

## Archons continue fight for Religious Freedom on behalf of Ecumenical Patriarchate

An Archon delegation led by National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis traveled to Europe in April to follow up on the Order's Religious Freedom Mission launched in June 2005. In a week of meetings April 1-6 with a broad spectrum of European Union leaders, the Archons continued their fight for the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate while simultaneously supporting Turkey's integration into the EU community.



During a luncheon in Strasbourg, Dr. Antonios Trakatellis, left, a senior Vice President of the European Parliament and brother of Archbishop Demetrios, looked over materials shown to him by Dr. Anthony Limberakis concerning the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



The Archon delegation met with Austrian President Dr. Heinz Fischer, who is also the current rotating president of the EU Council, at the Presidential Palace in Vienna. From left: Rev. Alexander Karloutsos, Presvytera Xanthi Karloutsos, National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Dr. Fischer, Metropolitan Michael of Austria, Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, and Ecumenical Patriarchate representative Metropolitan Emmanuel of France.

As Turkey continues negotiating its possible admission to the EU, the Archons urged that EU leaders require the Turkish government to live up to democratic standards by reforming its religious discriminatory policies, which have decimated the Orthodox Christian community in Turkey and the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul.

Dr. Limberakis, who was joined on the trip by Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis and Spiritual Adviser Rev. Alexander Karloutsos, called the meetings "very successful." Stratakis said the trip helped raise awareness of the serious Turkish human rights abuses which threaten the very existence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including denying it legal status, confiscating thousands of its properties, and refusing to reopen the seminary on Halki island while still requiring the *see page 6*

**Religious Freedom Initiative**  
*Archons Urge Senators To Sign Letter To President*

With the blessings and participation of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Archons from coast to coast have launched a campaign to secure the signatures of all 100 United States senators on a letter to the President of the United States alerting him to the crisis facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The historically massive effort involves more than 5,000 letters and thousands more phone calls and e-mails, and is designed to make the President, all senators, and all Orthodox church communities across the country aware of the seriousness of the threat to the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In a letter to all members of the Order of St. Andrew, National Commander *see page 10*



## Spiro Macris Speaks At International OSCE Forum

Representatives from 55 nations listened to the grim details of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's plight, when Archon Spiro Macris presented a status report on the Patriarchate and the Order of St. Andrew at a recent annual meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Warsaw, Poland.

The OSCE is a collection 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 official government delegations from its 55 member nations, as well as "non-governmental organizations," give reports on human and religious rights around the world. Also known as the Helsinki Commission, the OSCE has no legal authority but operates as a forum for exchanging ideas and making recommendations.

Macris, a retired North Carolina dentist who has served on the Archon National Council for five years and is chairman of its Education Committee, spent 10 days poring over exhaustive tomes to compose his two reports: the first detailing the Turkish government's violations specifically of religious rights, and the second exploring the more general discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Christian minority.

"I thought we did a good thing by attending and bringing the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek minority to the attention of the forum," Macris said.

*Presented by Dr. Spiro Macris at the OSCE Meeting in Warsaw, Poland*

**I** thank you for the opportunity for the Order of St. Andrew/Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to express its views regarding religious freedom as it relates to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul. The Order of St. Andrew is a United States-based organization consisting of Orthodox Christian laymen who seek to promote the well-being of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the spiritual center of 300 million Orthodox Christians throughout the world. Among these Orthodox Christian laymen are members of Congress, the government, the professions, and the business world.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate has had a continuous existence of nearly 2000 years, although since the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the Ottoman Turks, it has been severely suppressed and stifled in its holy mission by both the Ottoman Turks and by a succession of Turkish governments throughout the 20th century.

The Order of St. Andrew during the last decade has entered into a dialogue with Turkish government officials regarding the state of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Among the host of issues which the Order of St. Andrew has brought to this dialogue are the following:

1. The inability of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to elect a new Patriarch without his being approved by the Turkish government; indeed, all candidates must be Turkish citizens, in contrast to the freedom enjoyed by the Vatican to elect popes of Polish, German, and other nationalities;
2. The refusal of the Turkish government to recognize the "ecumenicity" of the Patriarch, that is, his role as leader of 250 million Orthodox Christians throughout the world;
3. The refusal of the Turkish government to reopen the Patri-

archal seminary on the island of Heybeliada (Halki);

4. The inability of visiting students and priests to study and serve at the Patriarchate without having to leave Turkey periodically, because of visa restrictions;

5. The refusal of the Turkish government to permit the Ecumenical Patriarchate to have its own printing facility to publish journals, treatises, and books;

## Religious Freedom: The Ecumenical Patriarchate In Istanbul



6. The expropriation and confiscation by the Turkish government of properties belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Patriarchal affiliated institutions; (in 1936, these properties numbered more than 8,000; by 1999 these properties had been reduced to 2,000, and today a further 75% reduction has left fewer than 500 properties). The confiscations continue to this day.

In a visit to Turkey on February 5-10, 2004, a delegation of the Order of St. Andrew met with Minister of Education Huseyin Celik in Ankara, and he stated that the seminary at Halki would be reopened in the fall of the year, only a few details remained to be worked out.

In a later visit to Turkey on November 27th - December 5, the

atmosphere had changed completely, and the delegation learned that the seminary at Halki was not to be reopened. It was during this visit that the Turkish government forbade officials of the government from attending a reception at the American Ambassador's home in Ankara in honor of the "Ecumenical" Patriarch. This event was noted in the much publicized editorial titled "The Sick Man of Europe - Again," in the Wall Street Journal, dated February 16, 2005.

In addition to the seminary at Halki, other threatened properties affiliated with the Ecumenical Patriarchate include Baloukli Hospital and Home for the Aged, a 250-year old institution in Istanbul, which serves some 30,000 Turkish citizens each year; the Patriarchal Orphanage on the island of Buyukada (Prinkipos) off the coast of Istanbul, a facility which has cared for hundreds of orphans since its founding in 1902; and the Monastery of Metamorphosis on the island of Kinali (Proti), which for some sixty years has hosted a summer camp for children.

Baloukli Hospital and Home for the Aged is a charity hospital and cares for most of its patients free of charge. It has been supported by income derived from various donated properties for over two hundred years. Since 1936, some 153 of these properties have been confiscated by the Turkish government. The hospital was just recently informed that it is subject to a 42 percent tax retroactive to 1999. The Ecumenical Patriarchate has petitioned the Turkish government since 1963, but has been unable to obtain permits to repair and renovate the orphanage. The Turkish government, citing its state of disrepair as an excuse, has confiscated the orphanage along with its surrounding property. The Ecumenical Patriarchate has taken this case to the European Court of Human Rights.

The Patriarchal Summer Camp at the Monastery of Metamorphosis on the [see page 11](#)





Presented by Dr. Spiro Macris at the OSCE Meeting in Warsaw, Poland

**I** thank you for the opportunity for the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to express its views regarding discrimination exercised by the Turkish government against the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul and the Greek minority of Turkey. Discrimination against minorities in Turkey has been a common practice, if not a governmental policy, for most of the 20th century, and regrettably continues to this very day.

This year has seen incidents of discrimination against women, writers, Protestant ministers and places of worship, and the Ecumenical Patriarch and Orthodox Christian property foundations. This, in spite of a new and revised penal code and other new and revised laws governing human rights, torture, women's rights, divorce and rape, freedom of worship and property rights. In early March of this year, a demonstration in Istanbul of perhaps 300 women took place in conjunction with International Women's Day; the demonstrators were demanding equal rights for women.

The demonstration was broken up by police using truncheons and tear gas. In photos transmitted around the world, police were seen beating women who had fallen to the ground.

In May 2005, a Protestant pastor named Wolfgang Hade, who ministered to a small church in Izmit, found a large red swastika painted on the door of his home and a handwritten letter containing threats to his and his family's safety if they did not leave Turkey in a month. On previous occasions, church windows had been broken out and an attempt had been made to burn the church down. On March 11, a government approved sermon read in Turkey's mosques at

Friday prayers specifically warned worshippers against Christian missionaries.

My primary purpose today, however, is to discuss the discrimination against the Greek minority in Turkey and the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul. Two recently published books describing this discrimination are: *The Mechanism of Destruction: The Turkish Pogrom of September 6-7, 1955*, and *The Destruction of the Greek Community of Istanbul*, by Speros Vryonis, Jr.; and Turkish Policy Towards Greek Education in Istanbul 1923-1974: Secondary Education and Cultural Identity, by Irini Sarioglou.

Some of the methods used by Turkish governments during the 20th century to discriminate against the Greek minority:

1) In the 1930's, legislation was passed barring entry into the professions by Greek citizens living in Istanbul;

2) In 1941, legislation was passed permitting forced conscription into labor battalions of Christians and Jewish males between the ages of 18 and 45;

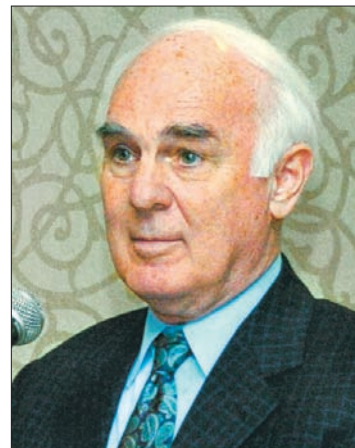
3) In 1942 legislation was passed implementing the *varlik vergisi*, a confiscatory tax on property and estates, which once assessed on an individual or a corporation, had to be paid within 15 days. The tax rate on Greeks, Jews and Armenians was 10 times the rate levied on Muslim Turks. Those unable to pay were sent to Askale in eastern Turkey and consigned to harsh labor;

4) The program of September 6-7, 1955, which Professor Vryonis' book discusses in detail, resulted in 1,000 homes destroyed in the Greek community and 2,500 partially destroyed- all were looted; 4,000-4,500 stores were looted and destroyed or damaged; 30 Greek males were killed; 200 Greek women were raped; of 83 Greek Orthodox churches in Istanbul, 59 were burned and most others suffered

serious damages; the tombs of past patriarchs were destroyed; Christian cemeteries were defiled;

5) In 1961 (June 21), a military junta decree (No.5/1248) entitled "Review of Public Benefits Foundations," deprived all Greek foundations — churches, schools, etc., — of their freely elected governing boards, transforming them into simple administrative organs with no authority and making the foundations a legal and financial hostage of the state;

## Discrimination By Turkey Against Its Greek Minority And The Ecumenical Patriarchate



Dr. Spiro Macris.

D. PANAGOS

6) In 1964 (September 16), a governmental decree (No. 6/3801) was issued which resulted in the eventual expulsion of between 40,000 to 48,000 of the Greek minority, most of whom were Turkish citizens;

7) In 1974 a decision by the Turkish Highest Court of Appeals retroactively stripped the Greek minority of all property it had acquired since 1936;

8) In 1980 Turkish authori-

ties retroactively invalidated wills and testaments of those expelled under the 1964 decree.

How successful have these government-inspired discriminatory policies been? In 1924, Istanbul and its environs had a population of approximately 1,065,866. Muslims numbered 656,281; Greeks 297,788; Armenians 73,407; and Jews 56,390. Today Istanbul's population is 12-13 million and the Greek minority numbers 2,000 to 3,000.

Minority Greek and Greek Orthodox properties therefore continue to be confiscated at an alarming rate even today — since 1999 some 75% of Patriarchal and Patriarchal-affiliated properties have been confiscated. The Turkish government, again under pressure from the EC, is purportedly revising this legislation, but nothing new has appeared as yet.

I will only touch on a few other property issues, simply to show the extent of the discriminatory practices against the Greek minority:

1) All the monasteries (8) on the Prince Islands have been expropriated;

2) All the Greek cemeteries (approximately 40) in Istanbul have been expropriated;

3) Properties on the islands of Gokceqda (Imvros) and Bozcaada (Tenedos) have been expropriated through the forced expulsion of what was once a majority Greek population;

4) The patriarchal orphanage on the island of Buyukada (Prinkipos) has been claimed by the Turkish government;

5) The Baloukli Hospital and Old Aged Home in Istanbul has just recently been assessed a 42 percent tax retroactive to 1999;

6) The Orthodox Seminary on the island of Heybeliada (Halki) has been closed since 1971.

Turkey's treat- see page 11



# ST. PHOTIOS NATIONAL SHRINE

## St. Photios Shrine Honors Order of St. Andrew

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.

The St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine celebrated its 24th annual pilgrimage and feast day of its patron St. Photios by honoring the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate during its pilgrimage weekend Feb. 4-5.

St. Photios Executive Director V. Rev. Nicholas T. Graff explained the Shrine's board of trustees chose to honor the Archons because, as church leaders and champions of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, they are among those who have most supported and inspired the Shrine.

"There is a beautiful metaphorical connection between the Phanar of the Ecumenical throne and the Shrine," said V. Rev. Graff. "The Phanar is a beacon for world Orthodoxy, and in many ways the Shrine is also like a vigil lamp here in this country."

Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis delivered the keynote address at the Feb. 5 luncheon at the Casa Monica Hotel, in which he detailed the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey, whose very existence is threatened by the Turkish government's continued religious human rights abuses. Dr. Limberakis described his appearance as a mission to spread the word about the urgency of the situation: that unless Turkish governmental policies are reversed soon, the Patriarchate is not expected to survive beyond another generation.

"There were people there that didn't realize the crisis that exists," said Dr. Limberakis, noting that as Ecumenical Patriarch during the ninth century, St. Photios himself established the monastery which was later developed into a seminary on the island of Halki. The Turkish government's forcible closure of the seminary in 1971 and its continued refusal to re-open it chokes the church's ability to train its clergy.

Dr. Limberakis also presented the St. Photios Shrine with a \$10,000 donation on behalf of the Order, completing its \$27,000 pledge to the Shrine's Enhancement Fund. Other pledges came from Archon William Planes of Florida, Tom and Carolyn Pappas, and Daniel and Charlotte Randopoulos, both of California.

The more than 150 attendees at the luncheon sprang to their feet in applause when Archon Charles Masterpolis of Tybee Island, Ga. unexpectedly pledged \$1 million to the Shrine. In accepting Masterpolis' gift, Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, representing His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, asked Masterpolis how he felt to donate such a sum. "I only wish I had more to give," he replied, eliciting the spontaneous ovation from the crowd.

Unveiled in February 1982 by then-Archbishop Iakovos, the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine is dedicated to the first colony of Greek immigrants to the U.S. who arrived in St. Augustine in 1768. It honors their memory as well as that of all succeeding generations of Greek pioneers who ventured to the new world, where they forged new lives while establishing church

communities and upholding their faith and cultural heritage. In addition to a variety of exhibits depicting the story of the first Greek community in America, there is a chapel dedicated to St. Photios, who during his tenure as Ecumenical Patriarch struggled against formidable heresies including iconoclasm and the *filioque*.

Metropolitan Nicholas presided over the work of the Shrine during the weekend, with Archon Harry Cavalaris, first vice president, supervising the board of trustees business meeting held Feb. 4. Mr. Cavalaris and Archon Nicholas Furriss gave reports of the tremendous progress of the Enhancement/Endowment Funds. Archon and Mrs. Mannuel Tissura of Tucker, Ga. served as chairmen of the weekend's events.<sup>8</sup>



Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, right (pictured with the mayor of St. Augustine George Gardner), gave the keynote address at the St. Photios luncheon.

## IN MEMORIAM

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

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

**Aristides "Harry" Magafan**  
*Archon Depoutatos*  
12/15/05, Bethesda, Md.

**Angelo Berbatis**  
*Archon Ekdikos*  
1/1/06, Sarasota, Fla.

**Tom Barbatsuly**  
*Archon Hieromnimon*  
1/2/06, Garden City, N.Y.

**Charles G. Bochanis**  
*Archon Depoutatos*  
1/2/06, Bethesda, Md.

**Dr. Jean Papps**  
*Archon Aktouarios*  
1/30/06, Jamaica, N.Y.

**Stephen Rockson**  
*Archon Depoutatos*  
2/11/06, Greenacres, Fla.

**Angelo Tsiantis**  
*Archon Ekdikos*  
3/8/06, Columbia, S.C.

**Peter C. Zourdos**  
*Archon Lambadarios*  
4/18/06, Bethesda, Md.

**Sam Nakis**  
*Archon Exarchos*  
5/4/06, Chesterfield, Mo.

**Jerry N. Renesis**  
*Archon Hypomnetografos*  
6/14/06, Norfolk, Va.

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL





## LEGAL COMMITTEE

### Legal Committee Seeking to Bring Turkey Before Human Rights Court

Appointed by National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis in an effort to seek legal remedies to the religious persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a Legal Committee of ten Archons is investigating options of bringing the Turkish government before the European Court of Human Rights.

Formed last fall, the committee under the chairmanship of Archon Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis enlisted the help of Cornell University Law School to research the details of how to seek judicial remedies from the European court for the Patriarchate's decades of persecution under the Turkish government.

In December 2005, a four-student research team led by Cornell Law School professor Muna B. Ndulo prepared a lengthy and exacting report entitled "Analysis of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Application to the European Court of Human Rights."



Legal Committee members, from left, Christopher Stratakis and George Rockas with the research team at Cornell University Law School. From center, the team includes law students Sharon F. Linzey, Christine K. Gau, and Steven N. Jones, guided by Prof. Muna Ndulo (rear).

Legal Committee member and Cornell Law School alumnus George C. Rockas of Boston, Mass., called the Cornell report "a road map for the prosecution of a case in the European Court of Human Rights which will seek redress of the many grievances that the Ecumenical Patriarchate has against the Turkish government."

"That case will be an important step in the Patriarchate's centuries-old struggle to realize basic religious freedoms and perhaps more importantly, for self-preservation," Rockas wrote in a letter to the research team.

The report addressed both the substance (the "what") and procedure (the "how") of potential court action, researched dozens of cases presented before the human rights court over the past 25 years, and probed copious writings on international law, especially in light of fundamental human freedoms.

"The central issue here is the Turkish government's refusal to grant the Patriarchate and its institutions legal status as entities entitled to manage their own affairs and to see page 11

## ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH WELCOMED



Archon and AHEPA Supreme President Gus James, center, and other Archons and AHEPA members offered their respects to His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during his visit to Florida in January.



His All Holiness received a framed copy of the *New York Times* front page featuring his visit to New Orleans from Archon John Catsimatidis, who financed his visit to the ravaged city.



His All Holiness greets Archon National Council member John Halecky Jr. at the Vasilopita at the Westin Hotel in Tarpon Springs on Jan. 5. National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas, center, approaches for a blessing.

N. MANGINAS

N. MANGINAS





In his Brussels office, Turkish Ambassador to Belgium Fuat Tanlay, second from right, received a copy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate guide from Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis and Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, left. At far right stood Ecumenical Patriarch representative Metropolitan Emmanuel of France.

### Archons continue... from page 1

Ecumenical Patriarch to be a Turkish citizen and severely restricting visas to clergy from other nations.

“We believe our trip to the EU this year has helped keep on the table the serious Turkish violations and abuses which threaten the very existence of our Ecumenical Patriarchate,” said Stratakis. “Important EU functionaries and decision-makers are becoming more sensitized to our message for freedom of religion, equality in the eyes of the law and impartial administration of civil rights among all Turkish citizens, irrespective of their religion, creed or confession.”

The delegation divided its time between Brussels, Belgium, site of the European Union’s administration and missions; Strasbourg, France, where the European Parliament holds its plenary sessions; and Vienna, Austria, since Austria currently holds the rotating Presidency of the EU.

The Archons were guided throughout the week by the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s representative to the European Union Metropolitan Emmanuel of France and, while in Vienna, by Metropolitan Michael of Austria. Prior to their departure, Dr. Limberakis and Rev. Karloutsos met with Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns, Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Bryza in Washington, D.C.

In Brussels, the delegation met with key officials of the Enlargement Committee, which works on adding new member nations to the EU, including Christos Katharios, head of the enlargement division in the Council of the European Union. They also met with Greek Ambassador to the EU Vassilios Kaskarellis; U.S. Ambassador to the EU C. Boyden Gray; Turkish Ambassador to Belgium Fuat Tanlay; Margaritis Schinas, head of the EU Commissioner Markos Kyprianou’s cabinet; Christian Danielsson, head of the unit responsible for Turkey’s integration into the EU; and Dr. Michael Weninger of the European Commission.

In Brussels, Dr. Limberakis was interviewed by Turkish TV journalists Guldener Sonumut, Chief of the Brussels bureau NTV Turkish channel and Cansu Camlibel,



A wall mural depicting the gold stars (each star represents a country) towers over a cluster of flags.

### The candidate countries

	România • Romania * Capital: Bucharest 238 000 km² - 21.7 million inhabitants	RO
	България • Bulgaria * Capital: Sofia 111 000 km² - 7.8 million inhabitants	BG
	Hrvatska • Croatia ** Capital: Zagreb 56 542 km² - 4.4 million inhabitants	HR
	Türkiye • Turkey ** Capital: Ankara 770 000 km² - 70.7 million inhabitants	TR

\* Accession is foreseen in 2007  
\*\* Accession negotiations will start in 2005





In Vienna, Dr. Anthony Limberakis and Christopher Stratakis met with the American-educated Turkish Ambassador to Austria Selim Yenel, center.



The European Union: its flag of representing a member nation) is composed of the individual nations.

Brussels correspondent covering European issues. The interview aired in Turkey while the Archon delegation was in Europe.

In Strasbourg, they met Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Elmar Brok and other European Parliament members. Parliament Vice President Antonios Trakatellis (brother of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios) also arranged meetings with Greek EU officials Stavros Lambrinidis, vice chairman of the Committee on Civil Liberties; Nikolaos Sifunakis, chairman of the Committee on Culture and Education; and Ioannis Varvitsiotis, a member of the Committee on Civil Liberties.

In Vienna, they met with Austrian President Dr. Heinz Fischer and Parliament Speaker Andreas Khol, as well as ambassadors from the U.S. Susan McCaw, Greece Theodoros Sotiropoulos, and Turkey Selim Yenel. Finally, they were the guests of Apostolic Nuncio (Vatican representative) Dr. Edmond Farhat, and met representatives from Greece and the U.S. to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, an independent forum of nations which exchanges ideas and makes recommendations on human rights.



In Vienna, Speaker of the Austrian Parliament Andreas Khol (at the head of the table) hosted the Archons, left, who were guided in Vienna by Metropolitan Michael of Austria, right, and Ecumenical Patriarch representative Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, far right.

A chart displayed the countries currently seeking to be accepted into the EU. At 70 million, Turkey's population is by far the highest of the four.





## POPE BENEDICT XVI TO VISIT PHANAR

# His All Holiness to Welcome Pope Benedict XVI at Phanar on Feast Day of St. Andrew



N. MANGINAS

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew celebrated the feast day of St. Andrew in 2005 at the Phanar with visiting bishops from the Armenian Apostolic Church, rear, and the Vatican.

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI will make an historic apostolic visit to His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew from Nov. 28-30 on the occasion of the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios will lead the 2006 Archons Pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate at that same time. In order to make the proper arrangements, Archons must make early reservations to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage to the Mother Church of Constantinople.

Pilgrimage Committee Chairman Alexander Pritsos said about 180 people have already signed up for the trip, whose tentative dates are Nov. 25 to Dec. 3.

Archon Spiritual Adviser Rev. Alexander Karloutsos said His All Holiness plans to hold a prayer service with Patriarchal and Vatican clergy.

“We’re going to see the Pope and the Patriarch in a very personal way, and we’re going to try and arrange to have a blessing from both of them,” said Rev. Karloutsos.

## Pope Benedict XVI Reflects on St. Andrew’s Example, Invites Faithful to See Struggles in Light of Christ’s Cross

VATICAN CITY, JUNE 14, 2006

Benedict XVI reflected on the lessons left to believers of all ages by St. Andrew, the so-called Apostle of the Greeks. Addressing some 30,000 people gathered today in St. Peter’s Square for the general audience, the Pope continued with a series of catecheses on the Twelve Apostles.

After dedicating three earlier catecheses to St. Peter, the Holy Father reflected on the figure of his brother, Andrew, disciple of John the Baptist, evangelizer of the Greeks, and patron of the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Andrew, as Benedict XVI recalled, was the first apostle to be called by Jesus to follow him; thus, the liturgy of the Byzantine Church honors him with the title “Protoklitos,” which means the “first called.”

“Because of the fraternal relationship between Peter and Andrew, the Church of Rome and the Church of Constantinople regard themselves as sister Churches,” clarified Benedict XVI.

To underline this relationship, in 1964 Pope Paul VI “returned the famous relic of St. Andrew, until then kept in the Vatican basilica, to the Orthodox metropolitan bishop of the city of Patras, in Greece, where, according to tradition, the apostle was crucified,” recalled Benedict XVI

Also according to tradition, Andrew, like his brother Peter, asked to be placed on a cross different from that of Jesus. In his

case, it was a cross in the shape of an X.

Andrew, the Pontiff noted, teaches that “beyond an instrument of torture” the cross is “the incomparable means of a full assimilation with the Redeemer, with the grain of wheat fallen into the earth.”

“We must learn a very important lesson,” said Benedict XVI. “Our crosses have value if they are considered and welcomed as part of the cross of Christ, if they are touched by the reflection of his light.”

“Only through that cross our sufferings are also ennobled and attain their true meaning.” The Holy Father added: “May the apostle Andrew teach us to follow Jesus with promptness, to speak with enthusiasm of him to all those with whom we meet and, above all, to cultivate a relationship of authentic familiarity with him, conscious that only in him can we find the ultimate meaning of our life and death.”







# ARCHON PILGRIMAGE TO THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

On the historic occasion of the meeting between Pope Benedict XVI & Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew led by Archbishop Demetrios of America.

Saturday, November 25 to Sunday, December 3, 2006 (Tentative Dates)

I AM REQUESTING VIP RESERVATIONS FOR \_\_\_\_\_ PERSONS FOR THE PILGRIMAGE (for children, indicate ages):

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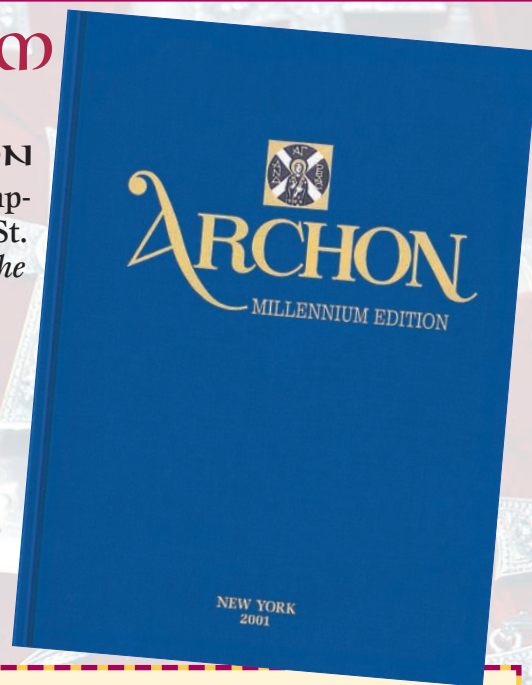
# ARCHON MILLENNIUM EDITION

A TREASURE FOR THE LIBRARY OF EVERY ARCHON

Last published in 1983, this hard-bound, 377-page historic tome captures and vividly transmits the dramatic progress of the Order of St. Andrew over the years as it has fulfilled its sacred role as *Defender of the Faith* and evolved into the vibrant organization it is today.

