



Order of
Saint Andrew
the Apostle

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

2005 Annual Report to His All Holiness Bartholomew *Archbishop of Constantinople, The New Rome & Ecumenical Patriarch*



...we extend to you our wholehearted congratulations as you continue to offer your *Time, Treasures and Talents* to the Mother Church and the Archdiocese of America. We continually give thanks to our Lord God as you respond to your calling in the Church as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with extreme focus, dedication and loyalty. You unceasingly give to the Church *spiritually, educationally* and *philanthropically* in a multitude of ways.

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

It is with the greatest respect and humility that we offer the 2005 Annual Report to our beloved spiritual fathers His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, the hierarchs of the Ecumenical Throne in the United States, as well as to our brother Archons of the Great Church of Christ. This year the report will include a pictorial summary of the year's activities.

*This report is dedicated to our beloved Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory who fell asleep unto the Lord on April 10, 2005 having led the Church in the Americas for 37 years as Archbishop and Exarch of the Mother Church.
Eternal be his memory.*

The focal points of the Archon 2005 activities are as follows:

- **Congressional Presentation at Helsinki Commission Briefing on Religious Freedom (March 2005)**
- **Archons host luncheon on Capitol Hill for leading Senators and Congressmen (March 2005) to discuss religious freedom vis a vis Ecumenical Patriarchate**
- **Commander Limberakis addresses Archons of the southern United States, hosted by Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta (April 2005)**
- **Archon Leadership meets with Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns at State Department (April 2005)**
- **National Council meets with Metropolitan Emmanuel of France at Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in preparation for upcoming EU meetings**
- **Archon Leadership meets with European Parliamentarians, European Council and European Commission in Brussels, Belgium and Strasbourg, France (May 2005)**
- **Commander Limberakis and Fr. Alex meet with European Commissioner Olli Rehn, in charge of EU Enlargement and Turkey's accession in Brussels (June 2005); Metropolitan Emmanuel of France and European Parliament senior Vice President Andonios Trakatellis, MD, PhD arrange meetings with EU officials**
- **Commander Limberakis establishes Archon Legal Committee, chaired by Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis; charge: seek judicial remedies for religious freedom violations perpetrated by government of Turkey against Ecumenical Patriarchate**
- **Establishment of Functionary Office of Sergeant at Arms; Alexander Pritsos elected to position**
- **Mikhail S. Gorbachev receives 2005 Athenagoras Human Rights Award (October 2005); Event Underwriter Archon Nicholas J. Bouras; Underwriter and Special Coordinator Archon George Behrakis; Chairmen Archons Konstantine Vellios and Theodore Demetriou**
- **New Chapter in Guidebook of Ecumenical Patriarchate written by Fr. John Chrysavgis on Return of Sacred Relics of St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom published by Order of St. Andrew**
- **The Mechanism of Catastrophe; The Turkish Pogrom of September 6-7, 1955, and the Destruction of the Greek Community of Istanbul, by Speros Vryonis, Jr. distributed to all Archons and all 732 Members of European Parliament through beneficence of Archon Angelo Tsakopoulos**
- **Archon Religious Freedom Briefing book sent to all 732 Members of European Union; Regional Commander Andrew Manatos coordinate religious freedom project**
- **(Then) Congressman Bob Menendez and Commander Limberakis address Archons of New Jersey regarding religious freedom project at Bouras Community Center, Holy Trinity Church, Westfield, NJ (September 2005); chaired by Archon Peter Kakoyiannis**
- **Order represented by Dr. Spiro J. Macris at OSCE Human Rights Meetings in Warsaw, Poland where two presentations are made to 55 member nations regarding lack of religious human rights of Ecumenical Patriarchate**

- **National Council through Legal Committee consults human rights Cornell University Law School professor Muna B. Ndulo for guidance in development of litigation roadmap seeking religious freedom for Ecumenical Patriarchate; paper released December 2005; Special Coordinator Archon-Elect George Rockas**
- **Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis and National Council Member Stephen Cherpelis represent Order at St. Andrew Feastday at Phanar**
- **Commander Limberakis and Regional Commander Manatos meet and brief new US Ambassador to Turkey on Thanksgiving Day weekend, days before the ambassador leaves for Ankara**

