



THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Department for External Church Relations

DECR Chairman congratulated the Patriarch of the Maronite Church on the 10th anniversary of his accession to the Throne of Maronite Primates



Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations has sent a congratulatory message to His Beatitude Mar Béchara Boutros Cardinal Raï, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, on the 10th anniversary of his accession to the See of Maronite Primates. The message reads as follows:

His Beatitude BÉCHARA BOUTROS Cardinal RAÏ
Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and All the East

Your Beatitude,

Please accept my greetings on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of your election and accession to the Throne of Maronite Patriarchs.

At a young age you embarked on the path of serving the Lord and your people, zealously growing in righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness (1 Tim 6:11). Decades later, at a time of ordeals for the land of Syria and Lebanon, you were destined to take up the arduous cross of Patriarchal ministry.

In Your Beatitude the Maronite Church found a loving, wise, energetic and determined Primate, ready for self-sacrifice for the sake of Christ's flock entrusted to his care. By actively developing contacts with representatives of other Christian confessions, other religions, countries and international organizations, you make your contribution to the promotion of international dialogue and interfaith concord, unceasingly bearing witness to the adversities that have befallen your earthly homeland. I am glad that our two Churches have established constructive and fruitful cooperation and sincerely hope for its further progress.

Wishing you good health and God's most abundant help in your lofty ministry, and wishing peace and welfare to your flock, I remain

With love in the Lord,

**/+Hilarion/
Metropolitan of Volokolamsk
Chairman
Department for External Church Relations
Moscow Patriarchate**