

THE SUBMERSION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN THE CONGO RIVER

The Great Feast of Theophany was celebrated with reverence and dignity at the Holy Diocese of Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon. His Grace, Bishop Panteleimon conducted the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy and the Service of the Greater Sanctification of Water at the Holy Church of the Resurrection of the Lord in Brazzaville, after which he donated an Artoforio to the Church and awarded an honorary plaque to the Honorary Consul General of Greece in the Congo, Mr. Nicholas Perris, for his substantial and valuable contribution to the progress of the local Church.

A procession then followed through the streets of the capital, following special permission, which ended on the banks of the Congo River. There, the Orthodox Christians experienced in prayer for the third time in the history of the local Church, the ceremony of the submersion of the Precious Cross in the waters of the River.

On the banks, His Grace preached the homily, analyzing the Theological significance of the Feast, as well as the historic establishment and interpretation of the ceremony of the submersion of the Precious Cross and the sanctification of the waters. In conclusion he conveyed to the Christian faithful the festive paternal blessings and prayers of His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa and thanked the Authorities of the Country for the respect and support shown to the Orthodox Church. The worship events were covered by Congo television.

On the eve of Theophany, His Grace conducted the baptism of four infants at the outdoor baptistery of the Holy Church in the capital of Brazzaville.