

The Archon

ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE
ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE IN AMERICA



Phone: 212 570 3500 Fax: 212 774 0214 www.archons.org archons@goarch.org

July-August 2008



Athenagoras Human Rights Award Oct. 25; Rabbi Arthur Schneier named recipient

ACLJ / ECLJ's Sekulow to address Archon General Assembly



Archbishop Demetrios receives Senator John McCain

5



Archon involvement in the 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress

6-8



Senator Obama calls for religious freedom for Ecumenical Patriarchate

9

National Commander issues letter to Turkey's Babacan

10-11



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew makes first-ever trip to Ukraine

12-13

New Regional Commanders appointed for Florida District

In Memoriam

14



Photo Briefs

15



(N. Manginas)

Archbishop Demetrios and Archons join Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Rome

ROME, ITALY

Archbishop Demetrios of America led a pilgrimage, under the aegis of FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hel-

lenism, accompanying the official visit of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Rome for the Feast of the Chiefs of the Apostle, Peter and Paul. On Friday evening, June 27th,

Archbishop Demetrios hosted a dinner in honor of His All Holiness at the renowned Palazzo Colonna. In addition to the members of the FAITH

Continued on page 2 »

European Court of Human Rights recognizes legal status of Ecumenical Patriarchate, condemns Turkey

The verdict condemns the Turkish state for improperly taking over the orphanage of Buyukada, on the Marmara Sea. In its ruling is also extremely important for religious minorities on Turkish soil.

STRASBOURG, FRANCE

With a unanimous verdict (7 votes out of 7, including that of the representative from Turkey), the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has condemned Ankara for improperly oc-

cupying an orphanage on the Princes' Islands of Buyukada, in the Marmara Sea. The verdict grants the appeal by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, recognizing its ownership of the orphanage.



Last November, members of the Archon Legal Committee represented the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the European Court of Human Rights to fight Turkey for the legal rights of the orphanage on the island of Prinkipos.

Continued on page 9 »



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew addresses Archbishop Demetrios and the members of the Patriarchal delegation at the Palazzo Colonna, Rome, Italy. (D. Panagos)

Paul Outside the Walls (the tomb of the Apostle Paul), at a Solemn Vespers presided over by the Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch and at which both Primates spoke. Following the Vespers, as an honor extended to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Demetrios and the members of the pilgrimage were received at a private audience with the Pope. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew introduced the group of pilgrims to the Pope, saying:

Ecumenical Patriarch in Rome for the opening of the Pauline Year

◀ *Continued from page 1*

pilgrimage attending this banquet, the Hierarchs and clergy attending the Ecumenical Patriarch, senior Hierarchs of the Roman Catholic

Church, and representatives of the diplomatic corps were present.

On Saturday the 28th, while the pilgrimage was taken on a tour of St. Peter's Basilica

and the Sistine Chapel, Archbishop Demetrios joined Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at a private reception with His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI in the private Papal apartments. Later in the day, the pilgrimage attended the official opening of the Pauline Year in the Basilica of St.

“Your Holiness: In attendance at this great and joyous occasion of the Patronal Feast of the Church of Rome are, in addition to ourselves and our Patriarchal entourage, beloved children of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from our Eparchy in the



His All Holiness Bartholomew meets privately with Pope Benedict in the Vatican. (N. Manginas)

United States of America, who have traveled to Rome to participate in this Feast and whom we are pleased to present to You in order that they might duly pay their respects. They comprise, Your Holiness, faithful children of the Church, highly distinguished in diverse areas of life in the United States and enjoying renown among their compatriots. They are particularly proud of their cultural heritage, inherited from their forefathers, as well as their Greek Orthodox identity, which they zealously treasure and preserve within the multi-faith and multi-cultural environment where they live. They are also well aware of the Christian roots of the city of Rome, the blessing of the greatest of the Apostles Peter and Paul, along with the glorious history of the Catacombs and Coliseum. Indeed, their presence this evening in the sacred Church of St. Paul outside the city walls may be characterized as a pious pilgrimage to the first and greatest of the Apostles, whose Epistles always enhance their spiritual formation, as well as to his other peer among the Apostles, namely St. Peter, upon whose rock of confession regarding the divinity of Jesus Christ they and their children firmly stand.”

On Sunday the 29th, the pilgrimage attended the Papal Solemn Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica in honor of the Feast

Continued on page 4 »

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Benedict pray together during the Papal Solemn Vespers Service inside the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. The service was held for the opening of the Pauline Year and in specific commemoration of both the Catholic and Orthodox Churches’ Jubilee Year celebration of the 2,000 anniversary of Saint Paul’s life and ministry as the great Evangelist and Apostle to the Gentiles. (D. Panagos)



« Continued from page 3

of Sts. Peter and Paul. At the Service, His All Holiness was seated equally with the Pope for the first part of the Mass (the Liturgy of the Word). Both Primates recited the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed in the original Greek (without the “Filioque”). Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew also delivered a homily (in Italian). During the Eucharist itself, His All Holiness was seated with the members of his Official Hierarchal Delegation. At the “Kiss of Peace”, His All Holiness shared the fraternal salutation with the Pope and at the conclusion of the Mass, blessed the congregation. In the evening, His All Holiness presided over a Patriarchal Great Vespers at the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s parish church in Rome, St. Theodore the Tyro. Archbishop

Demetrios and the members of the pilgrimage were in attendance, as well as members of the diplomatic corps. After the Vespers, the members of the FAITH pilgrimage shared a farewell dinner with the Archbishop, during which everyone expressed their deep appreciation and thankfulness for the unique, as they themselves said, spiritual and cultural experience.

