



Archbishop Hilarion meeting youth at the Medical Academy in Voronezh

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Archbishop Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate department for external church relations, while in Voronezh for the translation of the relics of St. Mitrofan to the restored Cathedral of the Annunciation, met on December 6 with youth at the Burdenko Medical Academy.

Addressing the faculty and students of the Academy and the Orthodox Seminary in Voronezh, who gathered in the Academy's assembly-hall, the archbishop spoke of the role of Christianity and the challenges facing it in today's world. He pointed to the militant secularism and radical Islamism as well as liberal tendencies gathering momentum in the Protestant world. Citing Swiss Catholic Bishop Kurt Koch as saying that 'we should not be afraid of strong Islam but rather of weak Christianity', the archbishop underlined that the only factor capable of preserving the Christian identity of European nations was the commitment to Christian traditional values and a life according to the commandments of the gospel.

After his address the archbishop answered questions from students who showed a special interest in the social service of the Church and relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

DECR Communications Service

Photos by the Voronezh diocesan information service