

Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate



July 25, 2018  
07/034

The Most Blessed ONUFRY  
Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine  
Str. Lavre 15, b. 49  
01015 Kyiv  
UKRIANE

Your Beatitude,  
Beloved Brother in Christ:

It is meet and right that the 1030th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus' is celebrated in Kyiv and on the day the Holy Church celebrates St. Vladimir, Great Prince of Kyiv and Equal to the Apostles.

The choice made by St. Vladimir has brought to Christ millions of people. What was Kievan Rus' in 988 is in 2018 the vast territory of three sovereign states - Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia. While these countries have distinct cultures, political and social contexts, and current challenges, they share a common spiritual and cultural inheritance.

The celebration of St. Vladimir and the Baptism of Rus' in Kyiv has special historical meaning because it was in Kyiv that the Baptism of Rus' occurred and the path to the Orthodox Christian faith was opened for millions of men and women generation after generation. In the Orthodox Church in America many of our faithful in the United States and Canada are also heirs of the Baptism of Rus' and treasure their connection to the Kyivan Baptismal Font.

On behalf of the Holy Synod and the clergy, monastics, and lay people of the Orthodox Church in America I send to Your Beatitude this congratulatory message and my representative, Archpriest Daniel Andrejuk, Dean of St. Catherine Representation Church in Moscow, who is travelling to Kyiv after attending the 19th All American Council of our Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

We ask Your Beatitude for your holy prayers, and assure you of our prayers for you and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

With love in the Lord,  
Your brother and concelebrant,

+TIKHON  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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