

Return of Holy Relics Highlights Annual Pilgrimage

Nearly 90 Archons witnessed a once-in-a-millennium event when they traveled to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul last November for the Order of St. Andrew's annual pilgrimage.

The relics of two of the most revered Orthodox saints, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom, were returned to the Ecumenical Patriarchate after 800 years in Rome -- an unprecedented historic development in Christendom.

At Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's invitation, National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis and National Secretary John Halecky Jr. joined the patriarch at the Vatican to watch Pope John Paul II return the relics, stolen by crusaders during the sack of Constantinople in 1204.

After their arrival at the Patriarchate, the Archons participated in a doxology service to dedicate the holy relics and place them in the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George.

(See inside pages for articles relating to the pilgrimage).



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope John Paul II (seated, right) preside over transfer of relics of St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Archon Alex G. Spanos Honored with Athenagoras Award



Alex and Faye Spanos with Archbishop Demetrios and National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis at the Annual Banquet.

The Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate presented their prestigious **Athenagoras Human Rights Award** to fellow Archon Alex G. Spanos at their annual banquet Oct. 9 at the New York Hilton as part of the Order's annual meeting held Oct. 8-9.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, the annual investiture of new Archons took place at Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral. National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis said the annual gathering also included the first meeting held with regional commanders from throughout the country.

"It helped energize the local base and aided our efforts to bring the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the local communities," he said.

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Saints' Relics Arrive at Phanar



Archbishop Demetrios of America, members of the Order of St. Andrew, and other pilgrims gather around the two reliquaries containing the relics of St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George.



During the doxology, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (far right) and other hierarchs representing several Orthodox churches surround the table bearing the reliquaries.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew presides over the doxology service at the cathedral where the saints' relics were enshrined.



Archons Alexander Pritsos, front, and Christopher Stratakis were among the hundreds of faithful from around the world who venerated the relics of the two beloved saints at St. George Patriarchal Cathedral.



A visit to the Orphanage on Prinkipos Island

Dec. 1, 2004



Pilgrims stand in front of the once-stately orphanage seized by the Turkish government.

A building whose corridors had echoed with children's voices now stands on the verge of collapse, its grand walls and staircases crumbling after decades of neglect.

National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis said the orphanage's state of decay is the result of Turkish laws that prohibit the Greek Orthodox to make any repairs or renovations to their property without government permission, which has not been granted since 1963 despite repeated requests. After a period of disuse the government can seek to confiscate the property. In October 2004, the Turkish supreme court ruled in favor of the government takeover.

"The orphanage occupies a prime location overlooking the Sea of Marmara that potentially could be developed into a tremendous real estate asset," said Limberakis.



This grand hall served as an auditorium.

A visit to the School of Theology on Halki - Dec. 1, 2004



Archons, pilgrims, and officials of the monastery at Halki gather in front of the School of Theology that has been closed more than 30 years.



Four American priests, from left, George Livanos, Constantine Lazarakis, Robert Archon, and Ted Patrikas sit in a classroom at Halki seminary, which has not seen students at its desks since 1971.

Decades before he ever donned the hierarchical miter, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew attended classes at Halki Theological School alongside dozens of fellow seminarians.

During the Archons' November pilgrimage, however, visitors could only gaze at the unused wooden desks and hope the seminary would someday again train Orthodox clergy as it had since 1844.

Turkish authorities closed the school in 1971 under a law that put religious education under state control. The Archons are among many around the world who have been lobbying Turkey for years to allow the school to re-open. Dr. Limberakis said during a trip to Turkey in February 2004, Archon leaders were given assurances the school would re-open, but it has not.

A side view of the Halki seminary, built on the site of a ninth-century monastery.



Metropolitan Apostolos of Moschonnisia, a member of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Holy Synod, addresses Archons at a luncheon meeting at the Halki seminary.

Dr. Limberakis holds a discussion with several Archons on the ferry boat en route to Halki. Through the efforts of the Order of St. Andrew, the seminary may one day reopen its doors.





Archons Host Banquet in honor of His All Holiness



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, center, is flanked by Archbishop Demetrios of America, Consul General of U.S. to Istanbul David Arnette, and Archon leadership at the banquet honoring His All Holiness.

Archons participating in the annual pilgrimage held a banquet in honor of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Istanbul on Dec. 1, where they also commemorated the return of the relics of St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom.

Following is the text of Archons' National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis' speech given at the banquet:

We are deeply honored to be here in Istanbul, the nexus between east and west, where continents meet, to honor the spiritual father of world Orthodoxy, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and to celebrate the return of the holy relics of two of the most profound saints in the Christian faith: St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom after an 800 years journey when they were forcibly removed from the Church of the Holy Apostles, in this very city.

We, as Orthodox Christians in the United States are under the direct spiritual jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriar-

chate, a relationship that is vibrant, strong and deeply beneficial to the church in America. More than any other single institution in the United States, it is the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, whose mission it is to serve the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople.

"Glory be to God for all Things," often repeated words of St. John Chrysostom. "Glory be to God for all things." These are extraordinary days that we celebrate here in Istanbul with the transposition of the relics of our beloved most holy fathers St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom who are now home, after 800 years. Glory be to God for His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for having the wisdom to seek from our Roman Catholic brothers the return of these theological giants to their episcopal see to be venerated and emulated.

Glory be to God for His Holiness John Paul II, the pope of Rome, who as the esteemed elder brother, offered an apology for the sins committed during the Fourth Crusade. Glory be to God for His All Holiness Bartholomew who offered forgiveness to the Church in the west whose crusaders sacked Constantinople 800 years ago, plundering the theological, architectural and artistic treasures of New Rome. Glory be to God for giving us, the

visiting pilgrims from the United States the opportunity to witness this monumental development in the life of the faith.

We, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, under the inspiring leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, the Exarch of the Ecumenical Throne, are the Ambassadors of the Phanar. We project at every opportunity the ministry of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who has served his worldwide flock for the past 13 years with unparalleled visionary leadership. And we congratulate His All Holiness on the recent anniversary of his election and enthronement as Ecumenical Patriarch. *Eis Polla Eti Despota!*

Our beloved Patriarch not only projects our Orthodox Faith to the four corners of the world but also strives to safeguard the environment, bring parties in conflict together, and find the path towards peace.

