

# **PASOK PRESIDENT, MR EVANGELOS VENIZELOS, AT THE PATRIARCHATE**

On Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of September/9<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, the President of PASOK, Foreign Secretary and Vice-President of the Greek Government, Mr Evangelos Venizelos, visited the Patriarchate while accompanying the Greek Prime Minister on a visit to the state of Israel.

Mr Evangelos Venizelos was warmly welcomed by His Beatitude Theophilos, our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem, in the company of Hagiotaphite Fathers.

During his visit, Mr Venizelos informed His Beatitude that in the context of his meetings with the Prime Minister of Israel Mr Netanyahu, the President of the Palestinianian Autonomy Mr Abu Mazen and, a few days earlier, with His Majesty the King of Jordan Abdullah II, special reference was made to the position and the role of the Patriarchate as a religious, peacemaking and regulatory agent for the preservation of the status of the sites of pilgrimage and of Jerusalem's political status.

His Beatitude thanked the Vice President for his interest and added that, owing to its history and spiritual and physical property, the Patriarchate is elevated to a significant agent of peace and religious and political stability in the political context of its ecclesiastical jurisdiction, but at the same time and for the same reasons, it becomes on occasion a target on the grounds of its rights and property. In particular, His Beatitude referred to the now resolved problem of the water supply of the Church of the Resurrection on behalf of Israel's Gihon Water Supply Company, and to the current problem of trespassing Patriarchal land in Bethany,

for which solution is promoted by President Abu Mazen, with the support of the Greek Government.

In the context of this meeting, His Beatitude awarded Mr Venizelos the medal of the Supreme Commander of the Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher for his contribution to the Church and the nation. He also offered him the book on the History of the Church of Jerusalem by Chrysostomos Papadopoulos, an icon of the Nativity, and Jerusalemite eulogias for his associates.

Moved, Mr Venizelos thanked His Beatitude and offered him a silver tray with representations from exhibits on display at the Benaki Museum.

Subsequently, Mr Venizelos and his associates proceeded to the Holy Sepulcher, where they were welcomed by His Eminence Isidoros, Archbishop of Hierapolis and Elder Sacristan, in the presence of Fathers of the Church of the Resurrection.

**From the Secretariat-General**



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## **GREEK PRIME MINISTER VISITS PATRIARCHATE**

On the afternoon of Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September/8<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Antonios Samaras, while on a visit to the state of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, visited the Patriarchate. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Ministers of his Cabinet, namely, Development Minister Mr Chatzidakis, the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs,

Mr Arvanitopoulos, the Minister of Culture and Sports, Mr Panayiotopoulos, Environment Minister, Mr Maniatis, Tourism Minister, Mrs Kefalogiannis, Merchant Marine Minister, Mr Varvitsiotis and other government officials. Also present was the Consul General of Greece to Jerusalem, Mr Georgios Zacharoudiakis, and other associates.

The Prime Minister and his retinue were warmly received by members of the Greek Parish in Jerusalem, members of our Arab-speaking congregation, and several Hagiotaphite Fathers.

His Beatitude cordially welcomed the Greek Prime Minister in the Hall of the Patriarchate with an address in Greek.

He also decorated Mr Samaras with the Supreme Medal of the Order of Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, namely the Megalostavros, and offered him an elaborate icon of Theotokos Jerusalemite, an icon of the Nativity for his office, a cross for his wife, and eulogias for his retinue.

After signing the book of visitors, the Prime Minister left for the Church of the Resurrection, accompanied by His Beatitude, Hagiotaphite Fathers and several pilgrims.

There, Mr Samaras venerated the *Apokathelosis*, the Holy Sepulcher, the Katholikon and the Horrendous Golgotha, as well as the Wood from the Holy Cross at the office of His Eminence Isidoros, Archbishop of Hierapolis and Elder Sacristan. The latter offered Mr Samaras an icon of the Resurrection, for protection, assistance and success in his governmental tasks.

From there, the Prime Minister left amid good wishes for the rest of his mission.

**From the Secretariat-General**

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# **PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM PARTICIPATES IN THE CELEBRATIONS FOR EDICTUM MEDIONALENSE 1700TH ANNIVERSARY**

During the period between the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of September/ 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013, the Patriarchate of Serbia celebrated the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Edictum Mediolanense, issued by Constantine the Great (in 313 AD) who hailed from the ancient city of Naissos, namely present-day Nis, Serbia. The Edict of Milan allowed the Christian religion within the Roman state.

His Beatitude Theophilos, our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem, accompanied by His Eminence Aristarchos, Archbishop of Constantina and Elder Secretary-General; His Eminence Makarios, Archbishop of Kattara, who had pursued theological studies in the Belgrade Faculty of Theology, and Archdeacon f. Athanasios.

His Beatitude and retinue, who arrived in Belgrade on the evening of Friday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of September/4<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, were received by His Beatitude Irinej, Patriarch of Serbia, in the presence of Prelates, Hieromonks and Hierodeacons.

During this warm reception, His Beatitude Irinej thanked His Beatitude Theophilos for accepting the invitation of the Church of Serbia to participate in the celebrations for the recognition of the Christian religion by means of the Edict of

Milan, adding he was particularly happy about the pilgrims coming from the Holy Sepulcher.

In response, His Beatitude Theophilos extended His thanks for the warm reception and for the reason that, beyond the significance of the Edict of Milan for the Church and the world, the very meeting of the Heads of Orthodox Churches or their representatives was in itself significant for further tightening their relations.

In the meantime, His Beatitude Anastasios, Archbishop of Albania, arrived, and was cordially received by the Patriarchs of Serbia and Jerusalem, who were still at the airport with their respective Retinues.

On the following day, Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September/5<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, Doxology was held in honour of the event at the great and historical Cathedral of Sts Taxiarchai which stands in the center of Belgrade, opposite the Patriarchate.

During Doxology, the Patriarch of Serbia addressed the Heads of Churches and their retinues, whilst the Most Reverend Irinej, Metropolitan of Baska, translated into impeccable ancient Greek. The Patriarch underlined the importance of the work of Constantine the Great and of significance of the Edict issued by him, as well as the significance of the Gathering of the Heads of Churches in his birthplace of Nis, with the aim of working together towards the resolution of problems and for a broader fraternal society in favour of justice, love and unity in the world.

On behalf of the Heads of Churches spoke the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Greek, whilst the Metropolitan of Baska translated into Serbian.

After the *apolyxis* of the liturgy, a reception followed at the Patriarchate of Serbia.

From there, the Heads of Churches and their retinues visited

the Serbian President, His Excellency Mr Tomislav Nikolic. Mr Nikolic expressed his joy over the celebrations held by the Church and the State of Serbia as well as for the Inter-Orthodox participation.

Following a short rest break, the Heads of Churches and their Retinues left for the city of Nis. After a three-hour drive, they held Doxology at the Cathedral of Sts Constantine and Helena in Nis.

On the morning of Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September/5<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, an Inter-Orthodox Patriarchal Joint Liturgy was held at the forecourt of the aforementioned Cathedral. Participating in the Joint Liturgy were thousands of pious Serbs, led by their President, Mr Tomislav Nikolic.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew made a speech.

Subsequently, the Patriarch of Serbia conferred the medal of St Constantine the Great, first class, to each of the Heads of the Orthodox Churches, and to the President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr Tomislav Nikolic. The Prelates accompanying the Heads of Churches were decorated with the medal of St Constantine, second class.

Lunch followed, during which each Primate made an address. The address of His Beatitude Theophilos may be read here in English:

<https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2013/10/11/3130>

Due to pastoral requirements, namely the feast of St Thekla, His Beatitude left on the morning of Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September/ 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, whilst His Eminence Makarios, Archbishop of Kattara, undertook to represent the Patriarchate in the rest of the festive celebrations of the Church of Serbia.

From Belgrade, His Beatitude flew for Constantinople with Turkish Airlines and from there arrived in Jerusalem during the early hours of Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September/7<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, in order to lead the procession for the feast of St Thekla, Great Martyr and Equal to the Apostles.

**From the Secretariat-General**



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# **HIS BEATITUDE THEOPHILOS, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM, TO SERBIA**

The Patriarchate of Jerusalem informs the followers of its website that H.B. Theophilos, our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem, accompanied by the Elder Secretary-General, His Eminence Aristarchos, Archbishop of Constantina, and Archdeacon f. Athanasios, will between the 4<sup>th</sup> until the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2013 participate in the celebrations of the Patriarchate of Serbia on the completion of 1700 years since 313 AD, when the Edict of Milan (Edictum Mediolanense) was issued by king Constantine the Great, who was born in the town of Nis, now belonging to the country of Serbia.

Details will be posted on the patriarchate's website in due course.

**From the Secretariat-General**

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# HOLY WATER RITE FOR THE BEGINNING OF CLASSES AT THE SCHOOL OF SION

On Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> of September 2013, a holy water rite was performed on the occasion of the start of the new school year 2013-2014 in the Patriarchal Hieratic School on the hill of St Sion.

The rite was performed by His Beatitude Theophilos, Our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem, who was accompanied by the Elder Secretary-General Aristarchos, Archbishop of Constantina, and Archdeacon f. Athanasios. Attending the rite were, from the School Board, Hierodeacon f. Martyrios; the Principal, Physics teacher monk f. Fotios, detached teachers from Greece and Cyprus, the School's pastor and Hegoumen of the Monastery of Hojeva, Archimandrite Constantinos, the new Consul-General of Greece to Jerusalem, Mr Georgios Zacharoudiakis, his associate Ms Aspasia Mitsi, students, fifteen in all, and some of their parents.

After the rite, at the School's Events Hall, the Principal f. Fotios addressed His Beatitude, teachers and students in the speech available through the video below.

In His reply speech, His Beatitude said that the Brotherhood of the Holy Sepulcher, the future members of which are today's novices, and which carries the ecumenical mission of safeguarding the All-Holy Sites of Pilgrimage, celebrated today the spiritual opening of the new school year in order to bless those who teach and those who are being taught the god-pleasing work of education.



Special reference was made to the presence and the work of the Patriarchate and Brotherhood in the holy and ecumenical city of Jerusalem, at all times, especially so during this difficult period facing the Middle East and the rest of the world.

His Beatitude wished the students diligence in Christ's education, spiritual achievements and sense of honour maintained by those attending the School. He also wished for more students in order for the School to pursue its mission in a more effective way.

Through a few words, the Greek Consul-General reiterated the will of Greece to support the education of the Brotherhood at the School and urged students to prove worthy of our national and religious tradition, serving the Church and the Nation, as required by them.

### **From the Secretariat-General**

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# **SCHEDULE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “THE CHALLENGES FACING ARAB CHRISTIANS”, JORDAN.**

**International Conference  
“The Challenges Facing Arab Christians”  
3-4 September, 2013, Amman, Le Royal Amman**

**Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2013**

09:30 – 11:15 Opening session: Welcoming speech by **HRH Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad** (10 min)

**Session 1: Egypt session**

*Moderator: Pastor Rick Warren*

**H.H. Pope Tawadros II**, The 118<sup>th</sup> Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark Speech (10 min)  
*5 minute discussion*

**H.B. Patriarch Theodoros II**, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa Speech (10 min)  
*5 minute discussion*

**H.E. Bishop Mouneer Hanna Anis**, The Episcopal Church in Egypt, North Africa African Peninsula  
Speech (10 min)  
*5 minute discussion*

**H.E Sheykh Ali Gomaa**, the Previous Grand Mufti of Egypt  
Speech (10 min)  
*5 minute discussion*

11:20-14:30 **Lunch At The Royal Court** 16:00-17:00 Session 2: Syria session

*Moderator: Rev Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit*

**H.B. Patriarch Ignatius Zakka Iwas**, Syriac Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East Speech (10 min)  
*5 minute discussion*

**H.B. Patriarch Youhanna 10<sup>th</sup>**, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All The East – Speech (10 min)  
*5 minute discussion*

**H.B. Patriarch Gregorios III Laham**, Melkite Greek Patriarch of Antioch –  
Speech (10 min)  
*5 minute discussion*

17:00-17:15 Coffee break

17:15-18:15 Session 3: Iraq session Moderator: H.E Sheikh Mustafa Ceric

**H.B. Patriarch Mar Louis Raphael Ist Sako**, Chaldean Catholic Patriarch of  
Babylon

Speech (10 min)  
5 minute discussion

**H.E. Archbishop Giorgio Lingua**, The Apostolic Nuncio in Jordan and Iraq

Speech (10 min)  
5 minute discussion

**H.E. Archbishop Avak Asadourian**, Armenian Orthodox Bishop of Baghdad

Speech (10 min)  
5 minute discussion

18:15- 18:25

**H.E. Archbishop Jean Sleiman**, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baghdad–

Speech (10 min)  
5 minute discussion

Break

18:25-19:00

Session 4: Lebanon

Moderator : Revd Prof. Paul S. Fiddes **H.B. Patriarch Mar Becharra El Rahi**,

Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and All The East Speech (10 min) 5 minute  
discussion

