

RADICAL SETTLER GROUPS LAUNCHING MEDIA OFFENSIVE AGAINST H.B. PATRIARCH THEOPHILOS III

Last week His Beatitude our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos III attended the second State Department Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, in Washington, DC. His Beatitude attended accompanied by a church delegation from Jerusalem representing the three Church families (Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant families). H.B. took the opportunity to raise the issue of Jaffa Gate with members of the US administration and other religious leaders in attendance.

As the Patriarchate continues its legal efforts to see the supposed sales of the Jaffa Gate properties overturned due to the corruption through which they were made, it also welcomed the efforts of all people of good will around the world that are pursuing a positive resolution to this most crucial of matters not only to the Christians of the Holy Land but to all the Christians of the world.

Supporters of Ateret Cohanim have launched a media campaign against His Beatitude Theophilos III and started making efforts to undermine the Patriarchate's case, claiming that it is opposed to the rule of law. This is categorically untrue; the Patriarchate's continued legal battle demonstrates its ongoing abiding by the legal process.

By contrast, Ateret Cohanim's actions demonstrate its disregard for the rule of law, first in the bribery it promised to secure the properties, and more recently in seeking to evict the Jaffa Gate tenants despite its public claims that this was not its intent.

LIFTING OF THE DEGRADATION OF MONK EIRINAIOS (FORMER PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM)

The Holy and Sacred Synod of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Chaired by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos, at its 110th Meeting of July 12/25, 2019, unanimously lifted the degradation of Monk Eirinaios and restored Him to the Episcopal Office, which he formerly held, and to the degree of the Former Patriarch of Jerusalem, attributing thus the full owed respect to His Office.

The Holy and Sacred Synod took this decision for the reasons mentioned in the following text:

“Because the enacted according to the rules continuing order of all things in the Church constructs and promotes peace, in which God’s Spirit, “which constitutes the institution of the Church” finds rest, and because the holy rules were enacted by the Holy Fathers “for the healing of the passions and the cure of the souls”, therefore also for the abolishment of any passionate and selfish action opposed to the unity of the body of the Church, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, following amenably the canonical orders, within the spirit of the aforementioned canonical principles, took the decision of the degradation of Patriarch of Jerusalem Eirinaios, in deep sorrow, fourteen years ago, and he had ever since been transferred to the order of Monks. Nevertheless, the Holy and Sacred Synod has never ceased to show a vivid

interest in the well-being of the aforementioned brother of ours, with much patience, and for this reason it has unceasingly rendered interceding prayers to God for him.

Because the health condition of our brother in Christ has recently been deteriorating, the Holy and Sacred Synod, having considered the orders of God and acting philanthropically, according to the authority “which is held by the One who heals according to the science of Spiritual medicine” decides unanimously the lifting of the degradation that had been imposed on our brother Eirinaios, fervently praying to “the Lord of every principle and authority” to grant him and all of us the grace of the All-holy and Life-giving Tomb”.

The Holy and Sacred Synod delegated Geronda Secretary-General Most Reverend Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina and the Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod Most Reverend Archbishop Demetrios of Lydda to announce this decision to the former Patriarch Eirinaios, who under the care of the Patriarchate had recently been hospitalized at the French Hospital in Jerusalem and is currently being looked after at the Holy Monastery of Saint Gerasimos of the Jordan.

From Secretariat-General

**JERUSALEM CHURCHES UNITED TO
PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE**

CITY'S CHRISTIAN QUARTER AND TO MAINTAIN THE "PILGRIM ROUTE" OPEN FOR ALL

Today His Beatitude our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos III was joined by Jerusalem's Patriarchs and Heads of Churches for a vigil and a prayer that was held at the old city's Jaffa Gate to raise awareness about the dangers of having radical groups compromising the integrity and character of Jerusalem's Christian Quarter and threatening the access for pilgrims to the Holy shrines and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

It was stressed that they cannot remain silent while access to the Holy Sites is threatened and the hope of a lasting peace is diminished.