As His All Holiness Bartholomew has led the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, he has included in his ministry conflict resolution by quietly bringing together leaders from warring nations in conference and in deliberation. He has focused the world's attention to the environmental crisis by sponsoring numerous international symposia and conferences. He has been visited and honored by presi-





dents, kings, prime ministers, sheiks, muftis, chief rabbis and business, cultural and environmental leaders from every country and has led major leaders from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam to condemn the use of religion to justify acts of violence, calling for the separation of political from religious activism.

In the 1990s His All Holiness convened a long line of conferences and interventions to promote peace and interfaith cooperation. He addressed crises in Bosnia and Kosovo. He took on a special role after September 11 to work with political and religious leaders to condemn terrorism, to work at inter-religious cooperation and promote international dialogue and cooperation.

His All Holiness traveled last year to the Muslim countries of Bahrain, Qatar, Iran, Azerbaijan and Libya. Earlier this year, he made an historic trip to Cuba, his first to Latin America, addressing the political and economic isolation of that country, as well as the human rights situation.

Glory be to God for all things!

This evening we offer our profound respect and admiration to our spiritual father who, like St. John Chrysostom, finds himself in a most difficult and challenging situation here in the Imperial City, at the crossroads between east and west, Asia and Europe, Christianity and Islam.

As Orthodox Christians of America we are most concerned. We are concerned that our School of Theology at Halki was forcibly closed 33 years ago by the government and is still shut, as we witnessed today with our own eyes and saw empty classrooms and dormitories. In a country that prides itself on religious tolerance,



Archbishop Demetrios of America offers an eloquent testimonial in honor of His All Holiness at the Archon banquet.

we cannot educate our clergy because the government closed our seminary.

We are concerned that the ownership of our properties, including an Orphanage on the Prince's Islands is being challenged by the government. We witnessed today at Prinkipos Island (Buyukada Island) the end result of religious intolerance, the decay and disintegration of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Orphanage it has rightfully owned since 1902 and which on October 21 of this year the Turkish Supreme Court expropriated.

We are concerned that Balukli Hospital and Home for the Aged, which is affiliated with the Ecumenical Patriarchate and has been in operation for over 250 years serving the Istanbul community is now being taxed at a 42 percent rate retroactive to 1999. We are concerned the government wrongfully feels that only Turkish citizens are entitled to hold the profound office of Ecumenical Patriarch and not any bishop from around the world who is qualified.

Yet, as optimistic Orthodox Christians we believe that love will triumph and that tolerance and understanding will prevail over narrow-mindedness, understanding over intransigence and we intend to convey this message in Ankara tomorrow.

We are optimistic because under the leadership of Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan we believe Turkey is going in the right direction towards accession into the European Union which we wholeheartedly support.

We are optimistic because we were told by Education Minister Huseyin Celic last February in face to face meetings that it is indeed the government position to reopen Halki School of Theology. We are optimistic because when there is good will among peoples, justice will prevail and that which is right will triumph.

We believe that better days are ahead for the spiritual center of world Orthodoxy. It is our dream that the brilliance of the rising sun that shimmers over the Bosphorus, the Golden Horn and the Sea of Marmara will one day shine on an Ecumenical Patriarch that is free to educate its clergy at Halki, free to determine its own destiny and free to exercise its rights as property owners in a tolerant society where east meets west and where Europe embraces Asia.

U.S. Consul General David Arnett speaks at the banquet, asserting America's support of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, for which he received tremendous applause.



Archons travel to Ankara to address religious tolerance

On Dec. 2, 2004 a delegation of Archons journeyed to Ankara on a visit billed as a Religious Tolerance Mission to meet with officials of the U.S. and Turkish governments.

The group also held a tribute banquet in honor of U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Eric S. Edelman.

Following is the text of Archons' National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis at the event held at the Hilton hotel.

The Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America is an organization whose purpose is to support and defend the world center of Orthodoxy, the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Among our ranks in America are senior members of Congress, current and former diplomats, successful businessmen and professionals and dedicated men of the church.

We have traveled thousands of miles from our homes throughout the United States as pilgrims to visit our spiritual father, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians.

While in Istanbul, we witnessed a monumental event take place in the history of the Christian faith. In the name of love and reconciliation, the Pope of Rome, John Paul II returned the holy relics of two of the most important saints in all of Christianity: St. Gregory the Theologian and



Archon leadership meets with Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul (third from right), accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Eric S. Edelman (far right). From left are Alex Pritsos, John Halecky Jr., Dr. Anthony Limberakis, and Christopher Stratakis.

St. John Chrysostom which were taken from Constantinople by the invading fourth Crusaders 800 years ago in 1204.

We saw with our own eyes and heard with our own ears that anything can be accomplished in the name of peace, justice and love, despite the passage of centuries that ostensibly would otherwise result in solidifying the status quo and make change impossible.

We witnessed the impossible. We witnessed reconciliation triumph over an injustice that existed over centuries.

And now we find ourselves in Ankara, the capital city of the Republic of Turkey where public policy is conceived and executed ultimately affecting the lives of all Turkish citizens, as well as the international community, since Turkey is the one nation on this earth that serves as the nexus between east and west, Europe and Asia, Christianity and Islam.

Today we deliberated with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul to convey a message of religious freedom and tolerance side by side with the distinguished Ambassador of America, His Excellency Eric Edelman, whom we honor this evening.

Ambassador Edelman stands by our side as we seek to re-open the Halki School of Theology which was forcibly closed by the government 33 years ago; to stop the egregious loss of properties held by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other religious or charitable institutions; and to prevent the government from expropriating an orphanage owned by the Church on Prinkipos Island.

These are matters of religious tolerance. Ambassador



Ambassador and Mrs. Edelman (center) host a reception in honor of the Archons at the official residence in Ankara. Greek Ambassador Michael Christides (left of Edelman) also attended.



