



## Delegation of abbots and monks from Egyptian monasteries arrives in Russia



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On August 21, 2023, at the invitation of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia and with a blessing of His Holiness Coptic Patriarch Tawadros II, a delegation of abbots and monks from Egyptian monasteries arrived in Moscow for a pilgrimage to Orthodox monasteries in Russia.

The pilgrimage is held in the context of developing dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Coptic Church as part of the work of the relative Commission for Inter-church Dialogue and as part of the recent programme of mutual visits of representatives of Russian and Egyptian monkhood.

The delegation includes Bishop Discoros, father superior of the Monastery of St. John Kolov in El-

Alamein, Matrouh Province - head of the delegation; Bishop Joseph, ruling bishop of the Diocese of Luxor; Bishop Joachim, vicar of the Diocese of Luxor; Bishop Thomas, father superior of the Monastery of Venerable Martyr Thomas and the Monastery of Venerable Martyr Victor in Khattab, Southern Sinai Province; Bishop Arsenios, father superior of the Monastery of St. Bakhomios the Great, Asian Province; Archpriest Abraham Emil Nagi, executive secretary of the Patriarchal Residence in Alexandria; Hieromonk Anthony El-Bachomi, administrator of the Monastery of St. Paul of Thebes near Red Sea; Hieromonk Cherubim anba-Poupa, monk of the Monastery of St. Paul of Thebes; Dr Anton Milad, an adviser to the Patriarch; Dr. Adel Elmenchavi, leader of the church construction projects.

In Domodedovo international airport, the guests were welcomed by Bishop Tikhon of Vidnoye, vicar to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill; Hieromonk Stephan (Igumnov), SECR secretary for inter-Christian relations; Hieromonk Agafangel (Davlatov), representative of the Synodal Department for Monasteries and Monastics; Hieromonk Daud el-Anthony, representative of the Coptic Church in Russia; Hieromonk Agafangel (Davlatov), a monk of the Sretensky Srauropegial monastery; S.G. Alferov, DECR staff member; and representatives of the Coptic community in Moscow.

The pilgrimage began with a visit to the Convent of Intercession; the place that has become the delegation's accommodation in Moscow. On behalf of mother superior Feofania (Miskina), a festive reception was given. With a blessing of the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church, the representatives of Coptic monasticism were cordially welcomed by Bishop Alexy of Solnechnogorsk, patriarchal vicar and father superior of Stauropegial St. Daniel Monastery, Sister Iuliana.(Kaleda), mother superior of the Stauropegial Conception Convent, vice-chair of the Synodal Department for monasteries and monastics, Sister Elizaveta (Pozdnyakova), mother superior of the Ss Martha and Mary Convent of Charity.

The delegation will stay in the fold of the Russian Orthodox Church until 27<sup>th</sup> of August. They will visit holy places and historical-cultural sights in Moscow and Moscow Regions, and Yaroslavl-Rostov lands.

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