The Christian Leaders of Jerusalem further announced that they will be organising an "International Day of Prayer for the Christian Community and Christian Quarter of Jerusalem". They asked Christians from around the world to join them and to attend the event in Jerusalem in September 2019.

The following were the remarks delivered at the Vigil by H.H.B. Theophilos III:

"We stand here, at the Jaffa Gate, the heart of the Christian Quarter. We stand to pray for our beloved city. We stand as disciples, faithful to Christ in the place of his passion. We stand alongside the millions of pilgrims from every tribe and tongue who visit and bless this Holy City. We stand together with the tenants of our properties who have long provided an open door to visitors and worshipers from far and near.

And from the bottom of our heart we thank our fellow Church leaders in Jerusalem for joining us and standing with us in

solidarity; we all and together share our common beliefs, our common humanity and our common destiny; specific to these matters and general for our communities.

As a community of reconciliation, we refuse to allow radical groups to dilute the integrity and character of Jerusalem's Christian Quarter. We cannot remain silent while access to our Holy Sites is threatened and the hope of a lasting peace is diminished. We will not remain silent.

As a community of justice, we demand that the rule of law is upheld and stand united against any attempt to take Church properties by unlawful measures or to forcefully evict innocent tenants. We warn against any such attempt and we shall not fear to use all legitimate means to oppose and block this from occurring. We remain impassioned guardians of the Status Quo and will ensure that people of all faiths can flourish and thrive within the walls of this city.

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Today, we call upon Christians everywhere to join us in prayer and invite brothers and sisters to gather in September 2019 for an International Day of Prayer for the Christian Community and Quarter in Jerusalem. We look forward to welcoming Christian leaders and worshipers from around the world as we continue our fight to preserve and protect the Christian community here in the Holy Land.

With King David, the greatest ruler. We pray for the divine peace and security within these walls. (Psalm 122:6-7)"

DECISIONS OF THE HOLY AND SACRED SYNOD OF THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM

The Holy and Sacred Synod of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, chaired by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos on May 31/ June 13, 2019, considered various matters of the Patriarchate and decided the following;

1. Appointed Archimandrite Parthenios Hegoumen of the Shrine of Tiberias.
2. Appointed Archimandrite Artemios Hegoumen in Haifa of North Israel for the Greek-Orthodox Arab-speaking Community there, and person in charge of the Russian-speaking flock.
3. Decided the specific framework signed agreement of assigning a piece of land in the south side of the estate of the Tower of St. Savvas in Beit-Sahour for the construction of a hospital by the Palestinian Autonomy.
4. Decided the assignment of the preservation of the wood carved ikonostasion of the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem to the team of experts ARTIS GILDING AND RESTORING under the management of Mr. Ioannis Tsiorvalas, by the funding of the Patriarchal Representative Most Reverend Archbishop Theophylactos of Jordan.

From Secretariat-General

DECISIONS OF THE HOLY AND SACRED SYNOD OF THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM

On Tuesday, April 3/16, 2019 the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem held a meeting, chaired by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos.

The Holy and Sacred Synod discussed various topics related to the Patriarchate, among which the following;

1.The question of restoring the reputation of the unjustly denigrated Metropolitan of Kapitolias Isychios, on the basis of an opinion, to the Deputy Legal Adviser, Mr. Lambros Kitsaras, to His Beatitude and the Synod of the Insolvency Prosecutors. The opinion is as follows:

To

His Holy Beatitude

Theophilos III

Patriarch of Jerusalem

Subject: Completion of a court case of His Eminence Metropolitan Isychios of Kapitolias and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Athens, 09-04-2019

Your Beatitude,

1. Following my previous letter dated 29.7.2018, I have the

honour to send you this latest letter to inform you in writing of the successful completion of the legal proceedings, after the compromise of the legal parties, against the newspapers who have carried out the defamatory and unlawful acts data.

2. In particular, as you know, in the spring of 2018 during the months of March-April, Greek newspapers of scandalous press published photographic snapshots of illegally obtained and acquired audiovisual material of doubtful authenticity, which exposed both the Most Reverend Metropolitan Isychios and the Patriarchate .Today, all of these newspapers and journalists have recalled and apologized, following the lawsuits we have brought them.

