

Jordan's Muslim king to fund Holy Sepulchre restoration

A direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad is contributing to the restoration

Compiled by *Global Pulse* staff, 14 April 2016



Looking up into the dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. (Photo: [vitali yakovlev / Shutterstock.com](#))

King Abdullah II of Jordan has agreed to fund the restoration of Christ's Tomb in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Vatican Radio reports.

Jerusalem's Latin Patriarch, Bishop William Shomali, warmly welcomed the decision.

"This is excellent news, news of a highly symbolic character, since the Holy Sepulchre is the most sacred place for Christians of all confessions," Bishop Shomali said in a statement.

"This decision shows the kindness of the King towards Christians and his constant concern to preserve the heritage of Christianity, including his role as guarantor of the Holy Places, Christian and Muslim, Jerusalem, according to the Wadi Araba agreement."

Jordan's Royal Court informed the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem of the "makruma" (Royal Benefaction) in a letter addressed to His Beatitude Theophilos III on April 10.

"It will therefore be a Muslim sovereign and direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad who will foot part of the bill for the restoration of the niche in the Holy Sepulchre, the place of Jesus' burial and resurrection in Jerusalem, which has, for centuries, been the most venerated Christian shrine in the world," La Stampa notes.

The Orthodox Patriarch also praised the generosity of King Abdullah, recalling how His Majesty remains the faithful guardian and custodian of Muslim and Christian Holy Places of Jerusalem.

During Holy Week, the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Latin Custody of the Holy Land had previously announced that restoration works on Christ's Tomb would begin soon after the Orthodox Easter solemnities.

The restoration project was announced two weeks ago by the three Christian denominations which for historic reasons hold joint jurisdiction of Jerusalem's most important church,

namely the Greek Orthodox, the Latins (represented by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land) and the Armenians, La Stampa says.

