

Ο ΓΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΗΓΟΥΜΕΝΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΑΝΩΝ ΕΠΙΣΚΕΠΤΕΤΑΙ ΤΟ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ

Τὴν μεσημβρίαν τῆς Παρασκευῆς, 9^{ης}/22^{ας} Ὀκτωβρίου 2021, ἔλαβε χώραν ἡ ἐπίσκεψις εἰς τὸ Πατριαρεῖον τοῦ προσφάτως ἐκλεγέντος Γενικοῦ Ἡγουμένου τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν, αἰδεσιμωτάτου π. Massimo Fusarelli Ofm, ἥτοι ἡγουμένου τοῦ Τάγματος τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν μοναχῶν εἰς τὸν κόσμον ὅλον.

Τὸν αἰδεσιμώτατον ἡγούμενον, συνοδευόμενον ὑπὸ τοῦ Κουστωδοῦ τῆς Ἀγίας Γῆς π. Φραγκίσκου Πατόν, τοῦ π. Ντομπρομύρο, τοῦ π. Λουκά, τοῦ π. Σινέσα, τοῦ π. Ἀθανασίου Μακόρα, τοῦ π. Μάρκου, τοῦ π. Φάλτας καὶ τινων ἄλλων Φραγκισκανῶν, ὑπεδέχθη ὁ Μακαριώτατος μετὰ τοῦ Σεβασμιωτάτου Μητροπολίτου Καπιτωλιάδος κ. Ἰουχίου, τοῦ Γέροντος Ἀρχιγραμματέως Σεβασμιωτάτου Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Κωνσταντίνης κ. Ἀριστάρχου καὶ ἄλλων Ἀγιοταφитῶν Πατέρων καὶ προσεφώνησε διὰ τῆς κάτωθι προσφωνήσεως Αὐτοῦ:

Dear Father Massimo,

Dear Father Osauro,

Your Paternity, Father Francesco,

Beloved Members of our Brotherhoods,

Dear Fathers,

As you make your pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we welcome you, dear Father Massimo, and your brothers, to our Patriarchate. Your pilgrimage to the Holy Land comes at a crucial time for the Christian communities of our region.

As we greet you today, we recall the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, that where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them (Matthew 18:20). We give thanks to our Lord, because here in the Holy Land we have built a full and harmonious co-operation of the Sacred Edicule. With this first phase successfully completed, we are continuing with the second phase of the work, encouraged and strengthened by our relationship.

The restoration of the Sacred Edicule is a historic event of the utmost importance, precisely because it has been accomplished by the three Communities to whom the diakonia of the Holy Places has been entrusted by Divine Providence. But in this partnership, the relationship between our two Brotherhoods has grown, and now we anticipate the restoration of the Grotto of the Church of the Nativity.

However, our united front in restoring the Sacred Edicule has an even deeper significance than this. For we have also established an important partnership in facing the unprecedented challenges before the Christian communities due to the complicated political situation here. Our united front is all the more crucial because new difficulties are constantly arising.

In addition to our common task of maintaining the Christian character of the Holy City of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, we have a shared interest and commitment in accommodating the many pilgrims who come from around the world. We also have a shared interest and commitment in sustaining the Holy Places as places of worship and keeping them accessible to pilgrims without distinction. And we have a shared interest and moral and pastoral commitment to do everything that we can to support and sustain the Christian population so that Christians remain in the Holy Land. This is of obvious consequence, for a Holy Land devoid of its Christian presence would lose its integrity.

We pray that in our cooperation, mutual respect, and deeper understanding, we are advancing the cause of the unity of the followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, who prayed that His disciples might be one, even as he and the Father are one (John, 17:22).

We wish to express our appreciation to you, Father Massimo, for all that you do to support Father Francesco and the work of the Custody in the Holy Land. MAY God bless you in your pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and MAY God bless you and your brethren as you begin your new ministry in service to the Order of the Friars Minor.

Thank you.

Ὁ Μακαριώτατος ἀνεφέρθη ἐπίσης εἰς τὴν λίαν καλὴν συνεργασίαν τῆς Ἀγιοταφίτικῆς Ἀδελφότητος καὶ τοῦ Τάγματος τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν εἰς τὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, καρπὸς τῆς ὁποίας ὑπῆρξεν ἡ πρό τινων ἐτῶν ἀνακαίνισις τοῦ Ἁγίου Κουβουκλίου καὶ ἡ προστασία τῶν Χριστιανικῶν Προσκυνηματικῶν Δικαιωμάτων εἰς τὴν Ἁγίαν Γῆν.

Εὐχαριστῶν διὰ τὴν ὑποδοχὴν ὁ αἰδεσιμώτατος π. Massimo Fusarelli Ofm, ἐξέφρασε τὴν ἱκανοποίησιν αὐτοῦ διὰ τὴν συνεργασίαν τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν μετὰ τῆς Ἀγιοταφίτικῆς Ἀδελφότητος καὶ ἠύχθη τὴν συνέχειαν αὐτῆς διὰ μίαν καλὴν χριστιανικὴν μαρτυρίαν καὶ προστασίαν τῆς Χριστιανικῆς ὀντότητος εἰς τὴν Ἁγίαν Γῆν.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας