

Archon Nicholas J. Bouras 2006 Athenagoras Human Rights Award Recipient



Archon Nicholas J. Bouras (center) accepted the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to the delight of Archbishop Demetrios, National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis (far right), Archon and U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes, and more than 600 banquet attendees.

If there really is a man of steel, Nicholas J. Bouras fits the description. But like the hardy metal, his heart melted under intense heat — the love and admiration he received when the Order of St. Andrew presented him the 2006 Athenagoras Human Rights Award at its annual banquet on Oct. 21.

Bouras founded a steel manufacturing business more than 30 years ago, which has spawned five subsidiaries, employs more than 600 people, and supplies steel to building sites around the country. But his real work of construction has gone beyond the material. For more than 40 years, the veteran Archon and founding member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, N.J. has donated millions of dollars to his parish and to hosts of Orthodox Christian causes, including missions, education, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate after he was invested an Archon in 1975.

“What Mr. Bouras did was not just simply to be a benefactor, giving money here or there. This type of offering creates an atmosphere of reaching out beyond your own limited ego,” said Arch-

bishop Demetrios. “He is an example of the way of Christ, of giving and giving and always overcoming himself in order to give to other people.”

During the banquet, Bouras listened, somewhat embarrassed, as accolades came from a string of dignitaries, including U.S. Senator and Archon Paul Sarbanes, toastmaster and Fox News correspondent Mike Emanuel, a representative from President George W. Bush, and Port Authority JFK Airport Commanding Officer and Archon John Kassimatis (who did not attend).

“Because of the foundation he has provided, houses of worship were erected, charitable institutions expanded and improved their infrastructure and the greater good for humankind was served,” said National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis. “These humanitarian accomplishments were done quietly, with unparalleled generosity and with the dignity that has become a trademark for Archon Nicholas.”

Applause from more than 600 banquet attendees repeatedly interrupted Archbishop Demetrios as he described Bouras’ legendary generosity. The Archbishop recounted an *see page 6* ♦



61 Senators Sign on to Defend Religious Freedom



Andrew Manatos

The overwhelming majority of the U.S. Senate has signed a letter to President Bush alerting him to the crisis facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Of 100 U.S. senators, 61 have signed the letter which calls on the president to convince Turkey of America's close ties to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, its desire that it "be accorded the religious freedom it deserves," and to "persuade the Turkish government to abandon the policies that will lead to the disappearance of this Sacred See."

Last spring, the Order of St. Andrew asked the firm of Washington, D.C. Archon Regional Commander Andrew Manatos to coordinate the nation-wide effort to make the President, all senators, and all Orthodox church communities across the country aware of how the Turkish government's religious discrimination is slowly destroying the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Archons of America have emphasized that the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate does not mean simply re-opening Halki Theological School. Rather, they have transformed the religious freedom issue to one that encompasses all the components that threaten the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including: lack of legal personality, government interference in the Patriarch's election, government confiscation of properties, inability to educate and train clergy in the local seminary, and inability to obtain work visas for clergy and lay staff.

This religious freedom campaign directs every Orthodox Christian to write and call his senator, arrange a face-to-face meeting to present the issue, and urge the senator to sign the letter. A packet of information was sent to all parishes in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and to other jurisdictions under the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the U.S. with active full-time priests, containing sample letters and suggestions for mobilizing the community to make the appeal.

"The average senator gets 25,000 written communications a week. So how do you get through to them?" said Manatos. A typical senator's office holds about 10 or 12 people at a time, he said. "If we can get 15 to 20 people to come to his office for a meeting, I can tell you he will never forget that."

Manatos proposed asking other local clergy, including Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish, to participate as a means of supporting international religious freedom. In addition, many Orthodox are contacting their local state representatives and proposing a resolution be passed in the state legislature supporting religious human rights in Turkey. A sample resolution is included in the packet sent to the churches. Last May, New Jersey became the first state to adopt such a measure, and a similar proposal was unanimously passed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. (See page 3.)

"The survival of the world center of Orthodoxy is threatened if things don't change," said National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis.

If either of your senators has not yet signed the religious freedom letter, contact Manatos & Manatos at 202-393-7790 and ask for assistance in arranging a meeting between the senator or his staff and your parish priest and lay leaders of the community.

