



THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Department for External Church Relations

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill congratulated the Primate of the Albanian Church on the 50th anniversary of his episcopal ordination



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia congratulated His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania on the 50th anniversary of his episcopal ordination

**HIS BEATITUDE ANASTASIOS
ARCHBISHOP OF TIRANA AND ALL ALBANIA**

Your Beatitude,

Beloved in the Lord Brother and Concelebrant at God's Altar,

Please accept my heartfelt greetings on your momentous jubilee – the 50th anniversary of your

episcopal consecration.

Half a century ago, having received the strength of the Holy Spirit, you took upon yourself the cross of episcopal ministry and became a witness to Christ to the end of the earth (cf. Acts 1:8). The seal of your apostleship (cf. 1 Cor 9:2) are numerous children of the Lord converted through your zealous efforts in Greece, Africa, and Albania.

Through your Primatial prayers and works which God prepared beforehand, that you should walk in them (cf. Eph 2:10), the Holy Albanian Church rose from the ruins, nowadays comprising hundreds of communities and tens of thousands of the faithful.

Thanks to your wise theological judgements and steadfastness in defending canonical foundations of the Church in the trying times of her historical life, you have a high standing throughout the Orthodox world.

Recalling with warmth our meetings, conversations and joint prayer, I wish to Your Beatitude good health, help from the Almighty God in your Primatial labours, and unceasing joy in the Lord.

With brotherly love in Christ Jesus,

**+KIRILL
PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA**