Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk meets with Pope Francis of Rome



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On May 3, by personal invitation of Pope Francis of Rome, the Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for External Church Relations, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, , attended among honorary guests the General Audience held on the St. Peter's Square.

After the event, Metropolitan Anthony had a talk with the head of the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Francis warmly welcomed the hierarch, greeting him on the continuing Paschal days and asking him to convey his best wishes to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia. In his turn, Metropolitan Anthony, speaking on behalf of the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church, conveyed to the Pontiff congratulatory words on the Pascha and the tenth anniversary marking this year the Pope's service on the See of Rome.

During the talk, Pope Francis and Metropolitan Anthony dealt with a number of topical issues concerning inter-church relations. They also exchanged tokens of the meeting.

Then the DECR Chairman proceeded to the St. Peter's Basilica where he venerated the relics of the First Apostle and other shrines.

On the same day, Metropolitan Anthony visited the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity to meet with Archbishop Brian Farrell, secretary of the curial department. During a prolonged talk, which was held in a cordial atmosphere, they discussed a wide range of issues concerning the cooperation at present between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

After the meeting, the DECR Chairman left for Moscow.

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