

ALEXANDRIA - 36 Years of Episcopal Ministry: Patriarch Theodore II Reflects on a Lifetime of Service to Christ and Africa



With profound gratitude to God and deep humility before the sacred calling entrusted to him, His Beatitude Pope and Patriarch Theodore II of Alexandria and All Africa this year commemorates the 36th anniversary of his episcopal consecration.

On 17 June 1990, the late Patriarch Parthenios III ordained the then-Archimandrite Theodore as Bishop of Cyrene, beginning a hierarchical ministry that would eventually lead him to the Apostolic Throne of Saint Mark and to the spiritual leadership of the ancient Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa.

Marking this significant milestone, His Beatitude celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Patriarchal Church of Saint Sabbas the Sanctified in Alexandria, offering thanksgiving to Christ, the Chief Shepherd, for His abundant mercy and guidance throughout the years. Standing before the same Holy Altar where generations of Alexandrian Patriarchs served before him, the Patriarch reflected with emotion on the grace of the priesthood and episcopacy bestowed upon him by the Holy Spirit.

Remembering his spiritual father and predecessor, the late Patriarch Parthenios III, His Beatitude expressed heartfelt gratitude for the lessons of humility, love, and

selfless service he received from the hierarch who ordained him. He recalled the wisdom that shaped his ministry: not to seek honor or recognition, but to serve God first and then serve his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Reflecting on more than four decades of continuous service to the Patriarchate of Alexandria and thirty-six years in the episcopacy, Pope Theodore II offered a powerful message of hope, perseverance, and trust in Divine Providence.

He reminded the faithful that the greatest works of God are often accomplished quietly, away from public attention, through sacrifice, faith, and love. While difficulties and crises may quickly capture attention, countless acts of service, compassion, and missionary labor continue every day throughout Africa, transforming lives and bringing the light of the Gospel to new communities.

Speaking about the mission of the Church in Africa, His Beatitude emphasized the immense challenges and opportunities facing the Patriarchate. Across the continent, communities continue to seek churches, schools, hospitals, clergy, catechists, and dedicated servants of Christ willing to devote themselves to the Gospel. Yet despite limited resources and many obstacles, the mission continues to grow through faith in God's providence and the dedication of those who answer His call.

"The history of the Church," he reflected, "was not written by spectators, but by those who entered the arena of service and sacrifice. The greatest works of God continue to be accomplished quietly, by a few people, with great faith and even greater love."

As the Patriarchate gives thanks for this blessed anniversary, the faithful throughout Africa and the world join in prayer for His Beatitude Pope Theodore II, asking the Lord to grant him many more years of health, strength, wisdom, and fruitful ministry as he continues to shepherd the Church of Saint Mark and advance the Orthodox mission across the African continent.

Εἰς πολλὰ ἔτη, Δέσποτα!

Many Years, Your Beatitude!

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