Archons as Defenders of the Faith

The Violations of Religious Freedom

The activities of the Order for the year 2005 concentrated on the profound issue of Defending the Mother Church of Constantinople against the policies of religious persecution perpetrated by government of Turkey. These repressive policies at this moment in the 2000 year history of the Ecumenical Patriarchate threaten its very survival. With the encouragement and blessings of the Exarch, Archbishop Demetrios of America, the Archons have intensified our efforts to address the following egregious violations of religious freedom:

1. Turkish government does not recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a legal entity; it has no legal personality in the eyes of the Turkish government
2. Turkish government interferes in the election of the Ecumenical Patriarch insisting that he be a citizen of Turkey
3. Turkish government has confiscated thousands of properties owned by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its institutions; the Ecumenical Patriarchate cannot buy, sell or inherit property; it has no property rights
4. Turkish government forcibly closed down Ecumenical Patriarchate's only seminary, Halki, thereby preventing the church from training its clergy and providing the clergy resources to sustain the spiritual Center of World Orthodoxy
5. Turkish government places restrictive visas on non-Turkish clergy and laymen who staff the Phanar

The Strategy

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America have developed a multifaceted, global strategy to address the religious freedom deficit in Turkey. The strategy includes political, diplomatic and legal components which are integrated by the National Council, the governing body of the Order. To facilitate this end, the Order has engaged the firm of Regional Commander Andrew E. Manatos in Washington to coordinate the diplomatic and political components of the religious freedom strategy.

**WASHINGTON
CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING
HELSINKI COMMISSION (March 2005)**

An historic presentation of the religious freedom deficit before a Congressional Committee took place in March 2005 in the US Capitol. Archbishop Demetrios of America, primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Holocaust survivor Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, former Congressman Bob Edgar, President of the National Council of Churches and Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, National Commander of the Order of St. Andrew offered testimony to the Helsinki Commission regarding the lack of religious freedom extant in Turkey that threatens the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

STATE DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

The Archon Leadership continues to meet on a regular basis with State Department officials for several reasons:

1. Report the situation on the ground in Turkey regarding religious persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
2. Seek the guidance of our government in helping Turkey address their repressive policies that infringe on the religious freedom of the Phanar
3. Request assistance in obtaining meetings with key officials throughout the world's diplomatic venues to discuss the crisis in religious freedom in Turkey and its grave implications regarding the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

In this regard, the Archons have met with Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns, Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Bryza.

ANKARA

Although the Archons did not travel to Ankara, Turkey in 2005, the Leadership did meet with the Turkish Ambassadors to Belgium, Erkan Gezer and to the EU, Mustafa Oguz Demiralp during the EU meetings in April.

EUROPEAN UNION

The Archon Leadership in 2005 initiated discussions with key members of the European Union regarding Turkey's accession. The Order strongly supports Turkey joining the EU, so long as it adopts the shared values of religious freedom and human rights enjoyed by EU member states. With the assistance of Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, the official representative of the Orthodox Church to the EU and European Parliament Vice President Andonios Trakatellis meetings with officials and staff of the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament took place to promote Turkey's accession to the EU and concomitantly detailing religious human rights violations that must be addressed prior to its accession. These meetings took place in May 2005 in Brussels, Belgium and Strasbourg, France and again in June 2005 in Brussels when Commander Limberakis met with Commissioner Olli Rehn, in charge of Turkey's accession into the EU. Over 800 Briefing Books containing essential documents and evidence regarding the religious freedom deficit in Turkey have been distributed to the Members of the European Parliament and key Commissioners and Staff of the EU. In addition, through the beneficence of Archon Angelo Tsakopoulos, the landmark book entitled The Mechanism of Catastrophe: The Turkish Pogrom of September 6-7, 1955, and the Destruction of the Greek Community of Istanbul, by Speros Vryonis, Jr. was distributed to all 732 members of the European Parliament.