In particular:

On the occasion of publications in the newspapers "ESPRESSO" of 19.3.2018, 20.3.2018,21.3.2018 and 22.3.2018, we filed the legal proceedings of 15/6/2018 and 2/11/2018 of the Patriarchate and the Most Reverend Metropolitan of Kapitolias Isychios, before the Athens Multi-Member Court of First Instance against the owner of the newspaper, its editor-in-chief and the editors of the disputed publications. The above actions were determined to be discussed in that Court initially on 6/12/2018 and finally due to a postponement on 24/1/2019. After agreeing with the opposing party, which declared its repentance for the above press, we have compromised, obliging them to publish a restorative publication in their newspaper. Indeed, on the cover and cover of the newspaper of January 1, 2019, the following text was included with the Patriarchate's photographs:

"Our newspaper published in 19, 20, 21 and 22/3/2018, its publications, referring to allegations of a third person and material of dubious origin, concerning the reputation of the Metropolitan of Kapitolias Isychios and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

After the exercise against us by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and His Eminence Metropolitan Isychios of Kapitolias, of 15/6/2018 with a general testifying number 60723/2018 and a special testifying number 2258/2018 and 2/11/2018 with a general testifying number of 102767 / 2018 and a special filing number 3952/2018 of their lawsuits, having exchanged mutual explanations, clarifications and after the investigation of the case by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, which brought to our attention the proceedings of the E.D.E. that were conducted concerning the Metropolitan of Kapitolias, of 17/9/2018, the content and outcome of which we are not questioning, we declare that our publications were not meant to interfere with the Metropolitan Bishop of the Capitol, nor the famous for its mission Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we recall and we apologize to them for the inconvenience that may have been caused.

Finally, with regard specifically to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we believed and still believe that it is faithful to the Christian principles, that it is a lighthouse of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in harsh times, far away from mother Greece, where there are continuous fights for the prevalence of peace and the reconciliation of the peoples, and would only keep within it the Fathers who respect their Holiness and the Principles of the Orthodox Church. "

1. Following the publication of the above publication on the 4th page of the newspaper, as well as the title "SPECIALIZATIONS REGARDING PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM", we have waived the documents of our lawsuits and the difference is considered terminated with the necessary explanations and apologies of the above newspapers to have been given.

2. Furthermore, on the basis of other publications in the newspaper "Star", March 31, 2018 and 23.04.2018, our lawsuits were filed on 15/6/2018 and from 06/11/2018 before the Athens Multi-Member Court of First Instance against the owner the

newspaper, its chief editors and the authors of the disputed publications. The actions were determined to be discussed in that court, first on 22/11/2018 and finally, after a postponement on 04.04.2019. However, upon appealing to the opposite party, which declared its repentance for the above press, we have compromised by obliging them to publish a restorative publication in their newspaper. Indeed, on the cover and cover of the newspaper of 24.3.2019, the following text was included with the pictures of the Patriarchate: "Our newspaper reported on 31/03 and 23/4/2018, reports on allegations of a third person and material of dubious origin, concerning the reputation of His Eminence Metropolitan Isychios of Kapitolias and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. In our publications, we have, without any intent to harm, displayed snapshots of material that we did not have and could not control and which threatened the reputation and integrity of the Most Reverend Metropolitan Isychios and the Greek Patriarchate without having any concrete evidence. After the exercise against us by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and His Eminence Metropolitan Isychios of Kapitolias of the 15/6/2018 and 6/11/2018 lawsuits, after exchanged mutual explanations and clarifications between us after the investigation of the case by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, which brought to our knowledge the 17/9/2018 Minutes of the E.D.E. that it conducted concerning the Metropolitan of Kapitolias, the content and conclusion of which we are not questioning and which affirms the inaccuracy of the above-mentioned publications, we state that our publications did not aim to intermarry the Most Reverend Metropolitan of Kapitolias, nor the famous for its mission Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we recall them and offer them a sincere apology for the inconvenience that may have been caused. Specifically, with regard to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we believed and still believe that it is faithful to the Christian principles, that it is a lighthouse of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in harsh times, far away from mother Greece, where there are continuous fights for the prevalence of peace of the reconciliation of the

peoples, and would only keep within it the Fathers who respect their Holiness and the Principles of the Orthodox Church. ”

Following the publication of the above publication on the 4th page of the newspaper, as well as the title “REVOCATION OF PUBLICATIONS CONCERNING THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM AND THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN ISYCHIOS”, we have resigned from the writings of our lawsuits and the dispute is considered terminated, with the necessary explanations and the apology of the above newspaper to have been given.

