



Patriarch Kirill gives his blessing upon holding a Jubilee Council of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church

On July 5, 2011, His Beatitude Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev and All Ukraine, sent His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia a letter informing him about the plan to convene a Jubilee Council of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church on July 8 in Kiev and about its aims, pointing out that the Council 'is called *to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace* (Eph. 4:3)'.

In conclusion of his letter, Metropolitan Vladimir asks the Patriarch for his prayers and blessing upon the work of the forthcoming Council, the Patriarchal Press Service has reported.

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill sent Metropolitan Vladimir a letter stating in particular:

'Thank you for notifying me of the convening of a Jubilee Council of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

I give my blessing upon its conduct and prayerfully wish all the participants in the Council God's help in making wise decisions aimed to consolidate the unity of the Russian Orthodox Church and to overcome divisions within Ukrainian Orthodoxy.

May your efforts be crowned with fruits of peace, unanimity and sincere brotherly love through the work of the All-Holy Spirit dwelling in the Church of Christ and guiding her people *to all the truth* (Jn. 16:13)'.

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