Edelman stands by our side as we seek, once again, to explain that the Ecumenical Patriarch is just that – ecumenical, first among equals, *primus inter pares*, a title that was established in 567 AD, and not simply the local bishop of Istanbul. We explained to our friends in the government of Turkey that the world center of the Orthodox Church located in the Phanar district of Istanbul must be free to elect its own leadership, whether the Holy Synod or the Ecumenical Patriarch, without regard to citizenship or ethnic background and without any governmental interference.

All of these issues are matters of religious tolerance that all democratic governments must address so that they meet the standards of human rights and religious freedom set forth by the United Nations, the European Union and the moral consciousness of all peoples of good will.

Scores of American citizens have traveled to Ankara to convey a message of religious tolerance to the government of Turkey and to honor a distinguished American who represents the very best our nation, the United States of America, stands for.



Ambassador Eric Edelman (center) with Archons Chris Tomaras, president of SAE America (left) and Andreas Comodromos.

We honor Ambassador Eric S. Edelman because he stands for the rule of law and champions human rights, religious freedom and the dignity of man. His diplomatic assignment must be particularly challenging in light of the war on terrorism that has engulfed the entire world, from New York City to Chechnya, from Baghdad to Madrid and from Jerusalem to Istanbul.

Ambassador Edelman has distinguished himself throughout his diplomatic career representing the United States of America with distinction, dedication and profound commitment to the ideals of the founding fathers.

He facilitated America to forge closer ties with Finland where he was our able ambassador, the Czech Repub-



Dr. Anthony Limberakis presents a special gift to Ambassador Edelman.

lic, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and Turkey, where he now so ably serves. I now realize how Vice President Dick Cheney must continuously miss Ambassador Edelman's counsel and strategic advice on national security matters and simultaneously realize why President Bush appointed, and the United States Senate confirmed, such a committed, experienced and knowledgeable diplomat to represent America in Turkey.

Ambassador Edelman, who earned an undergraduate degree in history and government from Cornell University and a PhD in U.S. diplomatic history from Yale University, has distinguished himself diplomatically in Turkey in the past year and a half, at a time when the United States is at war with those who murder and torture the innocent.

We the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, salute Ambassador Eric Edelman for his service to the people of the United States, for his commitment to religious freedom and tolerance and for representing the very finest in what America offers to all peoples of the world: the unparalleled dedication and defense of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



Banquet honoring U.S. Ambassador Eric Edelman.



ATHENAGORAS AWARD

Archons honor Spanos, invest 29 new members

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At the banquet, Dr. Limberakis outlined the Order's immediate future plans. They include:

- Sustaining economic assistance to the Phanar and increasing individual Archon participation and level of stewardship;
- Nurturing and fortifying the bond with the Mother Church;
- Continuing to educate the federal government and international community, including the European Union, regarding issues of religious freedom relating to the Ecumenical Patriarchate;
- Mobilizing Archons throughout the country with regional meetings;
- Reorganizing the Order's website;
- Continuing the development of education initiatives regarding the Patriarchate;
- Establishing a strategic planning committee.

At the presentation of the Athenagoras Award, Dr. Limberakis remarked, "The Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is thrilled to honor one of our own, an extraordinary humanitarian, philanthropist, human rights advocate and defender of the faith. Archon



Alex and Faye Spanos with the Athenagoras Human Rights Award.

Spanos represents the very finest of our Order, our Orthodox faith and our Hellenic heritage in the world community."

Mr. Spanos, an Archon since 1972, is founder and CEO of the A.G. Spanos Group., 12 companies that include A.G. Spanos Construction, one of the largest builders of apartments in the United States; and owner of the National Football League team the San Diego Chargers.

He is a benefactor of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, of St. Basil Church in Stock-

ton, Calif., where he is an active parishioner, St. Nicholas Cathedral in Tarpon Springs, Fla., and Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology.

Other recipients of Mr. Spanos' philanthropic efforts include St. John's School for Boys, under Greek Orthodox jurisdiction in Whitewater, Calif., the Children's Hospital and Health Center in San Diego and many other organizations and causes.

Mr. Spanos is one of the founding members of Leadership 100 and was recently elected chairman of Faith: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism, a new organization dedicated to significantly increasing support of the critical ministries of the Archdiocese into the 21st century. He also served as president of the Archdiocesan Council.

In a message from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew read at the banquet, His All Holiness said of Mr. Spanos that he has "achieved a level of success in your professional career attained by very few individuals. From very humble beginnings, you have become one of the most successful and admired businessmen in America."

In his remarks, Archbishop Demetrios said of Mr. Spanos, "His generous heart, abundant faith and charitable works



National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis addresses the audience at the Oct. 9 banquet held at the New York Hilton.



At the annual banquet, Archons present a mosaic portrait to Archbishop Demetrios commemorating his fifth anniversary as our archbishop.



National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, once again the banquet's underwriter and great benefactor.

reveal what Clement Alexandrinus wrote in the 2nd century AD: 'It is not he who has and keeps, but he who gives away, that is rich; and it is giving away ... which renders a man happy, and the fruit of the Spirit is generosity. It is in the soul, then that riches are.'

Archbishop Demetrios also said of Mr. Spanos that he gives "in a full spirit of generosity ... to a point that is really amazing," and that his approach to giving is "methodical and full of wisdom."

Mr. Spanos, whose autobiography *Share the Wealth* was published earlier this year, cited his mother's words she imparted to him as a youth, "You should do good so that good will come back to you," as the driving philosophy he has lived by. "It's in our best interest to treat others well," he said following the presentation of the humanitarian award.



Alex Spanos thanks the Order of St. Andrew for the honor and remembers his mother's words, "Na kanis kalo."



Mr. and Mrs. Spanos with their granddaughter, Ariana Ruhl, and Archbishop Demetrios.



Alex Spanos and Archbishop Demetrios with AHEPA Supreme President Franklin Manios.



Dr. Limberakis outlines concerns of the Order

This evening we gather from all over the country to honor one of our own, Archon Alex G. Spanos, with the 2004 Athenagoras Human Rights Award. Archon Spanos stands side by side with such humanitarian luminaries as Archbishop Iakovos, President George Herbert Walker Bush, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other distinguished citizens of the world that the Church in America has honored with its highest distinction.

