



DECR chairman sends greetings to Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II on his 75th birthday



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Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, sent a message of greetings to the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, His Holiness Karekin II, on his 75th birthday. The text of the letter is given below.

Your Holiness,

Please allow me to extend to you my sincere greetings and good wishes on the occasion of your 75th birthday.

For many years, you have been an example of *a good minister of Christ Jesus* (1 Tim 4:6), working hard for the Church of God and the enlightenment of the Armenian people. Thanks to Your Holiness' efforts, hundreds of churches were opened and restored and the Armenian Apostolic Church strengthened its role as a faithful guardian of the traditional Gospel values. Substantial is the contribution you have made to consolidating Armenian people in their homeland and in the diaspora, as

they remain united around their shared history, language and the faith of Christ. In your service as Catholicos you strive to imitate the Lord Jesus Christ, *laying down your life for the sheep* (cf. Jn 10:11).

On this day of celebration, I cordially wish you strength in body and spirit and manifold help from God in your Primatial ministry.

With love in the Lord,

Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk
Chairman
Department for External Church Relations
Moscow Patriarchate

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