



# THE RUSSIAN IMPERIAL HOUSE

№2 November 2016

*His Imperial Highness, the Heir, Tsesarevich, and Grand Duke George of Russia visited Russia to congratulate His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia on his 70th birthday*





**On November 20**, the birthday of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, H.I.H. the Heir, Tsesarevich, and Grand Duke George of Russia, accompanied by the Director of H.I.H.'s Chancellery, Alexander N. Zakatov, and by the Advisor to the Chancellery for Public Relations and Publications, David G. Mepurishvili, went to Christ the Saviour Cathedral, where a Divine Liturgy was served by His Holiness and representatives of other Local Orthodox Churches, including His Beatitude the Pope and Patriarch Theodore II of Alexandria; His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of the Holy City of Jerusalem and All Palestine; His Holiness and Beatitude Ilia II, the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia; His Holiness Patriarch Irinej of Serbia; His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos II of Cyprus; His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania; His Beatitude Metropolitan Savva of Warsaw and All Poland; His Beatitude Metropolitan Rostislav of the Czech Lands and Slovakia; His Beatitude Archbishop Tikhon of Washington and All America; other hierarchs and clergy of the Russian Orthodox Church, and representatives of other Local Orthodox Churches, who were themselves unable to attend the service. Also attending the service were government officials, representatives of President of the Russian Federation, members of both chambers of the Federal Assembly, ministers, intellectuals, scientists and scholars, and members of a range of state and civic organizations.

After the Divine Liturgy, H.I.H. the Grand Duke George of Russia met with His Holiness Patriarch Kirill and gave him a letter from the Head of the Russian Imperial House, H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, congratulating His Holiness on his 70th birthday. He also presented the devices of the Imperial Military Order of St. Nicholas the Wonder Worker to His Holiness, as well as a very old icon of the St. Nicholas, the Heavenly Patron of this Order, from the private collection of the Imperial House.





CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE HEAD  
OF THE RUSSIAN IMPERIAL HOUSE  
H.I.H. THE GRAND DUCHESS MARIA OF RUSSIA

*to His Holiness  
Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia*

Your Holiness,  
I send you my heartfelt congratulations on your 70th birthday.  
Your pious grandfather and father, who lived through the crucible of atheistic persecution, instilled in you a strong and abiding faith and taught you to defend your faith with courage and wisdom.

More than 50 years ago, you chose to follow in their pious footsteps. You pursued your education in the theological schools of the Northern Capital, took on yourself the mantle of monasticism and the priestly office, and then were given the dignity of episcopal rank. At each level of service assigned to you by the Holy Church, you fulfilled your duty to God, your fellow clergy, and your flock with a deep and profound sense of responsibility.

In 2009, the Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church, recognizing your spiritual gifts and vast experience as an archpastor, elected you to the throne of the Russian patriarchate.

From the very first meeting with my parents, which took place exactly a quarter century ago, in November 1991, you showed unwavering love for us, respect for the historical heritage of our House, and a keen understanding of its mission in the modern world. You have assisted us with your prayers and advice, and have supported us at difficult moments in our lives.

Together with all the faithful of the Russian Orthodox Church and of Orthodox Churches the world over, I pray that God will send down upon you health, many years, and unfailing strength as you continue to carry the Cross of Christ in your service as Patriarch.

In honour of your birthday, I ask you to accept the devices of the Imperial Military Order of St. Nicholas the Wonder Worker I Class, and an icon of the Heavenly Patron of the Order. The Order of St. Nicholas the Wonder Worker is one of our Dynastic Orders, your membership of which derives from your membership of the Imperial Order of St. Andrew the First-Called, the highest of our Dynastic Orders.

I have sent my son and heir, the Grand Duke George of Russia, to convey to you this letter and these gifts, and also to demonstrate personally and publicly the love and respect our House has for you, our Holy Father and Intercessor.

Entrusting myself to your holy prayers and asking your blessing, I remain ever yours in faith and devotion,

Maria  
Madrid, November 7/20, 2016



His Holiness expressed his gratitude to the Head of the House of Romanoff and to her Heir for these congratulations and gifts, and spoke warmly of his many meetings over the years with Grand Duchess Maria of Russia and Grand Duchess Leonida Georgievna, in particular the time when they together attended the consecration of the memorial church in honour of the Icon of the Mother of God “Seeking of the Lost” on Soloviev Crossing, at which time there took place one of the first investiture ceremonies for the Order of St. Nicholas the Wonder, and when the Grand Duke received a blessing for his upcoming trip to Antarctica.

