



Archbishop Hilarion lectures at the Kievo-Mogilianskaya Academy

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On 24 November 2009, the Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for external church relations, Archbishop Hilarion of Volokolamsk, on a stay in Kiev on the occasion of the celebration of His Beatitude Metropolitan Vladimir's birthday, lectured in English at the "Kievo-Mogilianskaya Academy" National University on "The Life in God according to St. Isaac the Syrian."

Present at the lecture were Archbishop Antony of Borispol, rector of the Kiev Theological Academy, first deputy chairman of the Russian Orthodox Church Education Committee archimandrite Kirill (Govorun), Apostolic Nuncio in the Ukraine John Jurkevich, head of the State Committee on Nationalities and Religions of Ukraine Yu. Reshetnikov, faculty and students of the Kievo-Mogilianskaya Academy, the Kiev Theological schools and other Kiev educational institutions.

Archbishop Hilarion was greeted by the head of the St. Clement Centre and teacher of the Kievo-Mogilianskaya Academy K. Sigov.

After the lecture the DECR Chairman answered questions asked by the students about St. Isaac and different aspects of his spiritual heritage.

In his answer to the question about the one Local Orthodox Church in the Ukraine, archbishop Hilarion underscored that there is such Church in the Ukraine now. This is the Ukrainian Orthodox Church led by His Beatitude Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev and All Ukraine. "As to the schismatic communities, one should hope that their leaders and members are aware that their separation from the Mother Church is ruinous and that they will return to her saving fold,"

'Political factor that have brought about the schism are passing, and, hopefully, people who have found themselves outside the communion with the Church, will soon come back as some of them have already done so,' the DECR Chairman said in conclusion.