



## **Metropolitan Hilarion: The Day of the Baptism of Rus' is a holiday of the entire multi-million Russian Orthodox Church**



Attempts to rewrite history in favor of momentary political realities, which can be seen, in particular, in Ukraine, are worrying and upsetting, said Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, on the air of the television program "Church and World". "I think that despite all the political turbulences that are taking place right now, we have a common and unified history, which is, of course, especially evident when we remember events of historical importance, including when once again we all remembered the Baptism of Rus'" the hierarch said.

"1033 years have passed since this event, and we continue to preserve our Church unity – I think this is the most important thing. Political circumstances are changing, and the connection between the three fraternal peoples – Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian - will remain forever, and it is ensured, among other things, by our Church unity, which is also not given to anyone to destroy," Metropolitan Hilarion stated.

The Metropolitan reminded that the Day of the Baptism of Rus' is a celebration of the entire multi-million Russian Orthodox Church, stating: "It is no coincidence that Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia sent congratulations on this holiday to President of Russia Vladimir Putin, President of Ukraine Vladimir Zelensky and President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko."

"This is a holiday of three countries, because they all have their spiritual roots in the Kiev baptismal font of the Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Prince Vladimir," Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk stressed.

*DECR Communication Service*

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Source: <https://mospat.ru/en/news/87826/>