

## **THE DEPARTING AMBASSADOR OF CYPRUS TO EGYPT IS DECORATED BY HIS BEATITUDE**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, in the Throne Room of the Patriarchal Mansion , awarded the departing Ambassador of Cyprus to Egypt , His excellency Mr. Petros Eftychiou, the Cross of the Apostle and Evangelist Mark, with a Star.

In his address His Beatitude made mention of the fruitful ambassadorial tenure of Mr Eftychiou in the Land of the Nile as well as the historic ties between the Ancient Patriarchate and Cyprus , and also expressed his gratitude to His Excellency the President of Cyprus, Mr. Dimitri Christofias, His Beatitude the Archbishop of Cyprus Chrysostomos, the Hierarchs and the Cypriot people for their continued assistance towards the multifaceted missionary and humanistic work of the Alexandrian Church in Africa.

He also expressed his support for the suffering Cypriot brothers and sisters "at whose side he will always be, hoping for a just solution".

**The Ambassador thanked His Beatitude** for the honour awarded to him and praised his work and his person. The simple ceremony was attended by His Grace Gabriel, Bishop of Mareotis, Patriarchal Vicar of Alexandria and His Grace Nikodimos, Patriarchal Vicar of Cairo, Mr. Nikolas Vadis, Vice Chairman of the Hellenic Community of Cairo, and others.