Patriarch wishes Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk happy 55th birthday



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia wished the chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, happy 55th birthday.

The Most Reverend Hilarion
Metropolitan of Volokolamsk
Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations
Moscow Patriarchate
Permanent Member of the Holy Synod
Russian Orthodox Church

Your Eminence,

I cordially wish you happy 55th birthday.

Having many abilities and gifts granted to you by the Creator, you invariably seek to fulfil with thoroughness and responsibility every task entrusted to you by the Supreme Authority. A list of the posts alone that you occupy today speaks of the significant contribution you make in various aspects of

today’s life of the Russian Orthodox Church.

It is gratifying to note that, working as chairman of the Department for External Church Relations, rector of the Ss Cyril and Methodius Institute of Post-Graduate Studies, and heading the editorial board of the Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate, engaging in academic theological work and musical creative work, participating in numerous international meetings, holding dialogue with representatives of various religious traditions, appearing in the mass media, you always seek to bear a comprehensible and convincing witness to our Lord and Saviour, to the transforming creative power of the Orthodox faith, to the great historical, spiritual and cultural heritage of Christianity.

In acknowledgement of your diligent service and in connection with your 55th birthday, I deem it fair to award you the Order of St. Sergius of Radonezh (2nd Degree).

On this auspicious day, I prayerfully wish you spiritual and physical strength, God’s abundant help and success in your further work for the good of the Holy Church.

May the All-Generous Lord preserve you in good health for many years.

With love in Christ,

+ Kirill
Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

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