



Archons honor  
Rabbi Schneier  
with Athenagoras  
Human Rights  
Award

page 3



U.S. Commission  
on Religious  
Freedom urges  
Turkey to  
implement  
ECHR's  
decision

page 6



President-elect Obama calls on Turkey  
to recognize Ecumenical Patriarchate's  
rights

page 7



Twenty-two Archons invested at  
Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York

page 10



(D. Panagos)

## Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew convenes Leaders of World Orthodoxy

Patriarchs, primates & representatives of all the Patriarchal & Autocephalous Orthodox Churches recommitted themselves to overcome intra-Orthodox conflicts as well as to continue theological dialogues with Christians from other confessions at an October 10-12 meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. *Read this story on page 2 »*

## His All Holiness delivers Historic Address to Pope, Catholic Synod of Bishops in Sistine Chapel

Pope Benedict XVI invited His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to address the 12th General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church at the Vatican. It was the first time ever that an Ecumenical Patriarch has addressed this gathering.

### VATICAN CITY

At the personal invitation of Pope Benedict XVI, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew addressed the 12th General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church at

the Vatican. This was the first time ever that an Ecumenical Patriarch has addressed this gathering which meets approximately every two years.

After the celebration of evening prayer on October 18 by more than 400 cardinals, bishops, priests, and lay people in the Sistine Chapel,

Pope Benedict introduced His All Holiness who highlighted in his address how this "is the first time in history that an Ecumenical Patriarch is offered the opportunity to address a Synod of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, and thus be 'part of the life'

*Continued on page 5 »*

# Primates of World's Orthodox Churches meet at Phanar

Ecumenical Patriarch leads Orthodox hierarchs to historical sites of Saint Paul in Izmir, Ephesus, Rhodes, and Herakleion

**ISTANBUL, TURKEY**

“Overcoming the internal conflicts of the Orthodox Church through the surrendering of nationalistic, ethnic and ideological extremes of the past” is a requisite for the “word of Orthodoxy [to] have a necessary impact on the contemporary world,” reads a message issued at the end of the meeting.

The message also affirms the participants’ “desire to continue, despite any difficulties, the theological dialogues with other Christians, as well as the interreligious dialogues, especially with Judaism and Islam.”

Fourteen patriarchs, primates and representatives of the Orthodox Christian Church gathered in the Phanar, the see of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The meeting took place at the invitation and under the presidency of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew - the “first among us,” according to the message.

“This has been an extremely important event in the life of the Orthodox church,” said the World Council of Churches (WCC) deputy general secretary Georges Lemopoulos. “The message, calling mainly for inter-orthodox unity and collaboration, and

spelling out an ‘Orthodox agenda’ as a witness to the world, has a significant ecumenical dimension and will certainly impact the work of the ecumenical movement,” added Lemopoulos, an Orthodox layman from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Addressing some of the issues making headlines these days, the message linked the current financial crisis to “manic profiteering” and “corrupt financial activity”, while calling for a “viable economy” able to combine “efficacy with justice and social solidarity”.

Regarding the conflict between Georgia and Russia over the break-away South Ossetia region, the Orthodox leaders commended both Orthodox churches for “their fraternal cooperation” and hoped that their “efforts will contribute to overcoming the tragic consequences of military operations and [to] the swift reconciliation of the peoples.”

The meeting’s message condemns the “unjust inequality” in the sharing of “the goods of Creation” by “individuals, or even peoples” as a consequence of “nationalistic, ethnic, ideological and religious” divisions. The results are wanton: billions of people deprived of basic goods; mass

migration; nationalistic, religious and social discrimination and conflicts; and destruction of the natural environment and the entire ecosystem.

As Orthodox Christians “share responsibility for the contemporary crisis of this planet,” they also have “a major obligation to contribute to overcoming the divisions of the world,” the message states.

Participants at the gathering welcomed “the proposal by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to convene Pan-Orthodox Consultations within the coming year” in order to address jurisdictional and other issues that have “arisen from historical circumstances and pastoral requirements, such as in the so-called Orthodox Diaspora.”

The Orthodox Primates also welcomed “the continuation of preparations for the Holy and Great Council”. Preparations towards a major conciliar event of the Orthodox churches took place at the end of the seventies and in the eighties but slowed down when changes in Eastern Europe created new pastoral needs and ecclesial challenges within the Orthodox world.

The message has been signed

by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the Patriarchs of Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem and Moscow, the primates of the churches of Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Albania, and the Czech Lands and Slovakia, as well as representatives of the churches of Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria and Georgia. ■

*[Source: World Council of Churches]*

[Top, left] Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew greets Patriarch Alexy of Moscow and All Russia, flanked by Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Kyrill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad.

[Top, right] His All Holiness presides at the Divine Liturgy with Primates of the world's Orthodox churches who celebrate in the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George.

[Bottom, left] His All Holiness stands at the place where St. Paul disembarked at the Bay of Lindos and preached throughout the island of Rhodes.

[Bottom, right] Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Anastasios of Albania (left), and Patriarch Theodoros of Alexandria (right), pray at the site of the Church of St. John the Theologian at ancient Ephesus.

*(D. Panagos / N. Manginas)*





# Archons honor Rabbi Schneier with Athenagoras Human Rights Award

NEW YORK, NY

**R**abbi Arthur Schneier, the senior rabbi at New York's Park East Synagogue, became the 23rd recipient of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America.

Schneier was honored for his work as founder and president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an interfaith organization of corporate and spiritual leaders from all faiths committed to promote peace, tolerance, and ethnic conflict resolution.

The Award was presented during the Grand Banquet of the Order's annual three-day assembly, Oct. 25, at the New York Hilton. Rabbi Arthur Schneier, the senior rabbi at New York's Park East Synagogue, became the 23rd recipient of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award of the Order of St. Andrew

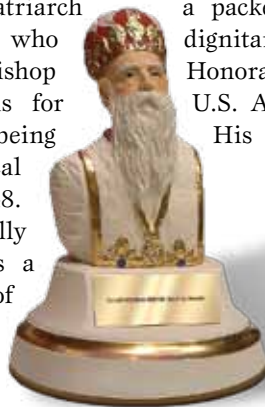
the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America.

Established in 1986, the Athenagoras Award honors Athenagoras who served as Archbishop of the Americas for 18 years before being elected Ecumenical Patriarch in 1948.

He was universally acknowledged as a visionary leader of the world's more than 250 million Orthodox Christians.

Patriarch Athenagoras worked for peace among Churches and people throughout his life.

Previous recipients have included Archbishop Iakovos, President Jimmy Carter, President George H.W. Bush, President Mikhail Gorbachev, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mother Teresa, Elie Wiesel, and last year's recipient, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America.



Rabbi Schneier, escorted by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis MD, was received enthusiastically as he entered a packed ballroom. Honored dignitaries included the Honorable James F. Jeffrey, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey;

His Excellency, Ioannis Plakiotakis, the Deputy Minister of Defense of Greece; His Excellency Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic

Papal Nuncio to the United Nations; the Honorable Senator and Archon Paul Sarbanes; Archon John Brademas, President Emeritus of NY University; Archon Constantine Papadakis, President of Drexel University; the Rev. Father Joseph McShane, President of Fordham University; and White House Correspondent for FOX News, Mike Emanuel, served as Master of Ceremonies

for the evening.

In tribute to Schneier, Limberakis said, "As a recipient of 10 honorary doctorates, numerous national and international awards citing his humanitarian and human rights lifetime accomplishments, Rabbi Arthur Schneier is most worthy to receive the 2008 Athenagoras Human Rights Award and we proclaim him, Axios! Axios! Axios!"

In his remarks, Limberakis also took the opportunity to remember the outstanding stewardship of National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, saying, "[Bouras] has underwritten our Banquet, for the 10th time, representing well over one million dollars. Archon Nick has supported the mission of the Order with great beneficence and extraordinary humility."

Archon John A. Catsimatidis then introduced a video tribute to the accomplishments of Rabbi Schneier.

*Continued on page 4 »*

« Continued from page 3

In the video, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew personally greeted and congratulated Rabbi Schneier from the Phanar. His All Holiness and Rabbi Schneier worked closely together as co-chairs of the 1994 Peace and Tolerance Conference in Istanbul, which worked towards bringing an end to the bloodshed in Yugoslavia. In 2005, they co-chaired the second Peace and Tolerance Conference bringing together leaders from all the major faiths promoting peace and tolerance in Southern Europe and Central Asia.

Upon receiving the Award, Rabbi Schneier thanked the Archons saying, "I'm deeply moved and touched by this high honor given to me." Praising the Archons, he continued, "As a great admirer and friend of His All Holiness, Bartholomew, your work is so important on behalf of religious freedom and human rights... Yes, we stand with His All Holiness because he is a world religious leader - re-



[L-R] Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit; Aglaia Balta, Consul General of Greece in NY; James F. Jeffrey, US Ambassador to Turkey; Ioannis Plakiotakis, Deputy Minister of Defense of Greece; Senator Paul Sarbanes; Rabbi Arthur Schneier; Andreas Kakouris, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the US; Archbishop Demetrios of America; Ioannis Mourikis, Ambassador of Greece to UN; Archon John Brademas, President Emeritus of NY University; Mike Emanuel, White House Correspondent, FOX News; Elisabeth Schneier; Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Papal Nuncio to the UN; Angelos Pangratis, Deputy Head of European Commission Delegation to the US; National Commander Limberakis; Fr. Joseph McShane, President of Fordham University; and Archon John A. Catsimatidis. (D. Panagou)

spected and admired." Rabbi Schneier spoke of the need for cooperation and understanding among religions and the importance of what he called "the core value of religious freedom". Referencing a quote by Martin Luther King, Schneier says, "We must learn how to live together as brothers, or we will perish together as fools." He further quoted Patriarch Athenagoras who had said "I do not deny there are differences, but we must change the way of approaching them," and explained how this continues to be a challenge. The Rabbi

recounted the friendship and close cooperation he has had with Archbishop Demetrios on issues of religious freedom and the protection of religious sites around the world.

In response, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, a Trustee of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, called Rabbi Schneier, "A most deserving honoree who is internationally known for his leadership on behalf of religious freedom, human rights, and tolerance worldwide with specific interest in Turkey, China,

Russia, Central Europe, and the Balkans." The Archbishop concluded by quoting a phrase from the book of the prophet Isaiah to describe the leadership qualities of the honoree as "a wonderful counselor, a wise architect and a prudent listener." (Isaiah 3:3) His Eminence also thanked the Archons of the Order of St. Andrew for their diligent service efforts in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate saying that "they deserve much recognition." ■

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## Former Turkish mayor attempts to obstruct meeting of Ecumenical Patriarchate's Holy Synod

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

**A** former Turkish mayor has tried to prevent the meeting of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, claiming that the August 27-29th meeting violates the Lausanne Treaty, according to a report published in the Turkish Daily News. This has sparked fierce debates every year in the country, since the meetings convened in 2004 for the first time since 1923, with non-Turkish members. In its defense, the Ecumenical Patriarchate states that because the Turkish government refuses to recognize them as a "legal identity," then it does not

have the legal status to be bound by the treaty and therefore has the right to invite any members to the Holy Synod meeting.

Tahsin Salihoglu, the former mayor of Istanbul's Avcilar district, petitioned the Istanbul Governor's office and demanded a halt to the Holy Synod meeting, claiming the Ecumenical Patriarchate has violated the 1923 Lausanne Treaty as it contained non-Turkish members.

According to the Lausanne Treaty, the founding accord of modern Turkey, all the members of the Holy Synod have to be Turkish, Salihoglu said. If for-

eign members of the assembly attend the meeting in Istanbul, the Lausanne Treaty would be violated, he added.

In response to this situation, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, stated, "This is another case of the Turkish government interfering in the administrative and liturgical life of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In fact, this adversely affects the religious freedom of all American and European Orthodox Christians because this intolerant initiative limits the participation of the American and European hierarchs who participate as appointed members of the Holy and Sacred

Synod. This includes Archbishop Demetrios of America and other members of the Holy Eparchial Synod. When will the intimidation stop?"

