

Mikhail Gorbachev Receives Athenagoras Award

More than 700 people witnessed one of the most prominent figures of the 20th century accept the Athenagoras Human Rights Award of the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America on October 22.

Former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is credited with helping to destroy the Iron Curtain, received the award along with the title of "Archon Great Orator" from the hand of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, on behalf of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, at the Archons' annual Athenagoras Award Banquet in New York City. Gorbachev, 74, led the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from 1987 until its collapse in 1991.

As master of ceremonies, former CIA Director George Tenet took a jibe at the Cold War when he wryly observed he was the toastmaster at a dinner honoring a former Soviet leader. "The president has a file on me, and I have a file on him," Tenet quipped.



Mikhail Gorbachev, center, receives the Athenagoras Human Rights Award from Archbishop Demetrios and Dr. Anthony Limberakis. Former CIA Chief George Tenet stands behind Gorbachev. Flanking the Archbishop are Archons-elect George Argyros, right, former U.S. Ambassador to Spain, and Andrew Natsios, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

A video tribute to Gorbachev featured images of him with President Ronald Reagan and the destruction of the Berlin Wall, and praised *perestroika* ("restructuring"), *see pages 8-9*

Task Force Champions Ecumenical Patriarchate at EU



A delegation of Archons from the National Council championed the religious human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul and advocated Turkey's candidacy into the European Union when they traveled in May to the EU's seat of power.

Led by Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, who serves as the Ecumenical Patriarchate's liaison to the European Union, a special National Council task force of five Archons and their spiritual adviser Rev. Alexander Karloutsos visited leaders of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, and Brussels, Belgium, from May 9 to 13 to launch a dialogue about the religious human rights deficit in Turkey and to promote Turkey's accession to the EU. *see page 4*

A plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, held May 10 and witnessed by the National Council Archon delegation during their religious freedom mission to the EU. At the time, the presiding officer was Dr. Antonios Trakarellis, a vice president of the European Parliament and brother of Archbishop Demetrios.



MESSAGE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

The following is a statement given by Dr. Anthony Limberakis on Oct. 22 at the Archons' annual banquet and presentation of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award.

This evening the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America honor one of the luminary leaders in modern history, President Mikhail Gorbachev. A Nobel Peace Laureate, he unilaterally brought democracy, freedom of religion and renewed human rights to the 300 million citizens of the USSR. Time and again, President Gorbachev chose peace over confrontation, despite the fact that he commanded the largest army in the world and a vast armamentarium of nuclear weapons.

The iron-fisted totalitarian Soviet State that he inherited was transformed by *Glasnost* (openness) and *Perestroika* (restructuring) into one that respected human rights and individual freedoms. Its citizens could now openly criticize the government without fear of being arrested, tortured, murdered or sent to Siberia, common practice in previous Soviet regimes.

The Russian Orthodox Church which witnessed its edifices destroyed, its monasteries desecrated and its clergy arrested during the Soviet era now, because of the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, is rebuilding its churches and monasteries, training its clergy in functioning seminaries and pursuing charitable and philanthropic activities once banned by the government. The extraordinary leadership of President Gorbachev is a turning point in the history of modern civilization. It is a reference point in the history of mankind.

**We Proclaim President Mikhail Gorbachev
AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!**



The Archons Continue to Fight for Religious Freedom On Behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

As we sit comfortably here in New York City, the world's capital, paying tribute to an extraordinary world leader, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Spiritual Center of 300 million Orthodox Christians suffers under the oppressive religious persecution perpetrated by the government of Turkey. The government of Turkey does not recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a bona fide legal entity. The government of Turkey confiscates its properties. Properties that once numbered in excess of 8,000 in 1936 have been reduced to fewer than 500 due to the systematic, inexorable and ruthless seizure by the government of Turkey. Even the Patriarchal Orphanage was expropriated this past year, a year in which Turkey looks to the West, as it approaches accession to the European Union. Yet as it seeks partnership with Europe, it will not allow a European or any non-Turkish citizen to

serve as Ecumenical Patriarch. In fact, Turkey refuses to recognize the Ecumenical Title of His All Holiness BARTHOLOMEW, a title that dates back to the 6th Century and disrespectfully refers to him as the Greek Patriarch of the Phanar district in Istanbul.