**H.B. Patriarch Ignatius Youssef III Younan**, Patriarchate of Antioch for the  
Syrian Catholic

Speech (10 min)  
5 minute discussion

19:15 Leave to the Baptism site

20:00 Dinner at the Baptism Site

**Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2013**

Session 1: **Lebanon Session Continued** Moderator: Dr. Tayseer Al Ammari

10:00-11:30

**H.H. Catholicos Aram I**, Catholicos of the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**H.B. Patriarch Nercess Bedros 19<sup>th</sup>**, Patriarch of the Armenian Catholic Church

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**Rev. Dr. Habib Badr**, President of The National Evangelical Union of Lebanon

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**HE Mr. Mohammad Sammak**, the Secretary-General of the National Committee for Christian-Muslim Dialogue

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

11:30-11:45

Coffee break

11:45 – 14:00

Session 2: **Jordan and Jerusalem Session**

Moderator : HE Mr. Mohammad Sammak

**H.B. Patriarch Theophilos III**, Patriarch of the Holy city Jerusalem All

Palestine and Jordan

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**H.B. Patriarch Fouad Tawal**, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**H.B. Patriarch Nurhan Manogian**, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**H.E. Bishop Suheil Dawani**, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**H.E. Bishop Munib Younan**, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

14:00- 16:00 Lunch at the hotel

16:00 – 17:30 Session 3: General session Moderator: Very Rev Iain Torrance

**Patriarch Kirill I of Moscow**, Patriarch of Russia

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**H.E. Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran**, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**H.B. Archbishop Chrysostomos II**, Archbishop of Cyprus

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**The Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr Justin Welby**, Archbishop of Canterbury

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**Rev Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe**, Secretary General/CEO, World Evangelical Alliance

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

17:30-17:45

Coffee break

17:45-19:00

Session 4: General Session

Moderator : Very Rev Prof Iain Torrance

**Head of Churches in Jordan**

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**H.E Sheykh Aref Nayed**, Libyan Islamic scholar and the Libyan Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**Rev Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit**, Secretary general of the World Council of Churches

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**Mr. Tom Heneghan, Reuters, Religion Editor**

Speech (10 min)

5 minute discussion

**Mr. Mark Burnett**, TV Producer, Ambassador for World Evangelical Alliance and  
**Mrs. Roma Downey**, Actress, TV Producer, Ambassador for World Evangelical Alliance

Speech (7min), video clip (3min)

5 minute discussion

20:00 Dinner at the Orthodox Club Amman

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# THE PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM VISITS THE HOLY ARCHBISHOPRIC OF CYPRUS

On the morning of Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> of August, His Beatitude Theophilos, Our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem, accompanied by the Elder Secretary-General, Archbishop of Constantina, Mr Aristarchos, and Archdeacon f. Athanasios, arrived at Larnaca Airport on a Cyprus Airways flight.

There, His Beatitude was welcomed by the Most Reverend Christophoros, Metropolitan of Karpassia, on behalf of the Archbishop of Cyprus.

From the airport, His Beatitude left for Nicosia, where he was informed about renovation works on the Exarchate of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The Exarchate is located in the vicinity of the Archbishopric of Cyprus, and works are scheduled to conclude in a few days.

On the following day, Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of August/1<sup>st</sup> of September 2013, a Joint Patriarchal Service was held, led by His Beatitude Theophilos and His Beatitude Chrysostomos, Archbishop of Cyprus. Co-officiating were His Eminence Aristarchos, Archbishop of Constantina, Hieromonks, Presbyters and deacons. Participating in devout prayer were a hundred young men and women – from the Church of Cyprus, the Patriarchate of Antioch, the Patriarchate of Alexandria and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. During the last week of August, the youth participated in a camp at St Nikolas “of the roof” in Kakopetria. The camp was offered by the Archbishopric of Cyprus according to a decision taken at a meeting on the

island among the heads of the Patriarchates of Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem and the Archbishopric of Cyprus on the establishment of a youth group called "Initiative".

During the Joint Service, the choir of members of youth organizations from the aforementioned Churches sang in Greek and Arabic.