3.Finally, on the occasion of other publications in the “Star” newspaper of 31.03.2018 and 23.04.2018, our lawsuits were filed on 15/6/2018 and from 06/11/2018 before the Athens Multi-Member Court of First Instance, against the owner of the newspaper, its editors-in-chief and the authors of the disputed publications. The above actions were determined to be discussed at the above Court on 22/11/2018 and eventually postponed on 04.04.2019. However, upon appealing to the opposite party, which declared its repentance for the above press, we have compromised by obliging them to publish a restorative publication in their newspaper. Indeed, on the sheet and cover of the newspaper of March 3, 2019, the following text was included with the photographs of the Patriarchate:

“Our newspaper reported on 31/03 and 23/4/2018, reports on allegations of a third person and material of dubious origin, concerning the reputation of His Eminence Metropolitan Isychios of Kapitolias and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. In our publications, but without the intent of harming, there were screenshots of material that we did not have and could not control and which threatened the reputation and integrity of the Most Reverend Metropolitan Isychios and the Greek Patriarchate without concrete evidence. After the exercise against us by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and His Eminence Metropolitan Bishop of Hesiod of 15/6/2018 and by their conduits on 06/11/2018, after having exchanged mutual

explanations and clarifications between us after the investigation of the case by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, which brought to our attention, from 17/9/2018 the Proceedings of E.D.E. that it conducted concerning the Metropolitan of Kapitolias, the content and conclusion of which we affirm and assure the inaccuracy of the above-mentioned publications, we declare that our publications were not meant to interfere with the Most Reverend Metropolitan of Kapitolias, nor with the famous for its mission Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we recall, and we offer them a sincere apology for the inconvenience that may have been caused.

Specifically, with regard to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we believed and still believe that it is faithful to the Christian principles, that it is a lighthouse of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in harsh times, far away from mother Greece, where there are continuous fights for the prevalence of peace of the reconciliation of the peoples, and would only keep within it the Fathers who respect their Holiness and the Principles of the Orthodox Church. ”

Following the publication of the above publication on the 4th page of the newspaper, as well as the title “REVOCATION OF PUBLICATIONS CONCERNING THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM AND THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN ISYCHIOS”, we have resigned from the writings of our lawsuits and the difference is considered terminated with the necessary explanations and the apology of the above newspaper to have been given.

3. After all of these, allow me to claim that the fraudulent slander against His Eminence of Kapitolias has been dropped in its entity, since the traffickers themselves have recalled and apologized. I therefore consider it morally necessary for him and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem to have his full and immediate moral restoration, by removing any remaining reservation on his face and restoring all his ecclesiastical and administrative responsibilities.

Sincerely Yours,

Lambros Kitsaras

University professor

Lawyer

2. The ordination to Priest of Deacon George Hourì who serves in the Madaba Community in Jordan.

3. The downgrading to the order of laity of the escaped Hierodeacon Anastasios.

From Secretariat-General

DECISIONS OF THE HOLY AND SACRED SYNOD OF JERUSALEM PATRIARCHATE

On Thursday, December 21, 2018/ January 3, 2019, the Holy and Sacred Synod, chaired by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos, took into consideration various issues of the Patriarchate and decided the following;

1. Restored the Hagiotaphite Synesios Voukas to the degree of Hierodeacon and His Beatitude read the relevant

prayer to him at the Pentecost Chapel where the Hagiotaphite monks are being tonsured.