## Services to the Holy Physician and Passion-Bearer



During this visit, the Grand Duke also went to the D. D. Pletnev City Clinical Hospital No. 57, where he attended a service in the first church in Russia dedicated to the recently canonized Holy Physician and Passion-Bearer Evgeny (Botkin), who on July 4/17, 1918, was martyred in Ekaterinburg with the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers, Emperor Nicholas II and his family.

The son of Dr. Sergei P. Botkin, the founder of modern Russian medical science, Evgeny Sergeevich Botkin was a lecturer at the Military Medical Academy, a hero of the Russo-Japanese War, and, from 1908 on, the physician to the court of Emperor Nicholas II. But it was not the glitter and gold of the court that attracted Dr.

Botkin to his new duties. A deeply pious Orthodox believer, Evgeny Botkin was devoted to the Imperial Family and genuinely loved them, admiring their talents and nobility of spirit and understanding them as people, and so able to forgive their faults. The relationship between the doctor and his Imperial patients was not without its bumps, but at that tragic moment when a decision had to be made, he without the slightest hesitation acted on the basis of duty and devotion. Taken with the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers down into the basement of Ipatiev House, he alone understood that they were being led to their deaths.

The chapel at the D. D. Pletnev City Clinical Hospital No. 57 was the brainchild of the Chief Medical Officer of the hospital, Distinguished Doctor of the Russian Federation Irina A. Nazarova; the Academician and Chief Internist of the Department of Public Health of the City of Moscow, Alexander G. Chuchalin, and Archpriest Maksim Siniuk. The chapel was consecrated on March 25, 2016, by His Grace Bishop Panteleimon of Orekhovo-Zuyevo. Now, any of the approximately 50,000 patients who receive treatment

at this hospital each year can also benefit from the spiritual comfort offered in this holy place.

In the summer of 2016, the first Russian biographer of Dr. Evgeny Botkin—the historian and writer A. N. Krylov-Tolstikovich—presented as a gift to the Head of the Russian Imperial House, H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, an old icon of Christ “Behold the Man,” depicting the Saviour in the Crown of Thorns.

The Grand Duchess Maria of Russia had accepted this gift with enormous gratitude, but expressed her desire to keep the icon in Russia so it would be available for veneration by the people of her country. Recognizing the historical significance of the consecration of this church—the first dedicated to Dr. Botkin—the Grand Duchess asked to have the icon installed in this new church.



After the moleben in the chapel served by Archpriest Maksim Siniuk, the Grand Duke presented the Icon of the Saviour “Behold the Man” to the church.

Then the Grand Duke met with the hospital staff in the main auditorium. Dr. Irina Alexandrovna Nazarova and Dr. Alexander Grigorievich Chuchalin gave short speeches formally greeting the Grand Duke, and Alexander N. Zakatov, the Director of H.I.H.’s Chancellery, rose and spoke about the activities of the Imperial Foundation for Cancer Research, which the Grand Duke founded and continues to serve as its Trustee and Director. The discussion quickly turned to how the hospital and the Imperial Foundation can work together in the future. The Grand Duke then took questions from the hospital staff and from the press. Irina Nazarova and Alexander Chuchalin presented a Bible to His Imperial Highness.



## A Touching Meeting

Also during this visit to Russia, the Grand Duke George of Russia visited the oldest member of the Imperial Military Order of St. Nicholas the Wonder Worker, Lieutenant-Colonel Nikolai Ignatievich Furmanov, whose 103rd birthday is fast approaching. His Imperial Highness wished Colonel Furmanov health and spiritual strength, and presented him a silver Icon medal of the Feodorov Mother of God—the patron icon of the House of Romanoff. The meeting was enormously touching and emotion. Nikolai Ignatievich was born in 1913, in the very year when Russia celebrated the 300th anniversary of the House of Romanoff.





