

ST. SAVVAS' RELICS ARE PLACED IN A NEW RELINQUARY

On Saturday night, September 30/ October 13, 2018, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated at the Holy Lavra of St. Savvas the Sanctified according to the Typicon order of the Lavra. The Liturgy was officiated by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos with co-celebrants the Most Reverend Metropolitan Nikolaos of Mesogaia and Lavreotiki and the Most Reverend Archbishops, Aristarchos of Constantina, Philoumenos of Pella, and the Most Reverend Metropolitan Joachim of Helenoupolis, Hagiotaphite Hieromonks, Arab-speaking Priests, as well as visiting Priests from other Churches, Archdeacon Mark and Deacon Demetrios.

The Patriarchal and Episcopal Liturgy took place on the event of the placement of St. Savvas' relics from the Relinquiry in which he came from Venice on October 12 1965, to a new elegant silver one. The new Relilnquary has been made under the noble, studious and tireless care of the Most Reverend Metropolitan Nikolaos of Mesogaia and Lavreotiki, funded by Mr. Charalambos Mylonas, founder of the Shipping Company TRANSMED SHIPPING and his wife Charikleia, with the fine art of the Architects Petros Koufopoulos and Marina Myrianthi-Koufopoulou, the silversmiths Vasilios and Spyridon Haidou and the Company that owned by brothers Lazarou in Volos.

This action is the least offering in return to St. Savvas, for all the intercessions and healings he provides with his incorrupt relics for the Fathers in his Lavra and the Hagiotaphite Brotherhood, to the pilgrims around the world and to the whole world.

After Dismissal, the Patriarchal Entourage was offered a reception by the Spiritual Father of the Lavra Archimandrite Eudokimos who also addressed all present as follows;

Your Beatitude Father and Master,

Most Reverend Holy Archbishops,

Reverend Fathers and noble pilgrims,

This day has gathered us to celebrate a historic event at the Holy and sacred Lavra of our Holy Father among the Saints Savvas the Sanctified.

It refers to the placement of the Saint's relics from the old Reliquary to a new, silver and elegant one.

53 years ago, during the Patriarchal office of Benedict I, after all the procedures between the Latin Patriarchate and the representatives of our Patriarchate, the Holy Synod appointed a Delegation to receive and transfer St. Savvas' holy relics from Venice to his Holy Lavra.

Members of the Delegation were the memorable Metropolitan Vasilios of Caesarea, Archimandrite Germanos, who later became Metropolitan of Petra, at that time Hierodeacon Kyriakos, who is now Metropolitan of Nazareth – and the only one still alive, our reverend Geronda memorable Archimandrite Seraphim, and Archimandrite Theodosios, Hegoumen of the Holy Monastery of St. Lazarus in Bethany, who carried the liturgical vestments to dress the Saint.

We thank the All-Merciful God who deemed us worthy to change the liturgical vestments of our Saint, to receive the great blessing, all of us who participated in this beautiful service.

We warmly thank His Beatitude our Father and Patriarch Theophilos; I believe that St. Savvas inspired His heart which loves monasticism to grant the blessing, so the construction of the new Reliquary was made possible despite the difficulties.

We should express our warmest thanks to the noble couple of

brothers Mr. Charalambos Mylonas and his wife Charikleia for their great contribution for the construction of the Holy Reliquary of St. Savvas.

Also, we thank from the depths of our heart the Most Reverend Metropolitan Nikolaos of Mesogaia and Lavreotiki, who had the initiative for the Reliquary, and supervised all work to be done as it should for a great Holy Father of our Church, with much love, care and diligence.

We also thank the craftsmen of the Reliquary, who worked zealously and with love, so that all things would be done the best they could, and also all those who anonymously contributed in any way for the completion of this sacred work. May the Lord our God, through the intercessions of our Most Glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary and our Holy Father among the Saints Savvas the Sanctified, return them a thousand-fold their pay in the Kingdom of Heaven.

By your prayers, Your Beatitude, which we ardently seek.

Thank you.

His Beatitude glorified God and thanked all contributors to this God-pleasing work – righteously done to honour our Holy Father among the Saints Savvas the Sanctified, and underlined the greatness of the spiritual treasure that is kept in the Monastery of St. Savvas, before he blessed everybody and returned to Jerusalem.

