

# THE FEAST OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE SIGN OF THE CROSS IN THE SKY

On Sunday May 7/20, 2018, Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Synod and of the commemoration of the appearance of the sign of the Cross in the sky of Jerusalem, the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy and the Ordination of the Most Reverend Archbishop Aristovoulos of Madaba were celebrated at the Catholicon of the All-holy Church of the Resurrection.

The Services were officiated by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos with concelebrant the Most Reverend Archbishops of the Throne the Most Reverend Metropolitans Kyriakos of Nazareth, Isychios of Kapitolias, Timotheos of Bostra, and the Most Reverend Archbishops Damascene of Joppa, Aristarchos of Constantina, Methodios of Tabor, Theophylactos of Jordan, Demetrios of Lydda, Makarios of Qatar, Isidoros of Hierapolis, Christophoros of Kyriakoupolis and the Most Reverend Metropolitan Joachim of Helenoupolis. There were also Hagiotaphite Priests and visiting Priests from other Churches, Archdeacon Mark and Deacons Anastasios and Sophronios. The Choir of the Byzantine Music Professor Mr. Balagiorgos delivered the hymns on the right and Mr. Spyropoulos on the left, and the service was attended by a congregation of local faithful and pilgrims from Greece, Cyprus, Russia and Romania.

After the Divine Liturgy His Beatitude and all concelebrant Archbishops and Priests venerated the Horrendous Golgotha and continued with a Procession three times around the Holy Sepulchre. Then His Beatitude read the epistle of Cyril the Archbishop of Jerusalem to King Constantios, son of St. Constantine the Great, in which he describes the appearance of the sign of the Cross in the sky, a sign visible to all people

from the Horrendous Golgotha to the Mount of Olives.

After the Procession all Congregation went to the Patriarchate Headquarters, where a reception was offered and everybody received the blessing of His Beatitude and the newly-ordained Archbishop Aristovoulos of Madaba, wishing him "Axios" and many happy returns.

**From Secretariat-General**

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