## A Commemoration Service in Moscow for All the Victims of Civil Strife in Russia



On November 4, 2016, on the feast day of the Kazan Icon and the state holiday Day of National Unity, a panikhida, or requiem service, was held for all the victims of civil strife in Russia in the Church of the Nativity of Christ in the St. John the Apostle Orthodox Institute of the Russian Orthodox University. With the blessing of the church's rector, Hegumen Peter (Yeremeev), the service for "all who perished on the battlefields of the civil wars, in the chains of captivity, in labor camps, or in exile in foreign lands" was officiated by Heiromonk Nikon (Levachev-Velavenets). This tradition was established in 2009 with the blessing of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.

This now traditional commemoration service for the victims of the Civil War, which is attended by the descendants of both "Reds" and "Whites," has been enthusiastically supported by the Russian Imperial House. The Head of the Imperial House, the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, has called upon her countrymen to find the path to peace and reconciliation and to accept the indisputable fact that, in any civil war, there is never one side that is absolutely in the right or is absolutely in the wrong.

Among those attending the service were the Head of the Legal Department of the Presidential Office for Civil Service and Personnel, A. M. Kovalev; members of the Chancellery of the Head of the Russian Imperial House, led by its Director, A. N. Zakatov; S. N. Baburin and several public figures on the political left; members of the organization "For Faith and Fatherland," led by the Chairman of its Board of Directors, K. R. Kasimovskiy; members of the Russian Nobility Association, led by its Chairman, O. V. Shcherbachev; the former Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, V. I. Bragin; one of the oldest activists in the legitimist movement, Colonel V. P., Poterukhin; the Vice-Chairman of the Moscow Branch Office of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, S. Iu. Zhitenev; Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of the Arts and Distinguished Artist of Russia I. G. Mashkov; members of Georgian community in Russia; and faculty and students of the Institute.



After the service, Archpriest Dmitrii Roshchin, the Head of the Department for Coordination with Public Organizations of the Synodal Office for Media Relations, gave a short sermon, in which he expressed his confidence that services like the one just offered are an important element in the effort toward national peace and reconciliation.

At the close of the ceremony, A. N. Zakatov conveyed to all those gathered the words of the Head of the Russian Imperial House, the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, thanking everyone who had attended the service. In his own comments afterward, the Director of Her Imperial Highness's Chancellery underscored the point that, during the many years of exile after the Revolution and now, the Russian Imperial House has always supported the idea of national reconciliation and has called upon its countrymen to renounce the spirit of revenge and revanchism.

The Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, building upon the ideas advanced previously by her father and grandfather, has reminded us all again and again of the words of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearer Emperor Nicholas II: "It is not evil that conquers, it is only Love." She has called upon all her countrymen to search in the past not for that which divides us, but for that which brings us all together, regardless of our political views; to forgive and to ask for forgiveness, to see in our common repentance before God and our fellow man not weakness or humiliation, but a bright and purifying opportunity to move forward together as a nation and a people.



**The «St. Irene – 2016» Forum  
is held in Moscow,  
An International Scholarly  
and Educational Conference**



The fundamental concept of the St. Irene Forum was formulated in 2015 and took place this year in Russia and Belarus. The Chairman of the Forum was Archbishop Dimitri (Drozdov) of Vitebsk and Orshansk, the rector of the Church of the Holy Great Martyr Irene in Pokrovskoe, in Moscow. The main goal of the Forum was to pull together the resources of both Russia's educational institutions and the Russian Orthodox Church in the effort to draw public attention to the issues of the spiritual and cultural identity of the nation's Orthodox people.

***Her Imperial Highness, the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia sent her greetings to the participants of the St. Irene Forum***

In part, the letter from the Grand Duchess said:

«It is a source of great joy for me that the idea of holding this scholarly forum should have originated in the Church of the Holy Great Martyr Irene, which was founded by my ancestor, Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich. It is symbolically significant that in 2013, when Russia was celebrating the 400th anniversary of the ending of the Time of Troubles, the reestablishment of the Russian State, and the ascension to the throne of the House of Romanoff, his Holiness Patriarch Kirill and the Holy Synod should decide to found in this church a Patriarchal Mission and the Representative Office of the Belorussian Exarchate in Russia.