On Monday, June 30th, as His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew departed for the Phanar, Archbishop Demetrios departed Rome for Athens, in order to participate in the Annual AHEPA Conference and the concert by the Children’s Metropolitan Choir of the Archdiocese. ■

[Source: www.goarch.org]



[Top] Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Demetrios are welcomed by Pope Benedict XVI. [Above] Melina Kanakaredes [right] of the CBS television show, *CSI:NY*, and her family, were among the delegation accompanying the Ecumenical Patriarch. [Below, from left to right] National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, Archons Michael Jaharis, Andrew Manatos, and John Catsimatidis were among several Archons who accompanied Archbishop Demetrios for the pilgrimage to the Vatican. Other members of the Order of Saint Andrew included Archons Tom Constance, George David, Peter Georgiopoulos, Dr. Antoine Harovas, Dimitris Kaloidis, George Marcus, Dennis Mehiel, John Paguidas, Panicos Papanicolaou, Dean Poll, James Thomas and Fr. Alex Karloutsos, the Spritual Adviser to the Archons. [Bottom] Pilgrims outside the 6th century St. Theodore the Tyro Greek Orthodox Church.

(N. Manginas / D. Panagos)



Archbishop Demetrios receives Senator John McCain at Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

NEW YORK, NY

Senator McCain visited the Archbishop last year on June 27, 2007, when he was running for his Party's nomination. At that time, the Archbishop had raised issues surrounding the religious freedom and legal protections for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other human rights concerns. Today's meeting continued their dialogue.

During their recent meeting, they discussed issues of common concern to all Americans, e.g., the economic hardships that many are facing and respect for all life. The Archbishop emphasized the importance of education in empowering economic opportunity for all citizens. As for issues specific to the Greek-American community, Senator McCain was fully prepared to speak on religious liberty and human rights issues for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the issues of a solution for Cyprus and the naming questions sur-

rounding FYROM (Former Yugoslav Republic Of Macedonia).

In a comment after the meeting, the Archbishop said:

"As Saint Paul says in his First Letter to Timothy, 'let supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all people: kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.' Well, in America we have no kings, but we do have elected leaders and representatives of government. As Archbishop, I feel a responsibility to pray for all our leaders and to encourage our Greek Orthodox Faithful to do likewise, as they participate in the political process granted to all Americans by our Constitutionally protected freedoms. Senator McCain is an honorable American who has demonstrated his heroism and love for this country." ■

[Source: www.goarch.org]



(J. Mindala II)



(Appeal of Conscience Foundation)

Athenagoras Human Rights Award October 25th; Rabbi Arthur Schneier named recipient

NEW YORK, NY

A noted rabbi who has continually pushed for religious freedom and human rights will be the recipient of this year's Athenagoras Human Rights Award.

The award will be presented to Rabbi Arthur Schneier during the Grand Banquet of the Order of Saint Andrew, which will be held as part of the Order's annual three-day assembly, Friday, Oct. 24, through Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Hilton Hotel in New York City. The award will be presented during the Grand Banquet on Saturday night, Oct. 25.

Rabbi Schneier is founder and president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and is internationally known for his leadership on behalf of religious freedom, human rights, and tolerance with specific interest in Turkey, China, Russia, Central Europe, and the Balkans. As head of Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an interfaith partnership of corporate and spiritual leaders from all faiths who come together to promote "peace, tolerance and ethnic conflict resolution," Schneier has long held that "a crime committed in the name of religion is the greatest crime against religion."

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award is presented annually by the Order to a person or organization, which has consistently exemplified by action, purpose and dedication, concern for the basic rights and religious freedom of all people. The 2007 recipient of the award was His

Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

To learn about the history and origin behind the Athenagoras Human Rights award and for resources on past recipients, visit archons.org/athenagorasaward ■

ACLJ/ECLJ's Sekulow to address Archon General Assembly



Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) and the European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), and one of the leading voices in the world on behalf of religious freedom, will address the Archon General Assembly, together with the participants of the Ladies' Tea on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Sekulow is a nationally recognized expert on religious freedom and is a popular guest on nationally televised news programs on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, FOX News, MSNBC, CNBC, and PBS.

Sekulow will speak at the Archon General Assembly on issues regarding religious freedom rights and also will outline a new cooperative effort between the ACLJ and ECLJ and the legal committee of the Order of Saint Andrew. ■

Sekulow will speak at the Archon General Assembly on issues regarding religious freedom rights and also will outline a new cooperative effort between the ACLJ and ECLJ and the legal committee of the Order of Saint Andrew. ■



39TH BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

"Gather My People to My Home"

Archon reception kicks-off 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Order of St. Andrew held a reception before the official opening of the 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress, which was held in Washington, D.C. The evening reception, held on Sunday, July 13, at the Marriott-Wardman Park Hotel, allowed Archons and

their spouses and guests the opportunity to interact with one another and provided the opportunity for open dialogue pertaining to religious freedom issues surrounding the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis opened the evening with a warm welcome to all the Archons and their guests, including visiting hierarchy which included His Eminence Archbishop

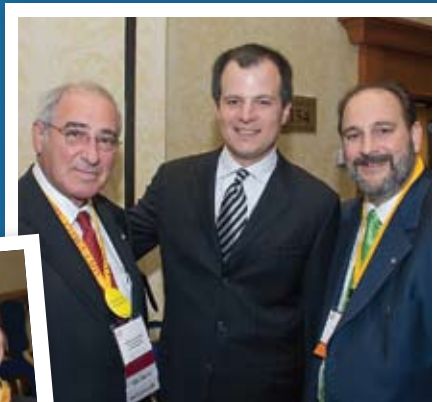
Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain, the Patriarchal representative, as well as all members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese.

