His Holiness Patriarch Kirill welcomes the opening of an exhibition dedicated to the decoration of the Church of St Sava in Belgrade

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In his message of greetings, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus' welcomed the opening of an exhibition on The Beautification of the Cathedral of St. Sava in Belgrade, which took place at the Russian Academy of Arts in Moscow. The message reads, in particular:

"It is with heartfelt pleasure that I greet the organizers, participants and guests of an exhibition dedicated to the decoration of the Church of St. Sava in Belgrade.

"I congratulate all of you as this project of great importance for Russia-Serbia cultural cooperation has been successfully completed and the magnificent Church of St. Sava has received its mosaic decoration.

"Children of the Serbian Orthodox Church venerate its founder and first Primate. And so do millions of the faithful in our country. That is why from the very beginning, the interior decoration works in the Church of St. Sava were carried out under the auspices of the Russian Church.

“Splendid mosaics, whose reproductions you are going to see at the exhibition which is opening today, were created by Russian and Belarusian mosaicists. It is our offering to Saint Sava and a gift from the Russian Orthodox Church to its beloved sister – the Serbian Orthodox Church.

“Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and President of the Republic of Serbia Mr Vučić for having supported this significant project. I also thank Zurab Tsereteli and Nikolai Mukhin, along with all those who made the mosaics, for their work, unprecedented in scale and artistic value, which has become a remarkable contribution to the world culture.

“I believe that to us and to generations to come, this gift will be a visible sign of love between our two Churches and peoples. Since St. Sava’s times, Orthodoxy has been and, God willing, will remain the foundation of our good relations with the Serbian brothers.

“I wish inspiration and new artistic achievements to the artists who created the marvellous works of art, and I wish good health and help from God to all of you.

“May the blessing of our Lord be always with you.”

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