From Secretariat-General

THE CONSECRATION OF THE HOLY CHURCH OF THE DORMITION IN MADABA

On Saturday, September 9/22, 2018, day of the commemoration of the parents of Theotokos and Holy Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, there was the consecration of the Holy Church of the Dormition, which is built in the Hannine area of the historic town of Madaba, where also lies the shrine of the historic mosaic map of the 6th century A.D. that depicts the Holy Land during the time of the New Testament. The Church has been built by the supervision and funding of the former Patriarchal Representative in Madaba, Archimandrite Innokentios. The consecration ceremony and the Divine Liturgy were officiated by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos, having arrived to Madaba from Jerusalem and from Amman, after a warm welcoming reception for Him in the morning of the previous day. Co-celebrants to His Beatitude were the Most Reverend Archbishops; Aristarchos of Constantina and Secretary-General, Makarios of Qatar, Christophoros of Kyriakoupolis, with the participation in prayer of the Patriarchal Representative in Madaba Most Reverend Archbishop Aristovoulos of Madaba. There were also Hagiotaphite Hieromonks, among whom the Spiritual Father of the Lavra of St. Savvas the Sanctified Archimandrite Eudokimos, the Patriarchal Representative in Irbet of North Jordan Archimandrite Raphael, Arab-speaking Priests, among whom the Priest of the Shrine of Madaba Fr. Joseph, Archdeacon Mark, Hierodeacon Eulogios and Deacon George. The cantor from Greece Mr. Balogiorgos and his choir from the Music School of Athens delivered the hymns and the service was attended by a large congregation of the Christian faithful of Madaba. His Beatitude delivered the following Sermon to this congregation; "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new

creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17) St. Paul preaches. Most Reverend Archbishop Aristovoulos of Madaba, Holy Fathers and Brothers, Your Grace Archimandrite Innokentios, owner of the Holy Church of the Dormition and its surrounding premises,

Today the historic town of Madaba, which is the cultural centre of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, rejoices along with the Mother of all Churches, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, on the consecration of the new beautiful Church and of the spiritual centre in the Hannina area of Madaba.

This project is of great importance for the people of the wider Madaba area and especially for the spiritual and liturgical needs of the local Greek-Orthodox community, because this project depicts the unceasing mission of the ministry of the word of love of Christ to our fellow men on the one hand; on the other, it displays the cultivated harmonious co-existence of the various religious communities that inhabit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Venerable Rum Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem in its long term historic course, has never ceased to provide with both words and actions the sacred virtues of love towards the fellow man as well as the enemy, of peace and of the absolute respect towards our fellow man who has been created by God according to His image and likeness.

The historic great national-religious leaders such as Khalif Omar Ibn Khattab and St. Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem have significantly contributed not only to the respect of the co-existence of the religious communities, but also to the free worship of God in His House.

Such a House of God have we consecrated today, in honour of the Dormition of Theotokos and for the glory of the Name of the Almighty God, but also for the praise of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, under the wise governmental expertise of

our most respected King Abdullah II.

Each consecrated Church is in effect a projection of our own temple, namely our body, as St. Paul says; "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is in you*, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" (1 Cor. 6:19).

And we say this because the House of prayer, namely the Church of God, is the place where the Holy Scriptures are preached. St. Paul says, "All Scripture *is given by inspiration of God*, and *is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

For all these, we would like to thank from the depths of our heart the Most Reverend Archbishop Aristovoulos of Madaba and his dear associates, the Vestry-men of the Church and all those who contributed for this work, and those who strove to organize this festal ceremony of the consecration of the Church of the Dormition.

Finally, we consider it our duty to express the deepest gratitude of our Hagiotaphite Brotherhood to our noble congregation in Madaba, and a personal duty of Ours, to the tireless worker of the vineyard of the Lord, Reverend Archimandrite Innokentios, established member of the venerable Hagiotaphite Brotherhood, who has made our Greek-Orthodox Community here an Ecclesiastical, educational and spiritual Centre. Righteously therefore, " there is laid up for him the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to him" (2 Tim. 4:8).

We also express our warm gratitude to all those who honoured this feast of the consecration of the Church with their presence, and especially the local civil, military and police forces of Madaba.

Many happy and peaceful returns.”

Archimandrite Innokentios also addressed those present with the following words;

“This is the day that the Lord made; let us be glad and rejoice in it”.

