

Patriarch Kirill congratulates newly-elected Poland's President Bronislaw Komorowski

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia has sent a congratulatory message to the newlyelected President of the Republic of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski. Below is the text of the message.

Your Excellency,

Please accept my sincere and cordial congratulations on your election as President of the Republic of Poland.

You have dedicated all your life to the work for the good of your country and people. I am confident that your manifold political experience and personal qualities will help you to carry out the difficult service of a head of state in a proper manner.

These extraordinary presidential elections took place after the tragedy that happened near Smolensk when President Lech Kaczynski together with prominent state, church and public leaders died in a plane crash. The Russian Orthodox Church grieved and empathized with the Polish people.

Today the Republic has regained the national leader. The people of the country associate with you a hope for prosperity and stability as well as development of friendly relations with neighbouring states.

Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Poland are united by many things: Slavic brotherhood, Christian tradition, common history including the sorrowful events of the 20th century sealed in the blood given by our peoples' sons and daughters.

Remembering the past and thinking about the future the Russian Orthodox Church in cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church in Poland is exerting efforts to strengthen good relations between our two countries. I hope you will make a weighty contribution to this important task.

I wish you physical strength, God's help and success in the service you are to carry out on the high and important post of President of Poland.

+ Kirill

Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

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