

ELECTION SERVICE TO ARCHBISHOP OF THE ARCHBISHOP- ELECT ARISTOVOULOS OF MADABA

On Saturday afternoon, May 6/19, 2018, the Election Service of the Archbishop-Elect Aristovoulos of Madaba was held after the Service of Vespers at the Monastic Church of Saints Constantine and Helen. The ordination will be on Sunday May 7/20, 2018, at the Catholicon of the All-holy Church of the Resurrection, day that we commemorate the Appearance of the sign of the Cross in the sky.

The Election Service was held according to the Typikon Order of the Church, including the election announcement to the Elect, his acceptance of the election, the signing of the Code of Consignment by the Archbishops and Hieromonks who are members of the Holy Synod, and have voted for Archimandrite Aristovoulos to Archbishop of Madaba.

Before the end of the Service at the Reception Hall of the Patriarchate, His Beatitude our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos addressed the Elect as follows;

Your Grace Archbishop-Elect Aristovoulos of Madaba,

In its last session our Holy and Sacred Synod having unanimously accepted Our Patriarchal and Fatherly suggestion for your promotion to the Episcopal Office, has duly casted its votes and elected Your Grace, Archbishop of the famous Diocese of Madaba in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and a spiritual shepherd of its southern district.

Our Holy and Sacred Synod decided this, hearkening to the wise words of the Apostle of Nations Paul who ordered his disciple Timothy; " For the time will come when they will not endure

sound doctrine... But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (2 Tim. 4:3-5), in other words, fulfil your ministry in all things.

Your Grace Archbishop-Elect Aristovoulos of Madaba; our Holy Church of Jerusalem has called us to the outmost honour of the Episcopal Office on the one hand, and on the other it has designated us with the kenotic Apostolic ministry of the Hagiotaphite, which you have been practising with God-inspired zeal, obeying St. Paul's preaching; "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men... For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

We wish that the Grace of the All-Holy and Life-giving Spirit be with you at the undertaking of the new Episcopal duties, referring to the spiritual and pastoral care of our full Christian Congregation under the Ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Venerable Greek Orthodox Jerusalem Patriarchate. And the intercessions of the Most Blessed our Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary along with those of your Patron Saint Holy Apostle Aristovoulos may accompany you always and at all times.

Be Axios and steadfast in faith.

The Elect returned the address thanking His Beatitude as follows;

"Your Beatitude Father and Master,

The phrase You used to convince me accept the decision of the Holy and Sacred Synod still echoes in my ears: "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few" (Luke 10:2).

Pray, Your Beatitude, that God may deem me worthy, by the Grace of the All-holy and Life-giving Tomb, to become a simple worker in His vineyard and on the Day of Judgment I may be able to return to Him fruit of a hundred-fold.

I raise my glass in a toast to the health of Your Beatitude, of the Hagiotaphite Brotherhood and of our noble congregation".

From Secretariat-General

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