

Ο ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΣ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΩΝ ΘΕΜΑΤΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΟΥΓΓΑΡΙΑΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΕΠΤΕΤΑΙ ΤΟ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ

Τό έσπέρας τής Τρίτης, 22ας Μαΐου/ 4^{ης} Ιουνίου 2019, παραμονής τής έορτής τής Αποδόσεως τοῦ Πάσχα, ὁ Ὑπουργός Κοινωνικῶν Θεμάτων καί πρῶην Ὑπουργός Ἀνθρωπίνων Θεμάτων / Human Resources κ. Zoltán Balog, συνοδευόμενος ὑπό τοῦ ἀντιπροσώπου τής Οὐγγαρίας εἰς Ραμάλλαν Dr. Μιχαήλ Rada Csaba καί συνεργατῶν αὐτοῦ ἐπεσκέφθη τό Πατριαρχεῖον.

Τούς ἐν λόγῳ ἐκλεκτούς ἀντιπροσώπους τοῦ κράτους τής Οὐγγαρίας ἐδέχθη ὁ Μακαριώτατος μετά Πατέρων Ἀγιοταφιτῶν.

Εἰς τό πλαίσιον τής συναντήσεως ταύτης ὁ Μακαριώτατος καί ὁ κ. Ὑπουργός ἀνεμνήσθησαν τῶν ἡμερῶν τής εἰς Οὐγγαρίας ἐπισκέψεως τοῦ Μακαριωτάτου καί τής οἰκονομικῆς βοηθείας τής Οὐγγαρίας εἰς τήν ἀνακαίνισιν τής στέγης τής Βασιλικῆς τής Βηθλεέμ καί τοῦ Ἱεροῦ Κουβουκλίου τοῦ Παναγίου Τάφου καί ὑπεγράμμισαν τήν ἀνάγκην στηρίξεως τῶν ἀξιῶν τοῦ Χριστιανικοῦ Πολιτισμοῦ καί τῶν καταδιωκομένων Χριστιανῶν, ἰδίᾳ εἰς τήν Μέσην Ἀνατολήν.

Τήν πρωτοβουλίαν ταύτην ἔχει ἀναλάβει καί προωθεῖ δραστηρίως ἡ χώρα τής Οὐγγαρίας καί ἐπιθυμεῖ νά συνεχίση ἐν συνεργασίᾳ μετά τῶν Ἐκκλησιῶν.

Εἰς ἀνάμνησιν τής ἐπισκέψεως ταύτης καί εἰς ἐκδήλωσιν τής συμπαραστάσεως τής Οὐγγαρίας πρὸς τό ποιμνιον τοῦ Πατριαρχείου Ἱεροσολύμων, ὁ Μακαριώτατος ἐπέδωσεν εἰς τόν κ. Ὑπουργόν ἀνάγλυφον εἰκόνα τής πόλεως τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων.

Ἐκ τής Ἀρχιγραμματείας

ΤΟ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΙΕΡΟΣΟΛΥΜΩΝ ΣΥΜΜΕΤΕΧΕΙ ΕΙΣ ΕΚΔΗΛΩΣΙΝ ΤΗΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤΟΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΑΛΑΙΣΤΙΝΙΑΚΗΣ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑΣ

Τό απόγευμα τῆς Πέμπτης, 3^{ης} /16^{ης} Μαΐου 2019, ἔλαβε χώραν εἰς τό κτιριακόν συγκρότημα –ξενοδοχεῖον Sergei, προσκείμενον εἰς τήν Ρωσικήν Πνευματικήν Ἀποστολήν (Missia) τοῦ Πατριαρχείου Μόσχας, κατεχομένην ἀπό τοῦ 1948 ὑπό τοῦ κράτους τοῦ Ἰσραήλ καί ἐπαναποδοθέν προσφάτως εἰς τήν Ρωσικήν Ἐκκλησίαν, συνάντησις ὑπό τόν S.V. Stepushin, Πρόεδρον τῶν Περιφερειακῶν καί Ξένων Τμημάτων τῆς Αὐτοκρατορικῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Παλαιστινιακῆς Ἐταιρείας ἐπί τῇ διακοσιοστῇ ἐπετείῳ ἀπό τῆς ἐνάρξεως τῆς διπλωματικῆς ὑποστηρίξεως τῆς Ρωσικῆς παρουσίας εἰς τήν Μέσην Ἀνατολήν.

Εἰς τήν συνάντησιν ταύτην ἀντεπροσώπευσε τό Πατριαρχεῖον ὁ Σεβασμιώτατος Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κωνσταντίνης κ. Ἀρίσταρχος Γέρων Ἀρχιγραμματεὺς, ὁ ὁποῖος καί ἀνέγνωσεν ἀγγλιστί τήν κάτωθι προσφώνησιν τοῦ Πατρός ἡμῶν καί Πατριάρχου Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεοφίλου ὡς ἔπεται:

“Mr. Chairman,

Respected Members of the Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Christ is risen!

We greet you with the joy of this Paschal season with the greeting that is also the triumph of our Orthodox faith. From

this Holy City of Jerusalem, the light of the resurrection has spread to the whole world.

