

You have devoted all your life to the service of the Holy Church and now for almost half a century you stand before the Lord's altar lifting up prayers and petitions for those who seek salvation, proclaiming the Gospel to those who near and who are far and *preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence* (Acts 28:31) wisdom and love.

I would like to express special appreciation to you for your contribution to the restoration of unity of the Archdiocese of Western European Parishes of the Russian Tradition with the Russian Orthodox Church. Thanks to God's mercy, three years ago you managed to take an active part in this historically and spiritually significant event. I am also grateful to you for your work aimed to develop the diocesan and parochial life in the church domain entrusted to your care, for your firm standing in the canonical truth and fearless witnessing before contemporaries to the imperishable ideals of Christianity.

In acknowledgement of your zealous archpastoral service and on the occasion of the remarkable day you are marking, I believe it right to award you with the Order of St. Seraphim of Sarov (Degree I).

I prayerfully wish you generous help from God the Giver of all good things so that you, *strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power*, (Col. 1:11) could continue to work with all assiduity for the good of the Holy Church.

May the Merciful Lord preserve you in good health for many years.

With love in Christ,

+ Kirill
Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia