Department for External Church Relations will host an international conference on “Church care for mentally ill people”



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On November 22-23, the Moscow Patriarchate’s Department for External Church Relations (DECR) will host the 6th international conference on “Church care for mentally ill people.” The conference is initiated by the Commission for Church Education and Diaconia of the Inter-Council Presence of the Russian Orthodox Church. The co-organizers are the DECR and the Federal State Funded Research Center for Mental Health.

Discussed at the conference will be the age-specifics of psychiatric disorders and specifics of pastoral care for people with psychosocial disabilities, depression in advanced age, self-injurious behavior in adolescents, impact of conflicts in family on mental health of its members, health benefits of prayer, and many other issues.

Attending the conference will be psychiatrists and psychologists, clergymen and students of theological schools, as well as representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Ancient Oriental Churches. Reports will be presented by the leading Russian and foreign experts on the topic from Spain, Armenia, India, Ethiopia, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and other countries.

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