



## **Metropolitan Christopher of the Czech Lands and Slovakia arrives in Russia**

On 24 January 2010, His Beatitude Christopher, Metropolitan of the Czech Lands and Slovakia arrived in Russia on a private visit. The Primate of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia will visit Omsk, and then will spend two weeks at the Laura of the Holy Trinity and St. Sergius where he took his monastic vows in 1985. His Beatitude plans to devote his time to scholarly studies in the library of the Moscow Theological academy.

Welcoming the high guest on behalf of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia at Sheremetievo airport was archpriest Nikolai Balashov, deputy chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for external church relations. Also meeting Metropolitan Christopher were archpriest Alexy Yuschenko, rector of the Moscow metochion of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia; acting DECR secretary for Inter-Orthodox relations Rev. Igor Yakimchuk, and a staff member of the same secretariat A. Khoshev.

That same day His Beatitude Metropolitan Christopher departed for Omsk to be a guest of Metropolitan Feodosy of Omsk and Tara. On January 25, the Primate of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia prayed at the divine service celebrated at the Cathedral of the Dormition.

On January 26, His Beatitude met with L. Polezhayev, Governor of the Omsk region.

On January 31, His Beatitude Metropolitan Christopher will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the church of the Moscow metochion of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia. Planned for February 1 is concelebration of the Primates of the two Churches as a part of festivities to mark the anniversary of the enthronement of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.