



**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
Department for External Church Relations

## First academic year of theological courses of Western European Exarchate begins



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On October 22, there took place a general instructional meeting of the distance Theological Courses of the Patriarchal Exarchate of Western Europe.

The organizational event, which began the first academic year of the new spiritual and educational initiative, was attended by teachers and students of the courses, website of the Diocese of Chersonesus reports.

Bishop Peter of Kafa, vicar of the Patriarchal Exarch of Western Europe, rector of the courses, opened the meeting. He introduced the teachers and lecture schedule, spoke about the benefits of theological education in general and about the specifics and particular pedagogical features of the Theological Courses of the Western European Exarchate.

The participants asked the bishop and the teachers any questions they might have.

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The Distance Theological Courses were established with the blessing of Metropolitan Nestor of Chersonesus and Western Europe, Patriarchal Exarch of Western Europe, and the Synod of the Western European Exarchate in the summer of 2024.

The courses operate on the basis of the Spiritual and Educational Center of St. Genevieve in Paris, France, and offer distance religious and theological education to candidates for the clergy and laity preparing to teach in parish schools, in catechetical and missionary courses and to administer youth and other parish associations. The courses are designed to improve the level of knowledge in the field of Holy Scripture, dogmatic theology, Church history, Orthodox worship, patristic literature, etc.

Studying at the courses in the 2024/25 academic year will be 30 people from France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Ireland, Great Britain and Germany.

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