Status of Senators Signing Ecumenical Patriarchal Letter to the President

61 SIGNERS INDICATED BELOW IN BOLD FONT

State	Senator	Senator
Alabama	Richard Shelby	Jeff Sessions
Alaska	Ted Stevens	Lisa Murkowski
Arizona	John McCain	Jon Kyl
Arkansas	Blanche Lincoln	Mark Pryor
California	Dianne Feinstein	Barbara Boxer
Colorado	Wayne Allard	Ken Salazar
Connecticut	Joe Lieberman	Christopher Dodd
Delaware	Joe Biden	Tom Carper
Florida	Bill Nelson	Mel Martinez
Georgia	John Isakson	Saxby Chambliss
Hawaii	Daniel Akaka	Daniel Inouye
Idaho	Larry Craig	Mike Crapo
Illinois	Richard Durbin	Barack Obama
Indiana	Richard Lugar	Evan Bayh
Iowa	Charles Grassley	Tom Harkin
Kansas	Sam Brownback	Pat Robertson
Kentucky	Mitch McConnell	Jim Bunning
Louisiana	Mary Landrieu	David Vitter
Maine	Olympia Snowe	Susan Collins
Maryland	Paul Sarbanes	Barbara Mikulski
Massachusetts	Ted Kennedy	John Kerry
Michigan	Debbie Stabenow	Carl Levin
Minnesota	Norm Coleman	Mark Dayton
Mississippi	Thad Cochran	Trent Lott
Missouri	Kit Bond	Jim Talent
Montana	Conrad Burns	Max Baucus
Nebraska	Chuck Hagel	Ben Nelson
Nevada	Harry Reid	John Ensign
New Hampshire	John Sununu	Judd Gregg
New Jersey	Bob Menendez	Frank Lautenberg
New Mexico	Pete Domenici	Jeff Bingaman
New York	Chuck Schumer	Hillary Clinton
North Carolina	Liddy Dole	Richard Burr
North Dakota	Kent Conrad	Byron Dorgan
Ohio	George Voinovich	Mike DeWine
Oklahoma	James Inhofe	Tom Coburn
Oregon	Ron Wyden	Gordon Smith
Pennsylvania	Rick Santorum	Arlen Specter
Rhode Island	Jack Reed	Lincoln Chafee
South Carolina	Jim DeMint	Lindsey Graham
South Dakota	Tim Johnson	John Thune
Tennessee	Bill Frist	Lamar Alexander
Texas	Kay Bailey Hutchison	John Cornyn
Utah	Bob Bennett	Orrin Hatch
Vermont	Patrick Leahy	Jim Jeffords
Virginia	George Allen	John Warner
Washington	Maria Cantwell	Patty Murray
West Virginia	Robert Byrd	Jay Rockefeller
Wisconsin	Herb Kohl	Russ Feingold
Wyoming	Michael Enzi	Craig Thomas

ARCHON ARCHIVE



New Jersey Gov. Corzine signs Resolution into Law Supporting Religious Freedom of Ecumenical Patriarchate



Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey (center) enjoys the fellowship of Archons and delegates at the Clergy-Laity Congress in July in Nashville, Tenn. Standing at far right is National Council Treasurer James Fountas.

New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine recently signed the Assembly and Senate Joint Resolution passed by his state legislature supporting the religious human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. New Jersey thus became the first in the union to pass such a resolution.

“We commend the governor and the legislators of New Jersey for following the conscience of our founding fathers who championed the inalienable right of religious freedom,” said Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, adding that he hopes “every other state legislature would emulate New Jersey’s historic example and follow suit!”

His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, with deep emotion, wholeheartedly welcomed the historic news that the legislature of the state of New Jersey recently passed a joint resolution (SJR11/AJR61) urging the government of Turkey to respect the human rights and religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul.

His Eminence, on behalf of the Archons and the Greek American citizens of New Jersey, congratulated the state representatives who sponsored the joint resolution. Led by Steve Corodemus, Upendra Chivukala, Joseph Kyrillos and Bob Smith, the resolution passed the state senate by a 39-0 vote and the state assembly by an 80-0 vote.

In his letter to Gov. Corzine, His Eminence noted, “As talks of Turkey’s accession into the European Union are underway, the citizens of New Jersey, through their elected officials, have a unique and historic opportunity to remind the Turkish government of its intolerance regarding the human, civic and religious rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all minority religions as well as its obligation to positively change their strategy and policy regarding such.”

With the resolution passed into law, New Jersey set the tone

for other states to follow in the renouncing of Turkey’s deplorable treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other minority religions within the country.

In a similar gesture, the delegates of the recently convened Clergy Laity Assembly of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey unanimously adopted an analogous resolution condemning the Government of Turkey for its blatant human and religious rights violations against the Ecumenical Patriarchate: “The Metropolis of New Jersey, consisting of clergy and lay representatives from its parishes in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia unanimously passed a resolution in support of the efforts of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle condemning the Turkish government for its denial of the religious and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate that threatens its very survival.” The Metropolis of San Francisco has also passed a similar measure at its Clergy-Laity Assembly.

His Eminence prays that these two recent actions will help bring to light Turkey’s systematic asphyxiation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodox Christians living in Istanbul.

Penn. House of Representatives Adopts Resolution

Thanks to the efforts of Archon Dr. Nicholas Loutsion in contacting his state representative, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on Oct. 24 unanimously passed a resolution urging the Turkish government to respect the human and property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Rep. Tim Solobay (D-48th Legislative District) on Oct. 2 introduced the resolution, drafted by legislative research analyst Alicia Riegel-Kanth with Loutsion’s guidance.

Loutsion arranged a meeting with Solobay in September where he presented the facts concerning the Patriarchate’s struggle, and emphasized that both U.S. senators from his home state were among the 49 who had signed the letter to President Bush appealing for the Christian minority’s rights. (At press time, the number of senators had reached 61.) Solobay put Loutsion in touch with research analysts at the state capitol in Harrisburg to help draft the resolution, similar to the one passed in New Jersey in May.

“Two things encouraged him to do this -- the fact that there were 49 senators, and that New Jersey had passed their resolution,” said Loutsion. “The idea was, ‘Well, if New Jersey did it, why isn’t Pennsylvania doing it?’”

The resolution details the Turkish government’s actions against the Patriarchate and explains the Order’s efforts to protect it from extinction.

ABS Donates Bibles for New Archons, Banquet



American Bible Society Technology Officer Nicholas Garbidakis (right), his wife, Sonia Skounaki, and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese IT Director Theo Nicolakis prepare to distribute 100 Bibles donated by the ABS to the Archons.

The 27 newest Archons were welcomed in October to the Order of St. Andrew with the gift of a leather-bound, personalized Bible courtesy of the American Bible Society.

