

## Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk meets with His Beatitude Stefan, Archbishop of Ohrid and Macedonia



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On January 11, the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Macedonia - the Archdiocese of Ohrid, His Beatitude Stefan, Archbishop of Ohrid and Macedonia, received in his residence in Skopje Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for External Church Relations, who came to Northern Macedonia for a working visit with a blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.

Participating in the meeting were also members of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Macedonia - Diocese of Ohrid, including Metropolitan Peter of the Prespansko-Paelagoniska Diocese;

Metropolitan Timothy of the Debarsko-Kicevski Diocese; Bishop Clement of Herakles, the Archdiocese of Ohrid. There were also Archpriest Nikolay Balashov, adviser to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia; Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, DECR Vice-Chairman; Archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev), rector of the Sofia Representation of the Russian Orthodox Church; and Rev. Alexander Yershov, assistant to the DECR Chairman - the party accompanying Metropolitan Anthony during his trip, as well as S. A. Bazdnikin, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Russia in Northern Macedonia.

Metropolitan Anthony conveyed to His Beatitude Stefan a greeting and best regards from His Holiness Patriarch Kirill who once again congratulated the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Macedonia - the Archdiocese of Ohrid on the granting of canonical autocephaly to it.

In an atmosphere of love and fraternal mutual understanding, the participants in the meeting exchanged opinions on the current situation in the Orthodox world community, discussed prospects for developing relations between the Moscow Patriarchate and the Orthodox Church of Macedonia - the Archdiocese of Ohrid and other topics of mutual concern.

In conclusion of the talk the sides exchanged tokens of the meeting.

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