Regional stage of the 35th International Christmas Educational Readings opens in the Argentine Capital



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On 25 October, the opening of the regional stage of the 35th International Christmas Educational Readings, entitled "Christian Teaching on the Human Person and the Challenges of Modern Technologies", took place in Buenos Aires.

The plenary session was attended by Bishop John of Caracas and South America (Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia); Bishop Leonid of Argentina and South America; representatives of the Antiochian and Serbian Orthodox Churches; clergy; members of the diplomatic corps of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus; representatives of coordinating councils of Russian compatriots; and numerous guests.

The opening ceremony was held with the support of the Russian House in Buenos Aires. The event was

hosted by K.O. Mokryak.

Greetings were delivered to the participants by Metropolitan Eugene of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye, Chairman of the Synodal Department for Religious Education and Catechesis of the Russian Orthodox Church; Bishop John of Caracas and South America; Yu.V. Ilyina, Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Belarus to the Argentine Republic; P.A. Zavarzin, Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Argentine Republic; A.V. Gulyaev, Deputy Head of the Russian House in Buenos Aires; and S.V. Yarmolyuk, film director and Chairman of the Coordinating Council of Russian Compatriots in the Argentine Republic.

In his address, Bishop Leonid noted that "Christian anthropology sees human beings not merely as biological organisms or information-processing devices, but as unique persons created in the image of God and endowed with freedom, conscience and the capacity for genuine love", the Argentine Diocese's Telegram channel reports.

In the context of rapid technological development, the Church does not seek to impose prohibitions but calls for an awareness of the serious risks posed by the new digital environment.

"In this context, ascetic practices (prayer and watchfulness) and high moral qualities play a particularly important role for researchers, developers and users alike. They help people resist emerging dependencies and preserve their capacity for genuine love and attentiveness. The challenges posed by modern technologies recede before a society grounded in spiritual values, national interests and traditional moral principles. Our common strength lies in the ability to learn from mistakes and draw benefit from crises," the hierarch said.

A presentation entitled "High Technologies and Artificial Intelligence: The Church's Perspective" was **delivered** by Priest Dmitry Fedorov, Master of Theology and member of the Synodal Commission on Bioethics and High Technologies.

The gathering was then treated to classical vocal works by Russian composers, including romances by Alexander Alyabyev and Sergei Rachmaninoff, as well as "Christmas Fantasy", performed by Argentine singer Anai Sharovsky (soprano) and pianists Fernando Albinarate and Mauro Olmos.

Following the official programme, guests viewed an exhibition of works by winners and participants in the diocesan stage of the international children's art competition "The Beauty of God's World".

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