We welcome this seminar as you meet in Jerusalem. You meet at a time when our Christian witness is so important in support of the Christian presence in the Holy Land and the Middle East, and when the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate is playing a leading role in promoting deeper relationships among the Christian communities here. Such deepening relationships are crucial for the well-being of a vital, vibrant Christian presence.

The Patriarchate is also promoting important interfaith dialogue, and above all we are maintaining the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious character of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

The Church of Jerusalem, which is the Mother of all the Churches, is the guarantor of the unity of the Orthodox Church. We acknowledge especially the role that the Russian Orthodox Church has played down the centuries, and especially during the Ottoman period, in supporting the Church of Jerusalem politically, diplomatically, and of course, financially. But we need to acknowledge that there were also difficult times that tested our relationship; we must learn from them and work towards strengthening our Orthodox unity.

In the spirit of our Orthodox unity, we must learn from the past. We must always speak and act in ways that support the life and mission of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem in this region. We are the one, holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we are under a moral as well as a spiritual obligation to ensure that the identity and witness of the Orthodox Church in the Holy Land and the Middle East rests on the unshakable foundation of our Orthodox unity.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to His Excellency the President of the Russian

Federation, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, for his material support for the restoration of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and for his unwavering support for the mission of the Patriarchate.

We wish you, Mr. Chairman, and this seminar, every success in your deliberations, and we look forward to hearing about the fruits of your deliberations.

Christ is risen!".

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας

Ο ΜΑΚΑΡΙΩΤΑΤΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ ΙΕΡΟΣΟΛΥΜΩΝ ΔΕΧΕΤΑΙ ΟΜΑΔΑ ΑΝΩΤΑΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΩΝ

Τὴν πρωΐαν τοῦ Σαββάτου, 28^{ης} Ἀπριλίου /11^{ης} Μαΐου 2019, ὁ Μακαριώτατος Πατὴρ ἡμῶν καὶ Πατριάρχης Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεόφιλος ἐδέχθη 50μελῆ ομάδα Ἀνωτάτων Ἑλλήνων Στρατιωτικῶν, καθοδηγουμένων προσκυνηματικῶς ὑπὸ τοῦ στρατιωτικοῦ Ἱερέως π. Γεωργίου Ἀποστολακίδου.

Ἐξ ὀνόματος τῆς ομάδος, ὁ τέως Ὑπουργός Δημοσίας Τάξεως καὶ Ἀρχηγός ΓΕΕΘΑ κ. Χηνοφώτης ἐξέφρασε τὴν συγκίνησιν διὰ τὴν προσκυνηματικὴν ἐμπειρίαν, τὴν ὁποίαν εἶχε μετὰ τοῦ π. Γεωργίου καὶ τὰς εὐχαριστίας διὰ τὴν ὑποδοχὴν παρὰ τοῦ Μακαριωτάτου.

Ἀπαντῶν ὁ Μακαριώτατος καὶ εὐλόγῶν τὰ μέλη τῆς ἐκλεκτῆς προσκυνηματικῆς ομάδος ταύτης, ὑπεγράμμισε τὴν σημασίαν τῆς ἀγιότητος τῆς Ἱερουσαλήμ, λόγῳ τοῦ ἐμποτισμοῦ αὐτῆς διὰ τοῦ

αἵματος τοῦ δικαίου, τοῦ σταυρωθέντος Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ καί τήν σημασίαν τοῦ Πατριαρχείου Ἱεροσολύμων ὡς φρουροῦ μιᾶς τοιαύτης ἡγιασμένης γῆς.

Ὑποβαλόντες τά σέβη αὐτῶν, οἱ ἐν λόγῳ ἐκλεκτοί συνταξιοῦχοι Στρατιωτικοί, νῦν προσκυνηταί, ἔλαβον τήν εὐλογίαν τοῦ Μακαριωτάτου καί εἰκόνα τῆς Θεοτόκου καί τοῦ ἁγίου Τάφου.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας

Η ΤΕΛΕΤΗ ΑΠΟΝΟΜΗΣ ΤΩΝ ΤΙΤΛΩΝ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΥΣ ΑΠΟΦΟΙΤΟΥΣ ΤΗΣ ΣΧΟΛΗΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ

Τό ἀπόγευμα τῆς Παρασκευῆς τῆς Διακαινησίμου, 20^{ῆς} Ἀπριλίου /3^{ῆς} Μαΐου 2019, ἔλαβε χώραν ἡ τελετή ἀπονομῆς τῶν τίτλων εἰς τοὺς ἀποφοίτους τῆς Τρίτης Λυκείου τῆς Σχολῆς τοῦ Ἁγίου Δημητρίου τοῦ Πατριαρχείου.

Ὑπό τό ὄνομα τοῦτο διετήρει τό Πατριαρχεῖον τήν Ἱερατικήν αὐτοῦ Σχολήν ἕως τοῦ ἔτους 1970, ὅτε καί ἐστέγασεν αὐτήν εἰς τό κτίριον τῆς ἐπί τῆς Ἁγίας Σιών Ἱερᾶς Μονῆς τῆς Ἁγίας Τριάδος.

Ἀπό τό ἔτος 1988 ὁ μακαριστός Πατριάρχης Ἱεροσολύμων Διόδωρος εἰς τό κτίριον τῆς πρώην Ἱερατικῆς Σχολῆς ἵδρυσεν ὑπό τό αὐτό ὄνομα «Ἅγιος Δημήτριος» σχολεῖον Νηπιαγωγεῖον, Δημοτικόν, Γυμνάσιον καί Λύκειον διά τά τέκνα τοῦ Ἀραβοφώνου ποιμνίου αὐτοῦ. Ἐκτοτε ἡ Σχολή ἐλειτούργησε ἐπιτυχῶς, προσφέρονσα παιδείαν ὑψηλοῦ ἐπιπέδου, ἐφέτος δέ κατά τήν τελετήν ταύτην ἐτίμησε τοὺς 15 ἀποφοίτους τῆς Γ΄ Λυκείου.

Τὴν τελετὴν ἐτίμησε διὰ τῆς παρουσίας Αὐτοῦ ἡ Α.Θ. Μακαριότης ὁ Πατὴρ ἡμῶν καὶ Πατριάρχης Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεόφιλος, συνοδευόμενος ὑπὸ τῆς Ἑλληνίδος Προξένου κ. Αἰκατερίνης Τζίμα, τοῦ Σεβασμιωτάτου Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Κωνσταντίνης κ. Ἀριστάρχου, τοῦ Δραγουμανεύοντος καὶ Ἐφόρου τῶν Σχολῶν Ἀρχιμανδρίτου π. Ματθαίου καὶ τοῦ Πρωτοπρεσβυτέρου π. Ἀήσσα Μοῦσλεχ καὶ τοῦ κ. Ὄντε Καουάς, Οἰκονομικοῦ Διευθυντοῦ τῶν Ἀραβικῶν Σχολῶν τῆς Δυτικῆς Ὁχθης.

Ἦρχισε δὲ ἡ τελετὴ διὰ τῆς εἰσόδου καὶ παρουσιάσεως ἐπὶ σκηνῆς τῶν 15 ἀποφοίτων, διὰ προσευχῆς τοῦ «Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη», τοῦ «Πάτερ ἡμῶν» καὶ τοῦ Παλαιστινιακοῦ καὶ Ἑλληνικοῦ Ἐθνικοῦ Ὑμνου.

Ἀκολούθως ὁ Διευθυντὴς τῆς Σχολῆς κ. Σαμὴρ Ζανανίρη, ὠμίλησε περὶ τῶν δραστηριοτήτων τῆς Σχολῆς κατὰ τὸ σχολικόν ἔτος 2018-2019 καὶ περὶ τῶν κτιριακῶν ἀλλαγῶν καὶ ἐπεκτάσεων τῶν αἰθουσῶν αὐτῆς. Ἠκολούθησεν ἐκτέλεσις Ἑλληνικοῦ χοροῦ ὑπὸ τριῶν μικρῶν μαθητῶν καὶ τριῶν μικρῶν μαθητριῶν τοῦ Νηπιαγωγείου τῆς Σχολῆς καὶ πατριωτικοὶ Παλαιστινιακοὶ χοροί, μετὰ ταῦτα δὲ αἱ προσφώνησις τῶν ἐκπροσώπων τῶν μαθητῶν εἰς τὴν ἀραβικὴν, ἀγγλικὴν καὶ ἑλληνικὴν, ἀναφερόμεναι εἰς τὴν παιδείαν αὐτῶν εἰς Σχολὴν τοιαύτην ὡς τοῦ Πατριαρχείου καὶ δὴ εἰς τὴν Πόλιν τὴν Ἁγίαν τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων μετ' εὐχαριστιῶν πρὸς τὸν Πατριάρχην, τοὺς καθηγητὰς καὶ τοὺς γονεῖς αὐτῶν.

Τὴν τελετὴν ἐπεσφράγισεν ἡ προσφώνησις τοῦ Μακαριωτάτου, τονίζουσα τὴν σημασίαν τὴν ὁποίαν ἐμπράκτως ἀποδίδει τὸ Πατριαρχεῖον εἰς τὴν παιδείαν τῶν νέων εἰς τὰ σχολεῖα αὐτῶν, μετὰ τὴν ὁποίαν ἡ Σχολὴ ἀπέδωσεν εὐχαριστήριαν πλακέταν εἰς τὸν Μακαριώτατον.

Ἐν τέλει ὁ Μακαριώτατος μετὰ τοῦ Διευθυντοῦ τῆς Σχολῆς ἐπέδωσαν τοὺς Ἀπολυτηρίους Τίτλους εἰς ὄλους τοὺς 15 ἀποφοίτους, εὐχόμενοι “καλὴν ἐπιτυχίαν” καὶ “καλὴν σταδιοδρομίαν”.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας

Η ΑΠΟΝΟΜΗ ΤΩΝ ΤΙΤΛΩΝ ΕΙΣ ΤΑ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΥ ΕΙΣ ΙΟΡΔΑΝΙΑΝ

Τό ἑσπέρας τῆς Τετάρτης τῆς Διακαινησίμου, 18ης Ἀπριλίου/ 1ης Μαΐου 2019, ἔλαβε χώραν εἰς τήν αἴθουσαν τοῦ ἐν Ἀμμάν Cultural Center ἡ τελετή τῆς ἀπονομῆς τῶν τίτλων τῶν ἐν Ἰορδανία σχολείων τοῦ Πατριαρχείου, ἥτοι τοῦ «Πατριάρχου Διοδώρου», τῆς Μαδηβάς, τοῦ Φχές καί τῆς Ζάρκας.

Τήν τελετήν ἐτίμησε διά τῆς παρουσίας Αὐτοῦ ἡ Α.Θ.Μ. ὁ Πατήρ ἡμῶν καί Πατριάρχης Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεόφιλος, ἐρχόμενος ἐξ Ἱεροσολύμων καί συνοδευόμενος ὑπό τοῦ Σεβασμιωτάτου Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Κωνσταντίνης κ. Ἀριστάρχου, τοῦ Σεβασμιωτάτου Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Κυριακουπόλεως κ. Χριστοφόρου καί τοῦ Πρωτοπρεσβυτέρου π. Ἡσσα Μοῦσλεχ.

Ἡ καλῶς διωργανωμένη τελετή αὕτη ἤρχισε διά τῆς κρούσεως τοῦ Ἐθνικοῦ Ὑμνου τῆς Ἰορδανίας.

Ἠκολούθησεν ἡ εἴσοδος τῶν ἀποφοίτων, ἑκατόν τεσσαράκοντα τεσσάρων (144) τόν ἀριθμόν, παρουσία τῆς Διευθυντρίας τῶν σχολείων ἐξ Ἰορδανίας κ. Σουχέϊρας Μπεϊτζάλη, τῶν καθηγητῶν τῶν Σχολείων καί γονέων καί ἄλλων συγγενῶν τῶν ἀποφοίτων καί ἐν συνεχείᾳ καλοσωρισμός ὑπό τοῦ Ἱερέως Πρεσβυτέρου π. Σωτηρίου Χάλασσα.

Ἀκολουθῶς ὠμίλησεν ἡ Διευθύντρια τῶν σχολείων κ. Σουχέϊρα Μπετζάλη, ἀναφερομένη εἰς τήν προσφοράν τοῦ Πατριαρχείου καί τήν συμβολήν τῶν καθηγητῶν διά τήν δημιουργίαν ἔργου ἐκπαιδευτικοῦ ὑψηλοῦ ἐπιπέδου εἰς τά σχολεῖα τοῦ Πατριαρχείου.

Ἠκολούθησε ἄσμα ὑπό καθηγητρίας τοῦ σχολείου τῆς Ζάρκας, προσφωνήσεις ἀραβιστί, ἀγγλιστί καί γαλλιστί ὑπό μαθητῶν ἐκπροσώπων τῶν σχολείων καί ἐκτέλεσις πατριωτικῶν χορῶν καί ἀσμάτων. Περί τό τέλος τούτων ἠκολούθησεν ἡ προσφώνησις τοῦ Μακαριωτάτου διά στόματος π. Ἦσσα Μοῦσλεχ.

Μετά ταῦτα ἡ τελετή κατέληξε διά τῆς ἀπονομῆς τῶν τίτλων ὑπό τοῦ Μακαριωτάτου καί τῆς Διευθυντρίας τῶν Σχολείων εἰς ἕνα ἕκαστον τῶν ἀποφοιτῶν μετά τῆς εὐχῆς «καλή ἐπιτυχία» καί «καλή σταδιοδρομία».

Ἐπί τούτοις ἐπεδόθη εἰς τόν Μακαριώτατον ὠραιότατον ὠμοφόριον καί ἐπιτραχήλιον παρά τῆς Διευθυντρίας τῶν σχολείων κ. Σουχέϊρας Μπετζάλη καί ἡ τελετή ἔκλεισε διά τῆς κρούσεως τοῦ Ἐθνικοῦ Ὑμνου τῆς Ἰορδανίας.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας

ΑΙ ΠΑΣΧΑΛΙΑΙ ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΕΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΙΚΩΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΩΝ ΕΙΣ ΤΟ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ

Τήν Τρίτην, 17ην /30ήν Ἀπριλίου 2019, ἔλαβον χώραν αἱ ἐπισκέψεις ἐπί τῷ Πάσχᾳ ἡμῶν τῶν Χριστιανικῶν Ἐκκλησιῶν καί ὁμολογιῶν, ἥτοι πρῶτον τοῦ τάγματος τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν – Κουστωδίας τῆς Ἁγίας Γῆς, ἔπειτα ὅλων τῶν ἄλλων Ἐκκλησιῶν καί Κοινοτήτων, ἥτοι τοῦ Λατινικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τῶν Ἀνατολικῶν Ἐκκλησιῶν, Συριάνων, Κοπτῶν, Αἰθιόπων καί τῶν Προτεσταντῶν, Λουθηρανῶν καί ἄλλων.

Πρός τήν Κουστωδίαν τῆς Ἀδελφότητος τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν προσεφώνησεν ὁ Μακαριώτατος ἀγγλιστί ὡς ἔπεται:

*"Your Paternity, dear Father Francesco,
Your Eminences,
Your Graces,
Beloved Members of the our Respective Brotherhoods,
Dear Fathers,
Christ is risen!
We welcome you, dear Father Francesco, and your Brothers, to
our Patriarchate and we thank you for your greetings to us
in this joyous season of light and life. This is the time of
rejoicing, as we sing;
Rejoice, O peoples, and be glad.
An angel sat upon the stone of the tomb;
He himself proclaimed the glad tidings unto us saying:
Christ is risen from the dead, the Saviour of the world,
and he has filled all things with fragrance.
Rejoice, O peoples, and be glad.*

(From Matins of Bright Week)

*As we keep this Paschal celebration, we do so in a world that
has seen, in the last six weeks, the evidence of hatred and
violence against a synagogue, churches, and mosques in three
different countries. This rash of violence against places of
worship at the holiest time of the year for the three
Abrahamic traditions is a cause of deep concern, and in the
light of the resurrection we are compelled to affirm our
condemnation of all violence against religious groups. Attacks
on places of worship are particularly grievous, and there can
be no justification for such acts of brutality against those
who have gathered for worship.*

*For according to the Gospel of Saint John, we read this
warning. "Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you
will think by doing so they are offering worship to God"
(John, 16:2).*

*The cycle of the great feasts here in Jerusalem and the Holy
Land are a reminder to the world that everyone is embraced
here. The great feast of Easter is not a cultural phenomenon
of one group, but a declaration that light and freedom come*

from the empty tomb, and that life does not stop here: there is an eternal dimension to life and the human person.

Easter is the great inclusive feast par excellence. It is not a private matter, but it has a deeper meaning and a deeper mission to reveal the fundamental unity of the human family in a common destiny.

The feast of Easter, is therefore, the answer of God to the violence and despair of the world. For by raising our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, God the Father has brought to an end the enmity that divides the human family.

This Holy City, and we who live and minister here, along with the countless pilgrims who have been with us for this holy season, are living evidence of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. By our diakonia and our witness, the world may see and know the new life that is born at Easter – a new life that is open to all without distinction. For as we read in the Gospel of Matthew, our Lord Jesus Christ says;

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matt. 18:20).

MAY God grant to you dear Father Francesco, the members of your community, and the communities that you serve, the joy of this new life.

Christ is risen!

Thank you”.

Πρός τούς Ἀρχηγούς τῶν λοιπῶν Χριστιανικῶν Ἐκκλησιῶν ὁ Μακαριώτατος προσεφώνησεν ἀγγλιστί ὡς ἔπεται:

“Your Beatitudes,

Your Excellences,

Your Eminences,

Your Graces,

Dear Fathers,

Christ is risen!

We greet you in this joyful season of Easter, and we thank you for your greetings. This is a time of universal celebration, and we sing these words this week at Vespers in the Orthodox

Church;

Going down to those in Hades,

Christ proclaimed the glad tidings, saying:

Take courage, I have conquered now;

I am the resurrection;

Having destroyed the gates of death,

I shall lead you up.

(From Vespers, Bright Monday)

As those to whom the pastoral leadership of the Churches and Christian Communities of the Holy Land have been entrusted, we must never lose hold of the courage that comes to us through the resurrection. This is especially important as we see an increase in acts of violence against so many religious groups, but especially against Christians. Such acts of violence and persecution are not confined to certain countries only; Christians face real challenges everywhere.

What are the real challenges? The fact that we testify to the truth of the Gospel. As we read in St. John's Gospel, our Lord Jesus Christ says, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice". And Pilate asked Him "What is truth" (John 18:37-38). We have evidence of this truth.

Our witness – our martyria – here in the Holy Land is to this courage that our Lord Jesus Christ gives to us by his resurrection. This is the courage to proclaim a message of peace, reconciliation, mutual respect, and the universal embrace of Jerusalem, where all of humanity finds a home. Fear-mongering, violence, and persecution are the tools of the frightened: love is the response of the courageous.

We live in a world in which the true reasons for faith and belief are distorted and used in a negative way. Radical religious groups use faith for their own ends, rather than for the true freedom that comes from God, and our mission here is to remain faithful to the message of the Gospel that guarantees light and freedom to the human family, for our Lord says, "I am the way, and the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is, at its heart, the ultimate act of a compassionate God who fully sympathizes

with our human condition. As we read in the Letter to the Hebrews, “we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). This is the true significance both for the incarnation and the resurrection, which is itself the crown of creation. Let this holy and bright celebration of Pascha renew us in courage, so that we MAY be steadfast in our mission in Jerusalem and in the Holy Land. And MAY it renew us in our commitment to speak with a united voice and with mutual respect and harmony. MAY God bless you all and the communities you serve, and MAY the uncreated light of the eternal Logos, that shines from the tomb, always warm our hearts and illumine our minds. Christ is risen! Thank you”.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς

ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΕΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΥ ΔΙΑ ΤΟ ΠΑΣΧΑ ΤΩΝ ΔΥΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΩΝ

Τὴν πρωΐαν τῆς Μεγάλης Τρίτης, 10ης /23ης Ἀπριλίου 2019, ἡ Ἁγιοταφίτικὴ Ἀδελφότης ἐπεσκέφθη τὴν Ἀδελφότητα τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν ἐπὶ τῇ ἑορτῇ τοῦ Πάσχα αὐτῶν καὶ ἀκολούθως τὸ Λατινικόν Πατριαρχεῖον.