The lack of a legal identity continues to be a major source of problems for the Ecumenical Patriarchate including non-recognition of its ownership rights and the non-issuance of residence and work permits for non-Turkish hierarchs, clergy, and staff who are essential to the continuity and functioning of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■

## His All Holiness delivers Historic Address to Pope and General Assembly of Catholic Bishops in Vatican's Sistine Chapel

«Continued from page 1

of this sister Church at such a high level. We regard this as a manifestation of the work of the Holy Spirit leading our Churches to a closer and deeper relationship with each other, an important step towards the restoration of our full communion."

His All Holiness spoke to the Synod about hearing and speaking the word of God through the Scriptures, seeing God's word in nature and in icons, and touching and sharing God's word in the sacraments and the communion of saints.

The Word of God, he said, is addressed to all people at all times of history and, therefore, it must be proclaimed in a way that people can understand, and in a way that touches their lives, meets their needs and challenges them to change.

Following the Ecumenical Patriarch's address, the Pope thanked him for his words assuring him they would be

studied and examined by the Synod. "This too was a joyful experience", he said, "an experience of unity, perhaps not perfect but real and profound."

Before offering the synod members his blessing, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew said all Christians, especially Christian leaders, are called to discern, highlight and strengthen the traces of God's word in a world often marked by evil.

"As we struggle -- in ourselves and in our world -- to recognize the power of the cross, we begin to appreciate how every act of justice, every spark of beauty, every word of truth can gradually wear away the crust of evil," he said. ■

*[Read the Ecumenical Patriarch's address on [archons.org](http://archons.org)]*

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is welcomed by Pope Benedict XVI inside the Sistine Chapel during the 12th General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church. (Getty)



# US Commission on International Religious Freedom Urges Turkey to Implement Recent European Court Decision Regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, welcomed the strong statement released by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom urging Turkey to implement the recent European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decision regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the orphanage on the Island of Buyukada (Prinkipos).

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, which was created by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, monitors the status of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief abroad, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international instruments, and gives independent policy recommendations to the President, Secretary of State, and Congress.

National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, who participated in the delegation that appeared before the ECHR last year in Strasbourg, France, commented on this recent statement, saying, "The Patriarchal Orphanage is an historic treasure on the Island of Buyukada. Because the Turkish Government has not granted renovation building permits for decades, this once glorious structure now stands devastated. We are grateful to the members of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom for their strong statement to our leaders in Washington. The decision of the ECHR must be implemented and followed through by the Turkish Government."

The full statement can be read here:

[Sept. 9, 2008: Turkey: Implement Recent European Court Decision and Press Forward with Reforms](#)

The European Court ruled unanimously this summer in a case brought by the Greek Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate that Turkey was in violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The case concerned an orphanage on the Turkish island of Buyukada owned by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the body that is the spiritual leader of almost 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has monitored and reported on this and other religious freedom concerns in Turkey and calls on the U.S. government to urge the Turkish government to implement the judgment as soon as possible.

"This is a landmark decision for the rights of all religious minorities in Turkey, not least because it recognizes the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a legal entity," said Commission Chair Felice Gaer. "The Commission calls on the U.S. government to urge the government of Turkey to demonstrate its commitment to observe the rule of law for all citizens of Turkey by implementing this important ruling."

During the Commission's November 2006 visit to Turkey, though people from almost every religious tradition said they were free to gather and worship as provided for in the country's constitution, the Commission also learned of significant restrictions on religious freedom

for religious minority communities that violated those rights. Among them are state policies and actions that deny non-Muslims the right to own and maintain property, to train religious clergy, and to offer religious education above high school.

Many of the most serious problems faced by religious minorities in Turkey involve property rights and ownership. The Turkish state has consistently used convoluted regulations and undemocratic laws to confiscate – without opportunity for legal appeal or financial compensation – thousands of religious minority properties, particularly those belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Greek Orthodox community under patriarchal jurisdiction. Turkey's policies have led to the decline – and in some cases, virtual disappearance – of some of these religious minorities on lands they have inhabited for millennia.

The European Court's ruling comes at a time of another momentous court ruling: the July decision of Turkey's Constitutional Court against closing down the government's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), which was elected to government with a strong plurality in July 2007 national elections in Turkey. After the parliament voted to alter the country's 1982 constitution to allow women who wear headscarves to attend university – which is currently prohibited in Turkey – a public prosecutor filed a lawsuit with the Constitutional Court in March 2008 to shut down the AKP and ban the party's senior officials from politics. The U.S. government and the European

Union had criticized the lawsuit, suggesting that it was an attempt to disrupt the democratic process in Turkey.

"It is hoped that the ruling by the Constitutional Court will enable the government of Turkey to resume the path toward democratic reform and respect for the human rights of all persons, regardless of their religious conviction or affiliation. Swift and full implementation of this recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on the property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate would be an important first step in demonstrating genuine commitment to that reform process," Gaer said.

*Background.* Although legally purchased by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 1902, the orphanage was registered as the property of the orphanage's foundation in 1936 because the Turkish legal system no longer recognized the Patriarchate as a legal entity. In 1997, Turkey's General Directorate for Foundations (Vakiflar), which regulates all activities and property of non-Muslim religious groups, determined that the orphanage foundation was no longer operational and assumed management of the property. In 1999, the Vakiflar initiated proceedings to deprive the Ecumenical Patriarchate of ownership and to re-register the property in the name of the orphanage, now under the Vakiflar's management.

After a series of appeals in the Turkish courts, the Patriarchate turned to the European Court, which ruled that the Turkish authorities were not entitled to dispossess the owner of its property without providing for appropriate compensation. As the Ecumenical Patriarchate had not received any form of compensation, the Court stated, there had been a violation of property rights. ■





# President-elect Barack Obama calls on Turkey to ‘respect Ecumenical Patriarchate’s rights and freedoms’

WASHINGTON, D.C.

President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden, demonstrated their strong support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in a statement issued to the Greek-American community during their role as Senators.