As this evening progresses, we look forward to recounting the extraordinary life of Alex Spanos and the presentation of the 2004 Athenagoras Human Rights Award.

My friends and fellow Archons, I would like to share an anecdote with you that best exemplifies where the order stands today regarding our role as Defenders of the Faith. When I received an email alert that the State Department's Annual Report on International Religious Freedom was available on the State Department Web site, I immediately went on the Internet to check it out and was absolutely astounded and elated when I read the report.

The section on Turkey in the Report on International Religious Freedom included the specific areas of concern that the Archons brought to the attention of our State Department when we met various times with Under Secretary of State Marc Grossman, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Eric Edelman and other officials.

Not only did the report detail the specific areas of religious human rights violations committed by Turkey that we as Archons personally presented, including the closing of the Halki School of Theology and the refusal to re-open it since 1971, and the loss of Patriarchal properties, but the report referred to the Archons and the Order of St. Andrew, and our activities to secure religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

After years of persistence, uncompromising tenacity and many meetings conducted in Washington, New York, Ankara and Constantinople, the Archons have made a difference in the defense of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and we are known throughout the world for this singular, vital and sacred mission.

The Order has grown from a local, dedicated group of Archons who met once a year during Orthodoxy Sunday here in New York, to an organization under the inspiring leadership of Archbishop Demetrios, that is well known in Washington, Ankara and Constantinople, and which will soon be known in the European Union in Brussels because we have initiated discussions with the EU regarding the religious human rights record of Turkey.

Let there be no mistake: the Archons very much favor the accession of Turkey into the European Union, but the violations of religious human rights must be addressed.

Halki must be reopened after 33 years of closure. Allow me to quote from the report from the United States government: "The U.S. Embassy continues to urge the government [of Turkey] to enable the reopening of the Halki seminary... In February, the Archons of the Order of St. Andrew, an American group that actively supports the Ecumenical Patriarchate, visited Istanbul and Ankara with the support of the [United States] Mission. The Ambassador accompanied the Archons to meetings with cabinet members to encourage an agreement on the reopening of Halki."



Another area of concern regards the loss of property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate instigated by the government of Turkey. The Ecumenical Patriarchate must be able to own properties, like any charitable institution in a western democracy; yet Turkish law severely constricts the property rights of the Patriarchate, resulting in the confiscation of scores of properties.

It is a very complicated situation in which Turkish law allows the confiscation of church property when the property falls into disuse or if the church is unable to prove ownership with legal documentation.

Well, how does our beloved Patriarchate come up with ownership documentation on properties that it has held for centuries? The Turkish government has systematically and successfully confiscated church properties through convoluted laws and biased court decisions.

The Archons have just completed a briefing paper on this subject, in collaboration with academic and legal experts both here in the United States and in Turkey which we will present to the United States State Department this Thursday, October 14 in Washington at our meeting with Under Secretary of State Marc Grossman, a long time friend of the Archons, and the number three man at the State Department.

Although we have made progress on these issues, we must continue to stand unwavering in our defense of the Ecumenical Patriarchate because anything can happen at any time.

For example, how many of you know that on Sept. 5 when most of us in America were enjoying the Labor Day holiday with our families, some 1,000 Turkish national extremists marched on the Phanar, hurling rocks and clashing with police who used tear gas and batons to disperse the protesters.

According to reports from Istanbul, the ultra-nationalists conducted a mock trial of His All Holiness Bartholomew, found him guilty of betraying the country of Turkey and

Message of the National Commander

sentenced him to death, burning an effigy of our beloved Ecumenical Patriarch.

Fortunately, His All Holiness was not at the Patriarchate, nor were any patriarchal clergy or staff injured. The police, whose district in Istanbul the Archons visited last February, successfully prevented the extremists from entering the grounds of the Phanar.

Upon learning of these ugly, hateful demonstrations, I called Undersecretary Grossman in Washington and U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Eric Edelman in Ankara and urged the United States government to call on Turkey to ensure and maintain the security and safety of His All Holiness and the entire Phanar complex, in accordance with official United States foreign policy signed into law in 1998 by President Bill Clinton.

I also called the Embassy of Turkey in Washington and spoke with Ambassador Tuluy Tanc conveying a similar message of outrage. And again, just two days ago, a terrorist bomb exploded at the Patriarchate resulting in minor damage to the cathedral and other buildings of the Phanar.

Thank God, there were no injuries and His Holiness who was at the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the time of the bombing was not hurt in any way. American and Turkish authorities are now re-evaluating the security situation at the Phanar and calls were made to the State Department, the American Embassy in Ankara and the Turkish Embassy in Washington.

Our vigilance must continue, our efforts must not abate and you should know that the Archons will continue to address issues of religious freedom in the world's capitals and in the international community of nations.

PILGRIMAGE



Remembering Smyrna

In the bustling port of Izmir on the Aegean Sea, an angular black statue is perched at the top of a pillar. Towering at least 50 feet above the square where it stands, it depicts about a dozen cavalry soldiers charging toward the sea. It was in this square that a group of sightseeing Archons and their companions found themselves on Dec. 4, the last day of their pilgrimage to Turkey and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

When the visitors took a closer look at the monument, they realized it commemorated the year 1922, when during the height of ethnic warfare among Balkan nations, Turkish military forces drove the indigenous Greek population literally into the sea, where most of them perished.

The event is known among Greeks as the "Asia Minor Catastrophe" and among Turks as the "liberation of Izmir."

"It represents the Turks coming in and pushing the Greeks into the water," said Archon Alexander Pritsos. "That's what this symbolizes for the Turks. The water turned red from blood."

Despite their fear of being arrested for publicly displaying religious piety, the group huddled close and, led by three priests in the group, softly sang the Trisagion hymns for the dead. Pritsos remembered he had just finished crossing



In the shadow of a statue glorifying the expulsion of Greeks from Smyrna in 1922, Fr. George Livanos, center, Fr. John Limberakis, left, Fr. Robert Archon, and a group of pilgrims pray for the departed. At far left is Archon Bill Theodosakis, an expert on Smyrna and the 1922 catastrophe.

himself before a police car pulled up to the square.

"(The Turkish authorities) are very much aware of what we do and how we do it," he said.

Akathist Hymn



One of the pilgrims' first stops in Constantinople on Nov. 28 was this church of Panayia of Blachernae, where the Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God was first chanted in 626 A.D. The words of the hymn are engraved on the plaque on the wall above the apse.



ARCHON PROFILE

To many, Dr. Constantine Papadakis is the only Greek-born president of a U.S. university, to others, he is the successful immigrant who captured the American dream, the dynamic figure credited with one of the most dramatic turnarounds in higher education. But to the Hellenic community, "Taki" Papadakis -- the subject of a Feb. 23 Wall Street Journal front-page story -- is a family man of many qualities, an Archon with values and respect for the Greek culture and heritage.

Education has always played a prominent role in the Greek culture. Socrates challenged his students to question, Pythagoras studied the principles of mathematics and the abstract idea of a proof, while others like Phidias and Euripides taught architecture and theater. Endorsing this vision of the relationship between education and culture from early on as a student at the Polytechnic University of Athens, Dr. Papadakis joined Drexel in August of 1995 as its thirteenth president.

Much like Socrates, Dr. Papadakis challenges Drexel students to take advantage of the University's experiential learning cooperative education program and thrive among their peers. He also challenges Drexel faculty to become innovative masters of their field, but most important he challenges himself.

When Dr. Papadakis came to Drexel, enrollment and morale were at an all-time low. But he used Drexel's historic strengths in technology and cooperative education to double full-time undergraduate enrollment, quadruple freshman applications, quintuple Drexel's endowment from \$90 million to \$435 million and increased six-fold research funding from \$14 to \$89 million. Drexel is now ranked one of the best national doctoral universities by U.S. News & World Report.

In an unprecedented initiative, Papadakis took on the task of operating the bankrupt Allegheny University of the Health Sciences in 1998. He partnered with Tenet Healthcare Corporation, which operated the University's seven hospitals. The merger with Drexel became official in July 2002 and Allegheny University of the Health Sciences is currently the Drexel University College of Medicine, the largest private medical school in the nation.

His Greek heritage plays a major role in Dr. Papadakis' life. It is not a part of who he is; rather, his Hellenism defines his ideals, values and goals. From his first day in the Drexel

presidential office, Dr. Papadakis proudly displayed his nationality and culture. At his inauguration ceremony, traditional Greek dancers were a part of the festivities inviting members of the Board of Trustees to join in the dancing. Dr. Papadakis remains active in many Greek functions, co-chairing events, fundraising and speaking at various conferences throughout the year.

Realizing the significant role religion plays in a Greek Orthodox family, he recently traveled to Cuba with dignitaries from around the world to celebrate the consecration of the country's first religious structure in more than 40 years. He supported Metropolitan Athenagoras

of Panama, whom he has known since his student years in Ann Arbor, Michigan, by hosting a fundraiser at his home. Dr. Papadakis and his wife, Eliana, are hosts to more than 1,500 guests a year for various Drexel events at their house, "The Orchards" in Wayne, a suburb of Philadelphia. Much like every other Greek family in the U.S., they speak Greek at home and have educated their 19-year-old daughter, Maria, on the history and culture of their native land.

Following in the footsteps of her parents, Maria, who is a sophomore in Drexel's LeBow College of Business, was instrumental in creating the endowed Maria Rita Papadakis scholarship at Drexel University for Greek-American students who want

to pursue an education at the institution. Furthermore, Dr. Papadakis has offered to match any scholarship for up to \$2,000 from official Greek organizations given to incoming freshmen. He also encourages Drexel's Hellenic community to promote its culture on campus.

The Hellenic Society at Drexel, the organization for Hellenic students, hosts various events including an annual luncheon with Dr. Papadakis and the University's two senior Greek administrators, 15 faculty and 11 staff members who are of Greek origin.

The Hellenic Society also participates in the New York and Philadelphia Greek Independence Day parades and is the only university group with a float decorated in blue and white. In March 2004, the students paraded through Philadelphia's streets together with Dr. Papadakis, who was the parade's Grand Marshal.

Dr. Papadakis's endorsement of his culture has attracted many Greek benefactors to the Drexel campus, including: Christopher and Mary Stratakis, who endowed the Christo-

The Archon who transformed Drexel into one of the best national doctoral universities



Archon Profile

pher and Mary Stratakis Chair in Corporate Governance and Accountability; George Behrakis, who supported the renovation of Behrakis Grand Hall; John and Cina Daskalakis, who named the Daskalakis Athletic Center; and Nicholas and Kathy Chimicles, who donated the Drexel presidential home, "The Orchards," to Drexel.

A proud Cretan, Dr. Papadakis travels every year to Greece with his family. The son of Nicholas Papadakis, a physician who left his native village Meskla, south of Chania in Crete to attend the University of Padua in Italy where he met his wife, Rita Masciotti.

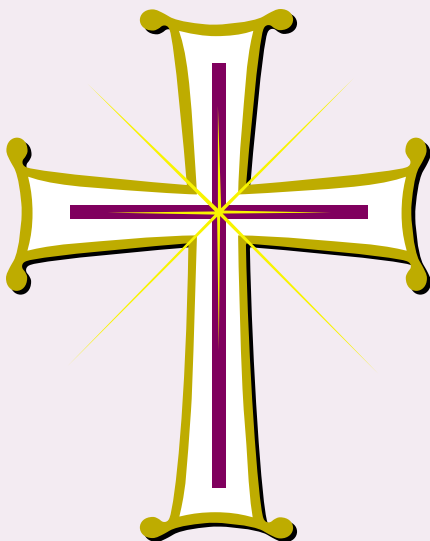
Taki Papadakis was reared in Pagrati and educated at the National Technical University of Athens. He continued his studies at the University of Cincinnati where he earned a master's degree in civil engineering before earning a doctorate from the University of Michigan in Ann Harbor.

Dr. Papadakis serves on the Board of the Hellenic College- Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and is a member of the Leadership 100. Established by Archbishop Iakovos in 1984, Leadership 100 helps advance the mission of the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

The Greek community has honored Dr. Papadakis for his achievements with the Order of St. Andrew as Archon-Teacher of the People of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Golden Medal of St. Isidore of the island of Chios, the Medal of the City of Athens and the Key to the City of Piraeus for his achievements as a Greek American, the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award of the American Hellenic Institute, the Aristotle Award of AHEPA and the National Medal of Honor of the Hellenic American National Council.

For his success as an immigrant, Dr. Papadakis was recently awarded the Congressional Medal of Ellis Island.

I N M E M O R I A M



**OUR THOUGHTS
AND PRAYERS GO
TO THE FAMILY
AND FRIENDS
OF OUR BELOVED
MEMBERS.**

Elias Adamopoulos, MD

Archon Aktouarios
Salisbury MD
7/7/04

James Angelton

Archon Hieromnimon
Bell Harbor, FL
6/8/04

Demetrios Contos

Archon Exarchos
New York, NY
11/6/04

James P. Savas

Archon Horachis
Framingham, MA
7/2/04

Chris V. Semos

Archon Depoutatos
Dallas, TX
6/14/04

Dimitri Ververelli

Archon Depoutatos
Blue Bell, PA
9/24/04

Stephen Pappas

Archon Depoutatos
Wyckoff, NJ
1/9/05

Dr. Michael Sideris

Archon Aktouarios
New York, NY
1/8/05

Johnny Economy

Archon Megas Hieromnimon
Atlanta, GA
1/3/05

Andrew Chudanic

Archon Notarios
Corning, NY
12/6/04

George Souvall

Archon Depoutatos
Phoenix, AZ
2/8/05

M A Y T H E I R M E M O R Y B E E T E R N A L



New members of the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with the National Council.

Order of St. Andrew the Apostle – New Archons

The Order of St. Andrew-Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate capped off their annual meeting weekend Oct. 8, 9, and 10 by welcoming 30 new members during Sunday's Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral. Archbishop Demetrios presided at the investiture ceremony.

New Archons for 2004 are as follows:

Direct Archdiocesan District

Peter T. Kikis, member and former trustee of Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral, New York.

Dennis Mehiel of Armonk, N.Y., a parishioner of Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral, has served on the Archdiocesan Council and has two Leadership 100 memberships.

James A. Poll of Manhasset, N.Y., a parishioner of Archangel Michael Church in Roslyn Heights, N.Y., and was appointed a St. Basil Academy board member in 1994.

Peter James Skeadas, of Green-

wich, Conn., member of Church of Our Savior in Rye, N.Y., and co-chairman of the 2002 Clergy-Laity Congress in Philadelphia. He also is a member of Leadership 100.

Patrick Nickolas Theros of Washington D.C., a parishioner of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, is former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar and a retired career Foreign Service officer.

Metropolis of Chicago

Thomas S. Cappas of Munster, Ind., member and major benefactor of St.

George Church, Schererville, Ind. He also is a member of Leadership 100.

John William Demetropoulos, of Brookfield, Wis., member of Annunciation Church in Milwaukee. He was previously a member of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Wauwatosa, Wis., and a large financial contributor.

James G. Logothetis, of Riverwoods, Ill., parishioner of Holy Trinity Church in Chicago since 1975, served as a parish council president from 2000 to 2004. He also is a member of Leadership 100 and served on the Archdiocesan Council.

Metropolis of San Francisco

Clifford Theodore Argue of Mercer Island, Wash., a parishioner of St. Demetrios in Seattle, was recently elected president of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. For many years he has supported Orthodox causes in Alaska.

Isidoros Garifalakis of Vancouver, Wash., is a member of Holy Trinity



The Archon Class of 2004 after their investiture at Holy Trinity Cathedral with Archbishop Demetrios.



Church in Portland, Oregon, and is founder and chairman of the financial support group for the Metropolis, St. John the Forerunner Monastery near Goldengale, Wash.

Dean Alexander Spanos of LaJolla, Calif., a member of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Cardiff-by-the-Sea. He has continued the long-standing tradition of community support by the Spanos family, and is active in many San Diego area philanthropic efforts.

Michael Alexander Spanos of Stockton, Calif., is a parishioner of St. Basil Church in Stockton. Like his brother, he also is active in many charitable and community service organizations.

Metropolis of Pittsburgh

George J. Kontogiannis of Columbus, Ohio, is a major financial contributor to Annunciation Cathedral in Columbus and the cathedral's HUD senior residence apartment in Columbus.

Metropolis of Boston

Christopher J. Pappas of Hopkinton, Mass., is a member of St. Demetrios Church in Weston. He has served on the Metropolitan Council and as a member of the Boston Camp and Retreat Center committee since 2000. He has created documentary videos for the Metropolis and St. Demetrios Church and is a member of Leadership 100 and Alpha Omega philanthropic organization. He also is a recipient of the Metropolis of Boston Ministry Award.

Metropolis of Denver

Nicolas Leonidas Carayannopoulos, PhD., of Dallas, is a parishioner of Holy Trinity Church and three-term parish council president. He also organized the Greek school PTO., and has been a member of the diocesan and Archdiocesan councils and is a recipient of the Medal of St. Paul.

John Zavitsanos of Houston, is a parishioner of Annunciation Cathedral in Houston and past Stewardship Committee chairman. He has served on the diocesan and Archdiocesan councils.

He also teaches at the cathedral Sunday School.

Metropolis of Atlanta

Victor John Economy of Stone Mountain, Ga., a member of Annunciation Cathedral, served three terms as parish council president and has been active at the Metropolis level. He served as a diocesan council alternate, Patriarchal Visit committee member, and Greece Olympic Committee president in 1996.

Spiro Hondros of Charlotte, N.C., a parishioner of Holy Trinity Cathedral where he has been a generous contributor to all the cathedral's building projects and serves on numerous committees.

William P. Planes of Tarpon Springs, Fla., a member of St. Nicholas Cathedral, and a generous supporter of St. Nicholas, the Philoptochos and the Metropolis.

Andreas G. Tzakis, MD, member of St. Sophia Church in Miami, one of the



National Council members participate in Sunday liturgy Oct. 10.

top transplant surgeons in the world, credited with saving the lives of many Orthodox Christians including the head abbot of Moni Agathonos.

