

# **THE GEORGIAN MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE.**

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2010, Georgia's Minister of Economic Development, Mrs. Vera Kobalia, accompanied by a small diplomatic team led by the Ambassador of Georgia to Israel, was received by His Beatitude Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos III at the Patriarchate. His Beatitude welcomed the Minister to the Holy Land and to the Patriarchate, affirming that as guardian of the Holy Places the Patriarchate joyfully welcomes missions and pilgrims from various Orthodox countries including Georgia, which has always had close bonds with the Holy Land.

The Minister stated to His Beatitude that she had come within the framework of economic cooperation with the State of Israel and that she also considered this visit to the Holy Sepulchre and the Patriarchate as her strong personal religious obligation and inner call.

Her Excellency Mrs. Kobalia offered His Beatitude an icon of Saint Nicholas. His Beatitude presented the Minister with a golden cross and the book authored by Professor Votokopoulos on the illustrated manuscripts of the Patriarchate's Library, along with commemorative medals minted for the celebration of 2000 years of Christianity and a crib made of ivory depicting Christ's Nativity.

Following her visit to the Patriarchate, the Minister visited the Holy Sepulchre for veneration.

**Chief Secretary's Office.**

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