

## Representatives of the DECR and the Synodal Department for Youth Affairs visit Christmas reception at the Assyrian Church of the East in Moscow.



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On 14th January a reception was given in honour of Christ's Nativity and the New Year at the Assyrian Church of the East of the Mother of God in Moscow.

At the invitation of the rector of the church the representative of the Assyrian Church of the East in Russia chor-bishop Samano Odisho the reception was attended by deacon Yevgeny Yesaulenko from the Synodal Department for Youth Affairs and S.G. Alferov from the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate. Parishioners from a number of parishes of Orthodox churches in Moscow were also in attendance.

In his greetings to those gathered, bishop Samano Odiso spoke of the high level of trust attained in relations between the Moscow Patriarchate and the Assyrian Church over the past decade. He expressed the hope that this would continue further in the present year in the form of joint initiatives as part of the work of the bilateral commission on dialogue.

A concert was then given of Assyrian and Russian Nativity hymns and carols, performed jointly by the choir of Assyrian Church of the Mother of God in Moscow and the choir of the metropolitan metochion at Krutitsk in Moscow.

On the same day in the parish house of the Assyrian Church in Moscow there was a working meeting with the participation of chor-bishop Samano, deacon Yevgeny Yesaulenko and S.G. Alferov. Issues were discussed concerning the development of inter-church cooperation in the sphere of youth ministry.

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