

INAUGURATION OF A NEW SCHOOL IN TOULEAR IN SOUTHERN MADAGASCAR

On 26th February 2008, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, inaugurated the newly-built Orthodox school of the Parish of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, in Toulear, which was built by the Brotherhood of Orthodox External Missions of Thessaloniki, under the guidance of His Grace Bishop Ignatios.

Following the Service of the Blessing of Waters a celebrated festival was held, with dances and songs presented by the Orthodox Ladies of the Parish and the youth.

During the festivities, speeches were made by the Local Administrator, and the Mayor of Toulear, who expressed their gratification for the presence of the Orthodox Church and promised their wholehearted support.

Mr Vaios Prantzios, Chairman of the Brotherhood of Orthodox External Missions of Thessaloniki also spoke, and assured His Beatitude of the continuance of the missionary efforts of the Brotherhood, for the suffering African people. The local Bishop, His Grace Ignatios, also spoke and expressed the gratitude of the Church of Madagascar to all who help with its pastoral and missionary efforts.

In closing, His Beatitude thanked the authorities for the understanding shown for the multifaceted activities of the Holy Diocese of Madagascar and praised His Grace Ignatios for his fruitful pastoral service on the island. He also announced the creation of a modern youth centre, equipped with a library and areas for sport and fun in the grounds of the new school.

His Beatitude and his entourage then left for the airport

in order to continue with his missionary journey in northern Madagascar . He was seen off by the local authorities and military officials.