

His Beatitude Patriarch Kirill celebrates his 10th anniversary as Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia



His Beatitude Patriarch Kirill celebrates on 1 February 2019 his 10th enthronement anniversary as Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church.

His Beatitude Kirill (secular name Vladimir M. Gundyayev) was born on 20 November 1946, in Leningrad.

After graduation from school, he entered the Leningrad Seminary and later the Leningrad Theological Academy, from which he graduated cum laude in 1970.

On April 3, 1969, Metropolitan Nikodim (Rotov) of Leningrad and Novgorod tonsured him a monk with the name of Kirill and on April 7 ordained him a hierodeacon and on June 1 as hieromonk.

From 1970 to 1971 Kirill taught Dogmatic Theology and acted as rector's assistant

for students' affairs at the Leningrad Theological Schools and at the same time worked as personal secretary to Metropolitan Nikodim and supervising instructor of the first-grade seminarians.

He was elevated to the rank of archimandrite on September 12, 1971.

From 1971 to 1974, he was the Moscow Patriarchate representative at the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

From December 26, 1974, to December 26, 1984, he was rector of the Leningrad Seminary and Theological Academy. On March 14, 1976, Archimandrite Kirill was consecrated Bishop of Vyborg, Vicar of the Leningrad diocese. On September 2, 1977, he was elevated to the rank of archbishop.

From December 26, 1984, he was Archbishop of Smolensk and Vyazma. From 1986 – administrator of the parishes in the Kaliningrad Region. From 1988 he became Archbishop of Smolensk and Kaliningrad.

On November 13, 1989, he was appointed the chairman of the department for external church relations and permanent member of the Holy Synod.

On February 25, 1991, Archbishop Kirill was elevated to the rank of metropolitan.

As Metropolitan of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, Patriarch Kirill participated in the third European Ecumenical Assembly held in Sibiu, 4-9 September 2007.

On January 27, 2009, the Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church elected him Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.

His Beatitude Patriarch Kirill was enthroned on February 1, 2009.

Patriarch Kirill participated in the Sinaxes of the Autocephalous Orthodox Churches in Fanar, Constantinople (6-9 March 2014) and Chambésy-Geneva (21-28 January 2016).

His Beatitude Patriarch Kirill participated in 2017 in Bucharest at the celebrations of Saint Demetrius the New. This was the first visit of a Russian Patriarch in post-communist Romania and the first visit of Patriarch Kirill in our country, since his election in 2009.

(Source and Photo: Basilica.ro)