

VISIT OF THE CREW OF THE FRIGATE "PSARA" AT THE PATRIARCHATE.

On Friday, March 26th / 8th April and on Saturday, March 27th / April 9th 2011, officers and crew members of the Hellenic Navy serving on the frigate «Psara» (<http://www.hellenicnavy.gr/>) visited the Patriarchate. The fleet anchored at the Haifa harbour within the framework of an international naval training and exercise mission between crews from the United States of America, Hellas (Greece) and Israel.

On the occasion of their stay in Israel, they came to Jerusalem in order to visit His Beatitude Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos III and receive His fatherly/patriarchal blessings.

During both days His Beatitude welcomed the officers and the crew in the Holy Land, and spoke to them about the spiritual work of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and answered their questions.

Afterwards, the Head of the group thanked His Beatitude and presented Him with the coat of arms of the frigate. His Beatitude gave the officers medals celebrating the 2000 years of Christianity, the book by Mr. Votokopoulos on the illustrated manuscripts of the Patriarchate's Central Library, and the book by Mr. Demitrakopoulos on the place of Baptism of the Lord whilst bestowing Jerusalemite blessings upon the crew.

Following that, the delegation had the opportunity to visit the Church of the Resurrection venerating the Holy Sepulchre, the Calvary and the Most Sacred Veneration sites within the Church.

Chief Secretary's Office.

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