Your Beatitude, Most Reverend Archbishops, Honourable Governors, Representatives of the Parents’ Association and of the Church,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The consecration of the Holy Church of the Dormition of Theotokos in Madaba, the Holy Altar of God, is being carried out today, after a series of 10 years of continuous efforts and many labours. This project includes the building of the Holy Church of the Dormition, and of classrooms at the Schools of this area and covers in total 8.000 sq.mt. of construction in 11.000 acres, in order to cover the needs of the town of Madaba in general and of the Orthodox Community in particular.

The town of Madaba has been a great Orthodox Christian centre in the past, as the most important Diocese of East Jordan; until today, Madaba has been a remarkable Shrine of the Orthodox Church of East Jordan and of the Hashemite Kingdom.

We consecrate today this new Holy Church in honour of the Dormition of the Most Blessed Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, due to the nearby existence of the Mosque which they have been pleased to name Mosque “Of Jesus Christ, Son of Mary”, as they believe in His historic presence. This belief bridges the contrasts between Christians and Muslims and favours their peaceful co-existence in the town of Madaba.

I am in the pleasant position to count 30 years of Priestly ministry in Jordan, including 25 years in Madaba. I would like to thank the members of the Community of the Christian family

of Madaba for the love and commitment they have shown, as well as all those who contributed for the completion of this project and of all other projects that were completed in the Patriarchal Committee of Madaba.

I would like to pay tribute to the memorable Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodoros I, who supported me in my first footsteps as a Hagiotaphite, and who contributed greatly in the development of Education in Jordan, with the schools of the Rum Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, but also for all the other projects he accomplished in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Likewise, I would like to thank His Beatitude, our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos III, for his trust in me; May your days, Your Beatitude, be many, peaceful and blessed”.

Finally, I should not omit to honour and congratulate for his election the new Patriarchal Representative, Archbishop Aristovoulos of Madaba, who is known to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem for his ethos, purity and honesty, but also for his particularly important skills and abilities. I wish the people of Madaba may take the Archbishop as an example and benefit from his virtues and abilities.”

This festive ceremony and the Divine Liturgy were followed by a reception at the reception hall below the Church of the Shrine.

There, His Beatitude delivered the following address;

“By means of His coming, Christ hath filled all things with His Light; our souls are now consecrated, and by His Holy Spirit He hath renewed the world; for a house is founded to the Lord’s praise and glory, wherein Christ our God, for the salvation of mortals, doth consecrate and hallow the hearts of all His faithful flock”.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Noble Christians,

The pre-eternal God the Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, who has set His Church as a tower of strength, and has founded it on the rock of faith, has gathered us today in this beautiful newly-built Church of the Dormition, in order to perform its consecration in Doxology and Thanksgiving.

“On Sinai long ago Thou didst show the God-seer Moses a tabernacle not made by hands, thereby depicting Thy Church, O Christ”, the hymn writer says, referring to Moses’ ascend on Sinai, where the Glory of God descended upon him, and he received detailed orders on how to make the Tabernacle of the Congregation (Exodus 24: 15-16 / 25: 8-9), which was made by the Lord and not by any man, as St. Paul says in his preaching: “Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man” (Hebrews 8:1-2).

As far as this “true tabernacle” is concerned, behold what the hymn writer says: “When the Word dwelt among us in the flesh, the Son of Thunder (St. John the Evangelist) spake thus in his writings: We have radiantly beheld the glory which the Son hath from the Father in the grace of truth. And as many of us as have received Him with faith, to all hath He given the power to become children of God; and we, who were born again not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, but have received increase by the Holy Spirit, have raised up this house of prayer, and cry out: Do Thou Thyself now establish this house, O Lord”.

This house of prayer is no other than the New Tabernacle of the Congregation, in other words, the Church that our Lord Jesus Christ founded by His own Sacred and Redeeming blood. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2

Cor. 5:17), St. Paul says.

In other words, my dear Brothers and Sisters, today's consecrated Church is a house of prayer, "whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Hebrews 12:28). And whereby, through our ArchPriest Jesus Christ, "we offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Hebrews 13:15). And in more detail; when I say sacrifice, St. Paul preaches, I do not mean the sacrifice of animals and of blood, but a sacrifice which as the fruit of honest confidence towards God, shall come forth from our lips, which will praise and glorify His Name.

"Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth" (Psalm 26:8), Prophet David chants. "The dwellings of the Lord are beloved unto them that long to see the glory of His countenance unconcealed" the hymn writer of the Church proclaims. "And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power" (Revelation 15:8), St. John the Evangelist says in his book of Revelation.

This means that the Lord used to manifest His Presence and Glory in a special place that was sanctified. And according to the true witness of the Holy Scriptures (Exodus 16:7, 16:10, 3 Kings 8:11), the glory of the Lord, in other words, the Grace of the Holy Spirit, filled the house, meaning His Church, in the form of a cloud during the times of the synaxis of worship, which was the prayer in public. Nevertheless, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24) the Lord says.

It is also noteworthy that this office of the consecration of Holy Church has as its reference point and source the renewed old Adam in the presence of the New Adam, who is the Incarnate Word of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God and of the Ever-Virgin Mary and Theotokos, according to the witness of

the Holy Evangelists and Fathers of the Church. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14), St. John the Evangelist says. "Today hath the second Adam, Christ, shown this new tabernacle to be a spiritual Paradise, which beareth, instead of the tree of knowledge, the life-giving weapon of the Cross" the hymn writer of the Church proclaims.

The approved Father of the Church, St. Gregory the Theologian, comments on Jesus' presence at the dedication of the Church of Solomon by saying: "And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter" (John 10:22), the time of unfaithfulness, and Christ was present, the God and temple, God eternal, recent temple, which was demolished in a day and rebuilt in three days and remains for all eternity, so that I may be saved and I may be recalled from the old body to become a new creation, redeemed through such a philanthropy (St. Gregory the Theologian, Speech 44 on the New Sunday).

In other words, my dear ones, the temple of God as a place of worship is the workshop that operates through the Holy Spirit for the salvation of our souls. And the prayers are the way and the means for our communion with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father. For this reason, St. John of the Ladder says that the prayer in its quality is an intercourse and union of man with God, and when it comes to its effect, prayer is the constitution and the conservation of the world. Prayer is the mother of all virtues (St. John of the Ladder, Speech 28 on Prayer).

Let us therefore thank the Lord, for the festive celebration in this day of the consecration of this Holy Church of the Dormition and say along with the hymn writer: "Sanctification is befitting to Thy House O Lord; for Thy Name O friend of man is glorified therein; therefore, along with the prophet we exclaim to Thee in faith; By Thine Holy Spirit do Thou now renew us all, by the prayers of the Theotokos (and the

Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna), Thou who art the only friend of man". Amen"

The Patriarchal Representative Most Reverend Archbishop Aristovoulos of Madaba also spoke, underlining the importance of the completed work which has been done by his predecessor Archimandrite Innokentios, a work that he is going to continue. His Eminence also stressed the importance of the presence of the choir that came from Greece for the continuation of the cultivation of the Byzantine Music.

From Secretariat-General

HIS BEATITUDE THE PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM INAUGURATES A SPORTS CENTRE IN KERAK

On Saturday afternoon, September 2/15, 2018, His Beatitude the Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos inaugurated a Sports Centre in Kerak – ancient city of Kyriakoupolis in South Jordan. This Sports Centre was founded within the frame of the "Initiative" of the Council of Churches in the Middle East, after a proposal made by His Beatitude, and the supervising of the Manager of the Patriarchate's Office Mrs. Wafaa Ksous. The Centre covers an area of five acres which have been donated by the Minister of Public Works and Housing Sami Halasa.

The first buildings for this cause have already been built in the premises with the final aim of completing the appropriate buildings for the sports activities for youth of our congregation as well as for those of other Christian Churches and of the religion of Islam.

In the opening ceremony, His Beatitude honoured the Minister Mr. Halasa for his contribution, offering him a glass painting, as He also awarded ex-Member of Parliament Mr. Fares Ibrahim for his contribution. His Beatitude also offered icons to all who helped in the promotion of this project, an embossed table of Haram Sarif to the architects who belong to the religion of Islam, and an icon of Theotokos to Mrs. Wafaa Ksous and to the sponsors of the project Mr. Swen and his wife Mrs. Nina, who come from Munich of Germany.

After the opening ceremony, a meal was offered at a hotel in the town.

During the meal His Beatitude delivered the following address;

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here today for a great occasion, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for being here today.

We are celebrating a unique prospect. In the establishment of this sports centre we are creating a place both for training in sports and also an academy for the training of leaders.

