



DECR chairman congratulates His Holiness Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Awa III on 5th anniversary of his enthronement



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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 His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, on the 5th anniversary of his enthronement. The text of the letter is given below.

Your Holiness,

Please accept my cordial greetings on the fifth anniversary of your Primatial ministry!

The pious Assyrian people have found in Your Holiness a wise, compassionate and active spiritual father who *lays down his life for the sheep* (Jn 10:11), bringing to those near and those far away the light of *testifying to our Lord Jesus Christ* (2 Tim 1:8).

As regards the sphere of external church relations, you always devote considerable attention to the life of the Assyrian faithful in Russia and to promoting cooperation with the Moscow Patriarchate. The Assyrian parish in Moscow is a real gem in the religious landscape of the Russian capital, a lively and close-knit community open to cooperation with the outside world.

I highly value my personal friendly relations with Your Holiness and find it gratifying that the years of your Patriarchal service have seen further progress in the fruitful work of the Commission for Dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Assyrian Church of the East. I hope that this work will continue with the same success.

With all my heart, I wish you the plenitude of bodily and spiritual strength, longevity and generous help from God in your Primatial ministry.

Many and good years!

With respectful love in the Lord,

+ANTHONY
Metropolitan of Volokolamsk
Chairman
Department for External Church Relations
Moscow Patriarchate