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese information technology director Theo Nicolakis, who for five years has served as the Archdiocese's representative to the ABS, said the organization donated 100 copies of the New Oxford Annotated Bible (Revised Standard Version) with Apocrypha, each worth \$100. They were distributed as gifts to the new Archons, the 29-member National Council, and the 15 regional commanders during an orientation dinner held for them Friday Oct. 20.

"It's arguably the best edition (of the Bible) available," said Nicolakis. "It's important that we give something to the Archons that would maintain that liturgical standard."

The donation was coordinated by ABS Technology Officer Nicholas Garbidakis, an Orthodox Christian who attended Friday's dinner with his wife, Sonia Skounaki, and Nicolakis to present the gifts. "Since I'm Greek Orthodox, it was a perfect opportunity to have this collaboration with Theo," Garbidakis said.

The Order's National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis praised the ABS for its generous donation. "What could be more appropriate a gift than spreading the word of God to the Archons?" he said.

The covers of the Bibles were embossed with the seal of Ecumenical Patriarchate, and each recipient's name was engraved in gold on the bottom right corner. In addition to the personalized gifts, the ABS donated 600 copies of a recently published children's Bible distributed to the attendees of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award banquet held Saturday, Oct. 21.

The Friday night event marked the start of the Order's annual meeting weekend, whose activities included bestowing the Athenagoras award, the organization's annual meeting, and the investiture of new members by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.



A N N U



Archbishop Demetrios (left) held a memorial service for Archons who passed away in the previous year, assisted by Deacon Nathanael Symeonidis.



Treasurer James Fountas gives the Order's financial report during the general meeting.



Christopher Stratakis reported on the activities of the By-Laws Committee and the Legal Committee, which is seeking remedies for the Ecumenical Patriarchate from the European Court of Human Rights.



120 Attend General Meeting Oct. 21

More than 120 Archons and Archons-elect participated in the Order's annual meeting for all members held Saturday, Oct. 21 at the New York Hilton. The organization's work for the past year was reviewed, and chairmen from the committees on Finance, Education, Strategic Planning, Spirituality, By-Laws, and Regional Commanders Liaison presented their reports. National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis summed up the Order's vision, which is to protect and defend the embattled Ecumenical Patriarchate. He emphasized that members must remain "energized and engaged in this struggle."



Dr. Spiro Macris (at podium) and Dr. Nicholas Loutsion (standing center) recounted their trip to Warsaw, Poland for the annual meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. (See p. 15)



Archon *Depoutatos* John Panas, 88, retiring from the National Council after 23 years, received a plaque acknowledging his exemplary service from Archbishop Demetrios and Dr. Limberakis.



Pittsburg Regional Commander Peter Zikos (standing) asked a question during the annual meeting. Less than three weeks later, Zikos, 75, an Archon since 2000, passed away unexpectedly.



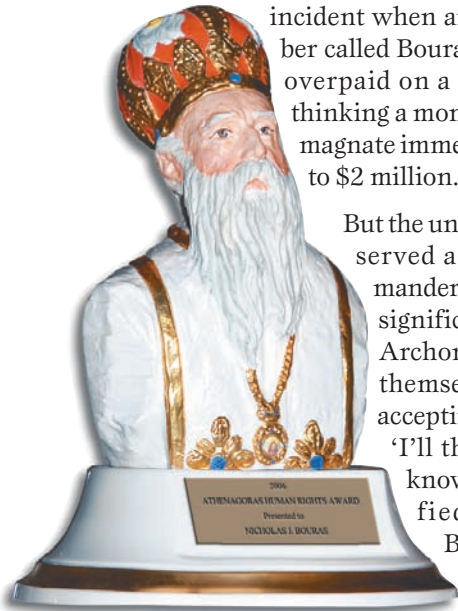
Writer Eleni Gage addressed the Ladies Tea to discuss *North of Ithaca*, her account of the year she spent in Epirus, Greece, renovating the ancestral home of her famous father, Greek-American author Nicholas Gage (*Eleni, A Place for Us*.)

Dr. Maria L. Limberakis addresses the wives and families of the Archons and Archons-elect at the Ladies' Tea, reviewing the religious freedom crisis.





Bouras.. from page 1



incident when an Archdiocese staff member called Bouras to alert him that he had overpaid on a \$1 million pledge. After thinking a moment, the soft-spoken steel magnate immediately doubled his pledge to \$2 million.

But the unassuming Bouras, who has served as the Order's Vice Commander since 1998, minimizes the significance of his contribution. Archon leaders said they braced themselves for his resistance to accepting the award. "I told them 'I'll think about it and let you know,' but they said they notified me, and that was it," Bouras said in an interview before the banquet.

In his brief acceptance speech, he admitted feeling uncomfortable with the title "humanitarian." "I, like my parents, am a Greek Orthodox Christian who tries to love God with all my heart, all my mind, and all my soul, and love my neighbor as myself," Bouras said. "Human rights is not a right just for us. It's a right and a responsibility of every human being on earth."

The decorated World War II veteran added, "I would like to recognize the members of the armed forces who put themselves in harm's way so we can pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

A native of Pontiac, Mich., Bouras served as president of Holy Trinity when the parishioners began meeting in a community center in 1965. Since that time, he has chaired the building committee, overseeing the development of the church edifice, classrooms, a gymnasium, and the recently completed community center. On the day the church was formally consecrated in 1975, he found himself before the altar as Archbishop Iakovos honored him with the title "Archon *Depoutatos*," or Patriarchal Summoner.

"When I became an Archon I didn't know what an Archon was," he said. "Archbishop Iakovos even cut off some of my hair."



