



His Holiness noted with satisfaction that people in Slovenia are still interested in the Russian language. 'There is a good human and cultural potential for our relations to become even more intensive. We can feel a special community of our nations and we are interested in all kinds of joint cultural projects, since such relations bring our nations closer together', the patriarch said, noting that the Russian Orthodox Church will promote further development of these relations.

The President of Slovenia in his response pointed to the common spiritual and cultural roots uniting Russia and Slovenia. 'The first documents in the Slovenian language, the so-called Freising Manuscripts made a beginning of our Christian life. After their publication in 1820 in Russia, they became known to the whole world', he said. It shows that there has always been an interest in the uniting of the Slavic nations, Dr. Turk noted.

As a token of the meeting, the head of the Slovenian state presented Patriarch Kirill with a book on the Russian chapel on the Vrsic Pass and a photo album with pictures of all the events that have been held held at the chapel since 1992.

Patriarch Kirill presented Dr. Turk with an icon of the Mother of God, a book on the Russian Orthodox Church and his book 'A Pastor's Word'.

*DECR Communication Service*

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