The statement reads:

“Ecumenical Patriarchate: Barack Obama was one of 73 Senators who signed a letter, initiated by Senator Biden in his capacity as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, to President Bush in 2006 urging him to press Turkey to restore the full rights of the Ecumenical

Patriarchate of the Orthodox Christian Church in Istanbul. He has sent Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice a personal letter on the same matter. Senator Obama calls on Turkey to respect the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s rights and freedoms, including its property rights. Turkey should allow the re-opening of the Patriarchate’s

school of theology on Halki Island and guarantee the right to train clergy of all nationalities, not just Turkish nationals.” ■

[Top] President-elect Barack Obama speaks to members of The Order of Saint Andrew on issues concerning the Ecumenical Patriarchate. [Above] Vice President elect Joe Biden meets Archons.

(Photos by D. Panagos)



## Departed Archons

**Michael E. Kusturiss**

*Oct. 08*

Canonsburg, PA.

Archon Hieromnimon

**Thomas M. Pallad**

*Nov. 08*

Glendale, AZ.

Archon Hartophylax

**Dinos N. Panas**

*July 08*

Long Branch, NJ

Archon Hartoulatios

**Icarus N. Pappas**

*Sept. 08*

McLean, VA.

Archon Notarios



*May Their Memory Be Eternal*



# U.S. Ambassador to Turkey James Jeffrey attends Annual Archon General Assembly; ACLJ's Jay Sekulow delivers Keynote address

NEW YORK, NY

The Order of St. Andrew welcomed two distinguished guests at its annual Archon General Assembly on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Hilton Hotel in New York City: The Honorable James F. Jeffrey, U.S. ambassador to Turkey, and Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice and European Centre for Law and Justice.

National Commander Limberakis called the meeting to order that morning and welcomed all Archons and Archon-elects to the assembly.

Limberakis shared a letter sent by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew which read, "We recognize the progress and results of your extraordinary Religious Freedom Project commenced in 2006. The passing of nineteen religious freedom resolutions for the Ecumenical Patriarchate by sixteen states to date and the signing of seventy-five U.S. Senators of a letter to the U.S. President asking for his direct intervention and assistance for the Ecumenical Patriarchate are unprecedented accomplishments for which the Or-

der is solely responsible." The Secretary, Treasurer, Audit Committee, Bylaws Committee, Nominating Committee, Patriarchal Education Committee, Pilgrimage Committee, and Regional Commanders Liaison Committee provided reports throughout the morning.

That afternoon, The Order of St. Andrew sponsored a Ladies' Tea Reception for all wives, family members and honored guests of the Archons and Archons-elect. Dr. Maria A. Limberakis, the wife of the National Commander, hosted the event and welcomed Archbishop Demetrios who explained the significance

of the Archon offikion.

The General Assembly reconvened after lunch with



[Top, left] The Honorable James Jeffrey, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey [Top, right] Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law & Justice [Above] Archon Theofanis Economidis presents Archbishop Demetrios with California State's Senate Joint Resolution #17. California became the 16th state to unanimously adopt the Religious Freedom Resolution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. [Below] Archbishop Demetrios addresses the assembly.

(D. Panagos / J. Mindala)

reports from Archon John A. Catsimatidis on the Religious Freedom Initiative, and Archon Christopher Stratakis, Esq. on the Legal Committee Initiative. Additionally, Archon John Zavitianos reported on the Legal Defense Fund, and Archon Andrew

Manatos offered words on recent developments in Washington.

Archon Theofanis Economidis presented His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios with California State's

Senate Joint Resolution #17 by which California became the 16th state to unanimously adopt the Religious Freedom Resolution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Ambassador Jeffrey offered remarks and answered many questions posed by Archons on the many concerns that the Order had in regards to religious freedom rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Sekulow, one of the leading voices in the world on behalf of religious freedom, then offered an invigorating keynote address in which he addressed religious freedom rights pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Sekulow 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.

The assembly concluded with a memorial service offered by His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios for all departed Archons. His Eminence then offered the Archiepiscopal Charge to the Archons-elect. ■







[L-R] National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD; Archon Xenophon Zapis; Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law & Justice; Archbishop Demetrios of America; The Honorable James F. Jeffrey, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey; Archon Dr. Constantine Papadakis; Archon John A. Catsimatidis; and Archon Andrew Manatos. (D. Panagos)

## McCain urges Bush to address Ecumenical Patriarchate’s religious freedom rights

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Senator John McCain has issued a letter to U.S. President George W. Bush expressing his concern on the religious freedom issues affecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In particular, Senator McCain cites the refusal of the Turkish government to recognize the “ecumenical” status

of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and also their denial to reopen the Orthodox Theological Seminary of Halki.