The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the United States under the inspired leadership of Archbishop Demetrios are fulfilling our sacred stewardship to serve as Defenders of the Faith. Since we last addressed you, in the past year the Archon Leadership has traveled to Ankara, Turkey to meet with the Turkish government bringing to their attention the deleterious human rights deficit extant in that country. We have journeyed to Brussels, Belgium and Strasbourg, France to inform the European Parliament and the various branches of the European Union regarding the crisis that is before all Christendom, the ultimate asphyxiation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by the government of Turkey.

We have testified before the United States Congress, along with other religious leaders in the United States regarding the religious persecution experienced by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We have met with various State Department officials regarding human rights and religious freedom in Turkey. Archbishop Demetrios personally met with President Bush regarding the serious violations of basic religious human rights perpetrated by Turkey against the Spiritual Center of World Orthodoxy.

The Archons made presentations in Warsaw, Poland last month at the Helsinki Commission meetings (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) regarding religious persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We have established a legal committee to explore ways and means to obtain legal relief from an international tribunal against the several violations by the Turkish government and local authorities to religious freedom and property ownership inflicted upon the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its several religious and philanthropic institutions. We will have more news about the work of the committee in the next month or so. Succinctly stated, the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America is relentless fighting for religious freedom and we will not rest until the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is secure and the religious persecution stops.

*The Order of St. Andrew,
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America
extends its deepest appreciation to
National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras
and Archon George Behrakis
for Underwriting this evening's Banquet.*



Archbishop, National Commander Brief Helsinki Commission

It was standing-room-only when His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis joined an interfaith panel at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC to address the U.S. Helsinki Commission on religious human rights abuses in Turkey.

Crowds filled the room to overflowing at the March 16 briefing, which highlighted the ways in which Turkish government policies are slowly exterminating the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Orthodox Christian community, and religious freedom in general. His Eminence, appearing as the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, led a panel that included Rabbi Arthur Schneier, a Holocaust survivor and president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation; Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington, DC; Dr. Robert Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches; and Dr. Limberakis.

The Commission, also known as the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, was created in 1976 to monitor progress in implementing the provisions of the Helsinki Accords, a human rights agreement signed in Helsinki, Finland in 1975 by representatives from 35 nations. The independent federal agency is composed of nine senators, nine representatives and one official from each of the departments of State, Defense, and Commerce.

Commission Co-Chairman Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ) said the Commission was to host two follow-up briefings: one to discuss religious persecution faced by Muslims in Turkey, and a third with the Turkish government.



The interfaith panel briefs the Helsinki Commission at the U.S. Capitol. From right: Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Dr. Limberakis, Archbishop Demetrios, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Dr. Robert Edgar, and Helsinki Commission staff member Elizabeth Pryor.

“The concern of this Commission is the protection of religious rights and freedoms,” said Smith. “Turkey’s treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate violates its obligations under international human rights law.”

Archbishop Demetrios and Dr. Limberakis detailed how the Turkish government has confiscated nearly 8,000 properties from the Ecumenical Patriarchate since 1936, with little or no compensation. Behind them stood placard-sized photos of the most recently seized property, an orphanage on Buyukada island which once housed hundreds of homeless children, and the 150-year-old Halki Theological School, whose forcible closure in 1971 has prevented the Orthodox from training their clergy. The government is also threatening another Patriarchal property, the Balukli Hospital and Home for the Aged, by recently imposing on it a 42-percent tax retroactive to 1999. The hospital serves 30,000 to 40,000 Turkish citizens each year — only a tiny fraction of whom are Orthodox Christians.

The Archons later described the event as a milestone in that the Order of St. Andrew had found its way to some of the most powerful decision-makers in the American government, with the support of a cross-section of interfaith leaders. “I think this was a watershed event in our struggle to defend the Holy and Great Mother Church,” Dr. Limberakis said. “The presence of His Eminence, the presence of the National Council of Churches with Dr. Edgar, Cardinal McCarrick, and Rabbi Schneier, in an ecumenical manner spoke with a singular voice that the time has come to cease and desist all religious persecution.”



Legislators, cabinet staff, journalists and members of the public packed the room at the Helsinki Commission presentation March 16.



from page 1 ♦ **Task Force...**



The Archon delegation prepares to enter the European Parliament building in Brussels. From left: Rev. Alexander Karloutsos, Christopher Stratakis, Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Andrew Manatos, and Spiro Macris.

The task force included National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Maryland Regional Commander Andrew Manatos, Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, National Council Member Spiro Macris, and Emanuel Demos.

The group divided its time between Strasbourg, where the European Parliament holds its plenary sessions, and Brussels, the site of EU administration and missions from individual nations to the EU. In Strasbourg the delegation had a private session with Greek members of the European Parliament to discuss the foreign policy of the EU as it relates to the protection of the Patriarchate's rights. They met with New Democracy Party members Antonios Samaras, Ioannis Varvitsiotis, and George Dimitrakopoulos. They also met with Elmar Brok, chairman of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, who asked the Archons to submit a list of the nearly 8,000 properties belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate which have been confiscated by the Turkish government since 1936.

In Brussels, the task force spent two days in meetings with officials of the EU, Turkey, and the U.S. They included members of the committee that expands the EU to include new member nations, U.S. Ambassador to the EU Rockwell Schnabel and other State Department representatives, Turkish Ambassador to Belgium Erkan Gezer, Turkish Ambassador to the EU Mustafa Oguz Demiralp, Greek Ambassador to the EU Vassilios Kaskarelis, and Cyprus European Commissioner Markos Kyprianou. The Archons capped their trip by hosting a dinner in honor of Schnabel and U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Tom Korologos, who is also a member of the Order of St. Andrew.

The Archons gave each official a packet of information explaining how the Turkish government's policies toward religion violate numerous treaties to which Turkey has agreed. The packet included a Yale Law School paper, a report by the Roman Catholic Church, testimony given to the Helsinki Commission in Washington, and the recently published book *The Mechanism of Catastrophe* by Speros Vryonis, an in-depth study of the violent riots of September 6-7, 1955 in Istanbul, which destroyed about \$100 million in Greek homes, businesses, churches and schools.



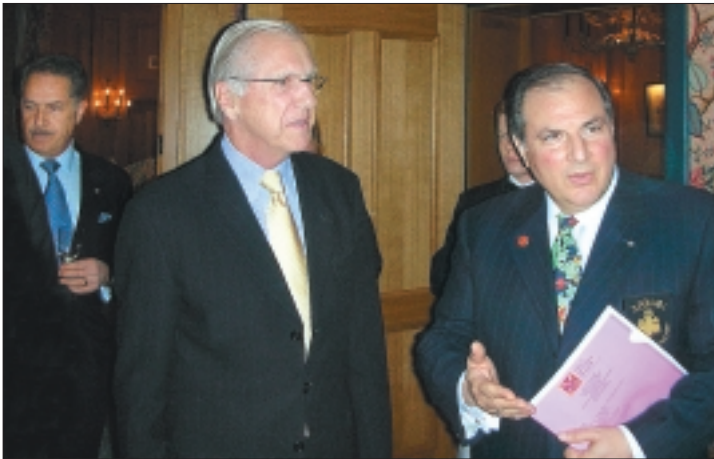
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew hosts visiting Archons for dinner at his home. From left: Spiro Macris, Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, His All Holiness, Emanuel Demos, Christopher Stratakis, and Rev. Alexander Karloutsos.



European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Elmar Brok, left, receives a copy of *The Mechanism of Catastrophe*, a study of the violent Istanbul riots of September 1955, from National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis.



Greek members of the European Parliament from the New Democracy party, from left: Antonios Samaras, Ioannis Varvitsiotis, and George Dimitrakopoulos, held a private session with Archons in the parliament meeting chamber in Strasbourg on May 9.



U.S. Ambassador to the EU Rockwell Schnabel, left, is escorted by Dr. Anthony Limberakis into a banquet hosted by the Archons in his honor and in honor of U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Tom Korologos. Behind him is Maryland Regional Commander Andrew Manatos.



Turkish Ambassador to Belgium Erkan Gezer, standing, addresses guests at a banquet hosted by the Archons in Brussels, Belgium. From left are Mrs. Gezer, Greek Ambassador to the EU Vassilios Kaskarellis and Dr. Anthony Limberakis.



Archon representatives from left: Christopher Stratakis, Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Andrew Manatos, Spiro Macris, Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, and Rev. Alexander Karloutsos.

“They were extremely impressed with the fact that Orthodox Christians would come half-way around the world to talk not about financial or economic matters, but about human rights, about religious freedom, and about human dignity.”

— Dr. Anthony Limberakis

Dr. Limberakis said the Archons received a positive response from the European leaders. “They were extremely impressed with the fact that Orthodox Christians would come half-way around the world to talk not about financial or economic matters, but about human rights, about religious freedom, and about human dignity,” he said.

After leaving Brussels, some of the delegation headed to Istanbul for an audience with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Some had brought family members with them, and the Patriarch delighted them when he welcomed the entire group for dinner one evening at his own home.

During their stay they were interviewed by Vincent Boland, a correspondent in Turkey for the international daily newspaper *Financial Times*, who also interviewed His All-Holiness and visited Halki Seminary and other Patriarchal sites. He then wrote a detailed account of the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s situation in Turkey, which ran as the lead story in the Home UK section of the *Financial Times*’ August 27 edition. To read the article, click on Archon News at the Order of St. Andrew’s Web site, www.archons.org.

After returning home, the task force met with rousing approval when it reported on the trip at the Archon National Council’s May 19 meeting. “I don’t think there’s any more important task than the work you all are doing,” said National Council Member James Speros of the religious freedom mission.



Archons met in Brussels with Ollie Rehn, the European Commissioner in charge of EU expansion. From left are Rev. Alexander Karloutsos, Michael McKinley of the U.S. Mission to the EU, Rehn, Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, and Dr. Anthony Limberakis.



D. PANAGOS

The Archon Class of 2005.

Annual Meeting Draws Archons and Families

37 New Members Invested

Members of the Order of St. Andrew and their families streamed into New York City from across the U.S. for the Order's annual meeting Oct. 21-23, 2005, a weekend when 37 new Archons were invested and former Soviet Union president Mikhail Gorbachev was honored with the Athenagoras Human Rights Award.

Archbishop Demetrios addressed the Oct. 22 general meeting by stressing the four major concerns of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with respect to the Turkish government: re-open Halki Theological School, forcibly closed in 1971; recognize the ecumenicity of the Ecumenical Patriarch; return confiscated patriarchal

properties; and grant the Ecumenical Patriarchate a legal status.

"We don't belong to a prestigious club to which CEOs and millionaires belong," said the Archbishop. "We belong to an Order which has holiness, sanctity, and martyrdom behind it."

National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis said the meeting was one of the best-attended in the Order's history, with well over 100 Archons and Archons-elect. He explained the role of the Archon in contemporary Orthodoxy was "to promote and defend the Mother Church, which is in peril" because of religious persecution from the government of Turkey. In words and images he documented the Order's work during the past year: meetings with Turkish government leaders; making official presentations of the issues to U.S. Congressional committees, the State Department, and the European Parliament; lobbying for U.S. legislation to pressure Turkey to adopt religious freedom standards; and forming a legal committee to research possible remedies through an international court. Other reports came from Spiro Macris on the Education Committee, Christopher Stratakis on the Legal and By-Laws Committees, James Fountas and

George Safiol on finances, and Theodore Demetriou and Konstantinos Vellios on the Archon Banquet.

"Our religious freedom project is one which brings our message not only to Washington, but to Turkey, to Brussels, and to the International Court of Human Rights," said Dr. Limberakis.

The presentations elicited passionate responses at the meeting. Louis Nicozisis of Lancaster, Pa. urged Dr. Limberakis' slide presentation should be condensed to a 10 or 20 minute DVD and distributed to all the Orthodox churches in the country. He added an effort should be organized to reach U.S. congressmen with the message in the DVD. Nicholas Larigakis of Washington, DC recommended each Archon send the Ecumenical Patriarchate guidebook to his congressman with a cover letter on his personal stationery.

"Religious freedom is one of the tenets upon which this government was founded," said Macris. "There's no way we can lose this argument if we just take the time to make the argument to the officials of our government."

Michael Parlamis of Tenafly, N.J. exhorted each of his brethren to find one Turkish-



Theodore Demetriou, left, and Konstantinos Vellios served as banquet co-chairmen.

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American who, as a U.S. citizen -- and therefore a believer in religious freedom -- would bring that message back to his homeland and thus support the Archons' mission.

"I'm the first Greek-American who has nominated a Turkish-American for an Ellis Island Award," he said, adding that the two have formed a friendship. "They want to help us, but we have to go find them."

The general assembly meeting closed late Saturday afternoon with Archbishop Demetrios leading a Trisagion memorial service for departed Archons.



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Archbishop Demetrios, assisted by Deacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos, leads a memorial service for departed Archons at the general meeting Oct. 22. Next to him, from left, are Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Archon-elect George Argyros, Secretary John Halecky and Treasurer James Fountas.



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Louis Nicozisis takes the microphone during the question-and-answer period at the general meeting of Oct. 22, which more than 100 Archons and Archons-elect attended.

I N M E M O R I A M
OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS GO TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF OUR BELOVED MEMBERS.

