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Patriarch Kirill Warns of Twitter Distractions

By The Moscow Times

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Russia's top religious official, Patriarch Kirill, has warned priests against using Twitter too often, saying it contradicts the Russian Orthodox Church's mission of saving people's souls.

Addressing the Supreme Church Council on Friday, Kirill told priests to choose "carefully" whether to react to the world's everyday events on Twitter, Interfax reported Monday.

The patriarch said he only immediately reacts to events that "deal with saving [souls of] people" and advised against using "Twitter lexicon when talking about saving the soul."

Continuing his speech, he said there are "groups that try to influence decisions we take" and that the vocabulary the church uses could become "a system of coordinates" that would help it to serve its mission.

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