

Russian Patriarch to Swiss delegation: Democratic nature of a country shouldn't cause abandoning of traditional Christian values



The Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill, on Monday received a high-ranking delegation of Swiss office-holders and diplomats at the Patriarchal residence within the Danilov Stauropegial Monastery in Moscow.

In greeting members of the delegation, the Russian Patriarch noted that “.. the democratic nature of a country should not cause it to abandon traditional Christian values in favor of a universal secularization of society ... We are deeply convinced that a state's democratic structure should not be accompanied by a blanket secularity, and the displacement of Christian and religious values, in general, from society's existence. We view with concern the process taking place today in western society, and we do not fully understand why traditional moral values cannot be compatible with a society's secular structure.”

The Swiss delegation as headed by the President of Swiss Council of States Jean-René Fournier

, the Swiss ambassador to Russia Yves Rossier, the deputy head of the department of international relations and multilingualism of the Swiss Parliament, Joachim Tomaschett, a researcher at the department of bilateral and EU Relations and other Swiss officials.

On the part of the Moscow Patriarchate, Archpriest Sergei Zvonarev, and the department for external Church relations' secretary for Inter-Christian Relations, Hieromonk Stefan, were in attendance.

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