Archbishop Gregorios offered remarks on behalf of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, thanking the Archons for their continued support and efforts to fight against religious intolerance and subtle persecutions that the Ecumenical Patriarchate faces daily by the Turkish government. Archbishop Demetrios also expressed his gratitude to the Order of Saint Andrew, commenting on their recent efforts to establish legal status rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate which was an integral part of the favorable ver-

dict in the Prinkipos orphanage case held in the European Court of Human Rights. ■

[Top] Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain delivers greetings from His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the members of the Order of Saint Andrew. [Directly Below] Archon Andrew M. Manatos, Congress Chairman, offers welcoming remarks. [Bottom row] Archons, spouses, and friends enjoy the festivities at the Archon reception.

(J. Mindala II)





Clergy, Lay-Delegates and Philoptochos members learn about recent Archon efforts

WASHINGTON, D.C.

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis delivered a visual presentation to the delegates of the 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress and the National Philoptochos Meeting, held in Washington D.C.

On Tuesday, July 15, 2008, Limberakis addressed the

Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, a dedicated group of women which undertake a multitude of philanthropic programs to aid the poor, the sick, and the elderly. He opened by thanking the National Philoptochos President, Georgia Skeadas for her support of the Mother Church of Constantinople. He then addressed five main issues of concern currently facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate and elaborated on the efforts of the Order's legal committee and its work

with the European Centre for Law and Justice. The Philoptochos applauded the work of the Order and stood united in their support for His All Holiness Bartholomew and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The following day, Limberakis concluded the Clergy Laity's first plenary session, focusing again on the work of the Order and the victory for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the European Court of Hu-

man Rights, dealing with the case of the orphanage on the Prinkipos island.

Limberakis' report was interrupted several times with enthusiastic applause for the Archons' fight for religious freedom for the Mother Church. Several questions were then entertained and petitions were passed around during both presentations for those wishing to voice their concern to the administration and the Congress as well. ■



[Left] National Commander Limberakis speaks on recent Archon involvement within the European Court of Human Rights in the case of the Prinkipos orphanage. [Below] At the Grand Banquet, Archbishop Demetrios presents Andrew Manatos with the highest honor that the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America bestows upon a layperson, the Medal of St. Paul.

(J. Mindala II / D. Panagos)



Limberakis' slide-show report, which offers a thorough overview on the work of the Order of Saint Andrew, will be accessible and announced on the Archon web site in the coming months after final edits.



ACLJ/ECLJ's Sekulow offers invigorating words to Archons during Congress breakfast

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) and the European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) was the featured speaker at the 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress Archon breakfast on Wednesday morning, July 16, 2008 in Washington, D.C.

James C. Fountas, Archon Treasurer, offered introductions at the opening of the breakfast, held at the Marriott-Wardman Park Hotel. The Honorable Zack Space, Congressman from Ohio was recognized among those in attendance. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America then invoked prayers before the meal. National Commander Anthony J.

Limberakis welcomed the Archons and visiting hierarchy, clergy, and guests in attendance, which included members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese and the Patriarchal representative, His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain.



Archbishop Gregorios delivered the greetings of the His All Holiness Bartholomew and commended the Archons on

their efforts to fight for religious rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. A special presentation was then made by Archbishop Demetrios and Limberakis to Archbishop Gregorios, thanking him for his support to the Order.

The nationally recognized and respected defender of religious freedom, Mr. Sekulow then offered

an exhilarating and insightful speech on religious freedom rights, mainly pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He spoke of the issues regarding religious freedom rights and also outlined the cooperative efforts between the ACLJ/ECLJ and the legal committee of the Order of Saint Andrew.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." was the passage Sekulow used in his concluding remarks, reflecting upon the Archons persistence and aggressiveness on legal rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the European Court of Human Rights and its recent successful and favorable decision which will open new doors for the Sacred See of Saint Andrew.



the Order, thanked Sekulow for his words and presented a plaque honoring his efforts and commemorating the day. Members of the Holy Eparchial Synod expressed their gratitude to Sekulow for his support of the Mother Church and for his inspiring address.

Following the breakfast, the Archon legal committee met privately with Sekulow for discussions. ■

Video coverage of the address was provided by Sekulow's staff and will be accessible and announced on the Archon web site in the coming months after final editing.

[Top] Jay Sekulow with members of the Archon Legal Committee. [Mid, left] Sekulow meets hierarchs. [Mid, right] Sekulow in private discussion with Archon Legal Committee. [Bottom] Sekulow addresses the two-hundred plus crowd gathered for the Archon breakfast. (J. Mindala II)

Archbishop Demetrios and Limberakis, on behalf of





The Patriarchal Orphanage is one example of property confiscated by the Turkish Government. Because the Turkish Government has not granted renovation building permits for decades, the once glorious structure, reported to be the largest wooden building in Europe, now stands devastated atop the beautiful Island of Buyukada (Prinkipos).

ECHR recognizes the legal rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

«Continued from page 1

With this appeal by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the European Court of Human Rights, which was also the first of its kind, there was an intention of denouncing the appropriation of the building by Turkish authorities.

In addition to the specific case, the verdict is of the highest importance because

it gives international recognition to the legal status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, always denied until now by the Turkish government. Religious minorities in Turkey are not recognized as legal personalities, and therefore cannot own property.

With this verdict, the patriarchate not only can own property in Turkey, but its

rights are now safeguarded by the European Court of Human Rights, to which Turkey also belongs. The verdict is also a response to those in Turkey who continue to deny the historical and spiritual role of the see of Constantinople, which the international community has always acknowledged.

In European circles, it is emphasized that the application of this verdict on the part of the Turkish state is another important test for the country, as evidence of democracy. In its journey toward European integration, Turkey is going through a difficult period, seeking to find its place in the European model, but having trouble applying this within its borders.

In the context of the same verdict, the European Court of Human Rights has condemned the law of 1934 on religious foundations, which favored the confiscation by Turkish authorities of the property of religious minorities, long persecuted and

forced to leave the country.

The new law on religious foundations, approved by the Turkish parliament last February (cf. Ankara approves a new law for non-Muslim religious foundations, 28/02/2008) led to improvements, but has been blocked by the constitutional court, accused of being contrary to the constitution by the opposition, the parties CHP (of Kemalist origin) and MHP (ultra-nationalist). According to them, the new law undermines national interests.

It is worth noting that the appeal by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to Strasbourg was defended by a legal team made up of Greeks and Turks, in confirmation of the fact that collaboration of active citizens, without borders, guarantees human and minority rights. These rights do not constitute only a national question. As if to say: people of good will and without prejudices needed. ■

[Source: AsiaNews]

Senator Obama calls for religious freedom for Ecumenical Patriarchate

NEW YORK, NY

U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has voiced his support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, calling on the Turkish government to grant religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Obama's remarks came in an interview with the Greek bureau of Voice of America, Greek media reported over the weekend of June 14.

“[Obama] called on Turkey to give religious freedom to the institution, return the property to the patriarchate and allow the

opening of the theological school on the island of Halki,” Greek daily To Vima reported.

Ankara does not recognize Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's international role as the spiritual leader of hundreds of millions of Orthodox Christians worldwide. It rejects his use of the title “ecumenical,” or universal, arguing instead that the patriarch is merely the spiritual leader of Istanbul's dwindling Orthodox community.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul dates back to the 1,100-year-old Orthodox Greek

Byzantine Empire, which collapsed when Muslim Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople, today's Istanbul, in 1453.

Turkey has also been resisting EU pressure to reopen the Halki Seminary on the island of Heybeliada near Istanbul, which was closed to new students in 1971 under a law that put religious and military training under state control. The Theological School once trained generations of Greek Orthodox leaders, including the current Patriarch. The Seminary remained open until 1985, when the last five students graduated. An ethnic Greek but



National Commander Limberakis and Senator Barack Obama.

a Turkish citizen, Bartholomew says the Orthodox community could soon die out in Turkey if the Seminary is not reopened. ■

[Source: Today's Zaman]

National Commander Limberakis issues letter to Turkish Foreign Minister Babacan

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of The Order of St. Andrew, has recently issued a letter to Ali Babacan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, in response to his presentation in June 2008 before the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington, D.C., concerning the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In his letter, Limberakis presents evidence countering the unfounded claims by the government of Turkey that has resulted in the near asphyxiation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Limberakis sites historical, canonical, liturgical, and present-day evidence that supports the Order of Saint Andrew's position and that of the free world.

NEW YORK, NY

July 24, 2008

His Excellency Ali Babacan
Foreign Minister Republic of
Turkey
Ankara, Turkey

Dear Minister Babacan:

It has my understanding that you made a presentation in June before the United States House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington. Regarding religious freedom issues concerning the Ecumenical Patriarchate there are a number of positions taken by your government that as an American patriot, an Orthodox Christian, and as the Commander of the Order of St. Andrew / Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, I must object to as gross distortions of historical, canonical (legal), liturgical and present-day facts. These positions are as follows:

(1) the Patriarch of Constantinople only recently adopted the title "Ecumenical" Patriarch,

(2) other Orthodox Christian communities do not view the Ecumenical Pa-

triarch as the head of their churches,

(3) your government's treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarch is in keeping with the Treaty of Lausanne, and

(4) recognizing the title "Ecumenical" would present problems for the government among its Islamic constituents.

With all due respect, sir, the notion that the Patriarch of Constantinople only recently adopted the title "Ecumenical Patriarch" is without any base in fact whatsoever. It is a matter of legal and historical record that the title was accorded to the Patriarch of Constantinople during the Roman Empire by the emperor Justinian, and became a permanent privilege under Roman and subsequent Byzantine law. Specifically, the title is affirmed in *Corpus Juris Civilis* (*Codex Justinianus* 1.1.17, 1.4.34 and *Novellae* 3, 5, 6, 7, 16, 42, 55, 56, and 77), a text that dates to the sixth century and is available in every law school library in the Western World. As a consequence of these laws, the title has been a part of the Ecumenical Patriarch's

signature from the time of Ecumenical Patriarch John the Faster, for every official document produced by his office since the sixth century—a fact attested by thousands of texts from both the middle ages and the modern era. On a more recent historical note, in the early 1990's while then Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and your government lobbied to host the 2000 Olympics, His All Holiness signed an official government document supporting Turkey's efforts to host the Olympics. His All Holiness did sign the document, along with Prime Minister Ciller and he signed as Ecumenical Patriarch in his official signature.

It is also incorrect for your government to suggest that the other jurisdictions of the Orthodox Christian Church (with more than 300 million followers world-wide) do not recognize the privileged position of the Ecumenical Patriarch. Following ancient Christian models, the Patriarch of Constantinople is universally acknowledged within the Orthodox world as the *primus inter pares* ("first among equals"). While this title does not afford him unilateral authority among the Orthodox episcopate, it does

confer upon him a position of honor and leadership among all Orthodox bishops, including the leaders of the eighteen autocephalous jurisdictions of the Orthodox Church. As an example, I will note that every time that the Patriarch of Moscow celebrates the Divine Liturgy, he commemorates each of the other heads of the autocephalous jurisdictions in a specific sequence. This sequence is determined by the ancient ecclesiastical ranking known as the pentarchy, which identified the five most significant episcopal sees in sequence (i.e., Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem). Thus, when the Patriarch of Moscow commemorates the spiritual leaders of the autocephalous churches, he commemorates the Ecumenical Patriarch first because the Ecumenical Patriarch is the canonical and liturgical leader of the Orthodox Christian episcopate. I can personally attest to this practice, having just visited Moscow, where Patriarch Alexi recognized the Ecumenical Patriarch as the first of the Patriarchs during the Divine Liturgy. The same pattern of commemoration is true for heads of each of the other autocephalous jurisdictions. Even Pope

Benedict and other leaders of the Roman Catholic Church (which is not in sacramental communion with the Orthodox Church), recognize the canonical and historical right of the Patriarch of Constantinople to the title “Ecumenical Patriarch.”

It is impossible to imagine how your government has treated the Ecumenical Patriarch according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lausanne. It is well known that Article 14 of the Treaty was intended to protect the minority Orthodox Christian population, which remained in Turkey after 1923. At the time of the Treaty, there were 270,000 Orthodox Christians living in Istanbul. Today, there are less than 3,000 Orthodox Christians in the entire country. This precipitous decline is, in large part, the consequence of your government’s stringent anti-minority measures, which have led to violence, harassment, and the seizure of property. As just one example, I will note that since 1923, the Turkish government has seized more than 90% of the property belonging to the Patriarchate.

Your government’s position that it cannot recognize the Ecumenical Patriarch’s title because it would create problems within the Muslim community in Turkey is little more than an empty excuse designed to stoke American fears of radical Islam. What is more, such a claim is an insult to the many peaceful and faithful Muslims in your country. The Muslim community in Turkey is not the culprit in this widespread aggression against the Ecumenical Patriarchate, but rather it is the rabidly secular and extreme nationalist elements that are embedded within the bureaucratic circles of your

government. As evidence, I will note that Ali Bardakoglu, the leader of the Islamic community in Turkey, and other well known and respected Muslim Turkish religious leaders such as Fetullah Gulen, have publicly stated their acceptance of the title “Ecumenical Patriarch.”

I hope you did not intend to convince the United States Congress of the baseless notion that the Ecumenical Patriarch’s jurisdiction is confined to the three thousand Orthodox Christians who remain in Turkey; a Congress that bestowed the Congressional Gold Medal on His All

“The Christian community in Turkey, led by His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, is one of Turkey’s greatest treasures, but the treatment of this community by your government is one of your country’s greatest shames.”

Holiness, the spiritual father of the Orthodox Christian faithful in America. Does the government fear that by acknowledging that he is the “Ecumenical” Patriarch they would de facto acknowledge that he is an international figure with an international reputation – an affirmation that your government is dedicated to resist? But to define the Ecumenical Patriarch’s jurisdiction as limited to Turkey and the Turkish Christian population is to ignore the testimony of history and the reality of Christian jurisdictions, which are not bound by political borders. As every student of history knows, the doctrinal truths that all Christians share (e.g. that Jesus Christ is God and that He is both human and divine) were formulated at the

Ecumenical Councils, held in Nicaea, Ephesus, Chalcedon, and Constantinople between 325 and 451. At the time of these councils, each of these cities was within the supra-jurisdiction of the Patriarch of Constantinople. Today these cities are within the borders of the Turkish State and they are important sources of tourist revenue for your country precisely because they are promoted as Christian shrines by the Patriarchate. Would you have us believe that the Nicene Creed (the single most important statement of Christian belief) reflects only the beliefs of Christians who presently

reside in Turkey? In effect, your government’s argument is akin to suggesting that Pope Benedict’s jurisdiction in the Roman Church or the papal encyclicals of past popes have meaning only for the inhabitants of Vatican City.

Quite simply, this is a matter of respecting the religious rights of minority populations, let alone the rights of the Apostolic See to flourish in a land where it was founded 1700 years ago. And in this specific case, it is a minority population that has direct ties to the community that is responsible for all Christian theological teaching. The Christian community in Turkey, led by His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, is one of Turkey’s greatest treasures, but the treatment

of this community by your government is one of your country’s greatest shames. I hope and pray that you will send a strong message to all Orthodox Christians in the United States and Europe that the Turkish State supports the rights of religious minorities, especially in light of your own experience in America, having graduated from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management.