«When I visited the Church of St. Irene in September of last year, I had the opportunity to participate in services and meet with His Eminence Archbishop Dmitry of Vitebsk and Orshansk, with the parish clergy and with parishioners. I also had the opportunity to hear firsthand how the Vitebsk Eparchy, the Nizhnii Novgorod Metropolia, and the St. Irene parish community were working together with the Vitebsk State University; the International Association of Peace Foundations; the International Slavic Academy of Sciences, Education, Arts, and Culture; and my Chancellery, to bring about this Forum.

«I feel sure that the St. Irene Forum has a bright future, and that it will become a model of collaboration for the Holy Church, historical institutions, institutions of higher education, scholarly and civic organizations in the field of religious education. I feel sure that it will serve to strengthen the unity of the peoples of our great country, and expand cultural ties with countries along our borders and beyond.»





*Two Oncologists from St. Petersburg Participate in a Professional Development Internship at the Swedish Medical Center (USA)*

*The internships were made possible by a competitive grant programme supported by the Imperial Foundation for Cancer Research, which was founded by His Imperial Highness, the Heir, Tsesarevich, and Grand Duke George of Russia*



Interacting with other experts in the field of oncology facilitates the exchange of ideas, which benefits patients suffering from this serious disease all across the world. Doctor I. Avramenko and Doctor I. Grinev shared with us how important it was to see firsthand the medical practices and treatment options available to their American colleagues. Having returned from their experience abroad, Drs. Avramenko and Grinev sat down with us for a short interview, where they spoke about how their internship will assist them in their work in the future

#### **I. GRIVNEV:**

Our main goal was to understand their system of health care, how its component parts operate together, and to ask questions related to our own specializations. The internship was tremendously helpful and we truly learned a lot from our time abroad. Our approaches to health care and our relationships with patients are every different. All medical care in the US is ambulatory. The chief task of a physician is to heal—that's what all his or her work is directed at. They have a remarkable system for rehabilitation, they spend a lot of time and resources on diagnosing illnesses, and so on. We need to have exchanges like this on a regular basis. For example, some of the small, clever tricks I saw American doctors use in surgery I am already employing here in my own practice. This has been an entirely amazing and useful experience.

#### **I. AVRAMENKO:**

We live in different worlds, and we have entirely different health care systems. Of course there are pluses and minuses to every system, but it is absolutely essential to at least know about the range of possibilities. I am very grateful to the Imperial Foundation for Cancer Research for giving me this opportunity. This internship allowed me to make comparisons and to learn new techniques that I am using even now in my practice. In the US, we saw that the doctors spend most of their time doing clinical work. We saw the partnership that sometimes forms between doctors and patients. This is crucial. There's a lot of attention paid in the US to rehabilitation. We need to improve our abilities in reconstructive surgery. For example, after mastectomies in the US, it is a normal part of the surgical procedure to do reconstructive surgery. Women can feel better about themselves so much sooner, which is so important for their recovery. For us, this is available only on a very limited basis and is very costly. The experience of working with American colleagues has allowed me to rethink my work, it has given me new ideas, new techniques and new understanding. Thank you very much for giving me this extraordinary opportunity. And while I think it unlikely just now that our entire system of health care in Russia will change, we can even now begin to change our practices and our relationships with patients by building on what we have learned for our colleagues at this American clinic.

This internship will lead to the writing and publication of a scholarly article, which will include many of the insights Drs. Grinev and Avramenko acquired, especially in the fields of diagnostics, oncological treatment options, and rehabilitation. The Imperial Foundation for Cancer Research is eager to sponsor and encourage other similar collaborations and training opportunities between oncologists in our two countries.

The words of His Imperial Highness, the Heir, Tsesarevich, and Grand Duke George of Russia serve as a motto for the Imperial Foundation for Cancer Research:

*«We must help the scientists,  
so that they can help the people.»*

And this help is happening already. Internships like the ones that Drs. Grinev and Avramenko had will, God willing, continue into the future.





*In November 2016 the Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Prince Dominique de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel, met with Archpriest Alexander Tkachenko, General Director of the Imperial Foundation for Cancer Research*

In the course of their meeting, Archpriest Alexander had the opportunity to describe the many charitable projects being undertaken by the Foundation, and the Grand Hospitaller likewise described the important mission of the Order of Malta in countries across the world. The two also discussed possible ways to collaborate in these good works, and to expand the philanthropic programmes of the Order inside Russia.



**For More Information about the Russian Imperial House,  
See: <http://www.imperialhouse.ru/>**