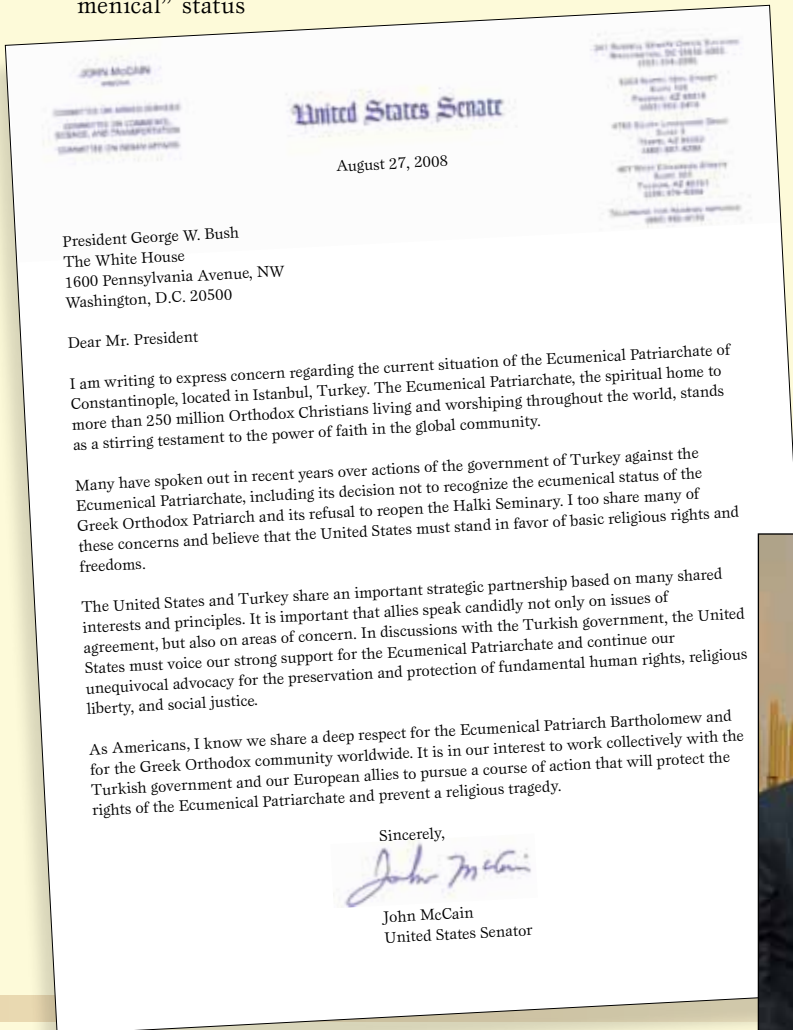
In his letter, Senator McCain says, “As Americans, I know we share a deep respect for the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

and for the Greek Orthodox community worldwide... The Ecumenical Patriarchate, the spiritual home to more than 250 million Orthodox Christians living and worshipping throughout the world, stands as a stirring testament to the power of faith in the global community... It is in our interest to work collectively with the Turkish government and our European allies to pursue a course of action that will protect the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and prevent a religious tragedy.”

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America welcomed Senator McCain to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in June 2007 and 2008 where the two discussed the specific issues surrounding religious freedom and legal protections for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other human rights concerns.

Senator McCain is not alone in his defense for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Last June, Senator Barack Obama also voiced his concern during an interview with the Greek bureau of Voice of America. “[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.

In response to the support that both U.S. presidential candidates have proclaimed, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis commented, “As an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and as a citizen of this great nation, I am encouraged to see that both presidential candidates, Senator John McCain and Senator Barack Obama, have taken strong positions advocating religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Archons of America will continue to fight for religious freedom on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Whether it is in the Congressional Chambers in Washington, or ministerial offices in Ankara, or the offices of parliamentarians, commissioners, and justices of the European Union, we will never quit fighting for religious freedom until we hear the bells of freedom emanating from the Phanar.” ■



Archbishop Demetrios welcomed Senator McCain to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in June 2008. (J. Mindala)

# Archbishop Demetrios presides at Investiture of Twenty-Two New Archons

NEW YORK, NY

The Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, presided at the Investiture of twenty-two new Archons from throughout the United States, following the Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, on Sunday, October 26, 2008.

During the solemn Archon Investiture service, Arch-

bishop Demetrios presented each Archon with the Cross of St. Andrew along with the official Patriarchal Certificate specifying the offkion designated by His All Holiness for each Archon.

Concelebrating hierarchs included His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit and His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey. Dignitaries in attendance included, The Honorable Senator and Archon Paul Sarbanes. ■



Archon-elects bear candles inside Holy Trinity Cathedral.

(J. Mindala)

## THE 2008 ARCHON CLASS

George Angelakis <i>Archon Depoutatos</i>	Pennington, NJ	James Pete Pappas, PhD <i>Archon Prostatitis Ton Grammaton</i>	Norman, OK
Lewis A. Assaley, PhD <i>Archon Eftaxias</i>	Cincinnati, OH	Arthur Poly <i>Archon Hartophylax</i>	Boca Raton, FL
Arthur Balourdos <i>Archon Hypomnematografos</i>	Lincolnwood, IL	Capt. Mark J. Poneris <i>Archon Maestor</i>	Englewood Cliffs, NJ
Peter John Condakes <i>Archon Hieromnimon</i>	Weston, MA	George Peter Psihogios <i>Archon Kastrinsios</i>	Lake Oswego, OR
John Dallas <i>Archon Ostiarios</i>	Hingham, MA	Paul Sieben <i>Archon Aktouarios</i>	Toledo, OH
Nicolaos Apostolos Georgiafentis <i>Archon Hartoularios</i>	Itasca, IL	Christos Skeadas <i>Archon Eftaxias</i>	Villanova, PA
Larry Hotzoglou <i>Archon Notarios</i>	Bayside, NY	Basil Skelos <i>Archon Eftaxias</i>	Rockville Center, NY
Christopher C. Maletis III <i>Archon Ostiarios</i>	Portland, OR	Paul Peter Sogotis <i>Archon Orphanotrofos</i>	Burlingame, CA
Hon. E. Leo Milonas <i>Archon Nomophylax</i>	Bronx, NY	John C. Stratakis, Esq. <i>Archon Dikaiophylax</i>	New York, NY
Christopher James Pappas <i>Archon Depoutatos</i>	Houston, TX	Nicholas Tsapatsaris <i>Archon Kastrinsios</i>	Ridgewood, NJ
Harris James Pappas <i>Archon Notarios</i>	Houston, TX	Xenophon Zapis, Esq. <i>Archon Ekdikos</i>	Westlake, OH

(D. Panagos)



The Ecumenical Patriarchate's religious freedom status is addressed poignantly in this originally published article of the International Herald Tribune by Archon Nicholas Gage on September 8, 2008, entitled ...

INTERNATIONAL

# Herald Tribune

THE GLOBAL EDITION OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Orthodox Christianity Under Threat

When Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey and his Islamic-rooted party came under fierce fire this summer from secularists, who came close to persuading the country's supreme court to bar both from politics, he called the campaign an attack against religious freedom and a threat to Turkey's efforts to join the European Union.

Yet in nearly six years in power, Erdogan has shown no inclination to extend even a modicum of religious freedom to the most revered Christian institution in Turkey - the Patriarchate of Constantinople, the spiritual center of 300 million Orthodox Christians throughout the world. As a result, Turkey's persecution of the Patriarchate looms as a major obstacle to its European aspirations, and rightly so.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate, which was established in the fourth century and once possessed holdings as vast as those of the Vatican, has been reduced to a small, besieged enclave in a decaying corner of Istanbul called the Phanar, or Lighthouse. Almost all of its property has been seized by successive Turkish governments, its schools have been closed and its prelates are taunted by extremists who demonstrate almost daily outside the Patriarchate, calling for its ouster from Turkey.

The Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew I, is often jeered and threatened when he ventures outside his walled enclave. He is periodically burned in effigy by Turkish chauvinists and Muslim fanatics. Government

bureaucrats take pleasure in harassing him, summoning him to their offices to question and berate him about irrelevant issues, blocking his efforts to make repairs in the few buildings still under his control, and issuing veiled threats about what he says and does when he travels abroad.

Successive Turkish governments have followed policies that deliberately belittle the patriarch, refusing to recognize his ecumenical status as the spiritual leader of a major religious faith but viewing him only as the head of the small Greek Orthodox community of Istanbul.

Last year 42 of the 50 members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives sent a letter to Erdogan urging his government to "end all restrictions" on the religious freedom of the Patriarchate, described by Tom Lantos, who then chaired the committee, as "one of the world's oldest and greatest treasures." The congressmen urged the Turkish government to join the rest of the world in recognizing the ecumenical standing of the Patriarchate, to return expropriated property, to reopen its schools, including the renowned theological seminary on the island of Halki, and to end all interference in the process of selecting the patriarch, particularly the "continued insistence that he be a Turkish citizen."

As Orthodox Christians have been systematically persecuted in Turkey and there are now less than 2,500 of them left in the country, the congressmen wrote, the Patriarchate will soon cease

to exist if future patriarchs have to be Turkish citizens. "It is the church, not the Turkish state, that should determine who becomes ecumenical patriarch," their chairman declared.

Despite their letter and other efforts by statesmen from many countries to try to persuade the Turkish government to liberalize their policies toward the Patriarchate, its leaders have not budged - even though they know their stand may harm their chances of entering the European Union.

Their intransigence clearly demonstrates that while they want to enter Europe for its economic advantages, they are not prepared to liberalize their policies enough to alleviate Western concerns about allowing them to join. Until Turkey moves to make the fundamental changes necessary, starting with its policies toward the Patriarchate, admission of the country into the EU will pose major risks.

When I was covering Turkey for The New York Times in the late 1970s, its population was 34 million. Today it is 71 million and growing, while the birthrate in Europe is falling precipitously. In addition, Turkey's combined troop strength of 1.1 million overwhelms the armed forces of even the biggest European nations. If Turkey becomes a full member of the European Union, will it accommodate to Europe's liberal traditions or will it use its demographic and military prowess to bend Europe to its will? The EU has already ruled that Turkey must allow the ships of Cyprus, an EU member, to use Turkish ports, but Turkey has completely ignored the rul-

ing despite its eagerness to join Europe. So the key question is whether Turkey is willing to adapt to Europe or wants only to join the EU on its own terms. It is crucial for Europe to know Turkey's real intentions before opening its doors to the country.

Turkey's treatment of the Patriarchate, therefore, must remain a litmus test of its readiness to join the European Union. If Turkey cannot recognize the value of "one of the world's oldest and greatest treasures" in its own midst, how can it be expected to appreciate and respect the liberal values and traditions that define Europe? If Turkey insists on entering Europe on its own inflexible terms, the danger that it will overwhelm Europe, engulf it and change it radically cannot be underestimated.

The Patriarch of Constantinople himself has said that he believes the risk is worth taking and that he strongly supports Turkey's admission. I, too, believe that Turkish membership holds great benefits for all concerned, especially the Turkish people, but not as Turkey is constituted today - intolerant, suspicious, inflexible.

For Turkey to join Europe, it must show that it is ready to take great strides in adopting a European outlook, not the baby steps it has taken until now. The best way to begin is with the Patriarchate at the Phanar, "the Lighthouse," which can become a beacon to light a path for Turkey into Europe, if only the country's leaders find the wisdom to see it. ■

*[Nicholas Gage writes often about the Eastern Mediterranean.]*

## ‘We are all brothers and sisters,’ Ecumenical Patriarch tells MEPs

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew delivered a major address to the Plenary Assembly of the European Parliament during the formal sitting of the assembly in Brussels on Wednesday, September 24, 2008. His All Holiness was introduced by Mr. Hans-Gert Pottering, President of the European Parliament.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Addressing a formal sitting of the House as part of European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Church, Bartholomew I, spoke of the value of the European project in promoting peace and tolerance, the importance of accepting minorities and the need for the EU to accept Turkey as a member. He also underlined his church’s efforts to encourage respect for the environment.

Introducing the Ecumenical Patriarch, EP President Hans-Gert Pottering stressed that “The European Union is a community based on values, the most fundamental of which is human dignity. In this respect religious freedom is central to hu-

man dignity.” He linked this to the separation of church and state, as anchored in the Lisbon Treaty.

Mr Pottering described the Patriarch as “a beacon to your followers in the Orthodox world” and pointed out that recent EU enlargements had brought in the Orthodox

countries of Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania. He added “The late Pope John Paul II used the metaphor of Europe breathing again with its two lungs after the downfall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe.



[Top] Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pottering. [Bottom] His All Holiness addresses the European Parliament.

(europarl.europa.eu / N. Manginas)

We could also use this metaphor to refer to the richness in the enlarged EU brought through the different perspectives of Western and Eastern Christianity.”

**Dialogue is “at the very root of what it means to be a human being”**

In the opening part of his speech, the Patriarch told MEPs “our Ecumenical Patriarchate embraces a truly global apostolate that strives to raise and broaden the consciousness of the human family -- to bring understanding that we are all dwelling in the same

house.” For twenty centuries the Patriarchate “has continued as a lighthouse for the human family and the Christian Church. It is from the depths of our experience upon these deep waters of history that we offer to the contemporary world a timeless message of perennial human value.”

