

# THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD OF GREECE VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Wednesday morning, April 26/May 9, 2018, the Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Food of Greece, Mr. Vassilios Kokkalis visited the Patriarchate escorted by the Consul General of Greece in Jerusalem Mr. Christos Sophianopoulos and a 30-member group of his associates.

The Minister and his escort were warmly received by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem and Hagiotaphite Fathers.

In this meeting His Beatitude underlined the significance of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem, built on the place of the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ and receiving thousands of pilgrims.

The grace of Christ which comes forth from its place of Crucifixion and Resurrection vivifies all the pastoral and social work of the Jerusalem Patriarchate in all its jurisdiction; in Israel, the Palestinian State and Jordan.

With these words, His Beatitude offered the Minister an icon of the Theotokos and of the Edicule of the Holy Tomb and to his escorts some souvenir-blessings from Jerusalem and wished them a blessed continuation of their pilgrimage to the Holy Sepulchre and the Monasteries in the Old City of Jerusalem.

**From Secretariat-General**

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