This centre exists to promote two fundamental goods:

First, to encourage our youth to remain in their home towns and communities, because in this venture they can see a future for themselves here.

And secondly, to serve the Muslim and Christian Communities together, who have for generations lived as one family under the rule of the Hashemite Kingdom.

Sports is a global language that does not discriminate. Sports brings people together across every social, religious, political and economic divide, and provides a common ground for new friendships, and new possibilities.

The Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Mother of all the Churches and the cultural mother of this land, is grateful to Almighty God for having given us this opportunity to establish this centre. For this centre is a blessing for our beloved Jordan and its people, and a tremendous encouragement for other projects of a similar nature that benefit our people and the integrity of our multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious society.

We are deeply grateful to His Excellency the Minister, who has given this land to the Patriarchate to be used for the common social benefit of the inhabitants of the region of Kerak, and for his foresight in seeing the potential of this ambitious venture.

We are also deeply grateful to our German colleagues of Lands Aid, who have been keen to partner with us to establish this unique sports centre academy.

While there is no doubt that this project seems ambitious, at the same time we firmly believe that this centre will promote and serve in a practical way the socio-economic needs of the area. We are also convinced that this project will meet the needs of the local population, especially our youth, who long to have real opportunities for learning and a hope for a future in their homeland. Our sole intention as the Patriarchate is to serve the common good of this community.

We honour today the commitment of His Majesty, King Abdullah II, whose dedication to the well-being of all in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is well known and an inspiration to all. We also acknowledge the support of His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi, without whose unremitting attentiveness and care this

work would not prosper.

May God bless this project and all who are involved in it, and may God bless all the peoples of our beloved Jordan.

Thank you.”

From Secretariat-General

COMPLETION OF THE RESTORATION PROJECT AT THE MONASTERY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BY THE RIVER JORDAN

On Tuesday April 4/17, 2018, there was a ceremony at the Holy Monastery of St. John the Baptist, by the West Bank of the

River Jordan, on the occasion of the completion of the restoration project, after the damage the Monastery suffered during the six-day war in 1967.

The restoration project of the Church and its adjacent rooms was undertaken with the architectural advice and work of the Architect of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mr. Theodosios Mitropoulos, the supervision of the Master of Ceremonies Archimandrite Bartholomew and the funding of the Hegoumen of the Monastery of Sarantarion Mount, Fr. Gerasimos. Today the project was concluded with the installation of water and electricity supply with the permission and co-operation of the Israeli Army of Civilian Administration.

The ceremony was honoured by the presence of H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos, Geronda Secretary-General Most Reverend Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina, Dragouman Archimandrite Mattheos, the Hegoumen of the Monastery Archimandrite Bartholomew, the Hegoumen of the Holy Monastery of Prophet Elijah Archimandrite Philoumenos, and the Patriarchate's Press representative in the Arabic language, Dean Priest Fr. Issa Mousleh. On behalf of the Military Administration, the ceremony was honoured by the presence of the Military General in Jericho region and his Military associates, and Mr. Caesar Marjie, who received His Beatitude's thanks for their support and co-operation.

With the completion of this project, the Monastery is accessible and open to pilgrims on their way to the Lord's Baptism Site. Visiting hours are 09.00 to 14.30 daily. On Sundays the Monastery remains closed for visitors.

Contact telephone number: 00972 543158798

From Secretariat-General

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NEW WATER TANK IN UBEIDIYA DISTRICT AROUND THE H. MONASTERY OF ST. THEODOSIOS

On Wednesday December 14/27 2017, the Mayor and the members of Ubeidiya Mayoralty in the area of the H. Monastery of St. Theodosios the Cenobiarch, east of Bethlehem, visited His Beatitude and thanked Him for the offer of the Patriarchate of the place for the water tank, which will supply the surrounding areas and the Monastery of St. Theodosios with water.

From Secretariat-General

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REFURBISHMENT OF THE HOLY SHRINE OF SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA

In September 2017, the refurbishment of the Holy Monastery of Saints Joachim and Anna took place. The monastery is near St. Stephen's gate. The Hegoumen of the Holy Monastery Archimandrite Meletios from Jerusalem undertook and funded this project with an additional help from noble pilgrims' donations.

The restoration included the Holy Church and the underground floors, where the shrines of St. Anna's house and of the Nativity of Theotokos lie.

