cross.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has sent congratulations to His Holiness the Patriarch on the anniversary of his enthronement.

The Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church addressed the worshippers and awarded six hierarchs with the Orders of the Russian Orthodox Church in consideration of their zealous archpastoral labours.

At the festive repast, Archbishop Nifon of Philippopolis, representative of the Patriarch of the Great Antioch and All the East to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia greeted His Holiness, saying: "The event, which anniversary we are celebrating today, turns a golden page in Your Holiness' life and apostolic ministry by which your faithfulness to God is praised. At difficult times, You were sowing faith and piety in society according to the Saviour's words: 'From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required.' (Lk 12:48).

Archbishop Nifon noted the importance of Patriarch Kirill's statements on the most topical problems of modern world as they are meaningful not only to church people, but also to secular society. "We are confident that Your position on many present problems should be supported in the entire Orthodox world." He added: "Have been gifted with brilliant eloquence, You are calling people to strip off the old self and clothe themselves with the new self (cf. Col 3:14). We see that the Lord has illumined Your heart to illumine people with God's truth and we thank God the Father Who has called You to participate in the heritage of the saints."

Archbishop Nifon wished His Holiness Patriarch Kirill good health and strength to continue the blessed and salutary labours for the good of the Church.



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