



## **Representatives of the Russian Spiritual Mission in Jerusalem congratulate the Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos on his name's day**



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On 29<sup>th</sup> March the head of the Russian Spiritual Mission in Jerusalem archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev), deputy head of the mission abbot Nikon (Golovko), mission inmates hieromonk Philofei (Artyushin), as well as the head of the Russian Spiritual Mission under the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia archimandrite Roman (Krasovsky) and the mother superior of the Gornai convent in Ein-Karem abbess Yekaterina (Chernysheva) with the convent sisters, attended a festive reception organized in the Great Throne Hall of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The occasion was to mark the name's day of the Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem.

The reception was headed by His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem, reports the Mission's website.

Official congratulations from the bishops and flock of the Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem were read out by the secretary general of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem the archbishop of Constantina Aristarchos. Following this there were speeches of congratulation by the consul of Greece in Jerusalem Dimitrios Angelosopoulos and the Russian ambassador to Israel A. D. Victorov.

Then the head of the Russian Spiritual Mission in Jerusalem archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev) read out congratulations from His Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' Kirill and the chairman of the Department of External Church Relations the metropolitan of Volokolamsk Anthony.

As a token of their filial respect the clergy of the Russian Spiritual Mission in Jerusalem presented to His Beatitude on his name's day an encolpion, flowers and other gifts.

At the end of the ceremonial part a festive lunch was held for the clergy and esteemed guests of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

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The name's day of His Beatitude is the day when the Orthodox Church celebrates the memory of the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March (New Style). This year, in accordance with the Ordo of the Church of the Resurrection of Christ, the name's day was transferred to 29<sup>th</sup> March.