Patriarchal award is presented to the Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary



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On September 13, in the building of the Government of Hungary, Metropolitan Hilarion of Budapest and Hungary presented the Order of Glory and Honour, 2nd class, to Zsolt Semjén, the Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Christian Democratic Party. The politician was honored with this high award by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus' in consideration of his assistance to the Budapest-Hungarian diocese and in connection with his 60th birthday.

While congratulating Mr. Semjén, Metropolitan Hilarion said: "You are going strong on this remarkable day being full of energy. You are a long-time assistant to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and the leader of the Christian Democratic People's Party of Hungary. In alliance with the Fidesz Party you have been bringing a weighty contribution to the upbuilding of Hungary, caring for the preservation of Christian religious values as a basis for national development and people's welfare."

As Metropolitan Hilarion was presenting the Order to the Deputy Prime Minister, he said: "This is a well-deserved award. It is an expression of thankfulness for your attention to the needs of the Budapest-

Hungarian diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church and recognition of your distinguished services to the stability and prosperity of Hungary.”

The Deputy Prime Minister expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church and underscored that he takes his work for the benefit of his country as a service to Christ.

Metropolitan Hilarion discussed with Mr. Semjén various aspects of cooperation between the Budapest-Hungarian diocese of the Moscow Patriarchate and the Hungarian state authorities, including the continuation of restoration works at the Cathedral of the Dormition and other church buildings in the diocese. Taking part in the talk was also Rev. Svyatoslav Bulakh, secretary of the diocese.

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