

Archon Leaders Return from Pilgrimage to Ecumenical Patriarchate and Religious Freedom Mission to Ankara

A delegation of leaders of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate / Order of Saint Andrew returned from their pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and a series of long-planned critical meetings with key Turkish officials in Istanbul and Ankara aimed at improving the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey. These meetings follow similar deliberations held by the Archons 16 months ago when they were last in Turkey.

Headed by National Commander, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, and representing His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarch in America, the Archon leaders met first with Provincial Governor Muammer Guler and Mayor Ali Gurtuna of Istanbul and accompanied United States Ambassador to Turkey, Eric S. Edelman, on his first official visit to His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Phanar. While at the Phanar during their four-day visit to Turkey, the Archon leadership met privately with His All Holiness to seek his guidance on various initiatives of the Archons of America.

After a banquet in honor of His All Holiness attended by leading Turkish citizens, including members of the press, academia and the business community, and the conveying of condolences to the Deputy Chief of Police in the Beyoglu District and the Chief Rabbi of Turkey, Isak Haleva, for the loss of life in the recent tragic bombings in Istanbul, the delegation was accompanied by Ambassador Edelman to meetings in Ankara with the Ministers of Education, Interior and Religion.

In frank discussions that included Father Alex Karloutsos and other Archon leaders, John Halecky, Jr., Christopher Stratakis, Dr. Spiro Macris, Alexander Pritsos and Stephen Cherpelis, National Commander Limberakis



Archon Delegation with His All Holiness (l to r) Alexander Pritsos, Christopher Stratakis, National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, John Halecky, Jr., Stephen Cherpelis and Dr. Spiro Macris

raised the issues of the reopening of the Theological School at Halki, property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, interference in the succession of the Ecumenical Patriarch and Holy Synod and recognition by Turkey of the "ecumenicity" of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Minister of Education, Huseyin Celik, reaffirmed the Turkish Government's recently announced position that the Theological School of Halki should be opened and stated that a report presenting various options on how to open the school had been completed and is being circulated within the government for ultimate presentation to His All Holiness. Minister of Interior Abdulkadir Aksu said, "It was time" to resolve questions of property rights and the status of the foundations and associations. Minister of Religion Mehmet Aydin tied the resolution of issues relating to the Ecumenical Patriarchate to Turkey's getting a date from the European Union for accession talks.

Ambassador Edelman, present at all the talks, expressed the US Administration's support for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the long-time advocacy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a matter of United States policy. He emphasized that the policy rests on the importance to all Americans of religious freedom.

Earlier in the day in Ankara, the Archons held a tribute luncheon in honor of Ambassador Edelman where members of the Turkish Parliament, academia, diplomatic corps,

including the Ambassador of Greece, Michael B. Christides, and Papal Nuncio to Turkey, Rev. Dr. Edmond Farhat, and the press, were present.

After the meetings, Dr. Limberakis indicated that he was hopeful that a formula could be developed so that the Halki School of Theology could reopen and that the other serious

issues of concern would be addressed by the new Turkish government, headed by Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, in a manner that would benefit the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Turkey and the United States. According to Commander Limberakis, the meetings held with the new Turkish government were more productive than those in the past. Father Karloutsos, who is familiar with the life and history of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for the last 20 years, said he had never seen a better atmosphere for the improvement of the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey.

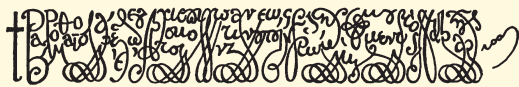
Archon leaders also visited two patriarchal institutions: the Balukli Hospital and Home for the Aged, a medical complex with 650 inpatient beds serving 40-50,000 patients a year and in operation for 250 years and the Great School of the Nation, which is celebrating its 550th anniversary preserving the Hellenic heritage and Orthodox faith established in 1454, one year following the Fall of Constantinople.



Archons honored Ambassador Edelman in Ankara



FROM THE PATRIARCHATE



The Esteemed National Council of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle in America, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, our Modesty's beloved in the Lord: Grace and peace from God.

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle was instituted on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 10, 1966 by the guiding vision of Patriarch Athenagoras to create one unified body of Archons within the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America. This was the first time ever that Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate were organized in a local Church to strengthen their ability to assist the Mother Church. Within almost 40 years, over 800 churchmen have been bestowed Offikia of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and have become members of the Order of St. Andrew in America. Through the combining of resources; intellectual, professional, political, financial and spiritual, the Order has become a very powerful and influential body of faithful stewards, which has provided invaluable support to the Mother Church. However, its accomplishments, educationally, spiritually and philanthropically, have been made possible through its national organization and efforts.

Therefore, it is the wish of our Modesty personally and of the Holy and Sacred Synod that the Order remains faithful to the vision of Patriarch Athenagoras and remain one united national body of Archons of the Archdiocese governed by one national administration.

Although the Archdiocese of America is now made up of several Metropolises, they all belong to the one body of the Archdiocese and altogether constitute it. Therefore, it is the wish of our Modesty personally and of the Holy and Sacred Synod that the Order remains faithful to the vision of Patriarch Athenagoras and remain one united national body of Archons of the Archdiocese governed by one national administration.

