

20/04/2023

Meeting with the vice governor of Hatay



His Beatitude Patriarch John X and the accompanying delegation met with the vice Governor of Hatay, Mr. Oguzhan Koksal, at his residence in Antioch.

At the beginning, Mr. Oguzhan Koksal, the vice governor of Hatay, introduced himself and described the good relationship that binds him to the Christians in Antioch. He praised the Divine Liturgy presided over by Patriarch John on the occasion of the glorious Pascha in Antioch, commenting: "Patriarch John has planted the first bud in the spring flower of Antioch".

He pointed out that when he was in the town of Midyat in the city of Mardin, he asked our Lord to help him build the road there, and indeed he was able to do it. Today, he repeats the same request for rebuilding Antioch, stressing that work has begun today by removing icons and all ecclesiastical instruments and archaeological objects from under the rubble for restoration, in cooperation with

the president of the association in Antioch (Al-Bashqan).

In turn, His Beatitude thanked the vice Governor of Hatay, Mr. Oguzhan Koksai, for receiving and supporting the children of the Church in all the circumstances they went through, and he also reiterated his thanks to the Turkish state, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Interior, and all officials for the efforts to make this historic paternal visit a success.

His Beatitude also asked whether the Turkish state was in the process of rebuilding churches. The vice governor of Hatay replied:

“Yes, we are in the process of preparing a plan for the reconstruction of churches, mosques and waqfs, and we will inform you about the measures in detail.”

His Beatitude expressed his deep thanks for this cooperation, stressing that the







[Antioch Patriarchate](#)