### Unique features include:

- A Short History of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, by Dr. Deno J. Geanakoplos
- Patriarchal Martyrs and Statesmen of the Great Church in Modern Times, by Dr. Andrew T. Kopan
- History of Greek Orthodoxy in America, by Dr. Miltiades B. Efthimiou
- History of the Carpatho-Russian Church & Metropolitan Nicholas
- *Offikia* Definitions
- Biographies and photos of Archons including founder and first National Commander Pierre Austin Demets and National Commanders Anthony G.B. Borden, Chris Philip, and Anthony Limberakis



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# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM INITIATIVE

from page 1 ♦

Dr. Anthony Limberakis asked each one to “encourage your local priest, parish council president and Sunday school coordinator to sign and send the letters to their senators that have been provided to them.” He also asked each one to personally contact his two Senators and urge them to sign the letter to the President.

A packet has been sent to each of the 440 Greek Orthodox parishes in the U.S. with active full-time priests, containing letters and petitions addressed to the senators from the priest, community leaders, and Sunday School Children.

Dr. Nicholas Loutsion, who coordinates the Regional Commanders efforts for the initiative, said about 212 parishes have contacted their senators, and 43 of the 100 senators have signed the letter.

“We are optimistic about our chances of securing all 100 signatures,” said Dr. Limberakis. “The four most pertinent United States senators are initiating the letter. They are the chairman (Republican) and ranking Democrat on the European Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, George Allen (R-Va.) and Joe Biden (D-Del.), respectively, and the highly respected Orthodox Christians Senators Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) and Olympia Snowe (R-Me.). This campaign is crafted and coordinated by Archon Andy Manatos’ Washington, D.C. public policy company, Manatos & Manatos, which secured more co-sponsors for a bill than any other bill in history.”

The Order’s spiritual advisor, Rev. Alexander Karloutsos, said this enormous effort will galvanize the national Orthodox Christian community.

“More importantly, each local community will be equipped and motivated to magnify our reach— to carry this emergency message about the threat to the continued existence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to their local media and into resolutions of city councils, state legislatures and governors,” said Rev. Karloutsos.

In May, the state of New Jersey became the first to pass a resolution supporting their senators’ decision to sign the letter to the President, thus beginning local state support for the campaign to save the Patriarchate.



D. PANAGOS

Archon Andrew Manatos (right, with Archbishop Demetrios & Rev. Alexander Karloutsos in Washington, D.C. last year) is coordinating the campaign to alert President Bush to the threat against the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our deep concern that policies of the Turkish government pose a grave threat to the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the spiritual home of the world’s second largest Christian Church. The Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul, Turkey is the spiritual head of 250 million Orthodox Christians worldwide and the 269th direct successor of the Apostle Andrew. Only stronger American and European Union support for the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate can prevent a religious tragedy of historic magnitude.

Seventy-five percent of the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s properties have already been confiscated by the Turkish government. Beyond this, the Patriarchate’s dissolution in the coming decades is essentially inevitable if Turkey continues its policy of prohibiting all 250 million non-Turkish Orthodox Christians from becoming Ecumenical Patriarch. Turkey itself only has 2,500 remaining Orthodox Christians and they are a mostly elderly community.

Millions of Orthodox Christian Americans stand to lose their spiritual head and all Christians will give up a crucial link to their history and forefathers. Within the 2,000-year-old Sacred See the text of the New Testament was codified, the canonical structure of the Christian church was established, and the Nicene Creed was created.

The disappearance of the See would also mean the end of a crucial link between Christians and the Muslim world. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew gathered international religious leaders and produced the first condemnation of the attacks as “anti-religious” that included Muslim leaders. At a time when individuals hostile to the United States are attempting to create conflict between Christians and Muslims, the continuing presence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey is a living testimony of religious co-existence since 1453.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew’s individual importance to America is reflected in the record number of Congressional cosponsors who bestowed on him our country’s highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal – an award also given to George Washington, Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela and Pope John Paul II.

Please help Turkey understand America’s close ties to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the importance we attach to its welfare. In doing so, we hope you can help Turkey realize our strong desire that the Ecumenical Patriarchate be accorded the religious freedom it deserves and persuade the Turkish government to abandon policies that will lead to the disappearance of this Sacred See.

Sincerely,

Senator George Allen

Senator Joseph Biden

Senator Olympia Snowe

Senator Paul Sarbanes

*(and as many of the 96 other Senators as possible)*



## The Ecumenical Patriarchate In Istanbul

from page 2

island of Kinali was not held this summer as the Turkish government demanded that the Ecumenical Patriarchate formally admit that the monastery belongs to the Turkish state as a precondition for hosting the camp. An exasperated Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew issued a statement upon canceling the summer camp, which included the comment: "If we really want to become Europeans, we must change our attitudes, not just make some reforms and pass a few new laws that are sometimes implemented and sometimes not." This statement elicited these remarks from Turkish Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Sahin: "The Patriarch has gone too far. Being a Turkish subject, he must obey the laws. The legal authorities will take all necessary steps."

