

HIS BEATITUDE ADDRESS IN THE OCCASION OF GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE'S VISIT TO THE ARMENIAN PATRIARCHATE.

"Turn away from evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it", says the Psalmist (Ps. 33/34, 14).

"Your Beatitude, Your Eminence,

Reverend Brothers of the Saint James Brotherhood,

We are here today in order to congratulate Your Beatitude, Your Eminence and the Brotherhood on the blessed occasion of the Christmas and especially the Epiphany Holy days.

We as Christian monastic orders and fraternities of the Holy Land have committed ourselves to the guardianship and service of the Holy places both in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and elsewhere.

These Holy places, which are associated with our faith in the mystery of the divine oeconomia of the Incarnate, Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ, bear witness to God the Father, who is the "God of peace", (Lom. 15:33) For according to Saint Paul "Christ's death has accomplished peace between God and humanity, (Rom. 5:1), and peace between Jew and Gentile", (Eph 2:14,17).

This is why Saint Paul frequently exhorts us to be at peace with one another (Rom. 14:19).

We take this opportunity to once again confirm our good intentions of seeking peace, pursuing reconciliation and living peaceably with all.

Thank you.

Blessed, prosperous and peaceful the New Year!".