Invoking upon you the abundant grace, infinite wisdom and boundless love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we beseech Him for the intercessions of your patron Saint Andrew the Apostle in all that you do on behalf of the Great Church of Christ and wish you a most blessed remaining Lenten period.

At the Patriarchate, 24 March 2004

Your fervent supplicant before God,

†BARTHOLOMEW

Archbishop of Constantinople,
New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch



MESSAGE FROM THE EXARCH

The Power and Promise of Peace

The Holy Scriptures tell us that prior to the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, He began to prepare His disciples for the time when He would no longer be with them. He announced to them that he would "go to the Father" and "prepare a place for them," assuring them with the promise that He would return some day so "that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3).



Our Lord also prepared His disciples for the hatred, persecution, and suffering they would face in the world as they proclaimed the Gospel. While some would believe, others would respond violently to the message of love and salvation. Jesus said, "The hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God" (John 16:2).

These words of separation and anticipated travail filled the hearts of the disciples with sorrow and their minds with confusion. At that point in time, they did not fully understand how Jesus' ministry and mission would be fulfilled. They could not envision the dramatic physical and spiritual events that were about to take place, events that would break humanity's bondage to sin and destroy the power of death. Thus, our Lord comforted His disciples by assuring them of His love and the coming of the Spirit of truth, and by granting to them the peace of God. He said to His disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

This peace granted by Christ to His disciples and to us as His Church is an eternal peace "which passes all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). It is a peace that is offered to us through the presence of the Holy Spirit who guides us in truth and assures us of God's inseparable love for us. In the "eyes" of the world, it is an incomprehensible peace, because it provides Christians with the ability and the power to live and remain faithful to God even under the harshest and most violent circumstances.

It is also a peace that guides us in working for peaceful conditions and environments and for non-violent resolutions to conflict throughout our world. We know that when peace prevails in our homes, communities, societies, and between nations, when the social and political conditions of our world sustain and protect life, people are blessed with the opportunity to see the love and presence of God in the lives of others, children live and play in a nurturing environment that instills trust and values, and all know the power of peace to direct their lives beyond merely existing to the realization and experience of the potential God has given to every person.

As Christians living in a world troubled by violence, we have a tremendous treasure to offer all peoples and nations through our example of peace by revealing the love of God and through our efforts to share the Gospel of peace, a message that grants true and enduring peace to those who believe in Christ.

Just as our Lord assured His disciples, He assures us through the presence of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whose coming we celebrate this month on the Feast of Pentecost. May our prayers and our lives express our commitment to follow the guidance of the Spirit, and may we reveal to the world the power of peace to heal and the promise of peace to save.

†DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America



Following are excerpts from an essay based on my speech at the banquet on behalf of His All Holiness read on March 17, 2004 in New York City.

The Unique Mission of the Leader of World Orthodoxy

Recently, Americans learned anew the unique role of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians. He came to the United States not only to visit his flock in the Metropolis of New Jersey, but to offer a scholarly lecture on "Byzantine Icons: A Legacy of Humanism" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The lecture was in connection with a critically acclaimed exhibit, "Byzantium: Faith and Power", the third exhibit to bring Byzantine culture to a world audience.

* * *

His All Holiness, over the 13 years since his enthronement, has become well known for his deep learning and appreciation of culture, his advocacy of the environmental cause and for his efforts toward inter-religious dialogue in answer to the crisis of terrorism and ethnic and religious conflict. He poses no façade, he is not superficial nor is his decision making based on the fickle and ephemeral political trends of the day. Rather he is the real thing. Substance over appearance. Fidelity to the canons of Orthodoxy and the steadfast desire to spread the word of God takes precedence over doing that which today may be popular or expedient but tomorrow may be devastating to Orthodoxy, whether it is in Greece, the United States, Cuba, South America, Hong Kong or anywhere in the world.

* * *

Yet His All Holiness knows when change is appropriate and in the context of Orthodoxy, when it is necessary for the common good. When the Church in America was traversing stormy seas several years ago, what did he do? Was he intransigent? No. Was he unresponsive? No. Was he stern? No, for he had the wisdom, the good judgment and the love for the Church in America, the greatest Eparchy of the Ecumenical Throne as he lovingly refers to us, to send us our beloved Archbishop Demetrios, who calmed the waters and set the Archdiocese back on course. He demonstrated equally brilliant judgment when the Archdiocese requested a new charter for the Church in America. Over the course of several years there was a dialogue, not a soliloquy, but a dialogue, a conversation between the hierarchy and lay leadership of the Church in America and the Holy and Sacred Synod of Constantinople, which ultimately granted us a magnificent Charter that takes into account the concerns of our Church.

* * *

With the recent announcement from His All Holiness that the Holy and Sacred Synod of Constantinople will now be comprised of 6 hierarchs from Turkey and 6 hierarchs outside of Turkey, once again, the Ecumenical Patriarch has demonstrated a brilliant initiative that strengthens world Orthodoxy and strengthens the Synod that now has the benefit of the intellectual input of among others our beloved Archbishop Demetrios of America. In fact, this policy fortifies the very status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople vis a vis the international community and vis a vis the Turkish government.

* * *

The more we travel to the Phanar, the more we realize that we must never give up in our struggle to improve the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We now do so with a level of expertise on the issues that confront us, that frustrate religious human rights and that must be addressed if Turkey is to ultimately gain accession into the European Union and the Ecumenical Patriarchate is to freely pursue its sacred ministry. What are the issues and where are we?

* * *

Opening the Halki School of Theology:

When the Archon delegation traveled to Ankara recently to meet with the Turkish Government, we were accompanied every step of the way by US Ambassador Eric Edelman. At the Education Ministry under whose jurisdiction is Halki we met with Education Minister Huseyin Celik who indicated that "We would like to open Halki, not to improve our image, but because it suits us, it is the right thing to do. This is not just my personal view, but the view of the Government. You know my views. I accepted a lunch invitation at the Patriarchate. I attended the 550th anniversary of a Greek high school. But the Government also supports the opening of Halki. Halki was allowed to operate under Ottoman sultans in the time of the Caliphate. It is unacceptable, therefore, that a "secular" State does not allow it to open. How can this be?"

* * *

Property Rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, its churches and affiliated foundations:

This is a monumental problem that is preventing our Orthodox institutions from realizing vital rental income from properties confiscated by the Turkish government.

Hundreds of properties have been seized by the authorities due to various laws passed by the Turkish



Assembly and by Court decisions that adversely affect the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Balukli Hospital, a 650 bed institution that treats 40-50,000 patients a year, and numerous individual churches. These properties are then sold to third parties and are lost forever. Our National Council Legal Counselor Archon Christopher Stratakis is working on this specific issue and is gathering evidence and documentation to be used by the Order at the appropriate time.

* * *

Interference by the Turkish Government in the selection of the Ecumenical Patriarch and Holy and Sacred Synod:

We are actively researching the issue of the so-called "Turkish Citizenship" requirement of the Ecumenical Patriarch. We are questioning the Turkish Government's claim that the Ecumenical Patriarch must be a Turkish citizen. We have only scratched the surface on this issue, which requires further research and investigation.

* * *

The refusal of the Turkish Government to recognize the "ecumenicity" of the Ecumenical Patriarchate:

We, the Archons of America are beginning to educate the Turkish government regarding this issue with the assistance of the American Ambassador who stated to Minister of the Interior Aksu: "I am here to demonstrate that the issues of the Archons are important to the United States, for the Orthodox community in the United States, but also for all Americans because of the importance of religious freedom."

We will never give up, never, never, never. We will not go away and we will be relentless in the scientific and systematic approach to these problems knowing that Turkey's accession to the European Union may represent the missing link to solving these centuries old problems.

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
National Commander



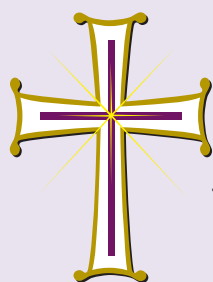
Archon Leader Refutes Rumor: "Castro Not An Archon"

February 20, 2004

New York, NY - Contrary to widely circulated reports, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew did not confer the Order of St. Andrew upon the President of Cuba, Fidel Castro, nor did he present him with the Cross of St. Andrew. According to Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of St. Andrew, who accompanied the Patriarch on his recently concluded historic trip to Cuba, "*His All Holiness gave to the Cuban leader a simple cross bearing the seal of the Patriarchate, as an expression of gratitude to the people of Cuba for the return and reconstruction of St. Nicholas Cathedral in Havana.*"

The Patriarch traveled from Constantinople (Istanbul) to Cuba last month for the consecration of the Cathedral, which took place on Sunday, January 25, 2004. "*The Order of St. Andrew is bestowed upon individuals of proven Orthodox Christian character, after a process of nomination and comprehensive review,*" Dr. Limberakis continued. "*Fidel Castro, despite his government's recent act of generosity to our Orthodox Church, does not espouse the Christian faith, and was never considered for this high honor.*"

IN MEMORIAM



Gus Karas

Archon Depoutatos
Died February 4, 2004

John N. Tiliakos, MD

Archon Depoutatos
Died March 4, 2004

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS
GO TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS
OF OUR BELOVED MEMBERS.
MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL



Archon Activities at Clergy-Laity Congress

All Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America are invited to participate in the following events scheduled in New York during the Clergy-Laity Congress.

HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, July 25, 2004

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

New York Marriott Marquis
Broadway Ballroom - 6th Floor

- Archons should wear their Archon emblems
- Reserved seating for Archons
- Archons should congregate at 8:45 am in a specifically designated room located near the entrance to the Broadway Ballroom (6th Floor) for ceremonial procession into Ballroom

ARCHON FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Tuesday, July 27, 2004

8:00 pm to 10:00 pm

NY Marriott Marquis - Marquis Ballroom

- Archbishop Demetrios, Patriarchal Representatives, Presiding Diocesan Hierarchs, Archons and their spouse or guest cordially invited

ARCHON BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Wednesday, July 28, 2004

9:00 am to 11:00 am

NY Marriott Marquis - Marquis B & C

- Archbishop Demetrios, Patriarchal Representatives, Presiding Diocesan Hierarchs, Archons cordially invited

R.S.V.P.: The National Archon Office

Phone: (212) 570-3550

Fax: (212) 774-0214

E-Mail: archons@goarch.org

The National Council is pleased to announce that Under Secretary of State, the Honorable Marc Grossman will be the featured speaker at the Archon Breakfast at the 37th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress on July 28, 2004.

