



## Chancellor of the Moscow Patriarchate meets with Primate of the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem



On 17 September 2018, Metropolitan Varsonofy of St. Petersburg and Ladoga, chancellor of the Moscow Patriarchate, who is currently on a pilgrimage visit to the Holy Land, concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Joachim of Helenoupolis (Orthodox Church of Jerusalem) at the Basilica of the Nativity of Christ in Bethlehem.

The same day later, in the Small Throne Hall of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem presented Metropolitan Varsonofy with the highest award of the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem – the Order of the Cross of the Holy Sepulchre, 1<sup>st</sup> class. Among those who attended the meeting were Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina, secretary-general of the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem; Metropolitan Joachim of Helenoupolis; and Archimandrite Alexander (Yelisov), head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem.

Metropolitan Varsonofy conveyed to the Primate of the Church of Jerusalem greetings from His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia and thanked him for the warm hospitality, saying, “Your Beatitude, I wholeheartedly thank you for presenting me with the highest award of the Church of Jerusalem. I did not expect it. I would also like to convey to you greetings from His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia who on Friday chaired a session of the Holy Synod. The members of the Synod appealed to the Primates of the Local Orthodox Churches in order to discuss the current problem and prevent the schism of Orthodoxy. We know that you support Metropolitan Onufry of Kiev and All Ukraine as the canonical head and thank you for your position,”

*DECR Communication Service*

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