



## **His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch receives delegation from Russia**

On 31 March 2014, His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East received in his residence in Balamand, Lebanon, a delegation of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society (IOPS), led by its chairman Mr. Sergei Stepashin, the website of the Representation of the Russian Orthodox Church in Beirut reports.

His Beatitude Patriarch John cordially thanked the head of the IOPS for the humanitarian aid which the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society has been rendering to the suffering Syrian people.

Mr. Stepashin suggested opening the IOPS branches in Lebanon and Syria. His Beatitude expressed his support for the idea. The participants in the meeting also discussed the prospects for the students of the Church of Antioch to study at the theological educational institutions of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as some other issues.

Taking part in the meeting were hegumen Arseniy (Sokolov), representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia to the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East; Mr. Alexander Zasyepkin, Russian Ambassador to Lebanon; and staff members of the Patriarchate of Antioch.