John Alevizos
Archon Depoutatos
Wellesley, Mass.
8/1/05

George Aneson
Archon Exarchos
Peconic, N.Y.
11/11/05

Thomas Argires
Archon Depoutatos
Palo Hills, Ill.
3/2/05

John A. Billinis
Archon Depoutatos
Salt Lake City, Ut.
8/24/05

James P. Condakes
Archon Depoutatos
Weston, Mass.
6/6/05

Platon Constantinides
Archon Ekdikos
Atlanta, Ga.
8/29/05

Andrew C. Economides
Archon Depoutatos
Wyckoff, N.J.
5/12/05

Peter P. Holdanick
Archon Ostiarios
Binghamton, N. Y.
6/9/05

Peter N. Kartanos
Archon Depoutatos
Wayne, N.J.
4/1/05

Stothe P. Kezios
Archon Hypomnematografos
Atlanta, Ga.
8/19/05

Nicholas J. Mamalakis
Archon Megas Hieromnimon
Savannah, Ga.
6/15/05

Peter D. Maniatis
Archon Ekdikos
Scottsdale, Az.
8/12/05

Samuel C. Maragos
Archon Notarios
Chicago, Ill.
8/23/05

William G. Markos
Archon Depoutatos
Ipswich, Mass.
6/17/05

Archie Mavromatis
Archon Depoutatos
Flushing, N. Y.
5/3/05

John G. Plumides
Archon Megas Notarios
Charlotte, N. C.
5/16/05

Theodore Tsagaris
Archon Depoutatos
Scarsdale, N. Y.
6/9/05

Demetrios Tsintolas
Archon Depoutatos
Silver Spring, Md.
9/23/05

Dimitri Ververelli
Archon Depoutatos
Blue Bell, Pa.
9/24/05

Anargyros N. Xepapas
Archon Ekdikos
Daytona Beach, Fla.
10/5/05

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL



A T H E N A G O



Gorbachev and former CIA Chief George Tenet chat during a private reception before the banquet. Behind Tenet are Archon George Behrakis, who serves on the Gorbachev Foundation, and Dr. Anthony Limberakis, far left.



Archbishop Demetrios, Gorbachev, and the statesman's long-time adviser and translator Pavel Palazchenko, right, in a quiet moment before the banquet.



Gorbachev spoke of religious freedom as "a basic human right and human value." President of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad Andrew Athens sits behind Archbishop Demetrios.

Gorbachev enters the packed banquet hall, followed by Archbishop Demetrios and Gorbachev's daughter Irina Virganskaya.

PHOTOS BY: D. PANAGOS



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a program Gorbachev introduced during his rule aimed at liberalizing the totalitarian system in the Soviet Union.

Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis read a letter from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew granting the Archon title, which described Gorbachev as “a zealot of grace, honor and devotion toward the church and one who has provided valuable services to the church and humanity in general.”

Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Andrey Denisov called Gorbachev “one of those individuals who managed to turn the course of history.” *Perestroika*, Denisov said, “played a distinct role in the end of the Cold War.”

Other dignitaries who lauded the statesman included Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros Mallis and Cyprus Ambassador to the U.S. Evi Eviades, who ended by addressing Gorbachev in Russian with his final word being “*Spaseeba!*” (Thank you).

Speaking through his long time adviser and interpreter Pavel Palazchenko, Gorbachev thanked the Archons for the honor and said human rights were the basis for his *perestroika*.

“Among the most important and vivid episodes of *perestroika*, I recall the day when I invited to the Kremlin the representatives of all faiths,” he said. “The leaders of different churches sat at the table where the *politburo* used to meet.”

Gorbachev also referred to legislation adopted during the waning days of the U.S.S.R. which offered increased religious freedom for its citizens. “Freedom of religion is one of the most important inalienable rights of the human being, and I am proud that the law we adopted in those years became one of the most democratic legal instruments in the world,” he added.

To bestow the Archon title on Gorbachev, Archbishop Demetrios led a short prayer service in Greek while the former Soviet president held a lighted candle. “I have great respect
see page 10



Gorbachev congratulates St. Basil’s Academy 10th-grader Melissa Nikitas, who sang the Greek and American national anthems, to the delight of Archbishop Demetrios and Archon and Fox News anchorman Archon Hieromnimon Ernie Anastos.



His Excellency Ambassador Andrey Denisov of the Russian Federation called Gorbachev “one of the most eminent statesmen of the 20th century.”



Gorbachev receives a standing ovation led by Archbishop Demetrios. To his right are his daughter Irina Virganskaya and Metropolitan Herman of the Orthodox Church in America. In the second row stands Archon National Council Sergeant-at-Arms Alexander Pritsos.



ATHENAGORAS AWARD

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for this church which reflects the faith of our fathers and grandfathers,” Gorbachev, who was baptized Russian Orthodox, said through Palazchenko.

The evening ended with Metropolitan Herman of the Orthodox Church in America, who was seated next to Gorbachev’s daughter Irina Virganskaya, giving the benediction.

In 1992 the former statesman created the Gorbachev Foundation, the first independent think tank in post-Soviet Russia, which has channeled more than \$10 million to various humanitarian programs in Russia, particularly those fighting childhood leukemia. Archon George Behrakis, one of the organization’s founders, still serves on the Foundation and arranged for the presentation of the award.

In recognition of his services as a reformer and world leader who contributed to changing the world for the better, Gorbachev was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990.



Archbishop Demetrios bestows the *offikion* of Archon Great Orator on Gorbachev in a short investiture service.



The new invested Archon Great Orator displays the framed letter from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew bestowing the *offikion*.



During a small reception Sunday evening at a Manhattan restaurant hosted by Archon George Behrakis, who is a founding member of the Gorbachev Foundation, Gorbachev dons the pocket emblem given to him by Dr. Anthony Limberakis and the lapel rosette given to him by George Safiol. Pavel Palazchenko, his translator since his presidency, stands beside him.



Although he was unable to attend this year’s event, National Vice Commander Nicholas Bouras again generously donated the cost of the banquet.

PHOTOS BY: D. PANAGOS



Bridging Worlds

Metropolitan Emmanuel links Ecumenical Patriarchate and European Union

The Order of St. Andrew is entrusted with the mission to protect and defend the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In recent months, that mission has gotten a boost from a little-known source: the Patriarchate’s Liaison Office to the European Union and its director, Metropolitan Emmanuel of France.

The elegant Metropolitan Emmanuel moves easily from his home base within the ancient walls of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to his assignment in the cosmopolitan capitals of Europe, to New York City where he visited the Archons in March to help them plan their religious freedom mission to the European Union.

Metropolitan Emmanuel guided a delegation of five Archons and their spiritual director, Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, through four days of meetings with European Union officials in May as they learned about the EU political process. That education would prove a crucial element as the Archons promoted the Patriarchate’s religious human rights in Turkey while advocating Turkey’s accession to the EU. Turkey’s negotiations to join the EU began October 3.

“The work I think we need to do, I in Brussels and you here and in Ankara and



Metropolitan Emmanuel, left, in Brussels, Belgium with Archon and U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Tom Korologos.



The plaque at the entrance to Metropolitan Emmanuel’s office in Brussels.

Istanbul, is to see which way we can bring the issues of the Patriarchate forward and persuade the decision-makers that these are vital issues that affect not only our community but also other minorities in Turkey,” he said.

The Metropolitan broke ground in 1987 when he became the first graduate to earn a masters of theology degree from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese’s Holy Cross Seminary in Brookline, Massachusetts. He fondly recalled his student days with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, who at that time was his professor and academic advisor Metropolitan Demetrios Trakatrellis.

“He was not only a good professor who made us love the Bible, but he was also a spiritual leader,” said Metropolitan Emmanuel of the Archbishop. “I recall that all my life.”

Archbishop Demetrios said Metropolitan Emmanuel’s diplomatic duties in the European Union go beyond the political, involving dialogues with other churches such as the Oriental Orthodox as well as other jurisdictions. “His responsibility in Brussels is huge,” said the Archbishop. “This man has been a tremendous asset for the Patriarchate.”



Regional Commanders, National Council Joint Meeting

The Order's annual meeting weekend Oct. 21-23 at the New York Hilton hotel opened Friday, Oct. 21 with an afternoon assembly specifically for the 25-member National Council and the regional commanders from the 18 districts throughout the country. The meeting served as an update on both groups' activities as well as a chance to exchange views on matters of common interest, including National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis' progress report and the selection process for new Archons.

This year marked the second annual meeting weekend when the two groups came together to discuss their specific concerns. Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, who also chairs the Legal and By-Laws Committees, described it as a type of preview for the regional commanders of the following day's general meeting.

"The day before the banquet, the National Council meets with the regional commanders to update them as to what has been going on with a report by the national commander and the committees on the National Council level," Stratakis said. "The idea is to bring them up to date as to what transpired during the year, and then they come up and report what they have been doing themselves."