His core idea was that “Dialogue is necessary first and foremost because it is inherent in the nature of the human person.” In other words, “intercultural dialogue is at the very root of what it means to be a human being, for no one culture of the human family encompasses every human person. Without such dialogue, the differences in the human family are reduced to objectifications of the “other” and lead to abuse, conflict, persecution -- a grand scale human suicide, for we are all ultimately one humanity. But where the dif-



ferences between us move us to encounter one another and where that encounter is based in dialogue, there is reciprocal understanding and appreciation -- even love."

### Importance of the European project

The Patriarch then stressed that "the significance of the 'European project' cannot be underestimated. It is one of the hallmarks of the European Union that it has succeeded in promoting mutual, peaceful and productive co-existence between nation states that less than seventy years ago were drenched in a bloody conflict that could have destroyed the legacy of Europe for the ages."

### Only one ecosphere

There must be a more profound understanding of the interdependence of every single human person with every other single human person, continued the Patriarch, explaining "there is a way of understanding the universe in which we live as being shared by all," namely an "ecosphere that contains us all."

For this reason, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has long championed environmental causes. For example, it has "sponsored seven scientific symposia that bring together a host of disciplines." In 1995 it launched an ambitious program of "integrating current scientific knowledge about the oceans with the spiritual approach of the world's religions to water, particularly the world's oceans." The project has visited the Danube, the Adriatic, the Baltic, the Amazon, the Arctic, and is preparing to sail the Nile and the Mississippi next year.

### Acceptance of minorities

Ecology could be seen not only as an important practical issue but as a metaphor for social issues, went on the Patriarch. "As an institution, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has lived as a relatively small ecosystem within a much larger culture for centuries. Out of this long experience, allow us to suggest the most important practical characteristic that enables the work of intercultural dialogue to succeed," namely "above all, there must be respect for the rights of the minority within every

majority. When and where the rights of the minority are observed, the society will for the most part be just and tolerant." Indeed "only when we embrace the fullness of shared presence within the ecosphere of human existence, are we then able to face the "otherness" of those around us." This led him to the subject of Turkey.

### Turkey: tolerance and understanding needed on both sides

To applause from the House, he explained, "This is why Europe needs to bring Turkey into its project and why Turkey needs to foster intercultural dialogue and tolerance to be accepted into the European project. Europe should not see any religion that is tolerant of others as alien to itself. The great religions, like the European project, can be a force for transcending nationalism and can even transcend nihilism and fundamentalism by focusing their faithful on what unites us as human beings, and by fostering a dialogue about what divides us."

He pointed out that, "From our country, Turkey, we perceive both a welcome to a new

economic and trading partner, but we also feel the hesitation that comes from embracing, as an equal, a country that is predominantly Muslim. And yet Europe is filled with millions of Muslims who have come here from all sorts of backgrounds and causations; just as Europe would still be filled with Jews, had it not been for the horrors of the Second World War." Istanbul was looking forward to being European Capital of Culture in 2010, he added.

### Peace and prosperity: Patriarchate ready to contribute

Lastly, Bartholomew I assured Parliament that "the Ecumenical Patriarchate stands ready to make vital contributions to the peace and prosperity of the European Union." By way of conclusion, he said: "We are all brothers and sisters with one heavenly Father and on this beautiful planet, which we are all responsible for, there is room for everyone." ■

[Source: European Parliament, 24-09-2007 14:21]

## Ukrainian President Yushenko visits Ecumenical Patriarchate

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

President Victor Yushenko of Ukraine was received by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Phanar during his official visit to Turkey, Oct 29, and had a one-hour discussion in the office of His All Holiness.

Amidst an audience of Turkish and Ukrainian dignitaries and diplomats inside the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George, President Yushchenko thanked His All Holiness for his participation in the July celebrations

in Ukraine, which marked the 1020th anniversary of the Kievan-Rus conversion to Orthodox Christianity.

President Yushenko proposed that the next Pan-Orthodox Synaxis in 2009 be held in Kiev. He stressed that such a meeting in Kiev would be of great importance for the Ukrainian people, as this would demonstrate their inseparable bond with the global Orthodox community.

He then requested His All Holiness to offer a memorial for the Holodomor genocide victims on the occasion of its

75th sorrowful anniversary. President Yushenko closed his remarks with a presentation to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Jubilee Commemorative Coin that was minted by the National Bank of Ukraine for the 1020th anniversary and the historic occasion of the



President Victor Yushenko presents Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with a Jubilee Commemorative Coin marking His All Holiness' first-ever visit to Ukraine. (N. Manginas)

Ecumenical Patriarch's first-ever visit to Ukraine. ■

# California Legislature unanimously endorses religious freedom resolution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate

To date, 19 such resolutions have been adopted by 16 states.

NEW YORK, NY

After one year of intense work, the California State Senate Joint Resolution for Religious Freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (SJR 17) has passed unanimously by both houses of the California Legislature, the Senate and the Assembly. The measure passed on Aug. 30. To date, 16 states have adopted similar resolutions.

In 2006, the National Council of the Order of St. Andrew initiated the Religious Freedom Resolutions project. The goal of this project, which represents one component of the overall, multi-faceted Religious Freedom Initiative, is the adoption of religious freedom resolutions in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in every state legislature. The Ecumenical Patriarchate's existence is currently threatened by the persecutory policies of the government of Turkey, which if continues threatens the survival of this nearly 2000 year old institution founded by the First Called Apostle of Christ, Andrew, the brother of Peter.

Last January, the resolution was introduced by California State Senator Elaine Kontominas Alquist and passed unanimously by the State Senate.