JUDICIAL REMEDY TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DEFICIT

On the way home during the 11 hour flight from Istanbul to New York, Commander Limberakis conceived of the concept to seek judicial redress to the religious freedom deficit that threatens the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. After receiving approval from the National Council an Archon Legal Committee was established in June 2005 to seek judicial remedy of the religious persecution in Turkey. Chaired by Archon Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, the committee is comprised of leading attorneys and scholars. The work of the Committee has been facilitated by a Yale University Law School Document commissioned by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America which details the violations of religious freedom in Turkey (Treaty of Lausanne, Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE], Constitution of Turkey and other treaties of which Turkey is a signatory). In addition, the Order sought the guidance of the Cornell Law School and its well-know human rights professor Muna B. Ndulo to develop a roadmap for legal redress of the religious freedom violations that threaten the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Cornell report was released in December 2005.

The Order continues its sacred mission to *Defend the Mother Church* and ceaselessly work to address the issue of religious freedom.

The accomplishments of the Order are a direct result of the work of the National Council, its officers and our Spiritual Adviser Fr. Alex Karloutsos. National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, Secretary John Halecky, Jr. and Treasurer James C. Fountas, the officers, demonstrate extraordinary Archon Stewardship every day of the year. Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, Historian Christo Daphnides, Sergeant-at-Arms Alex Pritsos, the Committee Chairmen and our hard working National Council and Regional Commanders deserve our deep gratitude. The hard work and dedication of our administrator Dina Theodosakis and Presvytera Xanthi Karloutsos are invaluable and the Order is most appreciative of their efforts.

In closing this report, allow me to express the appreciation of the entire Order to our beloved spiritual father in the United States, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America. His constant encouragement, guidance and love have been inspirational.

On behalf of the Archons of America, we express our utmost respect, affection and fidelity to our beloved spiritual father Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. As Archons of the Great Church of Christ we pledge to serve as Defenders of the Faith with dedication and tenacity in pursuit of our sacred ΑΓΩΝΑ. We offer this 2005 Annual Report in testimony of our love of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

With profound respect and affection,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony Limberakis, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "MD" written in a smaller, more compact style at the end.

Archon Aktouarios
National Commander
October 10, 2006
Philadelphia

THE YEAR IN REVIEW
A PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY

***Archon Mikhail Gorbachev Receives 2005
Athenagoras Human Rights Award***





"I suspect that you have a file on me and I have a file on you."

George Tenet, Master of Ceremonies



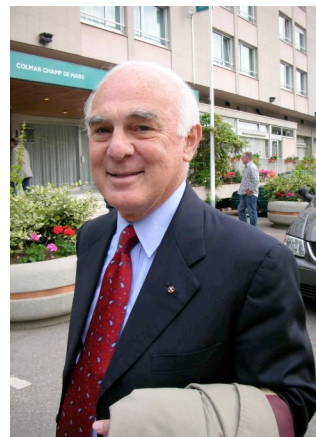
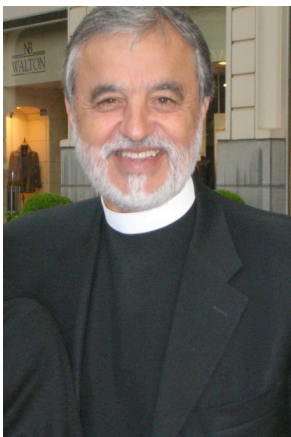
***Congressional Briefing
The Greek Orthodox Church in Turkey:
A Victim of Systematic Expropriation
Helsinki Commission Testimony***



Archon Congressional Luncheon



***Archons Fight for Religious Freedom at European Union,
Brussels, Belgium & Strasbourg, France***





Critical Meeting with EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn



2006 will be a landmark year for the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle

A preview of the 2006 highlights are as follows:

- **Historic Archon Pilgrimage to Phanar led by Archbishop Demetrios of America coinciding with visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew**
- **Legal Committee breaks new ground in preparing to bring Turkey to European Court of Human Rights**
- **Senate Letter to President Bush regarding religious freedom crisis imperiling survival of Ecumenical Patriarchate signed by majority of US Senators; project coordinated by Regional Commander Andrew E. Manatos and staff of Manatos & Manatos**
- **Archon Leadership meets with EU officials, European Parliament and president of Austria, the presiding EU member nation at that time**
- **2006 Athenagoras Human Rights Award presented to National Vice Commander Archon Nicholas J. Bouras...AXIOS!**
- **We will never give up! We will continue to work ceaselessly until the Great and Holy Mother Church of Constantinople, the Ecumenical Patriarchate can practice its worldwide ministry freely and without having its unalienable freedoms constrained**



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