

ΣΥΝΑΝΤΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΔΗΜΑΡΧΟΥ ΙΕΡΟΣΟΛΥΜΩΝ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΩΝ ΑΡΧΗΓΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΩΝ

Τήν μεσημβρίαν τῆς Δευτέρας, 26^{ης} Ἀπριλίου /9^{ης} Μαΐου 2022, ὁ Δήμαρχος Ἱεροσολύμων κ. Μωϋσῆς Λεών συνηντήθη μετὰ τῶν Ἀρχηγῶν τῶν Ἐκκλησιῶν τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων εἰς τό μοναστήριον τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ – Κουστωδίαν τῆς Ἀγίας Γῆς.

Κατά τήν συνάντησιν ταύτην προσεφώνησε τόν κ. Δήμαρχον ὁ ἡγούμενος τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν π. Φραγκῖσκος Πατόν, ὑπογραμμίζων εἰς τήν προσφώνησιν αὐτοῦ ὅτι προσφάτως ἑωρτάσθη τό Ἑβραϊκόν Πάσχα, κατά τό ὁποῖον οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἐνθυμοῦνται τήν δοθεῖσαν εἰς αὐτούς παρά τῷ Θεῷ ἐλευθερίαν ἐκ τῆς δουλείας τῆς Αἰγύπτου. Ἑωρτάσθη τό Χριστιανικόν Πάσχα ὡς μετάβασις ἡμῶν ἐκ τῆς δουλείας τῆς ἁμαρτίας εἰς τήν ἐλευθερίαν τοῦ Ἀναστάντος Χριστοῦ. Ἑωρτάσθη τό Ραμαζάνι ὡς περίοδος κατακτήσεως τῶν ἀρετῶν τῆς νηστείας, τῆς λιτότητος καί τῆς βοηθείας πρὸς τοὺς πτωχοὺς.

Ὅλα ταῦτα συνέβησαν εἰς τήν Ἱερουσαλήμ, τό παράδειγμα τῆς ὁποίας ὑπομιμνήσκει εἰς ἡμᾶς οὐχί μόνον τήν συνύπαρξιν ἀλλὰ καί τήν ἀδελφοσύνην, τήν κοινότητα ἀξιῶν καί ἀρχῶν ζωῆς. «Πιστεύοντες ταῦτα εὐχόμεθα εἰς ὑμᾶς, κ. Δήμαρχε, σοφίαν καί δύναμιν, διὰ νά ἐργάζησθε ὑπέρ τῆς εὐημερίας ὅλων τῶν κατοίκων τῆς Ἱερουσαλήμ ἀνεξαρτήτως θρησκείας ἢ ἐθνικότητος».

Ἐπὶ τῇ εὐκαιρίᾳ ταύτῃ ἡ Ἀδελφότης τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν ἐπέδωσε τό ἔμβλημα αὐτῆς εἰς τόν κ. Δήμαρχον.

Μετὰ τόν Κουστωδόν προσεφώνησε τόν κ. Δήμαρχον ἡ Α.Θ.Μ. ὁ Πατήρ ἡμῶν καί Πατριάρχης Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεόφιλος ὡς ἔπεται:

“Mr. MAYOR,

Your Beatitudes,

Your Eminences,

Your Graces,

Ladies and Gentlemen

We thank you, Mr. MAYOR, for your kind invitation to this gathering in this festive season. This is a time of the year when the eyes of the world are turned toward Jerusalem, and when we are most aware of the importance of Jerusalem not just for those of us who live here, but for the whole of humanity.

As the focal point of the divine-human encounter, Jerusalem has a universal significance that transcends all human boundaries and divisions. We are all sons and daughters of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem is the spiritual home of all people of goodwill, regardless of their origin or creed. As we read in the Scriptures, “Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often have I desired to gather your

children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings" (Luke 13,34).

This Paschal season makes visible the mission of the Church in maintaining this special character of Jerusalem and in upholding the multicultural and multifaith heritage that we share. As you are well aware, this unique identity of Jerusalem and its universal vocation are the serious peril from Israeli radical groups whose actions threaten the very fabric and foundation of this Holy City. So egregious is their activity, that it is catching the attention of religious and governmental leaders around the world, who recognize the dangers of such groups, and we cannot but express our deep concern to you.

The Churches are willing to work together with you for the common benefit and common good of all our people, but this work must rest upon mutual respect and the security of the historic rights and privileges of the communities that make up our society. We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our fellow Heads of the Churches, especially His Paternity Father Francesco, who has been instrumental in building up our common witness.

We are living in challenging times, and the role of Jerusalem is of greater significance to the human family than ever before. We understand fully the complexities of the issues that we face, and we are committed to finding appropriate solutions that will contribute to the well being of all our people.

MAY God bless you, Mr. MAYOR, and your colleagues, in the work that you do on behalf of our Holy City and all who live here and come here on pilgrimage.

Thank you".

Εἰς τὴν ἀντιφώνησιν αὐτοῦ ὁ Δήμαρχος Ἱεροσολύμων ἐξέφρασε τὴν χαρὰν αὐτοῦ διὰ τὴν συνάντησιν εἰς μίαν κοινὴν περίοδον ἑορτῶν τοῦ Ἑβραϊκοῦ Πάσχα, τοῦ Χριστιανικοῦ Πάσχα καὶ τοῦ Ἰσλαμικοῦ Ραμαζανίου. Αἱ ἑορταὶ αὗται λαμβάνουν χώραν εἰς τὴν Ἱερουσαλὴμ, ἀγίαν καὶ ἡγαπημένην ὑφ' ὅλων ἡμῶν. Εἰς τὴν πόλιν ταύτην, ἡ ἐλευθερία τῆς θρησκευτικῆς λατρείας διαφυλάσσεται, ἐνώνοντας Ἑβραίους, Χριστιανούς καὶ Μουσουλμάνους εἰς μίαν συνύπαρξιν εὐημερίας.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας.