DECR chairman celebrates at the Serbian Church Representation in Moscow

On July 12, 2010, the commemoration day of Sts Peter and Paul, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Church of Sts Peter and Paul on the Yauza River, which is the representation of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Moscow. Among his concelebrants were Bishop Anthony of Moravia, representative of the Patriarch of Serbia to the Patriarch of Russia, Archpriest Alexy Yuschenko, representative of the Orthodox Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia, Archpriest Nikolay Balashov, DECR vice-chairman, Rev. Dmitry Ageyev, assistant to the DECR chairman, and Rev. Igor Yakimchuk, DECR secretary for inter-Orthodox relations.

The service was attended by Serbian Ambassador to Russia, Ms Jelica Kurjak.

During the Divine Liturgy some prayers were said in Serbian.

After the liturgy Bishop Anthony and Metropolitan Hilarion exchanged speeches. Metropolitan Hilarion said in particular that during his visit to Kosovo some time ago, he saw the suffering of the Serbs who were still there and the places vacated by Serbs with their churches ruined and defiled. 'We prayed and will continue to pray for the Serbian land and the Serbian Church', he said.

During a festive repast at the parish house, the rewarding of builders and restorers of the Church of Sts Peter and Paul-at-the-Yauza took place.

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