

03/09/2026

Patriarch Theophilos III calls Jerusalem's Christian presence vital during U.S. envoy meeting



His Beatitude Theophilos III, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, told H.E. Michel Issa, the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, that Jerusalem's Christian presence is vital to the Middle East.

The Patriarch of Jerusalem welcomed Issa to the Patriarchate amid war and regional crisis. He said H.E. Issa's regional roots and Christian heritage gave him an understanding of the Holy Places.

Jerusalem is sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims, the Patriarch said. Churches in Syria, Lebanon and the Holy Land, he added, support coexistence and serve communities.

His Beatitude called the Church of Jerusalem “the Mother of all the Churches,” the Church of prophets, apostles and martyrs and of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection. He quoted St. Paul: “Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.”

The Patriarchate has guarded the holy sites and kept them open to all, he said. H.B. Theophilos III recalled discussing Middle Eastern Christians and Jerusalem’s spiritual role with President Trump at an April Oval Office meeting.

Issa visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The Patriarch blessed his mission and









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