2. Appointed Geronda Kamarasi Archimandrite Nectarios vice member of the Ecclesiastical Court of First Instance.
3. Appointed the former minister of the Parliament of Jordan doctor Ode Kawas as Executive Manager of the Schools of the Patriarchate at the West Bank of the River Jordan.

From Secretariat-General

CELEBRATION OF THE COMMEMORATION OF ST. JAMES THE BROTHER OF GOD AND FIRST HIERARCH OF JERUSALEM AT PHANAR

The Patriarchal Representative of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem in Constantinople sent the following message on the celebration of the commemoration of St. James the Brother of God and First Hierarch of Jerusalem (new calendar), which was officiated by His All-holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew;

“Speech of His All-holiness after Vespers He officiated at the Metochion of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem at Neohori in Constantinople”

In His speech this afternoon, October 22, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew underlined the long term strong bonds of

mutual support between the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, at the H. Church of St. George, Metochion of the Holy Sepulchre in Neohori of Bosphorus, where He officiated the Vespers of the Feast of the Throne of the Church of Jerusalem, on the commemoration of the Holy Apostle James the Brother of God. Earlier in the day, Patriarch Bartholomew was welcomed by Archbishop Nectarios of Anthedon, and Representative of the Holy Sepulchre in Constantinople, who invited His All-holiness to officiate the liturgical festivities in honour of the Patron Saint of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

After Vespers, which was attended by the Metropolitans: Elder Apostolos of Derkon, Eirinaios of Myriofyta and Peristaseos, Theoliptos of Ikonion, Stephanos of Kallioupolis and Madyto, Elpidoforos of Proussa, Amphilohios of Andrianoupolis, the Bishops; Makarios of Christoupolis, Andrianos of Alikarnassos, Cyril of Erythron, the Consul General of Greece in Constantinople Mrs. Georgia Soultanopoulou, Archons with distinctive honors from the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and many faithful Christians, the Ecumenical Patriarch offered on behalf of the Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos, the medal of the Cross Bearer of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre to the active member of the expatriates from Neohori Mr. Panteleimon Vigas, Archon and Great Archivist of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and President of the Community of Panagia Koumariotissa in Neohori.

“The tradition of the cooperation between our two Churches is being continued”.

In His speech, the Ecumenical Patriarch referred to the over the centuries common fight of the Heads of the Churches of Constantinople and Jerusalem for the defense of the Orthodox Faith and the treasures of the Nation.

“In the Ecumenical Patriarchate, We have the noetic eyes of the heart always set towards the All-holy Shrines and walk in

the places where Christ walked, and receive the mystical Grace, which up to the present, comes down like the dew of Hermon peacefully in this remote land of Bosphorus, and passes through this Holy Metochion too, which has hosted memorable and blessed Patriarchs of Jerusalem, who trooped along with Our memorable predecessors, in order to defend the Orthodox Faith and the treasures of our Nation. This is also witnessed by the frequent participation of the Patriarchs of Jerusalem, who occasionally visit Constantinople, to the herein Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, who co-sign the Patriarchal Acts and consort with Us on key issues of our Orthodox Church.

The tradition of this cooperation between our Churches is being continued on the same basis up to the present, during the blessed Patriarchal Office of His Beatitude our Brother and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos, who stands by the rudder of the Church of Jerusalem a capable captain, leading its vessel to safe harbours. The Ecumenical Patriarchate and Our Mediocrity owe to His Beatitude, and express this in great thanksgiving, even during this sacred hour, always remembering the good cooperation with Him, and especially, during the proceedings of the Holy and Great Synod of Crete, which brought forth abundant blessings and good outcomes. Even today, when our Brotherly Church faces a new problem of expropriation of its land property, our wish is that it may overcome this danger, that Christ, the Founder of our Church may protect it and give it stability, and offer to its meritorious Head, health, longevity and success in the governance of its vessel, as it goes through many snares".

