

## Russian church head honors Putin with icon

by UPI

MOSCOW -- Russian Orthodox Church head Patriarch Alexy II on Thursday presented President Vladimir Putin with an icon to honor his religious unification efforts.

The two Russian leaders' exchange occurred at a signing ceremony for the reunification agreement between the Moscow church and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, Interfax reported.

Alexy honored Putin with a Live-Giving Trinity icon during the ceremony, citing the leader's contributions to the monumental accord.

"Let it be a reminder of today, a day that has unified us all," Alexy said.

The gift-giving ceremony and momentous signing occurred at Moscow's Cathedral of Christ the Savior, the press agency said.

The signing of the agreement that reunified the Russian Orthodox Church was immediately followed by an exchange of triple kisses between the patriarch, Putin and ROCOR hierarch Metropolitan Laurus.

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