



## Religious and cultural festival ‘Church Days’ held in Finland

The Church Days, a religious and cultural festival, was held under the auspices of the Finnish Autonomous Orthodox Church from June 11 to 13, 2010, in Joensuu, Finland. It gathered together clergy, theologians and artists from all over Finland.

Hieromonk Kirill Zinkovsky, associate professor at St. Petersburg Theological Academy, took part in the Church Days’ events on the invitation of Archbishop Leo of Karelia and All Finland and with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.

Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople was the honorary guest of the festival, which was planned to coincide with his official visit. His Holiness visited the Orthodox Seminary in Joensuu and the New Valamo Monastery.

On June 12, Patriarch Bartholomew addressed the participants in the festival in Joensuu, speaking on ‘The Church – a Hope of the Creation’. His presentation was devoted to an Orthodox theological and ethical reflection on the environmental problems of today.

The visit of the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Constantinople to Finland will be concluded with a meeting with Finland’s President Tarja Halonen on June 15.

*DECR Communication Service*