The groups spent most of their time discussing the effort to protect the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ♡



Spiritual Advisor Rev. Alexander Karloutsos addresses regional commanders and the National Council at their joint meeting. Maryland Regional Commander Andrew Manatos is seated at right.



From left, Pittsburgh, Pa. Regional Commander Peter Zikos, National Council member Nicholas Loutsion, and Regional Commanders Dr. James Kallins of Los Angeles, Calif., Theofanis Economidis of San Francisco, Calif., and Harry Peponis of Chicago, Ill. at the joint meeting Oct. 21.



National Council members George Regas, left, who announced his retirement, and Judge Nicholas Tsoucalas.



Education Committee Chairman Spiro Macris, second from left, speaks as his colleagues (from left) North Carolina Regional Commander Harry Cavalaris, New Jersey Regional Commander Peter Kakoyiannis, Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis and Secretary John Halecky listen.

San Francisco Regional Commander Theofanis Economidis said he and his colleagues were impressed with the National Council’s work during the past year.

“Everybody felt they are doing a fantastic job, demonstrating leadership and determination,” Economidis said.

He added the selection process for new Archons raised significant concerns during the discussion, and that he and others have proposed changes to the portion of the charter which governs the process.

“I would say it’s flawed, so to speak,” he said of the selection process, calling the

“We have so many challenges.

We want to make sure the new blood

dedicate themselves.”

— Theofanis Economidis

His Grace Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, right, gives a blessing before the orientation dinner Friday night for Archons-elect and their families.



Retiring National Council member George Regas, standing, was honored at Friday nights’ new Archon orientation dinner.

Order “a sleeping giant,” with less than one-third of its more than 700 members actively participating in its work.

He hopes to not only encourage current active members to bring the inactive ones “to their conscience,” but also make the conditions for membership less about what people have done in the past and more about what they have the potential to do in the future.

“The main criterion for me is what can they do from now on,” he said. “We have so many challenges. We want to make sure the new blood dedicate themselves.”





Townsend Addresses Ladies Tea



Archbishop Demetrios was introduced by Dr. Maria Limberakis, center, to Frances Fragos Townsend.



Homeland Security Adviser Frances Fragos Townsend addressed the Ladies Tea.

President Bush's Homeland Security Adviser Frances Fragos Townsend brought a glimpse of the White House to the Order's annual meeting weekend, when she addressed about 100 family members of Archons at the Ladies Tea Saturday afternoon.

Dr. Maria Limberakis, wife of National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, introduced Townsend, who was appointed to her current post by President Bush in May 2004.

"It's extraordinary the number of women who have had the opportunity to serve [President Bush] during his two terms," said Townsend, who also chairs a Homeland Security Council and briefs the president daily.

The granddaughter of a Kalamata, Greece, native, Townsend embarked on a vigorous career when she was hired in the 1980s by former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani as a prosecutor in Brooklyn. She later helped set up intelligence at the U.S. Coast Guard, focusing on port security.

Townsend fielded a range of questions from her audience on topics such as the 9/11 Commission Report, the definition of terrorism, and the avian flu threat.

"There is more work to be done, particularly on information sharing," she admitted in response to the 9/11 Commission Report's criticism of the Department of Homeland Security. Although she acknowledged "there is no universally-accepted definition of what terrorism is. It's like pornography – you know it when you see it," she said state-sponsored terrorism is always clearly unacceptable.

When asked how to control illegal immigration from Mexico, Townsend said the president recently added hundreds of new border patrol agents to the Texas border, but "we need to do more with technology,

and work with the Mexican government." Asked if Mexican authorities were cooperative, she answered carefully, "We need to do more."

But Townsend was pleasantly startled to face a question from 9-year-old Michael Yallourakis, whose father, Dr. Stephen Yallourakis of Kingsport, Tenn., was inducted an Archon the following day. With his father at the general meeting in the adjacent assembly hall, the boy attended the tea with his mother, Anna Yallourakis, and younger sister Stephanie Katherine, and did not miss his chance to ask the high-ranking government official about her work with the President of the United States.

"You are a very bright young man," Townsend answered, adding with a smile that she would not be surprised to see him in the Oval Office one day.

After her talk, Townsend graciously accepted a gift from the Archons, an engraved glass plaque presented by Dr. Maria Limberakis. Archbishop Demetrios then addressed the group, noting Townsend's job requires intense discretion despite "knowing an enormous amount of secrets."

