



Secretary of Synodal Commission on Bioethics visits Iran



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On January 11-13, Archpriest Alexander Abramov, secretary of the Synodal Commission on Bioethics, made a working visit to Iran.

On January 11, Archpriest Alexander was received by H.E. Alexei Dedov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the conversation, issues of interreligious contacts were discussed, including those dealing with which is the Joint Russian-Iranian Commission for "Orthodoxy- Islam" Dialogue established in 1997.

The website of the Synodal Commission on Bioethics reports that on January 13 Fr. Alexander met with Hojjat-ul-Islam Mohammad Mahdi Imanipour, Chairman of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization. Issues of possible cooperation between Russian experts in Orthodox bioethics and

Iranian theologians dealing with the sanctity of life, biomedicine, transplantology and other current bioethical problems were touched upon. Special attention was paid to research in the field of high technology and artificial intelligence. The participants agreed to develop systematic cooperation in these areas.

Concrete aspects of common work were discussed during a meeting of Archpriest Alexander Abramov with Professor Ali Akbar Ziaee, head of the Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue at the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization. A preliminary plan of cooperation was outlined, which includes visits to the centers of bioethical research in Russia and Iran, seminars and conferences on in-depth study of theological aspects of modern bioethics with emphasis on neuroethics and artificial intelligence.

Attending the meetings was hegumen Varlaam (Dulsky), a cleric of the Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Tehran.

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