

## **SUBMERSION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS ON THE BANKS OF THE CONGO RIVER**

**On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018**, His Eminence Panteleimon, Metropolitan of Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon, conducted the Divine Liturgy and preached the homily at the Holy Parish Church of the Resurrection of the Lord in the capital, Brazzaville, after which despite the intense tropical storm, a procession took place following special permission, ending on the banks of the Congo River.

There, the Orthodox Christians experienced in prayer for the fifth time, in the history of the local Church, the ceremony of the submersion of the Precious Cross into the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest river in the world.

On the banks, His Eminence spoke briefly about the historic establishment and the theological interpretation of the ceremony of the submersion of the Precious Cross and the sanctification of the waters. In conclusion, he conveyed to the Christian flock the paternal prayers and blessing of His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa and thanked the ex.Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of the Congo Mrs. Emilienne Raoul who was present, as well as the authorities of the country, for the respect and support shown to the Orthodox Church.

The Eucharistic Gathering and the ceremony of submersion of the Precious Cross was covered by Tele Congo the State television, to which His Eminence granted a brief interview.