Fox News national security correspondent Mike Emanuel, who was baptized at Bouras' parish, Holy Trinity in Westfield, N.J., served as toastmaster at the award banquet.



Archon and U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland gave Bouras a flag which was flown over the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.



Konstantine Vellios (standing at left) and Theodore Demetriou, (right) chaired the award banquet. At center is Nikitas Drakotos.



Bouras introduced his brother-in-law John Mathrusse of California (left) and his friend William Crane to Archbishop Demetrios.



Bouras enjoyed a moment with Archon and Leadership 100 Chairman George Behrakis (left) and Archbishop Demetrios.



Members of the Ladies' Philoptochos from Holy Trinity in Westfield, N.J., greeted His Eminence and Bouras. From left are Vice President Avi Kiriakatis, President Mary Demiris, and board member Mary Skiadas.



Rev. Constantine Sitaras (center), Executive Director of St. Basil Academy, introduced 11th-grader Melissa Nikitas to Bouras, who congratulated her for singing the national anthems at the award banquet.



National Council Secretary John Halecky, Jr. (right) with Archon-elect George Rockas, a member of the Legal Committee, and his son James.

When the ceremony was over, I came out and I said, ‘I’ve got to find out what an Archon is.’”

Despite his many active years in the Order, during which he twice made the pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Bouras emphasized the importance of changes made since 1998, when Dr. Limberakis became National Commander.

“The Archons didn’t do much until Dr. Limberakis became the Commander,” he said. “We used to meet, we did a few things, but nothing extraordinary like is going on now.”

Toastmaster Mike Emanuel, who grew up in Westfield’s Holy Trinity church, noted he had known Bouras “since I was baptized,” and called him “a member of the greatest generation,” Americans who persevered through the Great Depression and the Second World War.

Sarbanes gave Bouras the gift of a flag which has flown over the U.S. Capitol, a symbol of American democracy. “In honoring Nicholas Bouras, the Order recognizes a model of integrity, of generosity, of benevolence,” said Sarbanes. “He has demonstrated the true meaning of Christian stewardship.”

Kassimatis sent Bouras a cross fabricated from the structural steel of the north tower of the World Trade Center, destroyed on Sept. 11 along with St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in lower Manhattan — a church Bouras has offered to help rebuild. Kassimatis called the cross a tribute to his generosity “to help rebuild the church on this most sacred ground.”

A videotaped tribute played on massive overhead screens, featuring photos of Bouras’ family, mementoes of his military service as a bombardier in Europe during World War II, and praise from some of his employees. Bouras was married to his wife, Anna, for 52 years until her death in 1994. They had no children, but his devotion to his employees is well-known.

“Mr. Bouras would do anything for any of his employees, and we want him to know we’d do anything for him because we love him so much,” said his personal assistant Rosemary Stepien, in a taped interview on the video.



ORDER OF
SAINT ANDREW
THE APOSTLE

ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



Defenders of

The Archon Class of 2006 (pictured with National Commander Dr. Anth

- George James Anderson • Vaios Nicholas Athanasiou, DVM • Panagiotis Konstantinos Contos
- John Daskos • Jerry Dimitriou • John Dennis Georges • Leslie P. George, Esq. • Peter Georgiopoulos
- Eppaminondas George Johnson • Konstandinos Kazakos • Demetrios S. Kotsakis
- Harry Nicholas Kotsis • John Lagadinos • Arthur Loridas • Emmanuel Andrew Manatos



of the Faith

Anthony Limberakis, National Council members, and regional commanders).

- Nicholas Michael Moustoukas, MD • Kosmas M. Pablecas • Peter Clyde Papadakos, Esq.
- Michael J. Patzakis • Constantine Poll • George C. Rockas, Esq. • Wesley A. Stinich
- Nicholas E. Terezis, MD • Constantine Menelaus Triantafilou • Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, Esq.
- George James Tsunis, Esq. • Theodore P. Vlahos, MD.



Archbishop Demetrios, with clergy from around the Archdiocese including Holy Trinity Cathedral dean Rev. Robert Stephanopoulos (far left), celebrated the Divine Liturgy.



The class of 2006 after their investiture.

27 New Archons Invested

The Ecumenical Patriarchate grants the title of "Archon" to Orthodox Christian laymen who have offered extraordinary and distinguished service to the church. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, who represents the Ecumenical Patriarch in America, each year selects a group of new members for the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patri-



archate in America. During the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Oct. 22 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York City, His Eminence invested 27 men into the Archon class of 2006. He was assisted by Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, Archdiocese Chancellor Bishop Savas of Troas, and Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos.



One by one, the Archons-elect stood before the altar, where a hierarch recited the dedication prayer before draping the Cross of St. Andrew around his neck. Here, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta bestows the *offikion* (title) on Theodore P. Vlahos, MD.

The new Archons gathered around the Gospel book to take the oath.



Archons-elect attended the Divine Liturgy.

The Archon Oath

I do solemnly affirm that:
I shall live and worship according to my Orthodox Christian Faith, always respecting and obeying the Holy Canons and Holy Traditions of the Orthodox Christian Church, and that I will always defend and promote the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople through my support and observance of the principles, objectives, and purposes of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, so help me God.



Resolutions adopted in support of Ecumenical Patriarchate

CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS



Ecumenical Patriarchate representative Metropolitan Demetrios of Sevasteia (right) receives a gift from the Archons and Archbishop Demetrios at their fellowship dinner July 19 during the Clergy-Laity Congress.

