

## **COMPLETION OF HIS BEATITUDE'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO LIBYA**

**On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa,** officiated during the Divine Liturgy of at the Holy Church of the Annunciation of the Theotokos in Benghazi, before the end of which he thanked all for their hospitality and gave a silver chalice and paten and an icon to the church in commemoration of his visit.

He then went to the Allied Cemetery in the city and conducted a memorial service for those who fell in World War II. In the afternoon, His Beatitude and his entourage returned by air to Tripoli .

On their return His Beatitude attended the start of the Muslim Call Conference, in which Muslims from around the world participated, while representative of all Christian faiths and other faiths attended.

That night His Beatitude attended a dinner hosted in his honour by the Chairman of the Greek Community of Tripoli, attended by diplomatic and consular authorities of Greece , Cyprus and Egypt , during which commemorative gifts were exchanged.

**The following day, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008,** following an invitation, paid a courtesy visit to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tripoli . He was then taken on a conducted tour of the historic centre of the capital.

In the evening, His Beatitude visited the Islamic Studies Centre where he exchanged views with the lecturers and students regarding the necessity for the prevalence of peace in the world and the contribution of the monotheistic faiths to this.

His Excellency the Ambassador then hosted a dinner in his honour at the Ambassadorial Residence, which was also attended by all the diplomatic official of the Arab world, Greece , Cyprus as well as representatives of other faiths.

**On 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008, the Venerable Primate of the Throne of St Mark,** having completed his official visit to the hospitable land of Libya , left for Egypt . At the Tripoli International Airport His Beatitude and his entourage were seen off by His Eminence Theofylaktos, the Ambassadors of Greece, Cyprus and Egypt , the Consuls General of Greece and Cyprus , diplomatic and state officials. He was met in Cairo by the Vicar General of Cairo Bishop Nikodimos and the Deputy Consul of Greece, Mrs Vasiliki Papanikolaou.