Representative of the Russian Orthodox Church participates in festivities on the occasion of the seventy-seventh birthday of the Patriarch of Bulgaria Neophyte



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On 15th October the Bulgarian Orthodox Church celebrated the seventy-seventh birthday of her Primate His Holiness the Patriarch of Bulgaria Neophyte.

The festive Liturgy in the cathedral was headed by the first secretary of the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church the bishop of Melnik Gerasim. Concelebrating with him were: the auxiliary bishop of the metropolitanate of Sophia the bishop of Belogradchik Polycarp, the rector of the Sophia theological seminary the metropolitan of Branitsa Pachomius, the protosyncellus of the metropolitanate of Sophia archimandrite Basil (Savov), the representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia to the Patriarch of Bulgaria archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev), the representative of the Romanian Orthodox

Church oeconomus Father Neluţ Oprea, the area dean of Sophia archimandrite Euthemius Koinov, the inmate of the Troyan Monastery of the Dormition hieromonk Stephan, the dean of the St. Nedelya Cathedral oeconomus Father Nikolai Georgiev, the secretary of the representation of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia archpriest Yevgeny Pavelchuk and the clergy of the Sophia metropolitanate.

After the Divine Liturgy the hierarchs and clergy celebrated a service of thanksgiving and offered up prayers for the health of His Holiness Patriarch Neophyte, after which the serving deacons chanted ‘Many Years’, as reported by the website of the representation of the Russian Orthodox Church in Sophia.

Bishop Polycarp addressed those gathered and in his homily he congratulated the Primate of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church His Holiness Patriarch Neophyte on the occasion of his birthday.

On behalf of the Russian Orthodox Church the representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia archimandrite Vassian congratulated His Holiness Patriarch Neophyte.

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