Clergy of the Patriarchal Exarchate of Africa complete clerical training courses

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On January 10th, Chairman of the Synodal Missionary Department, Bishop Evphymii of Lukhovitsy solemnly presented certificates of completion of short-term clerical training courses to the new clergy of the Patriarchal Exarchate of Africa. Vladyka congratulated them on the completion of their studies and wished them zealous service in the field of education of the peoples of their countries with the light of Orthodoxy.

The course was organised and facilitated by the Patriarchal Exarchate of Africa and the Synodal Missionary Department at the Sretensky Theological Academy, with the support of the Missionary Faculty of the Russian Orthodox University. In November 2022, with the blessing of the Patriarchal Exarch of Africa, Metropolitan Leonid of Klinsk, five missionaries from African countries (Cameroon, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa) arrived in Moscow for training.

All candidates had some theological training prior to enrolling in the course, which provided the basis for their preparation for taking the priestly ministry. As part of the short-term programme, the course participants had the opportunity to deepen and systematise their knowledge of Orthodox theology, Church history, liturgics and the liturgical statutes.

By the time they graduated, four of the trainees had been ordained a priest and one a deacon by Metropolitan Leonid of Klinsk.

During the course of their liturgical practice at the St. Nicholas Church of the Synodal Missionary Department, as well as at other churches and monasteries of the capital under the guidance of experienced pastors, the apprentices acquired the skills necessary for clergy to conduct Divine services and get in touch with the liturgical traditions of the Russian Orthodox Church.

An important part of the training programme was a visit to the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius as well as more than ten monasteries and churches in Moscow and the Pereslavl diocese, and an introduction to the life of Russian monastic convents and parishes, **reports** the website of the Synodal Missionary Department.

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