Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk attends reception marking National Unity Day



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On November 3, the eve of the feast of the Kazan icon of the Mother of God and National Unity Day, St. Sergius Metochion in Jerusalem hosted a reception given on behalf of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the State of Israel.

His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem and All Palestine, honored the special event with his presence. The guests included diplomats from different countries accredited in Israel, representatives of various religious confessions, pubic figures, businessmen, and journalists.

The Russian Orthodox Church was represented by Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of

the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations (DECR); Archimandrite Alexander (Yelisov), head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem; Archpriest Nikolay Balashov, counselor to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'; Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, acting DECR deputy chairman; Rev. Alexander Yershov, assistant to the DECR chairman; and members of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem hegumen Nikon (Golovko), hieromonk Dometian (Markarian), and hieromonk Afanasy (Bukin).

The guests visited the local museum and saw an exhibition dedicated to the history of Russian presence in the Holy Land.

H.E. Anatoly Viktorov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the State of Israel, delivered a welcoming speech.

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