



Patriarch Kirill's telephone conversation with Archbishop Stefan of Ohrid and Macedonia



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On January 12, 2023, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia had a telephone conversation with His Beatitude Stefan, Archbishop of Ohrid and Macedonia. His Beatitude, speaking on behalf of the episcopate, clergy, monastics and laity of the Orthodox Church of Macedonia - Archdiocese of Ohrid, expressed sincere gratitude to the Russian Orthodox Church for its recognition of their canonic autocephaly.

His Beatitude Archbishop Stefan also expressed gratitude for the visit made to North Macedonia by a high-ranking delegation of the Moscow Patriarchate led by the chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for External Church Relations, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk. During their visit to the Lesnovo Monastery on the commemoration day of St Gabriel of Velika, in front of a great gathering of the faithful, the Divine Liturgy was concelebrated for the first time by bishops of the two Churches. The Primate of the Orthodox Church of Macedonia - the Archdiocese of Ohrid expressed sincere gratitude to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill for his love and attention and said that he was looking forward to a meeting with him before long.

In his turn, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia spoke about the love that the faithful of Russian Orthodox Church traditionally feel for their Orthodox brothers in North Macedonia and

expressed deep satisfaction with the restoration of its canonical communion with Local Orthodox Churches and its newly found status of autocephaly. His Holiness Kirill assured his interlocutor of the Moscow Patriarchate's invariable comprehensive support from the Moscow Patriarchate and asked for his prayers for the Russian Orthodox Church in the present difficult times.

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