

# VISIT BY THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE NAVY TO HIS BEATITUDE

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa received at the Patriarchal See, Vice Admiral George Karamalakis, Chief of the General Staff of the Navy.

I thank our glorious Navy, stressed His Beatitude, because they are always at the side of the ancient Patriarchate and supports the missionary work in Africa, as he awarded the High Commander of the Patriarchate of Alexandria to the Chief of the General Staff, as well as the icon of St Nicholas to protect our Navy.

He also expressed his gratitude to His Excellency the President of Egypt, Mr Hosni Mubarak, for his support and love which he shows to the Patriarchate, and mentioned also the close brotherly ties between the two countries as well as the peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims in the Land of the Nile.

On his own behalf, the Vice Admiral Mr. Karamalakis congratulated the Patriarch of Alexandria on the work of the past five years since he was elevated to the Throne of the Apostle Mark, as well as on his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday and gave him the emblem of the Coat of Arms of the Navy.

Present were the Patriarchal Vicar of Alexandria His Grace Gabriel, Bishop of Mareotis and His Grace Gennadios Bishop of Nilopolis, the Defence Attach'e of the Greek Embassy in Cairo, Naval Captain Mr. Panagiotis Pastouseas, the Director of the Chief Naval Office Mr. Apostolos Baskas and officers of the Egyptian Navy.