His All-holiness pointed out that His presence at the Metochion of the Holy Sepulchre "gives a chance to all of us to experience the Mystery of the Church once more, namely that "we are many in one body". Indeed, "in union we stand strong". On the basis of this principle, the Ecumenical Patriarch referred to the honoured expatriate by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

“This golden rule is embraced and practiced more than anyone else by today’s honoured by the Church of Jerusalem, Archon Great Archivist of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Mr. Lakis Vigas, a faithful and devout child of the Church and selective member of the Greek Community, a man of offering and sacrifice, to the point of self-denial, as well as a man of values and incompatible ideologist, who loves Romiosyne with passion, and has committed himself to its service, quite often to the detriment of his job, his family, his time of rest, while he has occasionally been bowed and slandered. As Archbishop and Shepherd of Constantinople, We are in the position to know the number and the details of the projects in favour of our nation, of which the initiative and spiritual paternity belongs to Mr. Vigas, and to many others that he has signed, not only by words, but with actions, along with other distinguished expatriates.

And it is most worthy and righteous that he is being honoured today by the Brotherly Church of Jerusalem with the medal of the Cross Bearer of the Holy Sepulchre, for the Metochia of which, he has been striving for many years with tangible results. We are especially glad and thank our Brother, His Beatitude the Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos, for His active manifestation of appreciation and the grateful recognition of the Church under His lead, for all things Mr. Vigas has accomplished up to the present. And this is being done after the request of His Beatitude by Our own Patriarchal hands, an event that immensely pleases Us.

You are precious for the Greek Community, Archon, civilized man, multi-lingual, hard- working, respectable, honest, with a wonderful family that God offered you in return of your many toils and sacrifices. We do not wish to continue the long list of your charismatic character, nor that of your public initiatives and achievements, limiting ourselves to the ascertainment that from the very beginning you have wanted to give a vision and a touch of optimism to the Greek Community,

and convey the message that it has a future in this City.”

The Ecumenical Patriarch congratulated the distinguished man and the Archbishop of Anthedon, for his good and tedious ministry in Constantinople, as well as for the important renovation work he has accomplished at the Metochia of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem in Neohori, Phanar and Chalki. He wished that the Lord may give the Church of Jerusalem “every good work and stability, for the salvation of the people of God and the blessing of the multitude of the noble pilgrims of the Holy Land”.

Earlier in the day, on his warm welcome to the Ecumenical Patriarch at the Metochion of the Holy Sepulchre, the Archbishop of Anthedon, made special reference to the relations of cooperation of mutual understanding and of common course between the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Head of Thrones, the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He also expressed his wishes to His All-holiness, on the occasion of the completion of twenty seven years since His election to the Ecumenical Throne.

“This Throne [...] is adorned and beautified by Your Sacred Head, which up to the present has resisted the wild waves of the sea like a strong mole, waves that display their own disgrace particularly in our contemporary era, which stem from the waters of Bosphorus once more, thinking that they are able to cause the slightest damage to the safe harbour of the Great Mother Church of Christ. However, the times when the Patriarchs of the Middle East were forced to wander the four points of the horizon for a small financial aid for their Churches, having frequently a good financial outcome, have passed long ago. [...] (You have completed) twenty seven years in the narrow and sorrowful path of a continuous sacrifice on the cross, but at the same time also of the joy of resurrection, an often contradictory point, as well as questionable by those who are ignorant of the history and ecclesiology. (You have had) twenty seven years of offering in

the Church, in the Dialogue of love among the other Christian Churches, in the interest in favour of your flock, of the pursued people without any religious nor racial discrimination, in favour of the protection of the environment, and especially in favour of the sustaining of peace and progress, as well as of the prosperity and stability of the Holy Churches of God both in the East and in the West, as You have also done for every other problem that oscillates the contemporary world.” Consequently, Archbishop Nectarios delivered the official letter of the Patriarch of Jerusalem in which His Beatitude requests a certain amount of the Holy Myrrh for the needs of the flock of the Church of Jerusalem, as “a sign”, the Representative of the Holy Sepulchre said, “of the mystical unity that stems from the Head of Thrones the Church of Constantinople, namely the New Rome, and not the Second Rome.”

On his behalf, Mr. Panteleimon Vigas expressed his deep gratitude for the special honorary distinction offered to him by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, along with his deep emotions for the fact that he received this distinction by the Ecumenical Patriarch himself.