The Breakfast will take place on Wednesday, July 28 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the New York Marriott Marquis, Marquis Ballroom B & C.



Turkey: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices-2003 Released Feb. 25, 2004

The Government interpreted the 1923 Lausanne Treaty as conferring special minority legal status on three non-Muslim groups - Greek Orthodox Christians, Armenian Orthodox Christians and Jews. However, this did not extend to the religious leadership organs. The Ecumenical and Armenian Patriarchates, for example, continued to seek recognition of their legal status. Non-Muslim groups not recognized as Lausanne minorities lacked legal status, and their activities were subject to legal challenges.

In principle, the 160 minority foundations recognized by the Vakiflar (General Directorate for Foundations) may acquire property. It is not clear whether the regulations apply to other foundations. A number of foundations criticized the application process for acquiring property as lengthy and burdensome. The Vakiflar approved few applications. As of November, out of 2,234 applications, the Vakiflar had rejected 622 as inadmissible and returned 910 as incomplete, while approving 274.

There were no developments in the efforts of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul to obtain permission to reopen its seminary, closed since 1971, on the island of Halki in the Sea of Marmara. Under existing restrictions, including a citizenship requirement, the religious community remained unable to train new clergy.



Archons Convene at the Saint Basil Academy for Second Annual Lenten Retreat



Archon group outside St. Basil Chapel



The weekend of March 19 and 20th, 25 Archons made their way to the Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, New York to convene for their second annual Lenten Retreat. Their retreat master, His Grace Bishop Savas of Troas and Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, conducted a spiritually uplifting and insightful study of Psalms 119/120 through 133/134. The theme of the retreat was, *“Ascending the Heights: Climbing the Ladder of Divine Ascent.”*

In addition to formal study of the Psalms, the Archons attended services at the Saint Basil Chapel and shared Lenten meals with several of the children who reside at the facility. Reverend Father Constantine Sitaras, Executive Director of the Saint Basil Academy, and Archon Dr. Steven Gounardes, Board President, provided an overview of the good works being conducted at the academy on behalf of the children and arranged for a tour of the beautiful and well maintained grounds and buildings located on 267 acres along the Eastern bank of the Hudson River opposite the United States West Point Military Academy.

“It was a perfect weekend,” said Archon Kastrinsios James Speros, Chairman of the National Council’s Spirituality Committee and organizer of the annual event. *“His Grace Bishop Savas did an amazing job of giving the Archons a deeper appreciation of the meaning of the Psalms and brought us closer to Christ,”* he said. National Commander of the Order of the Saint Andrew, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis said he was touched by the entire weekend. *“The Saint Basil Academy is the perfect setting to conduct a retreat and we were emotionally and spiritually uplifted by the entire experience,”* he added.

In appreciation for the use of the facility and to show its support for the good works being done at the academy, Archons presented Fr. Sitaras with a check for \$10,000 to be used for the benefit of the children and a CD ROM on the history of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for each child.



Fr. Constantine Sitaras and Board President Archon Dr. Steven Gounardes with Archons and children at Academy



Archons in Chapel at Saint Basil



Archons join Dr. Limberakis and His Grace Bishop Savas, Retreat Master, at Second Annual Lenten Retreat



Fr. Sitaras, Archon James Speros and Saint Basil students



Dr. Limberakis presents Bishop Savas and Fr. Sitaras with Archon contribution for St. Basil Academy as Archons look on



PILGRIMAGE 2004



His All Holiness gives blessing at banquet given in his honor in Istanbul

Ambassador Edelman speaks at banquet in honor of His All Holiness



Archons visit Provincial Governor of Istanbul, Muammer Guler



National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Archons and Rev. Alexander Karloutsos visit with the Chief Rabbi of Turkey, Isak Haleva



Minister of Religion Mehmet Aydin and Dr. Limberakis review the Archon Millennium Album

Dr. Limberakis presents Minister of the Interior Abdulkadir Aksu with Archon Millennium Album



Dr. Limberakis greets Minister of Education Huseyin Celik. Archon Christopher Stratakis is at left



Minister of Education, Huseyin Celik, with Archons Christopher Stratakis, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis and Alexander Pritsos

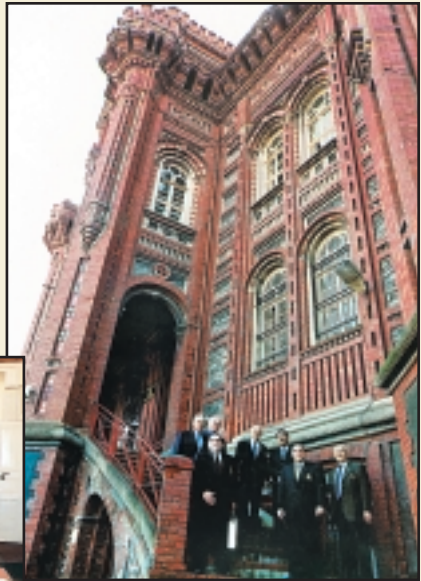
ARCHONS IN ACTION



Archon Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis presents Director of the Great School of the Nation with an Archon Millennium Album as Dr. Limberakis and Archons look on



Dr. Limberakis and Archon leadership visit the Great School of the Nation, first opened in 1454



Dr. Limberakis signs the guest book at the Great School of the Nation



Archons visit the computer center at the Great School of the Nation



Archons visit the amphitheater of the Great School of the Nation



Deputy Chief of Police of the Beyoglu District is greeted by Archon Alexander Pritsos with Dr. Limberakis and Archon Leaders



Papal Nuncio to Turkey, Rev. Dr. Edmond Farhat (at lectern), toasts Ambassador Edelman at Tribute Luncheon in Ankara



Archons Dr. Spiro Macris, John Halecky, Dr. Limberakis and Stephen Cherpelis prepare to leave for Ankara



Archons are presented with a plaque from Nursen Donmez, President of the Police Martyrs Families Association in recognition of their contribution

Archons visit Balukli Medical Complex & Home for the Aged



SPEECH OF HIS ALL HOLINESS



Excerpts of the Speech of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Dinner in His Honor hosted by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on March 17, 2004 in New York City.

Your Eminence, beloved brother, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Your Eminences, your Graces, Most honorable National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew, Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Honorable and beloved Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew of the Holy Great Church of Christ, Distinguished and beloved guests.

Looking at our situation today, we realize that what once used to be, has now become extinct. Like the kingdom-state of holy emperors, one of the heads of the two-headed eagle has died. The Mother Church does not receive her support from the secular world; for about five hundred years it has been burdened with problems. Imperial seals are no longer issued in her support; the holy place and the moral and material support, as well as the encouragement that it used to offer to its people, are but an ancient memory.

* * *

Yet, the Hellenic heritage continues to live. This heritage still has its spiritual figures, its elders, its archons, not only in one or two countries, but throughout the world where the Greek diaspora has spread. Especially in the New World, where its children succeeded and excel today in all areas: science, trade, the arts, politics, sports, technology, journalism, etc., this fact gives us a reason to be particularly proud of you and to boast in the Lord that we gave birth to you, through the Gospel, and you are our true offspring, bone of our bones, flesh of our flesh.

* * *

More or less, you are familiar with the conditions under which the Ecumenical Patriarchate survives being located in the state of Turkey; nevertheless, it is trying to respond to all its great and heavy responsibilities and duties around the world. We always hope for a better future. Our hopes are mostly based on the providence and the fatherly care of God and the Most-Holy Theotokos; our second source of hope is the love and support we receive from the children of the Mother Church around the world, a support which we do not mistake for being only

material in nature, but, which we accept as moral support and as proper intervention by the mighty of the world for our benefit.

* * *

For example, the new Turkish government appears to be willing to discuss our positions, but faces huge problems in doing this; first in priority is the problem regarding the confiscated monastery properties, and the issue of the respect of the rights of minorities. The Theology School of Halki, from the graduates of which we hope to renew the staff of the Patriarchate, remains closed. Despite all these things, we continue to hope and pray: *“God will provide.”*

* * *

The future induction of Turkey into the European Union will certainly bring about some positive changes and improvements. On the other hand, though, we are not in the position to predict the extent of these changes; it would be, therefore, wise to obtain, in advance, tangible proofs of the good disposition of the Turkish State toward us. The solution of the problem of the monastery properties and the recognition, by the Turkish side, of the Patriarchate as an ecumenical institution, and not supposedly as a mere institution of the Greek Orthodox people living in Turkey, could actually play the role of an ultimate test for the discernment of the true spirit of Turkey toward the Patriarchate.

* * *

Two recent events have completely shattered our hearts: the terrorist attack in Madrid, which resulted in the death of hundreds of innocent people and the injury of hundred of others; and the fire on Mount Athos, which destroyed a large part of our historic Patriarchal Monastery of Hiliandari. We mourn for the loss of innocent victims in Spain, and also for the victims in the United States of two years ago. Terrorism is blind. It hit Madrid yesterday, Constantinople a little while ago; before that it hit Moscow, and before that it attacked New York. When will people finally realize that problems are not solved through blind, murderous attacks against innocent and unsuspecting people, but rather, through dialogue and diplomacy?

* * *

We thank you for all the good work you offer to our religion and to the Hellenic

heritage for the benefit of the Holy Archdiocese of America, the benefit of the Omo-geneia, the glory of Hellenism, for the Mother Church, for the progress and development of this great country, and for the strengthening of ties between the United States and the birthplace of your fathers, and, in one phrase, for everything you do that makes us proud.

* * *

We expect to see you again in Constantinople at your first given opportunity; come, so that you and your children will be re-immersed in the holy and sacred traditions of our heritage and Orthodoxy; we raise our glass to a toast and pray for the health and length of days of all members of the blessed Order of Saint Andrew, as well as all the distinguished guests here present.



HIS ALL HOLINESS INVITES COMMANDER LIMBERAKIS TO JOIN OFFICIAL PATRIARCHAL DELEGATION TO ROME

In recognition of the continuous work of the Archons in America to improve the status and well being of the Ecumenical Patriarchate under the leadership of Dr. Anthony Limberakis, His All Holiness announced at the Archon Banquet on March 17 in New York City that the Commander has been invited to join the official Patriarchal Delegation visiting Pope John Paul II.

The visit will take place on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the historic meeting between Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras and Pope Paul VI. Pope John Paul II invited His All Holiness to the Vatican on the Feast-day of Ss. Peter and Paul, June 29th to commemorate this meeting. During the official Patriarchal trip, the Roman Catholic Church will be donating to the Ecumenical Patriarchate the Church of St. Theodore, which will be consecrated at that time by His All Holiness.



ON THE CHARTER - THEODORE J. THEOPHILOS

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
National Commander
Order of Saint Andrew /
Archons of the Ecumenical
Patriarchate
8 East 79th Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Limberakis:

I have been following the comments and arguments of the OCL regarding the Archdiocese Charter. I want to write this letter in support of the action of the Patriarchate and the Archbishop and respond to some of mischaracterizations that have been stated.

I am mindful not to add to the strife and hard feelings surrounding this issue. But I am also mindful of the need to speak up.

In examining the arguments of the OCL regarding the Charter, the first issue is this: in whom does the Charter repose final approval authority for any changes or revisions to the Charter, the Patriarchate or the Clergy-Laity Congress? OCL's response to this question is both. Their conclusion is erroneous and unsupportable from a reading of the Charter text. The text states as follows:

“Revision: The charter herein may be revised upon the request of the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress as the need therefore arises. Revisions thereto shall be submitted to the Ecumenical Patriarchate for approval and ratification.”

The text sets forth a sequence for any Clergy-Laity Congress requests. Clergy-Laity Congress makes a request for a revision. The request is “submitted to the Ecumenical Patriarchate for approval and ratification.” Whatever else may be said about the relationship between the Clergy-

Laity Congress and the Ecumenical Patriarchate this is evident, no revision to the charter can be made by Clergy-Laity Congress until the Patriarchate approves.

The next issue which flows from the OCL's argument is this, does the Charter proscribe the Patriarchate from making changes to the Charter? Let's proceed from the proposition that a Clergy-Laity Congress requested charter revision must be approved by the Patriarchate (see quoted text above). One might then say the following, although it may be that no revision to the Charter can occur until the Patriarch approves the revision, the text also states that no revision can be requested (or initiated) except by the Clergy Laity Congress. The logic would continue that since only the Clergy Laity Congress can request/initiate a revision, by that fact, all revisions/changes require the approval of the Clergy Laity Congress.

With this path of logic, we arrived at the heart of the debate: parity, a sharing of authority, an elevation of the laity or a diminishment of the Patriarchate. This parity or sharing is what OCL argues is the proper canonical relationship between Patriarchate and Clergy Laity Congress. For the proponents of this idea, this Charter is the instrument through which a balance of power, in the constitutional sense of the phrase, is struck. The net effect is that – as to matters of charter - the Clergy Laity Congress must submit to the Patriarchate and the Patriarchate in like measure must submit to the Clergy Laity Congress.

Can this meaning really be drawn from this one sentence,

“The charter herein may be revised upon the request of the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress as the need therefore arises”? This sentence – which does not even mention the Patriarchate – is being read to say that if the Patriarchate perceives a need to make a new charter or change the charter – it cannot do so unless the Clergy-Laity Congress approves. One may think well or ill of such a conclusion, but one cannot reasonably reach that conclusion from a reading of that sentence. The concept that the Patriarchate is prohibited from making changes to a church document with such broad scope, like this charter, is a rather bold and profound assertion. Reasonableness, as well as one's sense of sound jurisprudence, would require that such a relinquishment of authority by the Patriarchate must be accomplished, at least, by a clear and unambiguous statement. The charter provides no such language. It simply does not say (what it could obviously have said), for example, that *“[t]he Ecumenical Patriarchate shall submit any changes that it may wish to make to the charter to the Clergy-Laity Congress for approval”*. It does not so state.

Maxims of contractual construction can be equally bandied to support a host of different purposes. I will omit this exercise. The important point is this: The Patriarchate's role in the Church should not rise or fall on some concept of *“legislative interpretation”*, whether misapplied or otherwise. This charter is not the Magna Carta. This charter is not the United States Constitution. The relationship of the Patriarchate and the Church in America is not *“those who are governed”*

versus *“those who govern”*. The relationship is that of shepherd and flock. This charter is not conceived or forthrightly proposed to be of doctrinal significance to the Church. This charter is not a proclamation of autocephaly or its precursor. This document is a paternal acknowledgement of and a blessing on the way that this Archdiocese is to function in the faith. It is not properly construed to bind the hands of the father who guides.