Orthodox Church governing organizations this year unanimously adopted resolutions supporting religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey, the 1,700-year-old center of Orthodox Christianity throughout the world.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese held its 38th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in Nashville, Tenn. July 16-22. During a Plenary session with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios presiding, 717 delegates representing 329 parishes throughout the country adopted a resolution to establish religious freedom for the Patriarchate, including a call upon the U.S. government to press the Turkish government to honor its human rights commitments by recognizing the Ecumenical Patriarchate's legal status.

Led by National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Archons detailed how Turkish government discrimination now threatens to permanently eliminate the Patriarchate. The government has confiscated nearly 7,000 patriarchal properties since 1936. It forced the historic theological school on Halki island in the Sea of Marmara to close in 1971 and has refused to reopen it despite considerable international pressure. Yet it still requires the Ecumenical Patriarch to be a Turkish citizen and severely restricts visas to clergy from other nations, effectively guaranteeing that the Patriarchate will die out within another generation. It consistently denies the Patriarchate the right to manage its own affairs, or any legal status at all. The Turkish government's policies toward religion violate numerous treaties to which it has agreed since the modern Turkish state was founded in 1926.

A brochure was prominently displayed titled "How Can I Help Prevent the Termination of Our Sacred See, the 2000-Year-Old Ecumenical Patriarchate?" describing the attacks on religious freedom in Turkey, as well as practical steps any *see page 13* ♦

NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS

On July 18, 2006 at the 2006 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention, an extremely informative and moving presentation was offered by Dr. Anthony Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of St. Andrew Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Dr. Limberakis spoke of the current plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and he urged the Philoptochos to join with the Archdiocese and the Archons in support of religious freedom for the Patriarchate. Dr. Limberakis provided the delegates with a template of how we can each help to educate all of our clergy, our parishioners and our elected officials about the persecution of the Patriarchate.

National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas stated that the Ecumenical Patriarchate has always been of primary importance to the organization, which has not only supported the philanthropic programs and institutions of the Patriarchate, but has also provided emotional and moral support over the years. Mrs. Skeadas deemed it important that all Philoptochos members be made aware of the major human and religious freedom issues affecting the Patriarchate because of the official policies of the government of Turkey. She expressed her concern, on behalf of the National Philoptochos Society, that if we did not raise our concerns, the Ecumenical Patriarchate could be facing extinction.

In light of these significant events, Mrs. Skeadas was grateful that the body of the Philoptochos Convention passed a resolution of support.

This resolution was submitted to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to convey the sentiments of the Philoptochos body to President George W. Bush, the members of the United States Congress and all members of the President's cabinet.

A pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, with an itinerary that includes Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom), Chora Church and other pertinent sites in Istanbul, is being planned for Spring 2007 for Philoptochos members and their families.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Philoptochos Society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America at its 2006 Biennial Convention, consisting of representatives from its chapters throughout the United States, supports the efforts of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in protecting the rights and privileges of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and uncompromisingly opposes any actions which may threaten its survival. We ask the government of the United States to call on Turkey to observe all of the human rights of this venerable and ancient Holy See of Constantinople, the Spiritual Center of World Orthodoxy.



38TH CLERGY LAITY CONGRESS, NASHVILLE,

SHARING THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL & THE LOVE OF CHRIST



Metropolitan Demetrios of Sevasteia addresses the Archon fellowship dinner July 19 as Archbishop Demetrios listens.



At the July 20 banquet, Roman Catholic Bishop of Nashville David R. Choby visited with Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta (second from left), Dr. Anthony Limberakis (far right) and Jerry Dimitriou, who was invested as an Archon in October (see pages 8-9).



From left, Bishop Savas of Troas, hosting Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, and Metropolitan Demetrios of Sevasteia listen to a speaker at the Archon Family Reception July 16.



Archon Dr. James G. Kallins, Regional Commander of Los Angeles, greets Archbishop Demetrios at the July 16 Archon Family Reception.



Archons Andrew Manatos, left, and George Kaludis greet His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios at the Archon Family Reception July 16.



Archon Nicholas Furriss greets Metropolitan Demetrios of Sevasteia after the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy July 16.



Resolutions... *from page 11* ▶

church member can take. Those steps involve the Religious Freedom Project that seeks to mobilize Orthodox churches throughout the country to ask their respective U.S. senators to sign a letter to President George W. Bush. (See related story on p. 2.)

In a separate session at the conference, the national Ladies' Philoptochos Society unanimously adopted a similar resolution after seeing and hearing of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's plight.

"The President of the Ladies' Philoptochos was overwhelmed by the presentation," noted Archon National Council member Konstantine Vellios. "She said many of them didn't even know what was going on in Turkey."

Archon events at the Congress included a family reception on Sunday evening, July 16, hosted by Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras; a business breakfast Wednesday, July 19 hosted by National Council member Stephen Cherpelis; and a fellowship dinner that evening at which they honored the Ecumenical Patriarch's representative Metropolitan Demetrios of Sevasteia.



National Council member Stephen Cherpelis (center), with his parish priest Rev. Paul Palesty (of St. Nicholas Church, Flushing, N.Y.) and Archon Arthur C. Anton at the Archon fellowship dinner July 19. Cherpelis hosted the Archon business breakfast earlier that day.

CARPATHO-RUSSIAN COUNCIL
Sobor Passes Resolution
Supporting Ecumenical Patriarchate

Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos (seated at right) presided over the Carpatho-Russian Diocese Council in Old Greenwich, Conn. Archon John Halecky, Jr. introduced Dr. Anthony Limberakis before his presentation on the religious freedom struggles of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



ACROD PHOTO

A recent gathering of clergy and lay members of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese (ACROD) unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the Order's efforts to protect the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Under the leadership of His Eminence the Most Reverend Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos, a member of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Holy Synod, the diocese held its 20th Diocesan Council/Sobor July 9-12 in Old Greenwich, Conn., hosted by the New England Deanery and chaired by V. Rev. Luke Mihaly.

During the council's general session July 11, Archon National Council Secretary and ACROD member John Halecky, Jr. introduced Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, who gave a powerful presentation illustrating the Turkish government's ongoing persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Archons' striving to protect it from asphyxiation.

"This is what we're attempting to do. Hopefully we'll get it done in a lot of different places and it'll make an impact," said Halecky, a member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Elizabeth, N.J. "Everyone's just too happy to do what they can to help the cause."

Over the course of three days of prayer, education, deliberation and fellowship, clergy, their wives, and lay delegates charted the course of the diocese for the next three years.

BE IT RESOLVED that the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, at its 20th Triennial Diocesan Council/Sobor, consisting of clergy and lay representatives from its seventy-five parishes, supports and encourages the efforts of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to stop Turkey's denial of the religious and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate that threatens its very survival.

This Council/Sobor hereby authorizes that this resolution be transmitted to President George W. Bush and to all the United States Senators within the jurisdiction of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, with a copy to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and to Dr. Anthony Limberakis, the National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle.

Passed unanimously at Greenwich, Connecticut on this 11th day of July 2006

Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos
 Secretary, 20th Council/Sobor



Bush appoints Natsios Special Envoy to Sudan



COURTESY FAO/I. BALDERI

Andrew Natsios

President George W. Bush in September appointed Archon Andrew Natsios as Special Envoy to Sudan to help negotiate an end to the bloody conflict in Darfur and bring peace and stability throughout the country.

Natsios has worked in diplomatic and international relief efforts in Sudan for 17 years, the last five as administrator of the U.S. Agency for International

Development (USAID). He hopes to use the contacts he has cultivated in the war-torn nation to encourage a lasting peace agreement between all the parties.

“What our objective is, is not to have a temporary fix for two months, but to try to deal with the root causes of this so we don’t have another fourth war in five years, should we end this one successfully,” Natsios said.

Sudan was plagued for 22 years by a civil war between the Arab Muslim-dominated north and the black African animist and Christian south. Then in 2003, ethnic Africans in the northwestern Darfur region revolted against the government, which responded with widespread massacres of entire villages. The genocide has killed more than 200,000

people and displaced between 1 and 2 million.

“The government intervened and caused what was a (controllable) problem into a massive military campaign to destroy the ethnic base of the African population, burning villages down and causing chaos,” Natsios said.

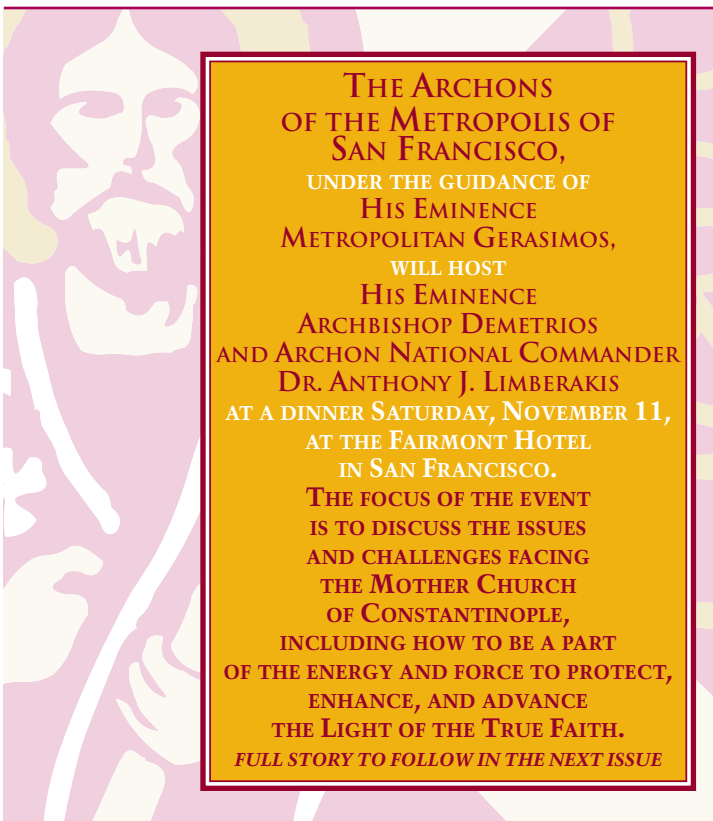
In recent months, the violence has even claimed the lives of 13 aid workers as they responded to what has been called the world’s worst humanitarian disaster. Now the government is stonewalling a U.N. peacekeeping force, and Sudan’s President Omar al-Bashir is characterizing the crisis “as a war between the Arab world and the west,” said Natsios.

His role will be to help bring about a comprehensive peace agreement between all the warring parties and make recommendations for U.S. policy in the African nation.

“This is a political question, a diplomatic question, not a humanitarian question,” he said of his assignment. “It’s not help, it’s pressure. I’m going to use diplomacy to convince them (to accept the U.N. peacekeeping force and reach a peace agreement).”

A Massachusetts native and professor of the practice of diplomacy at Georgetown University, Natsios was invested as an Archon in October 2005. He credited his religious faith with influencing his decision to accept his new job, further demonstrating his commitment to human rights and concern for those under oppression. Genocide, he noted, is not in God’s plan for mankind.

“This is a challenge to the moral order God created when He created the universe,” he said.



