

## **Omogeneia Welcomes Patriarch Theodoros to Brooklyn's Cathedral of Sts. Constantine and Helen**



On Saturday, October 8, 2022, the Cathedral of Saints Constantine & Helen in Brooklyn hosted a breakfast in honor of His Beatitude Patriarch Theodoros of Alexandria, welcoming Omogeneia leaders and members of the press for the celebration. His Beatitude was accompanied by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Their Eminences Metropolitans George of Guinea and Nikodimos of Memphis, Sub-Deacon Moses Kariuki Maina, his sister Mrs. Argyro Mahlas and his nephew Mr. Michael Mahlas.

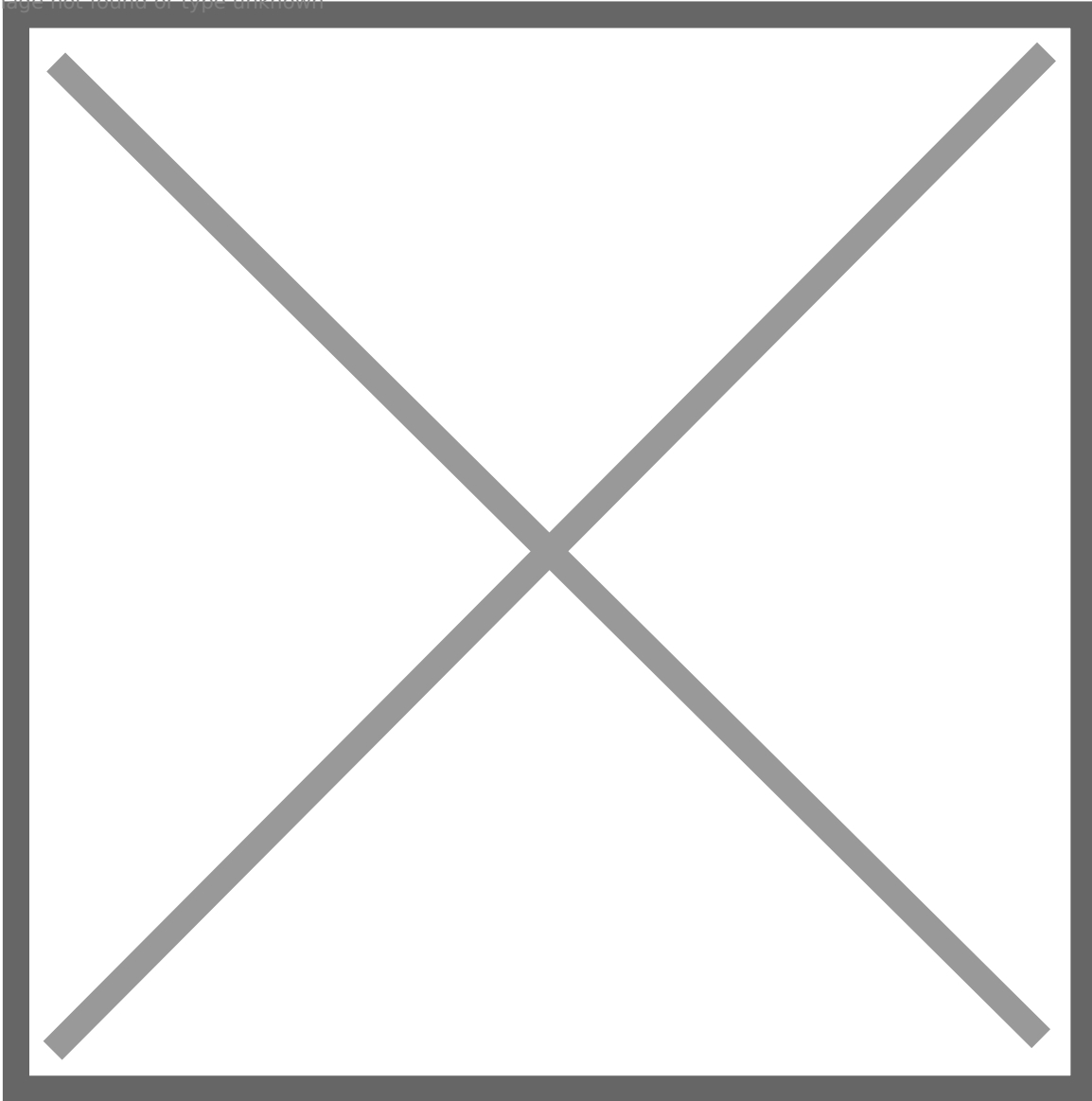
As His Beatitude entered the Cathedral, the melodic voices of students from the parish's A. Fantis School greeted him with a special hymn. After an introduction and brief history of the Cathedral from the Proistamenos, Rev. Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne Evagoras Constantinides, His Beatitude shared that when he was a young boy in Crete, a priest from Brooklyn was ordained on the island, and, finding himself in the borough for the first time that morning, His Beatitude could not help remembering him, remarking that "life is a circle." His Beatitude thanked the students for their warm and loving welcome, wishing them well in the year ahead and inviting them all to come and visit Egypt for themselves.

Patriarch Theodoros presented Fr. Constantinides with a blessing cross crafted in Cairo and a book of St. Mark's Divine Liturgy, which, he explained to the students, he uses every year when he officiates the liturgy by the Nile River. Each child then had the opportunity to receive an individual blessing with the cross from the Patriarch.

Afterwards, attendees enjoyed a breakfast prepared by community members. Archimandrite Chrysostom Onyekakeyah— who had previously served in the Alexandrian Patriarchate and had the opportunity to personally present His Beatitude with a copy of his book *Orthodoxy in Africa*— offered remarks, and was followed by Consul General of Greece in New York Konstantinos Konstantinou and Consul General of Cyprus in New York Michalis Firillas, as well as leaders from the

Cathedral's parish and school. Before the conclusion of the meal, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros announced plans in progress for an official GOARCH pilgrimage to Alexandria in 2023, during which all would have the opportunity meet with His Beatitude again in Egypt.

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