From Secretariat-General

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THE CONCRETING OF THE DOME OF THE HOLY CATHEDRAL IN DOHA

On Wednesday 1st November 2017, the dome of the elevated Holy Cathedral in Doha was concreted. The Holy Cathedral of St. Isaac and St. George has the architectural form of a cross-in-square Basilica with a dome, covering a total area of 634 m².

The height of the dome is 17.50m., and it can accommodate 800 people. By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the construction work is proceeding well, and by the prayers of the Saints we aim for the completion of the project within the next year.

From the Holy Archdiocese of Qatar

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PROJECT BY MR. THEODOSIOS MITROPOULOS, ARCHITECT OF THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, ON THE HISTORY & OPERATION OF THE H. MONASTIC CHURCH OF SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN OVER THE CENTURIES

Today, Wednesday 6th September 2017, the Jerusalem Patriarchate Website publishes the remarkable project by Dr. Theodosios Mitropoulos, Architect of the All-holy Church of the Resurrection, which refers to the foundation, operation and renovation of the Central Monastic Church of the Hagiotaphite Brotherhood, in honour of the God-crowned King

and Queen and equal to the Apostles Constantine and Helen.

(The renovation work of the aforementioned Holy Church which was exclusively undertaken by the Typikon Keeper Archimandrite Alexios, was completed in December 2012).

The full project can be found in the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/7fvrilf0fhu734h/>

H.H.B. BLESSES THE REOPENING OF THE JIFNA COMMUNITY CHURCH

On Friday evening, 16th/26th May 2017, His Beatitude the Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos officiated a Doxology and the Blessing of water and blessed the reopening of the Holy Church of St. George the Great Martyr and Trophy bearer in the Orthodox Arab-speaking Community of Jifna (Biblical name Gofna), located near the town Ramalla. This Holy Church which bears the signs of its antiquity – the embossed depictions of the Nativity of Christ above the entrance door, dated back to the time of the memorable Cyril Patriarch of Jerusalem in 1854, and a big very old Baptistery by the entrance – had undergone quite an important damage due to an electric power supply fire a few months ago. Since then, the Hall next to it had been used as a Church.

To this ceremony of the reopening of the Church, His Beatitude was escorted by Geronda Secretary-General Most Reverend Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina, the Most Reverend

Metropolitan Joachim of Helenoupolis, the Master of Ceremonies Archimandrite Bartholomew, Archimandrite Ieronymos, Fr. Ayssa Mouleh and Archdeacon Mark. His Beatitude was most warmly received by the Scouts of the town who led the way until the Church entrance.

After this ceremony, Mr. Hanna Amire, President of the Christian Affairs of the State of Palestine gave an address in the adjacent Hall, thanking everybody on behalf of the President of the State of Palestine Mr. Mahmoud Abbas Abu Mazen , and underlining the imperative necessity of a peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims, especially after the sad and unpleasant event of the murder of 28 Copt students in Egypt at noon of that day.

An address was also given by the Mayor of the town, the Head of the Community and Dean Priest George Awad, the Chairman of the Community Board Mr. Anton Maher, also thanking His Beatitude for His moral and material support in the building of the Church as well as all those who helped in its restoration.

The ceremony was concluded by His Beatitude's address, read by Fr. Issa Mousleh in Arabic (to view, visit the Arabic version of the site).

His Beatitude offered the Community a Holy Chalice, Holy Tray and other Holy Vessels for their use in the restored after the fire Holy Church.

From Secretariat-General

FOURTH PROGRESS REPORT ON HOLY AEDICULA RESTORATION PROJECT

Before noon on Friday the 3rd/16th of December 2016, Professor Antonia Moropoulou of the National Technical University of Athens presented an update on the restoration works carried out on the Holy Aedicula to the Steering Committee and the Project Owner Committee, namely the Leaders of the three Communities, Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem, Custos Francesco Patton and the Armenian Archbishop Sevan Gharibian. At the presentation, Professor Moropoulou said “we are now at a crucial juncture as we are about to watch on screen everything found upon the removal of the slab of the Holy Sepulchre and everything designated to be done henceforth for the completion of the project”.

Professor Moropoulos then presented the project’s financial progress and the situation of the columns at the rotunda as well as the recommended plan for their repair.

Scientific details on the presentation will be uploaded in due time.

From the Secretariat-General

<http://youtu.be/ThnDHWlc0Zk>

