



Orthodox brothers and sisters of the Greek origin in Moscow is growing today, and the Church of Alexandria Representation is a place where they are spiritually nourished, where they pray and through prayer enter into communion with their Churches. The same service is carried out by the Moscow Patriarchate Representation in Cairo – this magnificence church which unites many people who have come to Egypt from various countries and who are faithful of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Then Patriarch Kirill addressed the congregation and guests of the Moscow Patriarchate Representation in Cairo, saying,

I would like to greet you all, my dear brother and sisters! I rejoice seeing your faces; I rejoice in the fact that you have an opportunity to come to a church in which the liturgy is celebrated in Church Slavonic and to be immersed in the habitual atmosphere of a Russian Orthodox church. I rejoice in the fact that this church has been restored and many of you have worked to make it so beautiful.

It is very important to come to a church of God. It is not always easy as the city is large and the traffic in it is complicated and each of you is busy, but it is important to remember that it is in a church that God's grace touches us in a special way; here the Lord especially clearly hears our prayers because He himself said: where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them (Mt. 18:20). Come to the church of God, pray, make confession and partake of the Holy Gifts of Christ, educate your children in the Orthodox faith!

Our people, who went through severe trials in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the most terrible trial of godlessness, are well aware of the power of faith. If people renounce God they cannot be successful but when they combine prayer and labour success accompanies them.

I wanted to come to this church of God and to meet you in order to support every one of you on your way to God. We believe and know for sure that it is only in communion with God that a person finds the fullness of life. May the Lord preserve each of you through the intercession of St. Mark, the founder of the Church of Alexandria, and through the intercession of Holy Protomartyr Dimitrius. God grant this parish peace, fortitude and friendship!

In recognition of his longstanding all-round support of the Russian Orthodox Church and its Cairo Representation, Patriarch Kirill awarded Ambassador M. Bogdanov the Order of St. Sergius of Radonezh.

He expressed special gratitude to Father Leonid Gorbachev, rector of the Cairo Representation, for his pastoral efforts, restoration work and activities as Moscow Patriarchate Representative to the Patriarch of Alexandria. Father Leonid has been awarded the Order of St. Daniel of Moscow and elevated to the

rank of archimandrite.

*DECR Communication Service*

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