Archon Regional Commander Fanis Economidis, who led the successful effort with the critical assistance of many other dedicated individuals, said, "We provided pertinent material so that all of those involved understood the importance of this resolution. The senator and her staff

went out of their way to overcome this obstacle. We worked every detail possible together and in the process they became our champions. I am truly indebted to the senator, her chief of staff and her legislative consultant, Melissa Kludjian, with whom I have had daily communication. My heartfelt thanks to His Eminence

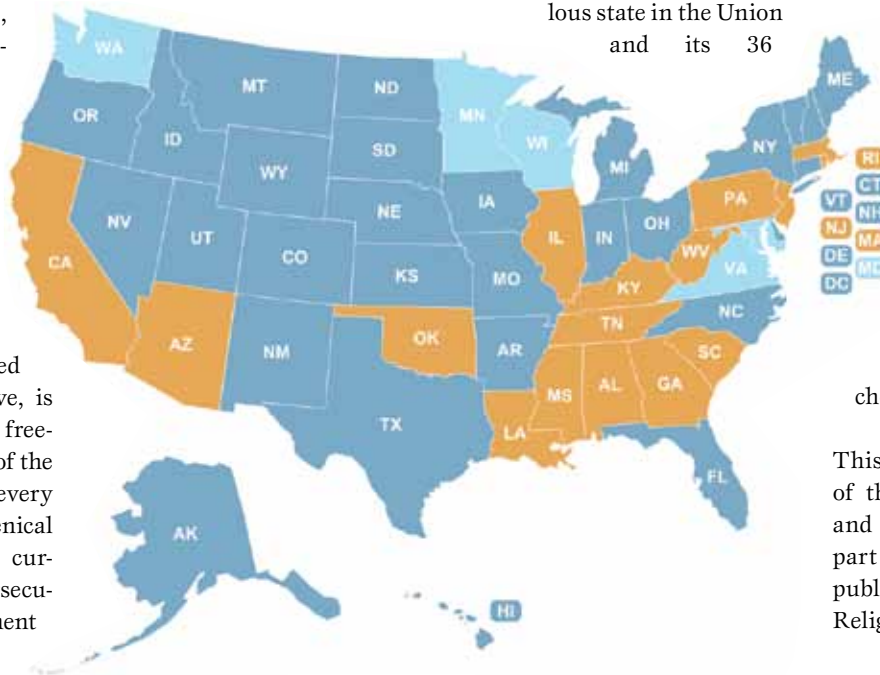
calling on Turkey to protect the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This is a wonderful development. I am pleased that California will now join the 15 other states that have adopted similar resolutions."

National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis commented, "Having the most populous state in the Union and its 36

up for religious freedom who reflect the highest principles for which America and the free world represent."

Through the efforts of Archons Stephen Georgeson and Nicholas Loutsion, a page on the Archon web site continues to promote this project. The web page, located under the "Issues" category on the main menu of [www.archons.org](http://www.archons.org), contains an interactive map which easily identifies those states that have, or currently are reviewing the religious-freedom resolution. A listing of every state and links to those adopted resolutions are available. This page can be viewed at: [archons.org/resolutions](http://archons.org/resolutions).

This project is an ongoing effort of the Order of Saint Andrew and represents an important part of the governmental and public affairs strategy of the Religious Freedom Initiative. ■



States highlighted in:  
 LIGHT BLUE indicate that the resolution has been introduced.  
 GOLD indicate final adoption and no further action is necessary.  
 DARK BLUE indicate no resolution has been introduced at this time.

Metropolitan Gerasimos for his encouragement and support. To our Archon brothers Angelo Tsakopoulos, George Marcus and their staff, I owe a debt of gratitude for responding to my call for help at a time the whole thing seemed to be slipping away. It was team effort which I will treasure for many years."

In response to this achievement, Senator Elaine Kontominas Alquist said, "With the vote of the Assembly, California is now

million people calling for the religious freedom and protection of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is inspiring and a tremendous model for the remaining states to emulate. We congratulate Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, Senator Kontominas Alquist whose efforts resulted in the unanimous adoption of the religious freedom resolution, and the hard work of Regional Commander Economidis, Archons Tsakopoulos and Marcus, and all those who stood

Learn more about the Archons efforts toward the Religious Freedom Project, at: [\*\*archons.org/resolutions\*\*](http://archons.org/resolutions)

To see what measures you can take for your State to pass a resolution for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, contact:

**Stephen Georgeson**  
*National Coordinator for the State Resolutions Project*  
[spgeorgeson@yahoo.com](mailto:spgeorgeson@yahoo.com)

# Photo Briefs



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in discussion with Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis during his visit to Athens, Greece, Thursday, October 30, 2008. Also attending the meeting was Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis. while the Ecumenical Patriarch was accompanied by Metropolitan John of Pergamon. (N. Manginas)



Archon Deacon Stephen Hall of St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church, Waldorf, MD, assisted Archbishop Demetrios for the Benediction following the Archon Grand Banquet. Deacon Hall is the only ordained Archon cleric. (J. Mindala)



“We ascertained your wisdom, simplicity and love for the Church,” remarks Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece to His All Holiness, during Bartholomew’s late October visit to Athens. Ieronymos reassures the Ecumenical Patriarch, “that all of us will provide our forces, however, small they are to the Patriarchate’s mission.” (N. Manginas)



Archons, Archon-elects, and friends gather in fellowship during the Grand Banquet. (D. Panagos)



On Saturday, October 25, 2008, the Order of St. Andrew held a Ladies’ Tea Reception for all wives, family members, and honored guests of Archons and Archons-elect. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, and Dr. Maria Limberakis, offered greetings to the women. (J. Mindala)



Archons, Archon-elects, and friends gather in fellowship during the Grand Banquet. (D. Panagos)



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America greets children at Lindos, Rhodes during the final days of the Pauline Symposium. (N. Manginas)



The parliamentary delegation from Sweden, consisting of members from the committee cultural relations from various political parties, visited with His All Holiness at the Ecumenical Patriarchate. During this meeting, the Swedish parliamentarians not only showed their respect to the Ecumenical Patriarch but also requested to be informed about the problems in which the Ecumenical Patriarchate faces in Turkey today. (N. Manginas)



The National Council of the Order of St. Andrew conducted their monthly meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2008. Special prayers were recited to those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. (J. Mindala)



His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew addresses the heads of the Orthodox churches in the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George.

(Above, D. Panagos)

(Full-page, N. Manginas)



# The ARCHON

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# The ARCHON



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