

THE NEW JAMAIIYIE OF REMLE COMMUNITY VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Saturday, the 18th/31st of January 2015, the new Jamaiye, namely the Council of the Greek Orthodox Community of Remle, bordering the towns of Lydda and Joppa, visited the Patriarchate.

The President and approximately twenty members of the Jamaiye, led by Archimandrite Nephon, were welcomed by Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem.

The new Jamaiye, represented by its President, asked for His Beatitude's wishes and blessings,. In His turn, the Patriarch wished that its work be supported by God, and offered financial aid to enhance its activities.

From the Secretariat-General

[httpv://youtu.be/3Y8PKmWp3o8](http://youtu.be/3Y8PKmWp3o8)



THE MAYOR OF JERUSALEM VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Monday, the 13th/26th of January 2015, the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr Nir Barkat, visited the Patriarchate accompanied

by associates of his.

The Mayor and his associates were welcomed by H.B. Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, in the presence of Hagiotaphite Fathers. In the context of this visit, an interesting discussion took place on the safe access of pilgrims to Jerusalem and the rest of the Holy Land, and on facilitating their attending the Holy Light Ceremony on Easter Saturday.

Reference was also made to the resolution of problems caused against the Patriarchate on the site of the Shrine of the Holy Sion by its neighbours.

During the meeting, the Mayor stated his will to effectively fight against incidents of violence which perturb the calm life of the citizens of Jerusalem.

On the occasion of the visit, the Mayor offered His Beatitude a basket of Christmas sweets, whereas the Patriarch offered the Mayor a silver seven-lamp lantern.

From the Secretariat-General

<http://youtu.be/xKA0n76Nq2Q>



**PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM VISITS
ARMENIANS ON THE OCCASION OF
THE ARMENIAN FEAST OF**

CHRISTMAS

On Wednesday, the 8th/21st of January 2015, two days after the Orthodox feast of Epiphany, and on the feast-day of St George the Hozevite, the Patriarchate reciprocated the visit paid by the Armenians on the occasion of Orthodox Christmas, as the Armenians celebrate the Nativity after the Epiphany.

This visit to the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem, which stands where St James, the son of Zebedee and brother of the Evangelist John suffered a martyr's death, was paid by Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem and Hagiotaphite Fathers. There, Patriarch Theophilos addressed the Armenian Patriarch, Nourhan, in English, see link: <https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2015/01/21/11621>

The Armenian Patriarch replied by extending thanks for the visit and underlining its importance for the peaceful coexistence of Christians in the Holy Land.

From the Secretariat-General



CUTTING ST BASIL'S PIE AT THE PATRIARCHATE – 2015

At 5:00 pm on New Year's Eve, namely Tuesday the 31st of December 2014/13th of January 2015, the pie-cutting ceremony took place at the Patriarchate's Hall of Events.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Patriarch Theophilos of

Jerusalem addressed guests in celebration of the New Year.

The Fathers then sang the Apolytikion of the Circumcision of the Lord and of St Basil.

His Beatitude went on to cut the pie wishing for a “propitious, happy and blessed New Year”, offering the pieces to those honouring the ceremony with their presence, the Primate of the Patriarchate, the Greek Consul-General to Jerusalem, Archimandrites and other Hagiotaphite brothers, members of the Greek Parish and of the Arab-speaking congregation, as well as novices at the Patriarchal School who also sang the Carols for pilgrims.

From the Secretariat-General

http://youtu.be/RmHrdEetN_g



VISITS TO THE PATRIARCHATE ON THE OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS

On Friday, the 27th of December/9th of January 2015, the day commemorating St Stephen the Protomartyr, representatives of the Christian Communities in Jerusalem visited the Patriarchate, in reciprocation for the visits they received on the occasion of their Christmas.

In the context of these scheduled visits, representatives of the Franciscan Friars in the Holy Land arrived at the Patriarchate, followed by other Christian Communities, namely Lutherans, Anglicans and Pro-Chalcedonians, Armenians, Copts,

Syrians and Ethiopians.

The heads of Churches and their attendants were received by His Beatitude, Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem, in the presence of Hagiotaphite Fathers.

In the context of addresses made during the visits, the Birth in flesh of our Saviour Jesus Christ was underlined as a starting point of cooperation for the support of Christians in the Holy Land and the promotion of peace in the area.

The work performed by the Churches was especially noted by Patriarch Theophilos in his own speech, in English, firstly to the Franciscans and subsequently to the rest of the Communities, see link: <https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2015/01/09/11186>

The Patriarch's address to the Armenians may be reached here: <https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2015/01/09/11190>

From the Secretariat-General

<httpv://youtu.be/gWfFRv0UUx4>



HAGIOTAPHITE FATHERS VISIT CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ON THE OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS

On Thursday, the 14th/27th of December 2014, the Hagiotaphite Brotherhood, headed by His Beatitude Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, visited local Christian Churches in Jerusalem in

celebration of Christmas according to the Gregorian calendar.

The Hagiotaphite Brotherhood follows the Julian calendar for all its feasts; however, it calls on Churches in Jerusalem on their own feast-days whilst the latter reciprocate the visits accordingly, as this custom contributes to reducing the occasional congestion of pilgrims and cultivating a climate of collaboration for the settlement of issues of Christian interest.

