



Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk celebrates the first Divine Liturgy at Chernigov metochion

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On 11 September 2010, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations and rector of the Church Postgraduate and Doctoral School celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Moscow Church of the Beheading of St. Jon the Baptist at the Patriarchal Chernigov metochion. There are two churches on the territory of the metochion, and a three-storey building that will house the Church Postgraduate School after restoration. On 18 August 2010, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia appointed Metropolitan Hilarion rector of the Chernigov metochion.

Concelebrating with Metropolitan Hilarion were vice-rector of the Church Postgraduate School archpriest Vladimir Shmaliy, assistant to the DECR chairman Rev. Dimitry Ageyev, DECR secretary for Inter-Christian relations Rev. Dimitry Sizonenko, head of the DECR Communication Service Rev. Georgy Zavershinsky, other ordained staff members of the DECR, and clerics of the church.

The Moscow Synodal Choir conducted by an honoured artist of Russia Alexei Puzakov sang pieces by Pavel Chesnokov, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, and Archbishop Ionafan of Tulchin and Bratslav.

Deacon Ioann Guaita, a DECR staff member, was ordained priest.

After the Divine Liturgy, a cleric of the church, Rev. Mikhail Nemnonov greeted Metropolitan Hilarion, and Metropolitan Hilarion congratulated worshippers on the feast.

"Many Years!" was proclaimed to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, the celebrants and worshippers, and All Orthodox Christian.