



## **Meeting takes place between representatives of the DECR, the Synodal department for youth affairs and the Ethiopian and Assyrian communities of Moscow.**



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On 21st April members of the Moscow Holy Trinity youth community of the Ethiopian Church, known as Mahibere Selassie, accompanied by S.N. Alferov of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, visited the Krutitsy metochion.

Also taking part in the meeting, which was held as part of a joint study course at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Post-graduate Institute for Theological Studies on the ancient Oriental churches, was the head of the parish youth association of the Assyrian Church of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in Moscow A.G. Mezhdoo.

With the blessing of the rector of the Krutitsy metochion the chairman of the Synodal department for youth affairs (SDYA) the bishop of Istra Seraphim, those gathered were greeted by metochion cleric and

colleague at the SDYA deacon Yevgeny Yesaulenko. Father Yevgeny spoke of the youth ministry of the Russian Orthodox Church, which His Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia devotes especial attention to.

A tour was given for the guests of the architectural ensemble of the Krutitsy metochion, including a visit to the Church of the Holy Dormition, the metropolitan rooms, palaces and embattlements built between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. The young people prayed before the venerated copies of the Feodorovskaya, Tikhvin and Kazan icons of the Mother of God, as well as before the icon of the Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon. At the Museum of the Military History of Moscow the participants of the meeting had a master class in donning military armour from pre-Petrine Russia, fencing and assembling rifles from the time of the Patriotic War of 1812.

The parishioners and staff of the metochion met with the guests, who in turn spoke of how youth work is organized in the Ethiopian Church and the Assyrian Church of the East from the Synodal to the parish level. Other topics were touched upon, including the peculiarities of the typicon of the ancient Oriental Churches and the centuries-old ties between the Assyrian and Ethiopian Churches and Russia and the Russian Orthodox Church.

Then those who wished availed themselves of Ethiopian Lenten dishes cooked by members of the Mahibere Selassie community.

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