I feel obliged to make one closing observation. From time to time I have read and heard of comments in the press referring to the Archdiocese as *“the cash cow of the Patriarchate”* or that the Patriarch is a *“foreign agent”*. These comments are injurious and insulting. These comments at best are born from ignorance and at worse are calculated calumny. I mention these remarks (and remarks like them) in this context. The Patriarchate is not what ails us. It does not stand in the way of our spiritual growth or thwart us from a stronger relationship with Christ. The Patriarchate is a spiritual treasure of the Church which we should harmoniously protect - not basely denigrate. We all should devote our efforts and spirit to the peaceful preservation and continued permanent establishment of this institution which has done so much for us and our Orthodox predecessors. Having endured and survived these hundreds of years, through great persecutions and hardships for Christ, I am deeply saddened that we in the United States will turn our backs on her.

Ted Theophilos
Chicago, Illinois



ADDITIONAL REGIONAL COMMANDERS APPOINTED

With the blessings of the Exarch Archbishop Demetrios of America, and in accordance with the Bylaws, National Commander Limberakis appointed the following additional Regional Commanders for a renewable one year term: FLORIDA: Archon Harry Demas, NEW JERSEY: Archon Peter Kakoyiannis, CHARLOTTE: Archon Harry Thomas Cavalaris, VIRGINIA: Archon Nicholas Gretakis, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Archon Dr. James Kallins, ALABAMA: Archon G. Thomas Yearout. A Regional Commander workshop is scheduled for Spring 2004 to be held at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

Harry Demas

Archon Aktouarios

Harry Demas retired from AlliedSignal Corporation (Honeywell) in 1997 after 43 years of service. He was Vice President and General Manager of Industrial Fibers.

Mr. Demas has served on the Parish Council Boards of the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Elpis in Hopewell, VA, Holy Trinity in Westfield, NJ, and most recently, Saint Katherine in Naples, FL,



where he served as President for the years 1999 to 2002 and chairman of the Building Committee from 1998 to the present.

He has been a member of the Metropolitan Council of the Metropolis of Atlanta from 1999 to the present. He is a member of Leadership 100.

Born in Athens/Piraeus, Greece where he received his primary and secondary education, he subsequently attended Lowell Technological Institute (now University of Massachusetts at Lowell), graduating with a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degrees in Chemistry.

Harry and his wife, Polly (Doukas) of Hopewell, VA have five children and 12 grandchildren.

Peter Kakoyiannis

Archon Nomophylax

A prominent attorney, Peter Kakoyiannis champions the right of his clients, yet makes time for a wide array of services to his church. His skill as counsel reaches diverse groups that include Holy Cross Church in Brooklyn, St. Basil Academy, the Archdiocese and New Jersey Metropolis. He is a member and counsel to the Hellenic-American Banker's Association and the Cyprus Children's Relief Fund and is also on the Board of Directors of the US-Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and is a past member of the Archdiocesan Council legal committee.

Past President and Board of Trustees member, he also served his parish, St. George in Trenton, NJ, as Sunday school teacher. He most recently chaired the fund



raising committee for the third phase of St. George's Building Program. His Eminence Archbishop Spyridon conferred the title Archon Nomophylax on him in 1998.

He and his wife, Joanne, have three children, Jason, Alana and Marissa and make their home in Yardley, Pennsylvania.

Harry Thomas Cavalaris: Archon Ekdikos

His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos at The Archdiocesan Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York bestowed Harry Thomas

Cavalaris as Archon Ekdikos of The Order of St. Andrew The Apostle in 1993. Mr. Cavalaris is the son of the late Archon Thomas Cavalaris and Archondisa Zoe Cavalaris.

Mr. Cavalaris has served his local parish in many levels including the Parish Board of Holy Trinity Cathedral and the Board of Trustees of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation of Charlotte, NC.



He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the St. Photios Shrine Foundation as Vice-President and on the Board of Trustees of Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

Mr. Cavalaris was elected to the office of Supreme Governor of the National Board of the Order of Ahepa for the term of 1995-96.

Mr. Cavalaris, who served in the US Army Military Intelligence Division from 1969 to 1971, has been active for 25 years in the Roller Skating Industry and Real Estate. He makes his home in Charlotte, NC.

Nicholas E. Gretakis Archon Ekdikos

Nicholas E. Gretakis was born in Norfolk, Virginia to Manuel and Sophia Gretakis, who emigrated from the Island of Crete, Greece. He attended Norfolk Public



schools and then joined the Virginia National Guard in 1936 and was inducted into Federal Service in 1940. He attended Officers Candidate School in Fort Benning,



Ga. and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps. He departed for the European Theatre of Operations with the 92nd Infantry Division as Division Provost Marshall. He was wounded in action in World War II in Italy and awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for military valor with two oak leaf clusters. King Umberto of Italy decorated him with the Cross of Military Valor. General Mark Clark gave him a field promotion to the rank of Major. After thirty-seven years of service he retired from active and reserve duty with the rank of Colonel.