"We congratulate you on both knowledge and control," said the Archbishop.



The U.S. Presidential adviser shared a light moment with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev after Archon George Behrakis, center, introduced them.

PHOTOS BY: D. PANAGOS





George Leon Argyros

Newport Beach, Calif.
Notarios

John Balourdos

Chicago, Ill.
Depoutatos

Dimitris Bousis

Northbrook, Ill.
Maestor

Nicholas Andrew Carras

Myersville, Md.
Ekdikos

Vassos Chrysanthou

Toms River, N. J.
Maestor

John Basil Conomos

Pittsburgh, Pa.
Hieromnimon

Thomas E. Constance

Sands Point, N. Y.
Nomophylax

John Emmanuel Couloucoundis

Darien, Conn.
Laosynaktis

John N. Economou

Akron, Ohio
Ekdikos

George Nicholas Flessas

Palm Desert, Calif.
Kastrinsios

Nicholas J. Furriss

Jacksonville, Fla.
Eftaxias

Nick Gavalas

Astoria, N. Y.
Depoutatos

Spyros A. Gavis

Wellesley, Mass.
Kastrinsios

Renos Georgiou

Bayside, N. Y.
Ostiarios

John Gigounas

Tiburon, Calif.
Ekdikos



Members of the Archon Class of 2005 as they receive their *offikia* from Archbishop Demetrios Sunday, Oct. 23.

D. PANAGOS

Christos S. Gregoriades

Canton, Mass.
Aktouarios

Spiro C. Hondros

Charlotte, N. C.
Ostiarios

Timothy John Joannides

Cheyenne, Wyo.
Maestor

William C. Kallinikos

Oceanside, N. Y.
Depoutatos

Nicholas Ioannou Karamatsoukas

Gladwyne, Pa.
Ostiarios

Sam N. Kleto

Charlotte, N. C.
Aktouarios

Andreas Konnari

New York, N. Y.
Eftaxias

George Sviatoslav Lychyk

River Forest, Ill.
Ekdikos

George G. Makris

Alpine, N. J.
Orphanotrofos

Dennis Mehiel

Valhalla, N. Y.
Orphanotrofos

C. Dean Metropoulos

Greenwich, Conn.
Laosynaktis

Emmanuel Mihailides

East Greenwich, R. I.
Notarios

George J. Miller

Charlotte, N. C.
Nomophylax

Andrew Stephen Natsios

Silver Spring, Md.
Referendarios

Steve George Pappas

Palm City, Fla.
Depoutatos

George Chris Psetas

Port Richey, Fla.
Nomophylax

Jerry Nicholas Renesis

Norfolk, Va.
Hypomnetografos

Theodore Sepsis

Elmhurst, Ill.
Ostiarios

Theodore J. Theophilos

Hinsdale, Ill.
Dikaiophylax

Constantine Vrettos

Charlotte, N. C.
Notarios

Gary M. Vronis

Danville, Calif.
Eftaxias

Stephen James Yallourakis

Kingsport, Tenn.
Aktouarios

George Peter Zimmer

Briarcliff Manor, N. Y.
Prostasis Ton Grammaton



Archbishop Demetrios, center, celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York Sunday, Oct. 23, assisted by His Grace Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, left, His Grace Bishop Savvas of Troas, priests and deacons.

D. PANAGOS



ORDER OF
SAINT ANDREW
the apostle

ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS
EXARCH OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

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PATRIARCHAL VISIT 2006



Centennial Celebrations in Tarpon Springs, Fla.



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America has announced that His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will visit the Metropolis of Atlanta, headed by Metropolitan Alexios, on January 4-8, 2006. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is the spiritual leader of over 250 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, will preside over the centennial Epiphany celebration in Tarpon Springs, Fla., and will also commemorate the centennial of the St. Nicholas Cathedral in Tarpon Springs, Fla. during a Patriarchal Divine Liturgy. This is the first time that an Ecumenical Patriarch will visit the Tarpon Springs area for the festivities associated with the celebration of Epiphany.

Following his stay in Tarpon Springs, His All Holiness will visit the Holy Trinity Cathedral in New Orleans, La., the first Greek Orthodox community in America, established during the Civil War in 1864.

Call 727-771-2099, or visit: www.patriarchalcentennialvisit.com or e-mail at 2006PatriarchalVisit@EpiphanyCity.org for more information about registration, hotel packages, tickets, events and how to be a sponsor.

The ARCHON

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