**THE ARCHONS
OF THE METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO,**
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF
HIS EMINENCE
METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS,
WILL HOST
HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS
AND ARCHON NATIONAL COMMANDER
DR. ANTHONY J. LIMBERAKIS
AT A DINNER SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11,
AT THE FAIRMONT HOTEL
IN SAN FRANCISCO.
THE FOCUS OF THE EVENT
IS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES
AND CHALLENGES FACING
THE MOTHER CHURCH
OF CONSTANTINOPLE,
INCLUDING HOW TO BE A PART
OF THE ENERGY AND FORCE TO PROTECT,
ENHANCE, AND ADVANCE
THE LIGHT OF THE TRUE FAITH.
FULL STORY TO FOLLOW IN THE NEXT ISSUE

IN MEMORIAM
OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS GO TO THE
FAMILY & FRIENDS OF OUR BELOVED MEMBERS.

<p>Nikolaos Chatzopoulos <i>Archon Aktouarios</i> 09/20/06, Roselle Park, N.J.</p> <p>Nicholas Coffinas <i>Archon Megas Dikaiophylax</i> 09/04/06, Brooklyn, N.Y.</p> <p>Peter Constantine <i>Archon Depoutatos</i> 10/11/06, New York, N.Y.</p> <p>Charles M. Georgeson <i>Archon Megas Dikaiophylax</i> 07/23/06, Clinton, Ma.</p> <p>Nicholas Kallas <i>Archon Depoutatos</i> 10/23/06, Dearborn, Mi.</p> <p>Andrew T. Kopan <i>Archon Didaskalos Tou Genous</i> 07/01/06, River Forest, Ill</p>	<p>Paul K. Pialtos <i>Archon Depoutatos</i> 05/10/06, Fort Lee, N.J.</p> <p>Samson J. Procopion <i>Archon Depoutatos</i> 08/17/06, Waterbury, Conn.</p> <p>Charles Sosangelis <i>Archon Notarios</i> 9/18/06, Wilmington, De.</p> <p>Arthur P. Takes <i>Archon Notarios</i> 07/08/06, Albany, N.Y.</p> <p>Speros Theofilos <i>Archon Megas Hieromnimon</i> 09/19/06, Odessa, Fla.</p> <p>Ernest A. Villas <i>Archon Notarios</i> 07/14/06, Weston, Mass.</p> <p>Peter Zikos <i>Archon Aktouarios</i> 11/09/06, McMurray, Pa.</p>
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MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL



Macris, Loutsion attend Human Rights OSCE Forum

The Order of St. Andrew sent two Archons to the annual human rights meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Warsaw, Poland in early October 2006.

Dr. Spiro Macris of Wilmington, N.C. and Dr. Nicholas Loutsion of Pittsburgh, Penn. each made a presentation before representatives from 55 nations who gathered at the OSCE's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting Oct. 2-13 to listen to human rights reports from around the world. Macris reported on Turkey's violations of religious freedoms, and Loutsion reported on Turkey's discrimination against the Greek Orthodox minority and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

"We did elicit a response from the Turkish delegation, because after our presentation, the Turkish ambassador (to the OSCE) ended up speaking to the U.S. delegation concerning some of the facts that we presented in our paper," Loutsion said. "So we did shake them up a little bit."

The OSCE is an organized body of nations, all of whom have signed the Helsinki Accords of 1975, an agreement designed to set standards for governments on human rights, economics, technology, and the environment. The OSCE holds annual meetings where reports on human rights around the world are given by official government delegations from its 55 member nations, as well



Archon Aktouarios Nicholas Loutsion, VMD

as non-governmental organizations, or "NGOs." Also known as the Helsinki Commission, the OSCE has no legal authority but operates as a forum for exchanging ideas and making recommendations.

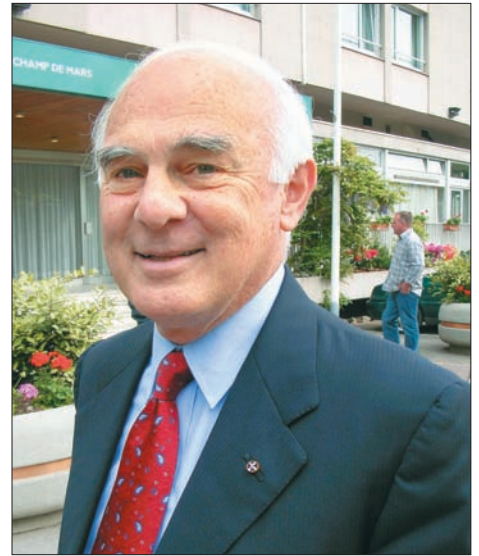
Last year's meeting was the first attended by an Archon, when Macris prepared both reports but was only granted the time to present the one on religious freedom.

Calling the meeting "a mini-U.N.," Macris said two non-Orthodox NGOs who were not at last year's meeting made presentations addressing the problems faced by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Turkey's Christian minority. They were a Turkish-born Roman Catholic who works for a Vatican-affiliated organization in Aachen, Germany, and a Norwegian representative of a European human rights group.

"It was interesting to see there were other NGOs that spoke about the Patriarchate and the pressure it's under," he said. "The Turkish government is essentially looting the properties that belong to the Patriarchate and the Greek minority."

Loutsion emphasized the dire need for the Archons and other Ecumenical Patriarchate advocates to make a strong appearance at the annual forum.

"It's imperative that we get other organizations involved if we're going to (protect) the Patriarchate," he said. "I was told by an NGO there that this is one of the most important places for forming opinions on human rights in Europe. I really commend Spiro for starting this process."



