

THE MOST REVEREND PAVLOS, METROPOLITAN OF DRAMA, VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Tuesday, the 3rd/16th of June 2015, the Most Reverend Metropolitan Pavlos of Drama, a descendant of parents from the martyric Pontus, visited the Patriarchate. He was leading a group of fifty priests and laymen from his congregation.

The guests were welcomed by Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem, in the presence of Hagiotaphite Fathers.

In the context of this visit, the Metropolitan of Drama expressed his joy for returning to the Holy Shrines and in particular the Holy Monastery of Hojeva, now under renovation.

On His part, the Patriarch praised Metropolitan Pavlos as a distinguished Primate of the Church of Greece, considered by the Hagiotaphites as one of them, owing to his vivid and tangible interest in the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, manifested through visits to the Holy Shrines, especially the Holy Sepulcher that had received the Crucified and Resurrected Lord.

Through the Holiness of Jerusalem and the sanctifying work of the Church, the city's inhabitants and visitors are also blessed.

For his contribution to the Patriarchate, His Beatitude bestowed the medal of Supreme Taxiarch of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher upon Metropolitan Pavlos of Drama.

The Metropolitan thanked the Patriarch for this significant honor and wished for God to enable all pilgrims and visitors to the Holy Land to experience His glory through the *martyria* bearing witness to the Orthodox faith and History of the Holy

Shrines.

From the Secretariat-General

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