

## **HIS BEATITUDE INAUGURATES THE LARGEST ORTHODOX SCHOOL IN AFRICA**

**On 27th October 2012 His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa**, together with His Eminence Nikiphoros, Archbishop of Central Africa and His Grace Meletios Bishop of Kananga, conducted in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the inauguration of the "St Mark" School, which was built by the Hellenic Community of Kinshasa and is the largest Orthodox school complex in Africa.

In his address His Beatitude thanked the Hellenic Community for this significant contribution to the local Church of Central Africa, reminding them of the corresponding actions of the Great Benefactors of Alexandria of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, emphasizing also the sacrificial spirit of those who teach at the missionary schools.

The Honourable Mr Gerasimos Dounis, Chirman of the Hellenic Community of Kinshasa, expressed the gratitude of the community for the inauguration ceremony conducted by His Beatitude and emphasized the importance as well as the symbolism of this donation to the Holy Archdiocese of Central Africa, as acts of assistance to and understanding of its laborious missionary effort.

A festive school function followed by the pupils of the school and at noon His Beatitude convened a Priest's Synaxis of the clergy of the city and the broader area of Kinshasa, with whom he discussed at length about the progress, the needs and the further development of the missionary ministry.