



Metropolitan Hilarion visits the Cetinje Monastery in Montenegro

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On 20 July 2011, Metropolitan Hilarion, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations (DECR) together with Metropolitan Amfilohije of Montenegro and Primorje visited the Cetinje Monastery, the residence of Montenegro metropolitans.

Metropolitans Amfilohije and Hilarion and members of the delegation were met at the gates by the hegumen and the brethren. Being vested in the mantle, Metropolitan proceeded to the church of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God (15th c.). His Eminence venerated the particles of the Cross of the Lord and of the right hand of St. John the Baptist and also the relics of St. Peter of Cetinje, one of the most revered saints of Montenegro.

After a short prayer service, Metropolitan Amfilohije greeted the DECR chairman, saying *inter alia* that the significance of celebration of the 300th anniversary of the establishment of political relations between Montenegro and Russia is confirmed by his current visit that promotes consolidation of the unity of our nations.

In his address, Metropolitan Hilarion said that he was glad to greet Metropolitan Amfilohije in his canonical territory and be his guest and emphasized that the Russian and Serbian Orthodox Churches as well as the people of Russia and Montenegro have always been very close to one another. He conveyed greetings and best wishes from His Holiness Patriarch Kirill who cherishes memories of his visit to your country together with His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II of the blessed memory.

The DECR chairman presented Metropolitan Amfilohije with the icon of St. Gregory the Theologian.

That same day the Cetinje Monastery housed a conference of the participants in the project of decorating the Cathedral of St. Sava of Serbia in Belgrade. Taking part in the conference were Metropolitan Hilarion and Amfilohije, archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, DECR secretary for inter-Orthodox relations and counsellor D. Grdzević of the Serbian minister of foreign affairs.