

## The bishop of Argentina and South America Leonid speaks to children about the missionary ministry of Saints Cyril and Methodius



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On 23<sup>rd</sup> May, the eve of the Day of Slavonic Literature and Culture, the bishop of Argentina and South America Leonid conversed on the topic of the feast day with the children from the school of the Russian embassy in Argentina and Russia House.

The meeting began in the domestic chapel of Saint Alexander Nevsky in Buenos Aires in Argentina. Also present were the school's deputy director for studies Ye. S. Belkov, and teachers and parents, reports the telegram channel of the diocese of Argentina.

By pointing to the example of the Holy and Equal-to-the-Apostles Cyril and Methodius, who laboured for the Christian enlightenment of the Slavic nations, the bishop spoke to those gathered about the Orthodox faith and Christian culture as an integral part of the formation of the state of Russia, on how Orthodox churches are constructed, on icons and their symbolic language, and also showed to the children the elements of worship such as censers, incense and candles, explaining their purpose and meaning.

During the conversation the children got to know the history of the origin of the Day of Slavonic Literature and Culture and heard about the creators of the Slavonic alphabet the holy brothers Cyril and Methodius. They learnt a little about their lives and how they made it possible for the Slavic peoples to worship and read the Gospels in their native language.

Bishop Leonid showed the children an old liturgical Book of the Gospels, spoke to them about the evangelists, explained the Slavonic digits to them, and then invited all those who so wanted to read a few lines in Church Slavonic.

The children listened to the Paschal troparion sung by the church choir in Greek, Latin, Georgian and Church Slavonic.

At the end of the meeting bishop Leonid answered questions to him put by the audience. Then all those gathered retired to converse with each other over tea.

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