Returning to civilian life, he opened a real estate office specializing in the appraisal of commercial and industrial properties. The American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers awarded him the MAI designation in 1975. He served as President of the Tidewater Association of Realtors, President of the Virginia Association of Realtors and National Regional Vice President. He was recognized as the Outstanding President of the Region and as Realtor of the Year. He served on the National Association of Realtors Executive Committee and the Governing Council of the Appraisal Institute. He was appointed by the Norfolk City Council to the Norfolk Police and Fire Trial Board and served as Chairman for 23 years. He was appointed by Governor Mills Godwin of Virginia to a committee to study zoning procedures in Virginia. He was awarded the Brotherhood Citation by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Mr. Gretakis served on the Parish Council of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox church for more than forty years. He is a Life member of the Order of AHEPA and has served as Chapter President. He was recognized as the Outstanding District Chapter Secretary in 2003. He was awarded the Offikon of Ekdikos in the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle in 1988 by Archbishop Iakovos. He has one daughter Cathy Buckley and a granddaughter Courtenay.

Dr. James G. Kallins *Archon Aktouarios*

Dr. James G. Kallins (Dimitrios George Kallinteris) was born in Ayioneri-Loutra Ireas an Arcadian village of Greece. He studied at the University of Athens Medical School. Following his service in the the Greek Commandos Medical Corps, he returned to Athens to continue his studies as a resident in General Surgery and OB GYN.



In 1954 he came to the United States and took a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at three hospitals in Chicago. In 1957 he married Virginia Mannos, a young Greek-American schoolteacher. In 1959 they moved to California where he opened his Medical office in Bellflower and he is still in the same location presently.

They have three children, Barbara, George and Nicholas. He served on the board of Saint Sophia Cathedral, as GOYA and YAL advisor and as a volunteer Physician to the Saint Sophia's summer Camp.

In 1965 he was the founder of the Alpha Beta Greek school in Downey, California, in which he served as President and currently serves as a board member of the Metropolis of San Francisco and All Saints Foundation. He

is an active member of Leadership 100.

He was a co-founder, president and board member of the Hellenic American Medical and Dental Society of Southern California. He is also the co-founder of the Pan Arcadian Federation chapter of greater Los Angeles and served as Supreme President of the Pan Arcadian Federation of America, and helped co-found the World Pan Arcadian Congress.

Dr. Kallins serves on the boards of many other Greek-American organizations such as: AXIOS, AHEPA, SAE, the Hellenic University Club, the Alpha Beta Society, the Hellenic Library of Southern California, Hellenic American Council, the Federation of Hellenic American societies of Southern California.

George Thomas Yearout *Archon Ekdikos*

George Thomas (Tommy) Yearout was born March 11, 1949. He has been Archon Ekdikos since 1998. He was baptized in and still a member of Holy Trinity/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Birmingham, Alabama. Married to Rhonda Yearout since 1975, the couple have two children: Jennifer 26, Alex 24. After graduating from Auburn University in 1971, he went on to Vanderbilt Law School. He has been an attorney since 1976 and is with the firm of Yearout, Spina & Lavelle.



He has been Parish Council Member: 1983 to 1993. President of the Parish Council in 1985, 1989 and 1990. Former Member of Atlanta Diocesan Council. He is currently a Member of Metropolis Committee on Interfaith Marriage and Member of the Board of Directors for Cathedral Day Care.

8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021



ORDER OF
SAINT ANDREW
the apostle
ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS
EXARCH OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ANTHONY J. LIMBERAKIS, MD
Aktouarios

National Commander

NICHOLAS J. BOURAS
Depoutatos

National Vice Commander

JOHN HALECKY, JR.
Ekdikos • Secretary

JAMES C. FOUNTAS
Depoutatos • Treasurer

FUNCTIONARIES

CHRISTOPHER STRATAKIS
Notarios • Legal Counselor

CHRISTO DAPHNIDES
Kastrinsios • Historian

DR. GEORGE C. KIRIAKOPOULOS
Aktouarios
Chairman, Newsletter Committee

ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW ARCHONS
of the ecumenical patriarchate
8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021
Tel. (212) 570-3550 • Fax (212) 774-0214
Web: www.archons.org
E-mail: archons@goarch.org

ANNOUNCEMENT



PHOTO BY: GEORGE PEET

2004 Alpha Omega Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to Nicholas J. Bouras by Panos Demeter, Alpha Omega President, and George D. Behrakis, Master of Ceremonies

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER
NICHOLAS J. BOURAS

WAS HONORED WITH THE

ALPHA OMEGA
MAN-OF-THE-YEAR

AWARD ON MAY 15, 2004,

AT THE HYATT HOTEL

HARBORSIDE, BOSTON, MA

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!



George Schira - Editor
Linda Paul - Assistant Editor
Abel Montoya - Art Director

THE ARCHON is published quarterly by the Order of Saint Andrew Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Members are encouraged to submit material pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Orthodoxy and Hellenism. All material should be typed, signed with name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. Send to: Editor, THE ARCHON, 8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021. © 2004