



30-04-2026 Visit to the Sacred City of Messolonghi and awards ceremony for students distinguished in the national student video competition “The Heroic Exodus of the Free Besieged of Messolonghi in 1826”

On April 27-29, an educational visit to the Sacred City of Messolonghi was held for the students who distinguished themselves in the national student short film competition entitled “The Heroic Exodus of the Free Besieged of Messolonghi in 1826”, organized by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, in cooperation with the Special Synodal Committee on Cultural Identity of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece, marking the 200th anniversary of this historic event.

On Monday, April 27, the distinguished students, accompanied by their teachers, visited the Archdiocese of Athens, where they were welcomed by His Beatitude Archbishop of Athens and All Greece Ieronymos, and received his blessings. The educational visit to the Sacred City of Messolonghi began with the Archbishop’s blessing.

The students and their teachers, accompanied by the Secretary of the Special Synodal Committee on Cultural Identity, the Most Reverend Archimandrite Fr. Theoklitos Mendis, the Committee’s Associate Mr. Konstantinos Holevas, the representative of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports Ms. Georgia Moutantzi, the Most Reverend Protopresbyter Fr. Ioannis Gkias, rector of the Holy Church of Saint Christopher, Patron Saint of Agrinio, and the Most Reverend Protopresbyter Fr. Evangelos Asprogiannis, rector of the Holy Church of Saint George in Agrinio, visited the Xenokrateion Archaeological Museum. The students and their escorts had the opportunity to admire the temporary exhibition entitled “The Exodus of Messolonghi on Delacroix’s Canvas” in addition to the museum’s permanent archaeological exhibition. They were, then, given a guided tour of the Garden of Heroes and visited the Sacred City of Messolonghi.

On Tuesday, April 28, they visited the Holy Metropolitan Church of Saint Spyridon of Messolonghi, where they received a warm welcome from His Eminence Damaskinos, Metropolitan of Aetolia and Acarnania. They then were given a tour of the Byron Building and the National Park of the Messolonghi–Aitoliko Lagoons. In the evening, the awards ceremony for the students took place in the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Damaskinos of Aetolia and Acarnania, who presented awards to the students of the 31st Middle School of Thessaloniki, the Model Ecclesiastical Middle School-Model Ecclesiastical High School of the Patmias Ecclesiastical School, the 5th Middle School of Alexandroupoli “Eleni Filippidi”, and the Private Middle School of I. Tsiomoulis (two groups), as well as Honorary Mentions to the students of the 1st Model Middle School with High School Classes of Preveza and the 2nd Day Middle School of Elliniko “Elli Alexiou” (two groups). The Messolonghi Arts Middle and High School presented Dionysios Solomos’ masterpiece “The Woman of Zakynthos”.

The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs warmly thanks all students who participated in the competition and congratulates the winners, the teachers who effectively supported the entire effort, and especially, the parents for encouraging their children.

The General Secretariat also thanks the Special Synodal Committee on Cultural Identity of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece for co-organizing and providing excellent cooperation in the implementation of this educational program.