In the same context, the Hagiotaphite Brotherhood visited the Franciscan Friars and the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

During these visits, Patriarch Theophilos addressed Pierre Battista Pizzaballa, Custodian of the Holy Land, in English: <https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2014/12/27/10859>

In his reply speech, the Custodian said the Franciscans were moved by the words of His Beatitude and that indeed they agree that the sacrament of the Incarnation and birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh constitutes the basis of our diaconate in the Holy Land and that, encouraged by this fact, we must serve the Holy Shrines consistently and with devotion within collaboration in the benefit of Christians in the Holy Land.

Addresses in the same spirit were also exchanged between Patriarch Theophilos and Monsignor Fouad Twal, the Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem, at the Latin Patriarchate.

Special emphasis was placed on the testament of Christians in the Holy Land, projecting the message of peace and hope across the world, where innocent Christians and non-Christians are unjustly persecuted and murdered.

After these visits, Archbishop Demetrios of Lydda, Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod, visited the Lutheran Church in the Holy Land, where festive addresses were exchanged between him and Bishop Munib Younan, as well as the Head of the

German-speaking Lutheran Community in Jerusalem, Rev. Propst Wolfgang Schmidt.

From the Secretariat-General



MONK TONSURED AT THE PATRIARCHATE

On Tuesday, the 10th/23rd of December 2014, novice Athanasios Spanos was tonsured as monk by His Beatitude Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, at the chapel of the Holy Pentecost.

Novice Athanasios, hailing from Mount Athos, first learned of the Patriarchate through its official website, upon which he requested to serve as novice at the Shrine of the Holy Cavern within the Basilica of the Nativity.

Performing the tonsure, His Beatitude gave f. Athanasios the name Akakios and advised him with paternal words to respond to his obligations and show obedience, humbleness and self-denial whilst piously serving the shrine and treating visitors with serenity and leniency.

After the tonsure, His Beatitude received the tonsured monk at the Patriarchate, where he was offered wishes by the Fathers.

From the Secretariat-General

httpv://youtu.be/nZ2Y_LuYkHc



THE PROPHEET ELIAS YOUTH ASSOCIATION VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Friday, the 15th/28th of November 2014, parishioners of the Cathedral of St James the Brother of God, attending mass at the Monastery of the Prophet Elias, visited the Patriarchate. They were led by Mrs Eleni Hasram.

The Association, founded by women from the parish of St James, attending mass at the Monastery of the Prophet Elias, accompanies youth and children to pilgrimage excursions, as well as also organizes several celebratory events, such as concerts and bazars. The events used to be held with the blessings of the late Abbot of the aforementioned Monastery, f. Andreas, now replaced by Abbot f. Paisios.

His Beatitude blessed the activities of the group and congratulated the youth and children for their dedication to their parish and love of Jesus Christ and the Church, encouraging them to carry on, especially during the Christmas period.

His Beatitude also welcomed Primate from the Patriarchate of Moscow, from Russia and Ukraine, as well as accompanying priests and pilgrims, granting them permit to officiate at the Holy Sepulcher for the vigilance of St Philoumen.

From the Secretariat-General

<http://youtu.be/T8hPgRFPFfQ>



THE CHIEF OF THE HELLENIC NAVY VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Thursday, the 14th/27th November 2014, the Chief of the Hellenic Navy, Mr Evangelos Apostolakis, visited the Patriarchate. He was accompanied by a group of his associates, the representative of the Hellenic Embassy to Israel, Mr Evangelos Panagiotou, and Mr Gennimatas.

Mr Apostolakis and his associates were received by His Beatitude, Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem, and Hagiotaphite Fathers.

In the context of this visit, His Beatitude talked to Mr Apostolakis on the sanctity of Jerusalem, land of the Lord's Crucifixion and Resurrection, as well as on the city's particularity and ? He also referred to the conciliatory, peacemaking role of the Patriarchate in support of the current status quo as the safest context of interreligious and nationwide peaceful coexistence.

Mr Apostolakis expressed his appraisal of the Patriarchate's work, thanked His Beatitude for receiving him and asked for His blessing before venerating at the Holy Sepulcher.

From the Secretariat-General

httpv://youtu.be/l6Mp_5rhcI4



GREEK MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Thursday, the 14th/27th of November 2014, the Greek Minister of Public Order, Mr Vassilis Kikilias, visited the Patriarchate. He was accompanied by his associates, the Greek ambassador to Israel, Mr Spyridon Lambrides, and the Consul-General to Jerusalem, Mr Georgios Zacharoudiakis.

The Minister was received by His Beatitude, Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem, and Hagiotaphite Fathers.

During the meeting, Mr Kikilias pointed out that he follows and appreciates the work performed by the Patriarchate within its jurisdiction in the Holy Land.

In response, His Beatitude said that the Patriarchate's work extends to its flock, but also to the other residents of Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian State and Qatar, which falls within its ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

The Minister went on to ask His Beatitude to suggest in what manner Greece, and particularly the Ministry of Public Order, could offer help. His Beatitude responded that the most effective way of assistance is the cooperation between the Patriarchate and the Greek government, represented here by its Embassy and the Consulate-General.

His Beatitude underlined the peacemaking role which could be undertaken by Judaism, Christianity and Islamism during religious and national extremities in Jerusalem and other cities of Israel and of the Palestinian State.

The Minister thanked His Beatitude for His time and asked for His blessing before carrying on his visit to the state of Israel.

From the Secretariat-General

httpv://youtu.be/P-Il_WRWrBY