This same minister, after the Turkish government effectively cancelled the invitation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the Pope to visit the Patriarchate in November, made the following comment, on September 18: "The Patriarchate is a Turkish institution. It is more appropriate for the patriarch to send his invitation through the Foreign Minister in the future."

Religious liberty has been an integral part of the OSCE process. From the Helsinki Final Act to the Vienna and Copenhagen Concluding Documents, the OSCE participating states have affirmed time and time again that religious liberty is a fundamental human right. May I quote from the Vienna Concluding Document (1989), paragraph 16: "In order to ensure the freedom of the individual to profess and practice religion or belief, the participating state will, *inter alia*, (16.4) - respect the right of these religious communities to establish and maintain freely accessible places of worship or assembly, organize themselves according to their own hierarchical and institutional structure, select, appoint and replace their personnel in accordance with their respective requirements and standards; (16.7) - in this context respect, *inter alia*, the liberty of parents to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions; (16.8) - allow the training of religious personnel in appropriate institutions; (16.9) - respect the right of individual believers and communities of believers to acquire, possess, and use sacred books, religious publications in the language of their choice and other articles and materials related to the practice of religion or belief; (16.10) - allow religious faiths, institutions and organizations to produce, import and disseminate religious publications and materials; (16.11) - favorably consider the interest of religious communities to participate in public dialogue, including through the mass media."

And finally may I quote paragraph 32, which I do believe empowers the Ecumenical Patriarch with the right to invite the Pope to visit the Ecumenical Patriarchate without sending his invitation through the foreign minister: "They (the participating states) will allow believers, religious faiths and their representatives, in groups or on an individual basis, to establish and maintain direct personal contacts and communication with each other, in their own and other countries, *inter alia*, through travel, pilgrimages and participation in assemblies and other religious events."

I respectfully call on this body to reaffirm your commitment to the preservation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to confirm the right of the Ecumenical Patriarch to invite the Pope to the Ecumenical Patriarchate when he so chooses.

## Discrimination... from page 3

ment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek minority is in violation of its obligations under the Lausanne Treaty of 1923 and its obligations under international human rights law. Regarding the Treaty of Lausanne, I will refer only to Article 37, which states that the Treaty's provisions have the force of "fundamental laws" and take precedence over conflicting legislative or administrative acts; Article 40, which guarantees non-Muslim minorities the freedom to establish, manage and control private schools; and Article 44, which specifies that "in so far as the (provisions of the Treaty) affect non-Muslim nationals of Turkey, these provisions constitute obligations of international concern."

As a member state of the United Nations, Turkey is in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). It is in violation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Religious Intolerance and Discrimination (DERID).

As a member state of the Council of Europe and a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Turkey is in violation of Article 1 of Protocol 1 with regard to its seizure and restrictions on the use of properties of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

And finally as a participating state in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Turkey is in violation of Article VII of the Helsinki Accords, which guarantee and protect the rights of national minorities; it is in violation of the Vienna Concluding Document (1989) with regard to religious minority rights to train and appoint personnel; and it is in violation of the Charter of Paris (1990) with regard to the right of national minorities to establish and maintain their own educational, cultural and religious institutions, organizations and associations.

The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities made an official visit to Turkey for the first time in January 2003, and made a second visit early this year, but as far as can be determined, he has neither reported nor issued any recommendations in writing on the situation of religious minorities in Turkey. May I respectfully ask why not? And when might a report be forthcoming?

The enormity of what has happened to the Greek minority and the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey staggers the mind. The ethnic cleansing of the Greek minority, mostly insidious but often violent and the strangulation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate must come to a stop. This 2,000 year-old institution must not be allowed to die.

The Order of St. Andrew asks for your support to sustain it and keep it alive.

## Legal Committee... from page 5

acquire and dispose of property both real and personal," stated Legal Committee Chairman Christopher Stratakis, who also serves as legal counselor for the Archons National Council. "This refusal is based strictly on religious grounds. The same does not apply to Muslim institutions."

With the National Council's authorization, the committee has begun interviewing attorneys who could argue the case, including those who specialize in human rights and European attorneys who have experience with the practices of that court.





ORDER OF  
SAINT ANDREW  
the apostle

ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

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EXARCH OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

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## ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH IN AMERICA

His All Holiness  
Ecumenical  
Patriarch  
Bartholomew  
tosses the cross  
into the waters of  
Spring Bayou on  
Jan. 6, 2006 to  
celebrate the  
100th anniversary  
of the time-  
honored  
Theophany  
celebration in  
Tarpon Springs, Fla.



ST. PETERSBURG TIMES-CARRIE PRATT

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