

Russian Orthodox Bishop Warns Faithful Not to Vote for 'Dark' Putin

January 22, 2018



Bishop Yevtikhy Kurochkin / Vkontakte

A Russian Orthodox clergyman has spoken for the first time against voting for Vladimir Putin's re-election this spring over recent comments the president made which he described as "blasphemous."

Putin raised controversy in the Orthodox Christian community last week by <u>comparing</u> the Bolshevik revolutionary Vladimir Lenin's tomb to "holy relics" in a documentary about the Valaam Monastery.

Related article: Putin Compares Communism to Christianity

Bishop Eutyches Kurochkin of the Epiphany Cathedral in Ishim said Putin's comparison of communism to Christianity was "utterly blasphemous."

"Shall I go against Christ and vote for darkness, or advise others to do so?! No, no, no!" Rev. Eutyches <u>wrote</u> on his Vkontakte last week.

By contrast, Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox church and Putin's ally since his return to the presidency in 2012, has <u>called</u> on believers to vote in the coming elections scheduled for March 18.

Original url:

https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2018/01/22/russian-orthodox-bishop-warns-faithful-not-to-vote-for-dark-putin-a60245