From Secretariat-General

DECISIONS OF THE HOLY AND

SACRED SYNOD OF THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM

On Monday, September 25/ October 8, 2018, the Holy and Sacred Synod, chaired by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos took under consideration many topics and decided the following;

1. Approved the ordination of Mr. Tziries Mahamre to Deacon, and in due course to Priest, in order to minister the congregation in Jordan.
2. Approved the ordination of Mr. Savvas Mahouli to Deacon, and in due course to Priest, in order to minister at the congregation of the Patriarchate in Tarsiha.
3. Decided the sentence of deposition for Priest Demetrios Mousa until his innocence is proven.
4. Approved the undertaking of a Post Graduate Degree by His grace Archimandrite Modestos at the University of Tessalonica, under the condition that he returns to the Hagiotaphite Brotherhood after his studies.
5. Approved the ordination of Deacon Styllianos Tsougas to Priest, in order to continue his ministry at the congregation of Qatar.
6. Appointed the Most Reverend Metropolitan Benedict of Philadelphia President of the Ecclesiastical Court of First Instance, and members of the court will be the Most Reverend Archbishop Philoumenos of Pella and Priest Issah Mousleh.

From Secretariat-General

THE FEAST OF SAINT THECLA AT THE PATRIARCHATE

On Sunday, September 24/October 7, 2018, the Patriarchate celebrated the commemoration of St. Thecla the First Martyr and Equal to the Apostles at her chapel within the Hagiotaphite Brotherhood, on the West side of the Church of Saints Constantine and Helen.

The Church holds the memory that Saint Thecla was Apostle Paul's disciple and escorted him preaching Christ, while she endured many persecutions and died at the age of 90 in her hometown, Ikonion of Asia Minor.

In honour of the Saint, Vespers was held by the Officiating Priests of the Central Monastery while H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem attended the prayer, and at the end of the service there was a reception with the boiled wheat and wine and dried bread at the courtyard of the Epitropikon.

On Sunday morning, on the day of the Feast, Matins and the Divine Liturgy were celebrated at the presence of His Beatitude. The hymns were delivered by the Choir Leader Archimandrite Eusevios and there was a participation of Hagiotaphite Archbishops, Priests and Monks, along with a large congregation.

A reception followed at the Epitropikon.

From Secretariat-General

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THEOTOKOS AT THE PATRIARCHATE

On Friday, September 8/21, 2018, the Patriarchate celebrated the Nativity of Theotokos;

1. At the Shrine of Theotokos' Tomb in Gethsemane. The Divine Liturgy for this Feast was officiated by the Most Reverend Archbishop Theophanes of Gerassa, with co-celebrants the Hegoumen of the H. Monastery of St. Charalambos, Archimandrite Kallistos, the Hegoumen of the Shrine of Praetorion Archimandrite Dionysios and Priests from other Orthodox countries, while the chanting was delivered by the Choir Leader of the All-Holy Church of the Resurrection Mr. Constantinos Spyropoulos.

After the Divine Liturgy the Hegoumen Most Reverend Archbishop Dorotheos of Avela offered a reception at the Hegoumenion.

2. At the Holy Church of the Nativity of Theotokos in Beit Jalla, near Bethlehem, the Feast was transferred on Sunday, September 10/23, 2018. The Divine Liturgy was led by the Most Reverend Metropolitan Joachim of Hellenoupolis, with co-celebrants the Hegoumen of the H. Monastery of the Shepherds Archimandrite Ignatios, the Hegoumen of the H. Monastery of St. George Archimandrite Ananias, and Arab-speaking Priests. Participant in the prayer was the Most Reverend Archbishop Nectarios of Anthedona and Exarch of the Holy Sepulchre in Istanbul, while the chanting was delivered by the Choir of the H. Church of the Nativity of Theotokos in Beit Jealla in Arabic and Greek. The Service was attended by a large congregation of the Orthodox faithful of the town.

After the Divine Liturgy the Hegoumen offered a meal to the Episcopal entourage, the Priests and members of the parish.

From Secretariat-General