Εἰς τοὺς Φραγκισκανοὺς προσεφώνησεν ὁ Μακαριώτατος διὰ τῆς κάτωθι προσφωνήσεως Αὐτοῦ:

“Your Paternity, dear Father Francesco,

Your Eminences,

Your Graces,

Beloved Members of our Respective Brotherhood,

Dear Fathers,

We greet you warmly today as you celebrate the Easter Feast, and we pray that God will give you the joy of the resurrection. Let us recall the words of Saint John Damascene that we sing in our Orthodox tradition:

Let us purify our senses and we shall behold Christ, radiant with the unapproachable light of the resurrection, and we shall clearly hear him say:

Rejoice! As we sing the triumphant hymn.

(Troparia from the Canon of Pascha)

Our common mission to be guardians and servants of the Holy Places is never more visible than it is during this festal season, when we welcome so many pilgrims to Jerusalem and the Holy Land for our celebrations of the Holy Week and Easter. The hopes of the world are also turned in our direction, even as we have news of the brutal bombing of churches in Sri Lanka last Sunday. We cannot deny that persecution against Christians is rising around the world, and this only increases the longing of Christians to be united in spirit and in prayer with the Holy Places where the history of our salvation has unfolded.

The Holy Places are also an undeniable testimony to the foundation of our faith, which is the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, as St. Paul says;

“If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain...But in fact Christ has

been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.”

(1 Cor. 15:14,20)

Our unity of purpose and our close co-operation in this common mission has never been more crucial. It is a source of deep satisfaction to us that our co-operation has born such great fruit in recent years, and has proved to be the guarantee in protecting our rights and safeguarding our mission. The deepening of this unity of purpose and co-operation must always be at the forefront of our attention.

In the great influx of pilgrims every day, we see and hear a profound longing for the deep spiritual springs of life, consolation, and hope. Pilgrims come to the Holy Land not to escape from their everyday reality, but to draw from the Holy Places a fresh inspiration and sense of God’s presence, so that they may return home and live more focused and attentive Christian lives.

Such strengthening of the spiritual lives of pilgrims is so important in a world in which we see a disturbing increase in the persecution of Christians. There are two kinds of persecution, of course. There is the obvious persecution, of the kind we see all too often – the persecution of blood, where Christians are killed because of their faith and witness. We join with the world in condemning such acts of violence.

But there are other forms of persecution, and we think especially of the persecution of conscience, where often in countries that boast of freedom and democracy, Christian values are attacked, ridiculed, or held in open contempt, so that Christians are unable to express their views openly in contributing to the building up of a just society.

For all our sisters and brothers around the world who live and worship under pressure, the Holy Places have always been the

sweetest inspiration. The Holy Places are also the protection and security of our local Christian communities both in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East. We have all heard the moving testimonies of pilgrims who come the Holy Land fearful, exhausted, and in despair, and who leave us filled with new hope because here they have experienced the diving energy that flows from this land of the divine-human encounter.

MAY the pilgrims who leave us renewed and strengthened in their Christian lives be our inspiration to be faithful to our own mission. And may our local Christian communities be renewed by the hope that we are given in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MAY God bless you, dear Father Francesco, and the members of your Brotherhood, as well as the communities that you serve, and may the joy of the Easter Feast be your firm foundation.

Christ is risen!

Thank you".

Εἰς τό Λατινικόν Πατριαρχεῖον προσεφώνησεν ὁ Μακαριώτατος διά τῆς κάτωθι προσφωνήσεως Αὐτοῦ:

"Your Excellency, dear Archbishop Pizzaballa,

Your Eminences,

Your Graces,

Dear Fathers,

Christos Anesti!

As you celebrate the great Feast of Easter, Your Excellency, along with your clergy and your communities throughout the Holy Land, we greet you with the joy of the Easter Feast. The

uncreated Light of life shines from the Holy Tomb, and we sing;

How life-giving, how much more beautiful than paradise,

and truly more resplendent than any royal palace,

proved your grave,

the source of our resurrection, O Christ.

(From the Paschal Hours)

In this Paschal season we give thanks to Almighty God for the privilege that we have been given of the pastoral care of the Christian communities that live in the Holy Land, and who call this region our home. It is to those who live here to whom both the blessing and the burden of sustaining the Christian presence in the Holy Land has been entrusted by divine providence, and this is, as we have known through the ages, no easy mission.

Our local communities face many challenges as we work to maintain a vital and prosperous Christian presence here, and our close co-operation is a crucial element in helping our communities to thrive.

But we are sustained, as the First Letter of Saint John says, by “what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life” (1 John 1:1). For the Holy Land is the place of this divine-human encounter, that has given life to the world. Our local communities are living witnesses to this encounter.

We know, too, that the life of the Christian communities of the Holy Land is an inspiration to the rest of the world, and our mission reaches beyond our particular borders. We know that our diakonia here is not for ourselves alone, but for the whole world.

The world comes to the Holy Land to see the physical evidence of our sacred history, and goes away with an inner spiritual renewal. The world comes to us to gaze on stones, and goes away having glimpsed heaven. The world comes to us to walk on dusty pathways, and goes away having partaken in a heavenly pilgrimage. The world comes to us to venerate the Holy Tomb, and goes away having received from it the divine energy and the light of resurrection.

As we sing in the Easter service,

Come let us drink a new drink,

not one marvellously brought forth from barren rock,

but the Source of incorruption,

which springs forth from the grave of Christ,

in whom we are established.

(Heirmos Ode Three from the Canon of Pascha)

Here the thirsty comes, and meets communities of other thirsty souls, and there is a vision of the age that is to come. This is the land of the divine energy that helps us to understand our lives, especially in these challenging times.

MAY God bless you, Your Excellency, along with your clergy and your communities, and may we, who share a common mission in our beloved Holy Land, share a common joy in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christos Anesti!

Thank you".

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας

Η ΙΕΡΑΤΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ ΤΗΣ ΙΕΡΑΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗΣ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ ΕΠΙΣΚΕΠΤΕΤΑΙ ΤΟ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ

Τήν Παρασκευήν, 23^{ην} Φεβρουαρίου/ 8^{ην} Μαρτίου 2019, ἡ Α.Θ.Μ. ὁ Πατήρ ἡμῶν καί Πατριάρχης Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεόφιλος μετὰ Πατέρων Ἁγιοταφιτῶν καί μεταξύ ἄλλων προσκυνητῶν ἐδέχθη τήν Ἱερατικήν Σχολήν τῆς Ἱεραῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Κύπρου, 15μελῆ ομάδα ἱεροσπουδαστῶν ὑπό τόν Σχολάρχην αὐτῆς ἐλλογιμώτατον Ἀρχιμανδρίτην Βενέδικτον Ἰωάννου.

Εἰς τό πλαίσιον τῆς ἐπισκέψεως ταύτης ὁ Μακαριώτατος ἀνεφέρθη εἰς τήν βοήθειαν, τήν παρεχομένην εἰς τό Πατριαρχεῖον Ἱεροσολύμων ἀπό τήν Ἱερατικήν Σχολήν τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κύπρου, φροντίδι τοῦ Ἀρχιμανδρίτου Βενεδίκτου διά τῆς εἰσδοχῆς καί φοιτήσεως εἰς αὐτήν ἱεροσπουδαστῶν, μελῶν τοῦ ποιμνίου τοῦ Πατριαρχείου, διά νά ὑπηρετήσουν μετὰ τήν ἀποφοίτησίν των ὡς Ἱερεῖς.

Ὁ Σχολάρχης Ἀρχιμανδρίτης Βενέδικτος ηὐχαρίστησε τόν Μακαριώτατον διά τήν ἐπιδεικνυομένην ἐμπιστοσύνην πρός τήν Σχολήν καί διά τήν προσγιγνομένην εἰς τούς προσκυνητάς πνευματικήν βοήθειαν καί ὠφέλειαν ἐκ τῆς προσκυνηματικῆς θεωρίας καί προσέφερε παραδοσιακόν δίσκον ἀπό τά Λεύκαρα.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας

ΤΙΜΗΤΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΚΡΙΣΙΣ ΥΠΟ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΥ ΕΙΣ ΜΕΛΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΟΙΜΝΙΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΙΟΡΔΑΝΙΑΣ

Τό ἑσπέρας τῆς Πέμπτης τῆς Τυρινῆς, 22ας Φεβρουαρίου/7ης Μαρτίου 2019, ἡ Α. Θ. Μακαριότης ὁ Πατήρ ἡμῶν καί Πατριάρχης Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεοφίλος εἰς τελετήν εἰς τήν ἐν Ἀμμάν Μητρόπολιν τοῦ Πατριαρχείου παρουσία τοῦ Πατριαρχικοῦ Ἐπιτρόπου Σεβασμιωτάτου Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Κυριακουπόλεως κ. Χριστοφόρου, τοῦ Σεβασμιωτάτου Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Κωνσταντίνης κ. Ἀριστάρχου, τοῦ Πρεσβυτέρου π. Ἦσσα ἐκπροσώπου Τύπου τοῦ Πατριαρχείου εἰς τὰ Ἀραβικά Μ.Μ.Ε., τοῦ Ἀρχιδιακόνου Μάρκου, πολλῶν ἱερέων τοῦ ποιμνίου τῆς Ἰορδανίας καί πολλοῦ λαοῦ ἐτίμησε διά τοῦ παρασήμου τοῦ Σταυροφόρου τοῦ Τάγματος τῶν Ἱπποτῶν τοῦ Παναγίου Τάφου τούς διακριθέντας Ὁρθοδόξους πιστούς, πνευματικά τέκνα τοῦ Πατριαρχείου εἰς ἀνέγερσιν ναῶν καί εἰς ἐκκλησιαστικάς, κοινοτικάς ἢ φιλανθρωπικάς δραστηριότητας, προαγούσας τήν πνευματικήν πρόοδον καί εὐημερίαν τῆς ἐνορίας, εἰς τήν ὁποίαν ὑπηρετοῦν, ἦτοι τούς:

1 Mr. Faouzi Shnouda

2 Mr. Qaisar Aldaoud

3 Mr. Elias Atallah

4 Mr. Ibrahim Quakish

5 Mr. Iskandar Aldaoud

Καί ὡσαύτως ἐτίμησε διά τιμητικῆς πλακέτας τῆς Ἱερᾶς Μητροπόλεως Ἀμμάν, εἰς διακεκριμένα μέλη τοῦ ποιμνίου.

