## BLESSING AT THE PATRIARCHAL ACADEMY OF ALEXANDRIA

On the 28th September 2014, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All celebrated the Service of the Blessing of the Water at the "St Athanasios" Patriarchal Academy of Alexandria, for the beginning of the new academic year 2014-2015. During his brief address His Beatitude gave paternal advice and wishes to the African students, whom he assured that he will personally concern himself with their further progress and God willing, their future missionary ministry, following their graduation and their return to their places of birth. He also thanked the Very Reverend Head Master Archimandrite Agathonikos Nikolaidis and the teaching staff for their diligent and conscientious service.

At the same time, with the Patriarchal Academies of Nairobi and Kinshasa, the Patriarchal Academy of Alexandria began operating in 2007, with the aim of teaching skills and the acquisition of the necessary qualifications for the provision of productive missionary efforts amidst the particular and often difficult adversities and activities on the African continent. It is situated at the Holy Monastery of St Savvas the Sanctified, which was renovated in order to offer the hosted students the appropriate learning environment for the achievement of the objectives of the educational programme, as it is prepared, supervised and evaluated by a s[ecialist Educational Council with the participation of university professors.