Students of the Patriarchate of Antioch studying in Russia come together



With the blessing of the Most Blessed Patriarch of Antioch and All the East John X and with the support of the metropolitan of Philippopolis Niphon, the representative of the Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Church to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus, there was organized fr om 6 th to 8 th March 2021 for students from various dioceses of the Patriarchate of Antioch studying in Russian colleges and universities a three-day camp called ‘Following in the Lord’s Footsteps.’

The event began with the Divine Liturgy at the representation church of the Church of Antioch in Moscow. After the service the guests were warmly greeted by the metropolitan of Philippopolis Niphon. His Eminence delivered a lecture on the role of religion in modern-day society and shared with them warm memories of his life in Russia over the past sixty years. After a festive meal the young people gave a performance of religious hymns in Arabic. The meeting was also attended by the consul of Lebanon in Moscow Rodrigo al-Huri.

On 6 th March the students set off for Sergiev Posad, wh ere for three days they stayed at the

Monastery of the Holy Trinity and St. Sergius. They venerated the relics of St. Sergius of Radonezh and other holy sites of the monastery and visited the churches and museums there. They joined the students of the Moscow Theological Academy in prayer at the Divine Liturgy in the Church of the Protecting Vei in the Academy and then took part in a communal meal.

With the blessing of the chairman of the Department of External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate the metropolitan of Volokolamsk Hilarion the secretary for inter-Orthodox relations archpriest Igor Yakimchuk addressed a word of greetings to the Antiochian youth on behalf of the Russian Orthodox Church. He spoke to them on the history and current state of relations between the Russian and Antiochian Orthodox Churches.

The camp's participants were addressed via video link by bishops of the Patriarchate of Antioch. The metropolitan of Zahlé and Baalbek Anthony delivered a lecture on the topic of repentance and the renewal of life and answered the numerous questions put by the young people, while the bishop of the Emirates Gregory delivered a lecture on the topic of prayer.

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