Metropolis of Detroit

Louis Angelo Kircos of Grosse Pointe, Mich., a member of St. George Church in Southgate, served as parish council president and vice president, served as president of the parish Deaconess Senior Housing Corporation and as chairman of the parish finance committee. He also serves on the Metropolis finance committee.

Metropolis of New Jersey

Peter James Barris of McLean, Va., a member of St. George Church in Bethesda—*see next page* ♦



Bearing candles, new candidates approach the altar to be invested into the Order.



ARCHONS INVESTED

da, Md., served on parish council, as stewardship chairman, member of New Jersey Diocesan Council (1999-01), and as treasurer/trustee of the Bishop George Memorial Fund.

Notis Kotsolios of Westfield, N.J., is a member of Holy Trinity Church in Westfield. He served as parish council vice president and currently is chief usher. He also has supervised construction of the \$3 million Nicholas and Anna Bouras Community Center, has created a tape ministry and recorded sermons at the church for more than 10 years. He has assisted Bishop George and Fr. Alexander Leondis, the chancellor. He was awarded the Medal of St. Paul by Archbishop Demetrios.

Cary John Limberakis, DDS, of Amber, Pa., is a member of St. Luke Church in Broomall, Pa., and is currently president of the parish council. He has also been a member of Sts. Sophia, Faith, Hope and Agape parish in Valley Forge, Pa., where he has served on the parish council, supervised the acolytes, sung in the church choir, coached the church track and field team and chaired the Christmas Bazaar.

He has been a sustaining member of the Metropolis Diakonia Society and volunteers time for the Delaware Valley Youth Commission. He has also



Archbishop Demetrios, right, celebrates Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral Oct. 10 with the Most Rev. Archbishop Vsevolod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in America, center, and His Grace Dimitrios Couchell.

been a strong supporter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Sotirios John Vahaviolos, Ph.D., of Princeton, N.J., is a member of St. George Church in Trenton, N.J., and is a former parish council president and vice president, and building committee chairman. He has served as chairman of the New York Greek Independence Day Parade the past two years.

Carpatho-Russian Diocese

William George Sutzko of St. Clair,

Pa., is a member of St. Michael the Archangel Church in St. Clair and has served as parish council president the past 15 years. He serves his diocese through support of its youth cam, Camp Nazareth, and has served on the diocesan council.

Ukrainian Archdiocese

Borys Bazylevsky of Chicago, is the Consul General of the Ukraine in Chicago and has represented his country in various foreign diplomatic posts.

John Michael Patronik, of South Holland, Ill., is a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Chicago. He has served the Ukrainian Orthodox Diocese in many capacities.

AHEPA

James Frank Dimitriou, Ph.D., of Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., is immediate past supreme president of the Order of AHEPA and a member of St. Katherine Church in Redondo Beach, where he has served form many years on the parish council, as GOYA advisor, as Greek school board president, as a member of the Metropolis Greek Education Committee, as an ex-officio member of the Archdiocesan Council, St. Photios National Shrine and St. Basil Academy. He also was instrumental in awarding AHEPA's highest honor, the Medal of Freedom, to the Order of St. Andrew, and authored the award-winning film "The Greeks of Los Angeles."



Archons of the Class of 2004 prepare for their investiture.



NEW ENGLAND ARCHONS SUPPORT MANY PROGRAMS

Archons of New England Regional Commander Gregory G. Demetrakas reports that several meetings of the Order of St. Andrew have taken place this year, which have fostered fellowship among the members and updated them on the state of the Church in America and the Mother Church.

The New England members are supporting several worthy ministries, including St. Photios Shrine in St. Augustine, Fla., and the Orthodox missions in the form of sending medical supplies to Africa.

The New Englanders also help seven churches and several Greek women's organizations with donations of about \$100,000 per year, mostly through the Gregory G. Demetrakas Charities.

One of the Archons' main objectives is to ensure the progress of Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts for the benefit of the Church, providing cash contributions, school supplies and more than 200 cartons of Xerox paper for the students.

Similarly, the Archons provide material assistance to one of Metropolitan Methodios' key Christian ministries, the Philoxenia House where free housing and meals are provided to mostly any Orthodox Christian coming to Boston for life-saving medical treatment.

Other programs receiving support include several that help children, including the Metropolis of Boston's Camp and Re-treat Center in Contocook, N.H., under the direction of Metropolitan Methodios.

SAN FRANCISCO AREA

Archons attend St. Nectarios Consecration

By Fanis Economidis

In one of his last official actions before his sudden illness and passing, Metropolitan Anthony consecrated St. Nectarios Church in Covina, Calif. Nov. 7 with many faithful, including several Archons of the Metropolis of San Francisco attending.

We want to express our gratitude to Archon Nikiforos Valaskantzis who has been a grand benefactor of this parish and of several projects of our Metropolis.

1st conference of Orthodox Social Ministries

On Oct. 29-31, the International Orthodox Peace Fellowship held its 2004 North American Conference at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center of the Metropolis of San Francisco. The conference, titled "Salt of the Earth, Light of the World: Living the Similitudes in our Communities," was a

symposium on Orthodox ministries of peacemaking, social outreach, and environmental stewardship.

The conference brought together Orthodox ministries that are working in these areas together with interested clergy and laypeople to discuss ways of developing a more dynamic and coordinated Orthodox social witness within the United States, beginning at the level of the local parish. Several Archons of our Metropolis attended, including regional commanders Fanis Economidis and James Kallins as well as Metropolitan Anthony.

The conference theme centered on the Similitudes, the words of Christ that immediately follow the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount: "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world."



The International Orthodox Peace Fellowship is a SCOBA-endorsed association of Orthodox Christians seeking to apply the principles of the Gospel to situations of division and conflict, whether in the home, the parish, the local community, the work place, or the nation.

Leadership 100 Executive Committee Meets

The week of Nov. 8 Leadership 100 Executive Board members met in San Francisco with Archbishop Demetrios also in attendance.

