



Metropolitan Hilarion celebrates Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Dormition in Turku

[gallery]

On 6 June 2010, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, currently in Finland to attend the installation of the newly elected head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Dormition at the Russian Consulate General in Turku.

Concelebrating were the DECR deputy chairman Hegumen Philipp (Ryabykh), rector of the Church of the Dormition Hegumen Nikita (Dobronravov), and DECR acting secretary for inter-Christian relations Rev. Dmitry Sizonenko.

Praying at the service were Metropolitan Emmanuel of France (Patriarchate of Constantinople) and Russian Consul General in Turku A. Sverchkov. Rev. Risto Kantell, director of the Department of International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, and Rev. Timo Roskvist attended the service.

After the Divine Liturgy, rector of the church greeted Metropolitan Hilarion on behalf of the parishioners and congratulated him on the feast of All Saints Who Shone Forth in the Land of Russia.

Metropolitan Hilarion addressed the worshippers with archpastoral homily and greeted representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, saying, "I would like to thank the Rev. Risto Kantell for his work of many years standing in the field of inter-Christian relations, including the dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. The DECR Chairman presented Rev. Risto Cantell with a folding icon of the Saviour and the Mother of God and wished him God's help in his work.

Metropolitan Hilarion greeted the rector and the [parishioners with the feast and presented them with an icon of the Mother of God.