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Vatican with a high respect for the Macedonian tradition

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The bronze relief with a biblical theme, which President Gjorge Ivanov in 2011 gifted to Pope Benedict XVI, the former head of the Roman Catholic Church, is exhibited in the central part of the Vatican premises and drawing immense attention and interest of numerous foreign delegations visiting The Pope and the Vatican.

“Anyone who visits the Vatican in a formal or official visit can see our gift. A wonderful feeling to see what place the gift is in that we have given to the Pope and the Vatican,” said the President after meeting with Pope Francis.

During yesterday's audience, the Macedonian President gifted Pope Francis a silver filigree cross with authentic Macedonian rubies. Asked to explain the symbolism of the gift, Ivanov said rubies in the territory of Europe is unique to Macedonia.

“Our Ruby is the same colour as the official clothing that the Pope wears, so he really was honoured to receive such a gift, which expresses the faith and tradition and our specificity”, said the President.

Both gifts, the silver filigree cross with Macedonian rubies and the bronze relief, which reflect exactly the Macedonian tradition, are gifts from President Ivanov to the Vatican State, on behalf of the Macedonian people and in gratitude for the high mutual respect and continued friendship.

The bronze relief with a biblical theme, made by sculptor Marijan Kamilovski, was given to Pope Benedict XVI by Macedonian President Ivanov at the audience on the occasion of "Saints Cyril and Methodius" in 2011. The theme of the relief, which caused enormous admiration among Vatican officials is inspired by the dream of St. Paul when a Macedonian appears and calls him to come to Macedonia, with which Christianity began to spread in Europe.

Translation: by GDF, using Google Translate & <http://www.idividi.com.mk/recnik/index.htm>