



No. 285

His Eminence Mark  
Metropolitan of Berlin and Germany  
Locum Tenens of the Presidency of the Synod of Bishops  
Of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia

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Your Eminence,

Christ is Risen!

We received the news of the passing of Metropolitan Hilarion with sadness, and assure you and the entire ROCOR community of Our prayers from the Holy Tomb of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the repose of his soul in the Heavenly Kingdom.

Although Metropolitan Hilarion's presence will be missed, We rejoice that his long-suffering in his earthly life may be counted as a worthy offering to our merciful Lord. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

We hope and pray for your blessed transition as Locum Tenens of the Presidency of the Synod of Bishops, and extend Our warm encouragement at this time.

With Our Patriarchal condolences and  
brotherly love in Christ,

**THEOPHILOS III**  
Patriarch of Jerusalem

Holy City of Jerusalem  
Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022