This solemn divine Service was completed with the participation of the Lord's officiants and of the youth in the mystery of the divine Eucharist for consecration and salvation.

During the Liturgy, wishes were read out to the Lord for the protection of the natural environment at the beginning of the Indiction, which marks the Ecclesiastical New Year.

At the conclusion of the divine Liturgy, their Beatitudes addressed paternal and advisory words to the church youth group, urging them to be united in Christ, independent of their nationality, within the Body of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ.

**From the Secretariat-General**



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## **THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM JOINS FESTIVITIES FOR 1025 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY**

The webpage of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem would like to inform its readers that the Patriarchate of Jerusalem,

accepting the invitation of the Russian Patriarchate, will participate in the festivities of the 1025<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Baptism of Rus'. The delegation will consist of His Beatitude Theophilos, Our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem; Elder Chancellor Aristarchos, the Most Reverend Archbishop of Constantina; the Patriarchal Commissioner in Bethlehem, the Most Reverend Theophylaktos, Archbishop of Jordan; the Exarch of the Holy Sepulcher in Greece, Archimandrite f. Damianos and Archdeacon f. Athanasios.

The festivities will take place in Moscow, the Kremlin and Belarus.

The webpage of the Patriarchate pledges to inform its readers on the details of such festivities according to the schedule of each event.

**From the Secretariat-General**

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## **PRIME MINISTER OF GEORGIA VISITS PATRIARCHATE**

In the afternoon of the Monday of the Holy Spirit, the 11<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> of June 2013, the Prime Minister of Georgia, His Excellency Mr Bidzina Ivanishvilli, on a visit to Israel, arrived at the Patriarchate of Jerusalem accompanied by a delegation of approximately thirty five of his associates, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Diaspora.

The Prime Minister and his retinue were received at the Hall of the Throne by His Beatitude Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, in the presence of the Guardians of the Holy



Sepulcher, including the Most Reverend Isychios, Metropolitan of Capitolias and Patriarchal Commissioner; the Grand Chancellor Aristarchos, Archbishop of Constantina, the Most Reverend Methodios, Archbishop of Thavorio, and the former Protosyncellus of the Holy Archbishopric of Cyprus, f. Ieronymos.

Welcoming the Prime Minister of Georgia, His Beatitude addressed him in English as follows (see link: <https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2013/06/25/2550/> ) and conferred upon him the supreme honour of the Patriarchate, namely the Cross of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher, for the reverence he extends towards the Holy Sepulcher and for his pioussness. A fine icon of St George and a cross were offered to the Prime Minister's wife.

Deeply moved, the Prime Minister thanked His Beatitude, saying that the honour conferred upon him was reflected onto the Church and the nation of Georgia, and that this honour would be for him a source of strength for the accomplishment of his mission and the creation of conditions of cooperation between Church and state. He then offered HB a plaque bearing the picture of an ancient temple of the Church of Georgia, conveying the wishes of His Beatitude Elias, the Patriarch of Georgia, and an invitation to visit the country of Georgia. Finally, he thanked HB for welcoming Georgian pilgrims to the Holy Land and supporting Christians on an international level.

After his visit to the Patriarchate, His Excellency the Prime Minister of Georgia, accompanied by His Beatitude, visited the All-holy Church of the Resurrection and paid his respect to the Holy Sepulcher and the Horrendous Golgotha.

The Prime Minister's call was concluded with a visit to the Chapel of Adam.

**From the Secretariat-General**

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# DEACON ORDAINED AT THE PATRIARCHATE

On the night of Monday to Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of May/10<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2013, the Most Reverend Isychios, Metropolitan of Kapitolias, following a decision of the Holy and Sacred Synod, during a liturgy at the Holy Sepulcher, ordained as deacon Savvas Haj, originally from the town of Abelin, Northern Israel, in the presence of the Elder Sacristan Isidoros, Archbishop of Hierapolis, of Archimandrite f. Philotheos, the hegoumen of Accra, the ordinand's wife and a group of his countrymen.

In the following morning, the ordained deacon, together with Archimandrite f. Philotheos, the hegoumen of Accra, and the Most Venerable Isychios, Metropolitan of Kapitolias, arrived at the Patriarchate to receive the blessing of HB Theophilos, Our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem, and wishes for a prosperous ministration, agreeable to God and men alike.

**From the Secretariat-General**

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