Εἰς τό πλαίσιον τῆς ἐκδηλώσεως ταύτης, ὁ Μακαριώτατος ἀνεκοίνωσε τήν προσφοράν 250.000 δηναρίων Ἰορδανίας διά τήν ἔναρξιν ἀνεγέρσεως Ἱεροῦ Καθεδρικοῦ Ναοῦ εἰς τήν πόλιν Φχές, προάστειον τοῦ Ἀμμάν, καί ἐπίσης ἐτίμησε τόν θεολόγον

διδάκτορα Ίερέα καί μέλος τοῦ Ἐκκλησιαστικοῦ δικαστηρίου π.
Ψάρα Εὐάγγελον Νταχάμπρα διά τοῦ ὀφφικίου τοῦ Σταυροφόρου
Πρωτοπρεσβυτέρου.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ ΕΞ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗΣ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑΣ ΕΠΙ ΘΕΜΑΤΩΝ ΔΙΑΣΠΟΡΑΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΕΠΤΟΝΤΑΙ ΤΟ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ

Τήν Τετάρτην, 14ην /27ην Φεβρουαρίου 2019, 10μελής Ἀποστολή ἐξ
Ἑλλάδος ὑπό τόν κ. Κουίκ, Ὑφυπουργόν Ἐξωτερικῶν ἐπί θεμάτων
ἀποδήμου Ἑλληνισμοῦ καί ἐκ τῆς Κυπριακῆς Δημοκρατίας ὑπό τόν
κ. Φώτιον Φωτίου, Ἐπίτροπον Προεδρείας διά θέματα Διασποράς,
τῇ συνοδείᾳ τοῦ Γενικοῦ Προξένου τῆς Ἑλλάδος εἰς τά Ἱεροσόλυμα
κ. Χρήστου Σοφιανοπούλου καί τῆς Πρέσβευς τῆς Κυπριακῆς
Δημοκρατίας εἰς Ἰσραήλ κας Θεσσαλίας Σιάμπου, ἐπεσκέφθησαν τό
Πατριαρχεῖον.

Τήν ἐκλεκτήν ομάδα ταύτην ἐδέχθη ἡ Α.Θ.Μ. ὁ Πατήρ ἡμῶν καί
Πατριάρχης Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεόφιλος μετά Πατέρων Ἁγιοταφιτῶν.

Εἰς τό πλαίσιον τῆς συναντήσεως ταύτης ἐγένετο ἐνδιαφέρουσα
συζήτησις ἐπί τῆς σημασίας τῆς γνώσεως καί διαδόσεως τῆς
Ἑλληνικῆς γλώσσης διά τήν διατήρησιν τῆς ἐθνικῆς ἡμῶν
ταυτότητος καί ἐπί τοῦ σημαντικοῦ ρόλου τῆς Ἐκκλησίας εἰς τό
ἔργον τοῦτο.

Ὁ Μακαριώτατος ἐνημέρωσε τά μέλη τῆς Ἀποστολῆς ἐπί τῶν
προσπαθειῶν τοῦ Πατριαρχείου Ἱεροσολύμων διά τήν διατήρησιν

τῆς Ρωμαιορθοδόξου ταυτότητος τοῦ ποιμνίου αὐτοῦ καί διά τήν βοήθειαν αὐτοῦ ἐν συνεργασίᾳ μετά τῶν ἀρμοδίων κυβερνητικῶν παραγόντων, ὡς καί διά τήν ἀνακαίνισιν τῆς ἱερᾶς Μονῆς τοῦ Τιμίου Προδρόμου παρά τόν Ἰορδάνην ποταμόν, καθισταμένην καί πάλιν προσκυνηματικόν κέντρον, ἰδίᾳ κατά τήν κατ' ἔτος ἑορτήν τῶν Θεοφανείων.

Τά μέλη τῆς Ἀποστολῆς ἠὺχαρίστησαν τόν Μακαριώτατον διά τήν ἐνημέρωσιν ταύτην καί διά τά δῶρα Αὐτοῦ, ἐπέδωσαν τά δῶρα αὐτῶν εἰς Αὐτόν, καί ἐζήτησαν τάς προσευχάς Αὐτοῦ διά τήν εὐημερίαν καί ἀσφάλειαν τοῦ ἔθνους ἡμῶν καί τήν εὐλογίαν Αὐτοῦ διά νά προσκυνήσουν εἰς τόν Πανάγιον Τάφον.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας