Patriarch Kirill consecrates Archimandrite Veniamin Tupeko as Bishop of Borisovsk, vicar of Minsk diocese

On March 21, 2010, the fifth week of Lent and the commemoration day of St. Mary of Egypt, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia celebrated the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at the cathedral Church of Christ the Saviour.

During the liturgy, the patriarch led his numerous concelebrants in consecrating Archimandrite Veniamin (Tupeko), father superior of the Monastery of the Annunciation in Minsk, Belarus, as Bishop of Borisovsk, vicar of the diocese of Minsk.

Among the worshippers were P. Borodin, state secretary of the Union State of Russia and Belarus, S. Shukhno, member of the Standing Committee and state secretary of the Union State, V. Dolgolev, Byelorussian Ambassador to Russia, A. Derkach, advisor to the Union State's secretary and other officials.

After the liturgy, Patriarch Kirill addressed himself to the newly-consecrated bishop with words of admonition and presented him with a bishop's crozier. According to the tradition, Bishop Veniamin of Borisovsk pronounced a benediction over the worshippers.

Then Patriarch Kirill delivered a homily devoted to the commemoration day of St. Mary of Egypt.

His Holiness extended congratulations to Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk and Slutsk, Patriarchal Exarch for All Belarus, on the occasion of his 75th birthday and read the decree awarding him the right to have a cross carried before him in procession within the limits of the Exarchate of Belarus. He gave Metropolitan Filaret a set of a cross and two pectoral icons.

Metropolitan Filaret spoke in response and presented His Holiness with a copy of the miracle-working Icon of Our Lady of Zhirovitsy.

Patriarch Kirill also congratulated Archbishop Arseny upon his 55th birthday and presented him with a cross and a pectoral icon, the patriarch press service has reported.

After the service, Archpriest Nikolay Balashov, DECR vice-chairman, offered warm congratulations to Metropolitan Filaret on behalf of the DECR chairman, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, who was on a visit to Moldova at the time, and presented him with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the chairman

and staff of the DECR which he had headed in the period from 1981-1989.

DECR Communication Service

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