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Russian Church hierarch cites ‘great sadness’ over recognition of Ukrainian autocephaly by Patriarchate of Alexandria; says Holy Synod decisions pending



The first reaction by the Moscow Patriarchate to Friday’s liturgical commemoration of the Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine, His Beatitude Epiphanius, by the Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, His Most Divine Beatitude Theodoros II, came hours later by Archpriest Nikolai Balashov, the deputy chairman of Russian Church’s synodal department of external Church relations (OVTsS).

“It is with great sadness that the Russian Orthodox Church received the decision by Patriarch of Alexandria Theodoros II to recognize the schismatic Orthodox Church of the Ukraine, and to transcribe in its diptychs the head of this (Church), Metropolitan Epiphanius. The Holy Synod of the Moscow Patriarchate will determine further decisions,” Fr. Nikolai was quoted by the site ria.ru as saying.

The liturgical commemoration came during a celebratory Patriarchal Divine Liturgy at the Archangels Greek Orthodox Cathedral, in the El Daher district of Cairo, the Egyptian capital.

A text of recognition was read out by the Metropolitan of Guinea, His Eminence Georgios.