In closing, I know that many people rejoiced in Turkey when two Turks were named to Time Magazine’s List of the 100 most influential people in the world; as we did in America. The head of the Anglican Church, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams eloquently stated that “The title Ecumenical Patriarch historically refers to the Patriarch’s pastoral responsibility for the ‘whole inhabited world.’”

It is our hope that with our shared values of religious freedom and human rights that someday the Ecumenical Patriarchate will enjoy those same freedoms and rights in your country, rights that have been given to all the children of Abraham throughout the world.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Aktouarios
National Commander

cc:
President George W. Bush
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice
National Security Advisor
Stephen J. Hadley
Members, United States Congress
Members, European Parliament
Hon. Olli Rehn, Commissioner,
European Union



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is welcomed by President Victor Yushchenko who escorts His All Holiness in Kiev, Ukraine for his first-ever visit. (D. Panagos)

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew makes first-ever visit to Ukraine for 1020th baptismal anniversary of Kievan-Rus

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew made his first-ever visit to the Ukraine on Friday, July 25, 2008, for celebrations marking the 1020th anniversary of the Baptism of Kievan-Rus to the Orthodox Christian faith. His All Holiness delivered the following statement upon his arrival at the Boryspil airport:

KIEV, UKRAINE

Your Excellency the President of Ukraine,

Brothers and Children in Christ our Lord,

It is with great joy that we visit today and for three days the glorious Ukraine and its beautiful capital, Kiev, a city of green.

We have come, together with our esteemed entourage, as bearers of the Mother Church's blessing, the Holy and Great Church of Christ, to her beloved children here to whom she has given birth in Christ one thousand and twenty years ago.

We have come as pilgrims and admirers of Ukraine's eternal glory.

We have come to see the Dnieper River, your own Jordan, in which your forefathers were baptized.

We have come asking the blessing of St. Vladimir and the countless other saints, ascetics, and confessors of your country and honoring the memory of those who were martyred during the difficult years of the atheistic regime. We have come to bow our heads before the tragic victims of the Holodomor.

We have come to pray together with you for the unification of all Orthodox Citizens of Ukraine to one Church, the Church of your people, the Church of your country.

“We have come as angels of peace and preachers of unity, reconciliation and peace.

Having glorified God, the Giver of every good, we thank His Excellency, President Viktor YUSHCHENKO for his kind and honoring invitation, as well as His Beatitude and Holiness Patriarch Alexei II, the

celebration with whom we joyfully anticipate.

We thank warmly Their Excellencies, the President of the Parliament, the Prime-Minister and the Ministers of her cabinet, the other authorities of the country, the Ambassadors of Turkey, Greece and of the other countries that you receive us here with such honor, an honor that reflects on the Ecumenical Patriarchate, an institution with a

life and history of seventeen centuries, which we have the honor and the blessing to serve and represent.

Dear Ukrainians,

We are glad to be able to look at your faces. We pray that God may protect you and grant prosperity and peace to your country. We thank you for your warm reception, a reception fitting to children for their father. We bless you from our heart, personally and on behalf of the Church of Constantinople, the Church that became your Mother ten centuries ago and remains today and always your Mother. A Mother that cares for you, loves you, rejoices with your joy and is saddened by your sadness.

Brothers and Children! Christ is in our midst by the intercession of St. Vladimir.

Peace be to all!

Boh blahoslovyt! ■



Upon arrival, His All Holiness is greeted by women wearing traditional Ukrainian dress and an offering of bread and salt—a customary welcome of hospitality.

(N. Manginas)

Yushchenko awards Ecumenical Patriarch Ukraine's highest decoration

His All Holiness welcomed by Turkish ambassador to Kiev; celebrates Liturgy with Moscow patriarch

KIEV, UKRAINE

President Victor Yushchenko awarded His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Ukraine's highest decoration: the First Class Order Cross of Prince Yaroslav the Wise. The occasion, on Saturday, July 26, 2008, coincided with celebrations marking the 1020th anniversary of the Baptism of Kievan-Rus to the Orthodox Christian faith. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew thanked President Yushchenko saying, "Accepting, thus, the highest medal of Ukraine, the First Class Order Cross of Prince Yaroslav the Wise, we thank most warmly Your Excellency for the bestowal. We consider this highest honor as honoring not so much the person of our Modesty but rather the very holy institution of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the martyred Throne of Constantinople, from which, a thousand twenty years ago, came to this country and to the great people of Ukraine the light of the Gospel, the Grace and the Truth."

His All Holiness was welcomed by His Excellency, Mr. Erdogan Iscan, Ambassador of Turkey to Kiev, for a formal luncheon. In his remarks, His All Holiness stated to Iscan, "Your Excellency, you have the honor of representing Turkey in the great neighboring nation of the Ukraine, itself is marked by an illustrious spiritual tradition, an Orthodox Christian tradition, which it received from our City and Patriarchate 1020 years ago, an event that we have travelled here from Turkey to celebrate with all the State, political, religious and other authorities, at the

official invitation of the honorable Ukrainian State and the Church. The Ukraine boasts a beautiful, albeit over many years harshly tested people, that feels inextricably connected to us and to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which it regards as its spiritual Mother and nurturer. We pray that God may grant you good health, as well as much inspiration and strength to represent here the interests of our great country in the most fruitful, constructive and successful manner, and to promote ever increasingly friendly relations between Turkey and the Ukraine, for the good of both nations and their peoples."

The following day, His All Holiness was welcomed by His Excellency, Mr. H. Demetriou, the Ambassador of Greece to Kiev.

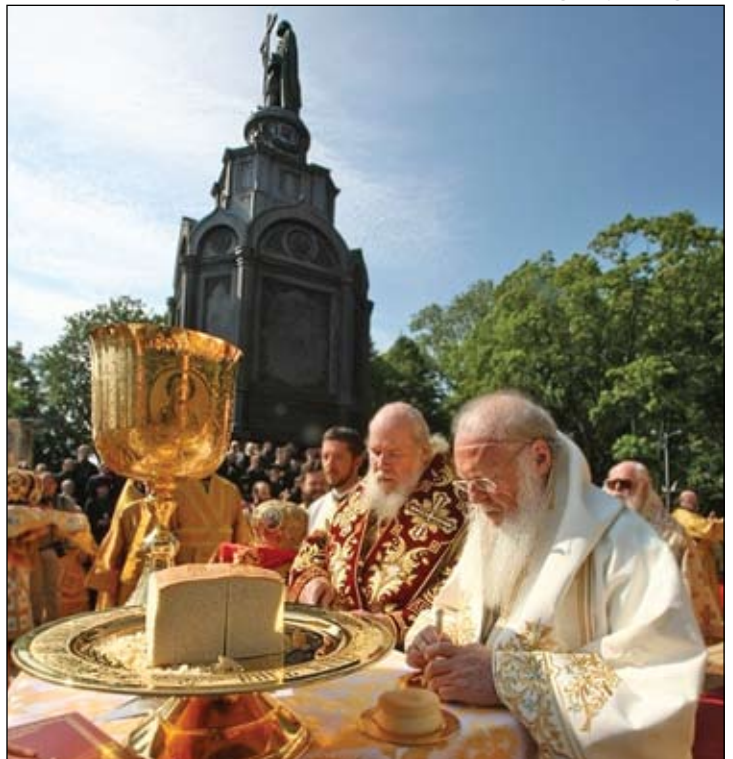
On Sunday, July 20, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia, His Eminence, Metropolitan Volodymyr of Kiev, and hierarchs and clergy representing various Orthodox jurisdictions from all over the world. The service was celebrated at the hill of St. Vladimir of Kiev. ■

His All Holiness greets Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow. (patriarchia.ru)



[Top] President Victor Yushchenko bestows Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with the First Class Order Cross of Prince Yaroslav the Wise. [Above, left] His All Holiness with Turkish Ambassador Iscan. [Above, right] His All Holiness, Archbishop Ieronymos, and Archbishop Anastasios with Greek Ambassador Demetriou. [Below] The Ecumenical Patriarch and the Patriarch of Moscow commemorate the living and departed before the Great Entrance.

(N. Manginas / president.gov.ua)



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew addresses Pope Benedict XVI upon the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

On Sunday, June 29, 2008, Archbishop Demetrios led a delegation sponsored by FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy & Hellenism, to Rome, which accompanied the official visit of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. The delegation attended the Papal Solemn Mass in St. Peter's Basilica in commemoration of the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul. His All Holiness, who was seated equally with Pope Benedict XVI for the first part of the Mass, delivered the following remarks:

June 29, 2008

Your Holiness,
Beloved Brother in Christ,
Pope Benedict,

Glory be to God for all things! For, He has rendered us worthy to share in His bountiful blessings. How can we ever thank Him sufficiently for the divine grace and goodness showered upon us all?

It is with sentiments of sincere joy and earnest thanks that we have just participated in the solemn services on the blessed occasion of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostolic Patrons of the ancient Church of senior Rome. The shedding of their sacred blood has proved to be a blessing for the universal Christian Church throughout the ages.

This joyous celebration also provides occasion for our two Sister Churches to stand together in prayer and celebration in order to

seal our commitment for reconciliation and strengthen our bonds of solidarity. For our personal presence here today marks a respectful gesture of genuine gratitude in return for the personal presence of Your Holiness eighteen months ago at the Thronal Feast of St. Andrew, First-Called of the Apostles and elder brother of St. Peter, Founder and Patron of the ancient See of New Rome. Such visits have historically provided crucial exchanges between our two Churches as tangible expressions of greater communication through theological dialogue, performed in prayerful expectation of full sacramental communion in the Body of Christ. Our encounters and exchanges - both here and in Constantinople - follow in historical succession of the mutual visitations by our predecessors of blessed memory: Paul VI and Athanasios, John Paul II and Dimitrios.

Yet another reason for our heart-

felt delight is our presence here, together with faithful pilgrims of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from throughout the world, in order to participate in the formal opening of the Pauline Year, which once again our two respective Churches are celebrating during this anniversary year since the birth of the Apostle to the Gentiles, St. Paul, precisely two millennia ago. The Ecumenical Patriarchate announced this anniversary through an Encyclical Letter to all our Churches last Christmas; and we are planning a truly historical journey and unique scholarly conference this coming October on the occasion of the Synaxis of all Orthodox Primate at the Phanar. Your own celebrations opened recently - in the presence of our official representative - with appropriate festivities in the ancient city of Tarsus, where the former Saul was born to shape, as Paul the Apostle the identity of Christianity and transform the history of Western civilization through his

radical conversion and apostolic kerygma. There, in the Churches of Asia Minor, the negligible spark of early Christianity is visible and vibrant to this day as a living testimony to an eternal truth about the Crucified and Risen Lord, as proclaimed by the great Apostle Paul.

Your Holiness, we would like to express our fervent gratitude for the invitation extended to us to share in these solemn festivities. May the great Apostolic Founders and Patrons, Saints Peter and Paul, intercede for us all before the One whom they faithfully served and widely preached. May they continue to inspire us all with the breadth of their ecclesial vision and with the resolve of their apostolic mission.

"For these things and for all things," in the words of our Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, "let us give thanks to the Lord."

Amen. ■

In Memoriam

May their Memory be Eternal!

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of our beloved members.

Mr. George P. Kokalis, *Depoutatos*
6/1/08 Phoenix, AZ

Dr. Constantine Ladopoulos, *Aktouarios*
7/19/08 Bronx, NY

New Archon Regional Commanders appointed for Florida

TARPON SPRINGS, FL

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and pursuant to the Archon governing Bylaws, two new regional commanders of the Order of Saint Andrew have been appointed by National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis for Florida.

Mr. John C. Scurtis of Co-

conut Grove, FL has been appointed Regional Commander of Florida. Scurtis, a member of St. Sophia Cathedral in Miami, FL, holds a degree in Business Administration and is a Licensed Real Estate Broker. He and his wife Evangeline have three children, Anastasia, Cynthia, and Constantine.

Dr. Theodore P. Vlahos of Safety Harbor, FL has also been appointed Regional Commander of Florida. Vla-

hos, a member of Holy Trinity Church in Clearwater, FL, received his Doctorate in Medicine, and founded the Center for Orthopedic Injuries and Disorders. He and his wife, Filitsa, have a son, Michael.

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis stated, "These men are truly outstanding Archons whose commitment to the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople is exemplary. AXIOS!" ■



Mr. John C. Scurtis [left] and Dr. Theodore P. Vlahos [right] have been recently appointed Regional Commanders for Florida.

(J. Mindala II)

Photo Briefs



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Demetrios, Cardinal Walter Kasper, with Archon George Marcus, his wife Judy, and their family.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Demetrios, Cardinal Walter Kasper, with Archon Dennis Mehiel, his wife Karen, and their children.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Demetrios, Cardinal Walter Kasper, with Archon Peter Georgiopoulos, and his wife Kara.



His All Holiness speaks with Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Nasi, General Manager of the Excelsior Rome Hotel.



Dr. Andre Dimitriadis and Martha Fling speak with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.



Markos and Eleni Tsakopoulos receive the Pope's blessing.



Archbishop Demetrios and Fr. Alex Karloutos enter into St. Peter's Basilica with Christos and Katia Anastasiadis as a Swiss Guard keeps watch.



Archon Panicos Papanicolaou receives the Pope's blessing.



Archbishop Demetrios introduces Cathy Sakellaris to Pope Benedict.



[From left to right] James and Zoe Moshovitis, Yanni Catsimatidis, Karen and Archon Dennis Mehiel, Cathy and Christina Sakellaris, Elaine Jaharis, Maria Allwin, Eleni Kounalakis Tsakopoulos and Markos Tsakopoulos.



[From left to right] Ilona Paguidas, Archon George David, Alexandra Mentzelopoulos-Petit, Dr. Andre C. Dimitriadis, Martha Fling, Muhtar and Defne Kent, Kaite David, Alexandros Samaras, Archon Peter Georgiopoulos, and his wife Kara.



Archons John Catsimatidis, Dimitris Kaloidis, John Paguidas, Dean Poll, Tom Constance and his wife, Janet, along with Fr. Mark Arey and other members of the Patriarchal delegation on a tour of the Vatican museum. (Photos by D. Panagos)



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia arrive for the Divine Liturgy at the hill of St. Vladimir of Kiev for celebrations marking the 1020th anniversary of the baptism of Kievan-Rus to the Orthodox Christian faith. This was His All Holiness' first-ever visit to Ukraine. (D. Panagos)

The ARCHON

THE ARCHON is published bi-monthly by the Order of Saint Andrew Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Members are encouraged to submit material pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodoxy. All material should be typed, signed with name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. Send to: archons@goarch.org or to THE ARCHON, 8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075-0106. © 2008

John J. Mindala II, Editor & Graphic Designer

ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075-0106

Phone: 212 570 3550 Fax: 212 774 0214
Web: www.archons.org Email: archons@goarch.org

His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Rev. Alexander Karloutsos, Spiritual Advisor

Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., *Aktouarios*, National Commander

Nicholas J. Bouras, *Depoutatos*, National Vice Commander

John Halecky, Jr., *Ekdikos*, Secretary

James C. Fountas, *Depoutatos*, Treasurer

Christopher Stratakis, Esq., *Notarios*, Legal Counselor

Christo Daphnides, *Kastrinsios*, Historian

Alexander Pritsos, *Hieromnimon*, Sergeant-at-Arms

Executive
Committee

Functionaries



The ARCHON



ORDER OF
SAINT ANDREW
the apostle
ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075-0106