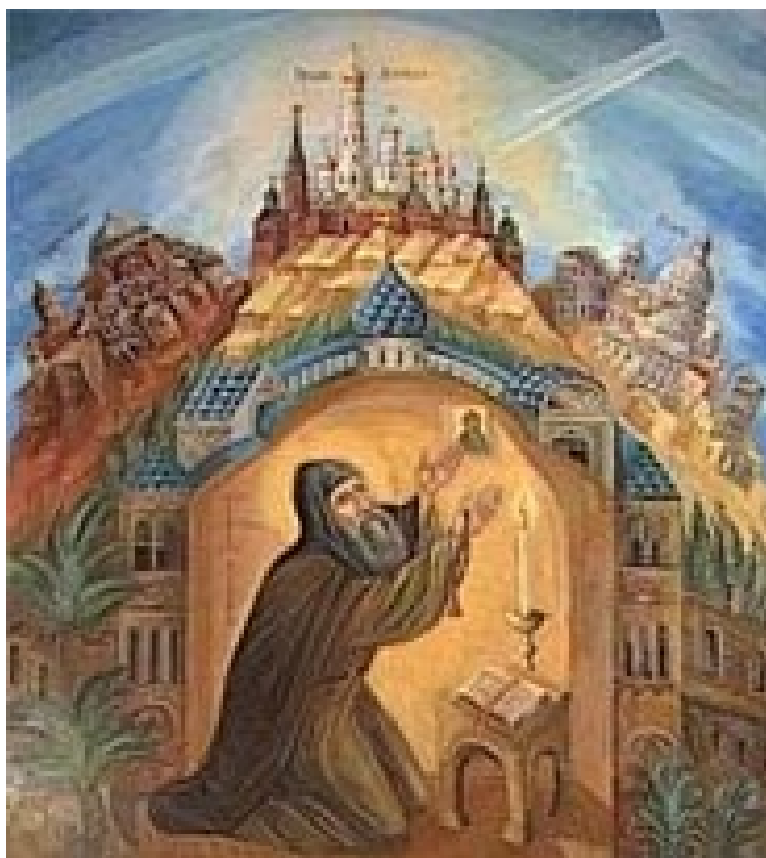


The Three Romes project to take place in Moscow, Istanbul and Rome



According to news agencies in Moscow, the Russian National Orchestra and the Moscow Synodal Choir will take part in the international ‘Three Romes’ project this spring. This is to be held in the three most important geographical centres of Christian culture – Moscow, Istanbul (Constantinople) and Rome.

The idea for the project first came up last autumn as an attempt by Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk of the External Relations Department of the Russian Orthodox Church to present and preserve traditional Christian values in the contemporary world, together with the support of the Roman Catholic world.

First, a concert will be performed in Moscow in the hall beneath the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour on 25 March. Then a concert will be held in Istanbul in the museum (former church) of Aghia Ireni on 26 March. Finally, in Rome a Russian cultural festival and concert of Russian music will take place on 20 May in the Vatican. The concert will include music by Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Rakhmaninov and music composed by Metropolitan Hilarion.

The idea behind the three concerts is to trace the succession of Christian culture from Moscow the Third Rome back to the First Rome.