



**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
Department for External Church Relations

## **Patriarchal greeting to His Beatitude Mar Béchara Boutros Cardinal Raï with the 10th anniversary of enthronement**



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and all Rus' congratulated His Beatitude Mar Béchara Boutros Cardinal Raï on the 10th anniversary of his accession to the See of Primates of the Maronite Church.

**HIS BEATITUDE BÉCHARA BOUTROS CARDINAL RAÏ**  
**MARONITE PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST**

Your Beatitude,

Please accept my sincere greetings with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your accession to the See of Primates of the Maronite Church.

The Lord ordained that you were entrusted to take over Patriarchal ministry at a time of severe adversities and terrible ordeals for the land of Syria and Lebanon, exacerbated now by the baneful epidemic which has spread throughout the world. However, the past years have also become a time of strengthening your Church's authority both in and far beyond the Middle East. In all the difficult circumstances of the present-day life you strive, in accordance with St Paul's words, to abide in the same mind and the same judgment (1 Cor 1:10) with your flock, sharing in their afflictions and joys.

I appreciate the constant attention that you devote to developing good relations with the Moscow Patriarchate. Recalling with warmth our meetings in Russia and Lebanon, I hope for continuation of our brotherly cooperation.

I wish to Your Beatitude bodily strength, fortitude and God's inexhaustible help in your lofty and responsible ministry.

Many and good years to you.

With love in the Lord,

**+KIRILL**

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