

His Holiness Patriarch Kyrill send his greetings  
for the inauguration of the Orthodox Seminary in Paris.



On 14 November, His Holiness Patriarch Kyrill of Moscow and all the Russias sent a message to those at the inaugural ceremony of the Russian Orthodox Seminary in Paris. He expressed his hopes that the work there would bear abundant fruit in the coming years. He stated that the Church urgently needs both clergy who are equipped to serve in parishes in Western Europe and those with a higher education who know Western European life and possess diplomatic talents. He said that the Seminary would be open to candidates from other Local Orthodox Churches, adding that the new Seminary must not only be a theological centre, but also a place of Orthodox witness. Here the achievements and spiritual potential of European Christian traditions, both Orthodox and Non-Orthodox, could be studied.

To our mind, it is most regrettable that such a Russian Orthodox Seminary could not have been opened in the 1970s or 1980s, when it was so urgently needed. Of course, at that time, the Patriarchal Church was under such persecution that it was quite out of the question. Instead, it was left to individuals to make their way through the morass of problems of the time. In this way, the situation outside Russia was in reality not so very different from that inside Russia. It is to be hoped that this Seminary will become a beacon of unity for the multinational Russian Orthodox flock throughout Western Europe and a founding institution of a future Russian Orthodox Metropolia of Western Europe, open to all those who follow the Tradition of the Church.