Archon Hieromnimon Spiro Macris, DDS
on human rights in Europe. I really commend Spiro for starting this process."

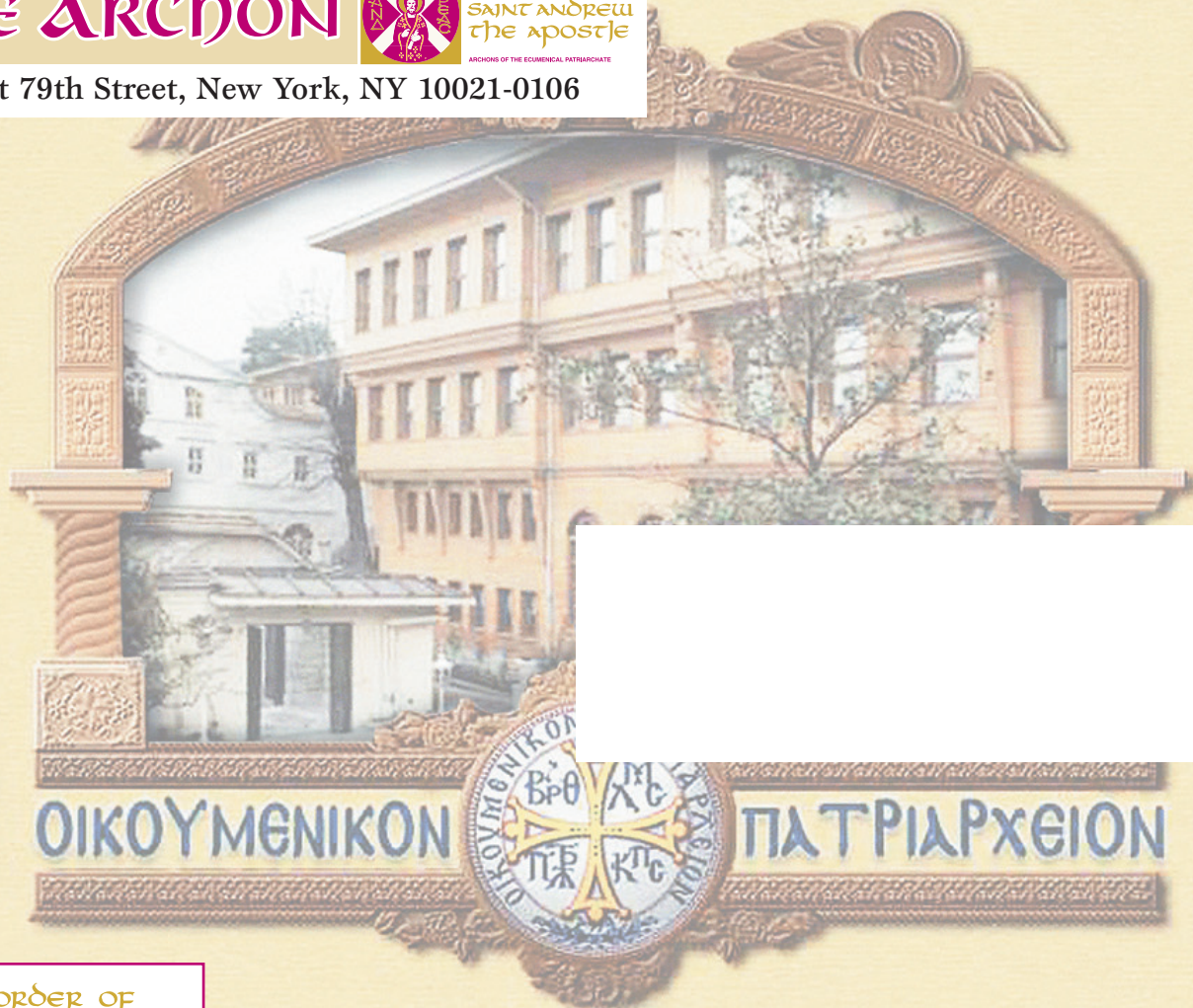
Loutsion added that the most demanding part of the assignment is not the travel to Warsaw or presenting the reports, but the hard work of Dr. Macris, who did the research and kept up with daily news stories and events throughout the entire year to prepare the reports. That is a full-time job in itself, Loutsion said, adding, "We need more volunteers to create a team effort."

"The Turkish government is essentially looting the properties that belong to the Patriarchate and the Greek minority."

—Dr. Spiro J. Macris

The U.S. government was represented at the meeting by the U.S. Commission on International Freedom. Its chairman Felice Gaer told Macris she planned to travel to Turkey in the near future, and asked to speak to him before her trip. The report she gave on Turkey stated:

"The United States urges the Government of Turkey to remove impediments to the free exercise of religion for majority and minority communities alike. While we welcome the recent changes to the Foundations Law, we urge Turkey to remove the powers of expropriation and to end this practice of expropriating religious properties in neighborhoods with few citizens. The U.S. also urges return to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of full control of the Theological School at Halki."



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2006 PILGRIMAGE TO THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



ARCHON ARCHIVE

Rev. Alexander Karloutsos (center), the Archons' Spiritual Adviser, traveled to Rome in October with Archons Alexander Pritsos, Pilgrimage Chairman (left) and Nicholas Furriss, Communications Coordinator, to prepare for the historic visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the Ecumenical Patriarchate Nov. 29-30.

More than 150 Archons and other pilgrims will join them and celebrate the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, founder of the church in Constantinople.

The Archon

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