



Thessaloniki, 29 May 2017

## Press Release "St. Sava of Serbia"

The Museum of Byzantine Culture and the Historical Museum of Serbia invite you cordially to the opening of the exhibition "St. Sava of Serbia" on **Thursday**, **8 June at 20:00** in the **wing of temporary exhibitions of the Museum of Byzantine Culture** "Kyriakos Krokos".

Depictions of the saint and explanatory texts on his life and work are presented in the exhibition, while the main exhibit is an exact copy of the pastoral rod of the saint.

St. Sava (circa 1175-1236) – prince of the Serbian dynasty of Nemanids – was the founder of the monastery of Chilandar in 1198, founder and great benefactor of churches and monasteries (in Mount Athos, Serbia, Constantinople, Thessaloniki and the Holy Land), abbot of the monastery of Studenica, diplomat, legislator, founder and first archbishop of the autocephalous Serbian Orthodox Church. With his work he strengthened Serbia's direct relationship with Byzantium and Orthodoxy, while his law-canonical work was a fundamental text for the Serbian church and state. This law-canonical work was based on corresponding Byzantine texts that were the model for their respective Serbian production.

He had a special relationship with Mount Athos, where he lived for almost two decades in the monasteries of St. Panteleimon and of Vatopedi until the foundation by him of the monastery of Chilandar. He had an equally important relationship with Thessaloniki, where he was ordained archimandrite and later remained in the monastery of Philokalou, of which he was a benefactor.

A reception will follow, kindly offered by the General Consulate of the Republic of Serbia.

Exhibition duration: 8 June - 13 September 2017

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