On Nov 10, Archons George Marcus and Kenneth Frangadakis hosted a sit down dinner at their famed restaurant "Kokkar" for about 90 guests in honor of His Eminence and out-of-town guests. Several Archons from Northern California were present. A good number are prospects for membership in Leadership 100.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WELCOME SYNOD, L100

Regional Commander Dr. James G. Kallins held a before-Christmas gathering of all Archons of Southern California to renew their faith and devotion to the Order and also several several upcoming events in the works.

Between March 7-12 the Archons will welcome the Holy Synod to Newport Beach, Calif.

During this time Dr. Kallins will host the Archons and Leadership 100 members of the Metropolis at a working dinner meeting with Archbishop Demetrios as the main speaker.

National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis also has been invited to be one of the speakers in this combined meeting of Archons and Leadership 100.

Anyone interested in attending the meetings in March should contact Dr. Kallins' office at 562 866-0778, or e-mail: momkallins@yahoo.com



Archons Fall 2004 Meeting - Oct. 8, 9, 10



Archbishop Demetrios, assisted by Deacon John Vlahos, offers a prayer at the start of the Order of St. Andrew's business meeting. Next to him are National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis and Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras.

Seated from left, Dr. Limberakis, Nick Bouras, and John Halecky listen to Archbishop Demetrios.



National Council member Dr. Spiro Macris speaks during the annual meeting. Seated from left are National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis and Nicholas Bouras.



Dr. Limberakis and Mr. Athens listen to Archon spiritual adviser Fr. Alex Karloutsos.

ARCHONS FALL 2004 MEETING



National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, standing, addresses a joint meeting Oct. 8 of the National Council and Regional Commanders from around the country. Seated from left are honorary National Council member Andrew Athens, National Secretary John Halecky Jr., and Michael Serko, Regional Commander from Binghamton, N.Y.

From left: Regional Commanders Tommy Yearout of Alabama and Peter Kakoyiannis of New Jersey, National Council member Andreas Comodromos, Regional Commander Fanis Economidis of San Francisco, Calif., and National Council members Stephen Cherpelis and Nicholas Tsoucalas.



LADIES' TEA

The wives and families of Archons who were invested at last fall's annual meeting were introduced to the Order's mission during a Ladies' Tea held Oct. 9 at the Hilton.

Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou, assistant professor of international relations and associate director of the Institute on Religion and World Affairs at Boston University, spoke to the families about the many religious human rights violations perpetrated by the Turkish government against the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul. The event was hosted by the wives of the National Council members, led by Dr. Maria Limberakis.



Dr. Maria Limberakis, wife of National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, embraces Archbishop Demetrios after speaking at the Ladies' Tea.



Boston University professor Elizabeth Prodromou speaks at the Ladies' Tea on religious human rights violations in Turkey.



Archons in Action in Washington, D.C.



Members of the Order of St. Andrew participated in an international conference hosted by Joseph Grieboski (fifth from left), President of the Institute on Religion and Public Policy on Dec. 14 in Washington, D.C.

Archons advanced the Orthodox Christian point of view at a Dec. 14 conference, "Religious Freedom in Secular Turkey: the EU Effect," hosted by Joseph Grieboski, President of the Institute for Public Policy.

The lead Orthodox presentation was offered by Boston University professor

Elizabeth Prodromou in which she detailed Turkey's religious human rights violations. Supplementary presentations were offered by Archon Emanuel Demas, who presented a Yale University Law School paper entitled "Turkey's Compliance with its Obligations to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodox

Christian Minority," and National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis.

Attendees included representatives from the State, Defense, and Commerce departments, Helsinki Commission, and Congressional Research Service; the embassies of Turkey, Greece, Israel and Bulgaria; think tanks such as the Woodrow Wilson Center, the Washington Institute on Near East Policy, the Cato Institute, and the Islamic Free Market Institute; and organizations such as the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith International, Catholic University, Amnesty International, Falun Gong, the Armenian Assembly of America, and the University of Maryland.



At a series of meetings in Washington D.C. in October, Archon representatives discussed religious human rights violations in Turkey with Dorothy Douglas Taft of the Helsinki Commission.



Archons in Action in Washington, D.C.

Members of the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate leadership, headed by National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, attended a series of meetings with U.S. government officials Oct. 14 on the subject of religious human rights violations by the Turkish government against the Patriarchate.

Matters of concern they discussed included:

- Recognition of the ecumenicity of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as the acknowledged world leader of Orthodoxy, not simply as the local bishop of Istanbul;
- Reopening Halki School of Theology, our seminary forcibly closed 34 years ago;
- Loss of property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Balukli Hospital and local Greek Orthodox parishes; inability to acquire properties, loss of existing properties, and obstacles to simple possession of property;
- Government interference in the succession of the Ecumenical Patriarch by the exclusion, from the beginning, of all non-Turkish citizens or specific Turkish citizens;
- Government interference in the education of Christian minorities;
- Wrongful acknowledgment by the government of the "Turkish Orthodox Patriarchate," not recognized by any other Christian church; return of confiscated property taken by the Turkish government and given to the so-called "Turkish Orthodox Patriarchate," and
- Closure of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's publishing department.

The Archon leadership met with Marc Grossman, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs; U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes, senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Dorothy Douglas Taft, chief of staff for the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki



On Oct. 14, members of the Order traveled to Washington D.C. to brief Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman (center) on the state of religious freedom in Turkey.



U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes (second from left) met in October with Archon leaders Andrew Manatos, National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis and Fr. Alex Karloutsos.

Commission); Knox Thames of the Council for Religious Freedom Issues in Europe and Eurasia; Chad Gore, staff assistant for Turkey, Greece and Cyprus; Tad Stahnke, deputy director for policy of the U.S. Commission on International Freedom; and two foreign affairs officers of the state department Office of International Religious Freedom Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor: David Abramson and Janet Mayland.

Archon leaders at the meetings included National Commander Dr. Limberakis, spiritual adviser Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Regional Commander Andrew E. Manatos, legal counselor Christopher Stratakis, National Secretary John Halecky Jr., pilgrimage chairman Alexander Pritsos, education chairman Dr. Spiro Macris, and Archdiocesan legal counselor Emanuel Demos.



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ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

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EXARCH OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

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