

The Archon

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



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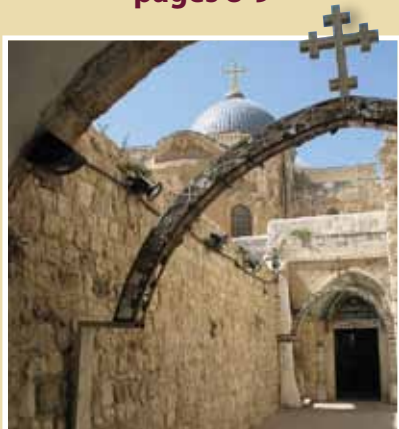
March-April 2009

Romanian Patriarchate,
OSCE & EU top
priorities for Archons'
Religious Freedom
agenda **pages 3-7**



Archbishop Demetrios
meets with President
& Vice-President at
White House celebration of
Greek Independence Day

pages 8-9



ARCHON HISTORIC PILGRIMAGE
MAY 28 - JUNE 9, 2009

CAPPADOCIA · HOLY LAND · MT. SINAI

pages 12-13



(The White House / Pete Souza)

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew holds private discussions with President Obama

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

President Barack Obama had a private meeting with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Conrad Hotel during the President's recent visit to Istanbul, Turkey. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and the White House Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel, were present at the meeting.

The meeting and ensuing discussion were marked by a spirit of warm cordiality and mutual respect. The substance of the discussions included His All Holiness' expression of gratitude to President Obama for his strong support of religious freedom and raising before the Turkish Parliament itself the issue of opening up Halki Seminary as a tangible sign of Turkey's com-

mitment to enter the European Union. He also thanked the President for discussing these issues personally with Prime Minister Erdogan and President Gul of the Turkish Republic. President Obama said he would follow up on these issues with a view to a favorable solution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

His All Holiness made reference to the following points:

1. He made a convincing and passionate argument for the speedy re-opening of the Theological School of Halki, a basic need for the education and preparation of Clergy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
2. He emphasized the importance of religious liberty and the guarantee of same for all minorities of Turkey.

3. He stated his well-known and long time support for the efforts of Turkey to join the European Union.

4. He noted the significance of efforts made on behalf of the environment, adding information on his own upcoming Ecological Symposium in the U.S.A. (Mississippi River) in October of 2009.

5. He thanked President Obama for this meeting and for his active interest in the pressing issues of religious freedom and human rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the other minorities in Turkey.

His All Holiness mentioned that he had sent to the President, through the local U.S. General

Continued on page 2 »

ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW MOURNS LOSS OF
ARCHON DR. CONSTANTINE PAPADAKIS
President of Drexel University

It is with profound sadness, that the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, notes the falling asleep in the Lord of Archon Didaskalos tou Genous, Dr. Constantine Papadakis, President of Drexel University. The untimely passing of Archon Constantine is an unspeakable loss for his family, Drexel University, the Greek and American Communities at-large, and particularly for the Order of St. Andrew. His wisdom, experience, expertise and fellowship will be deeply missed by all. During these coming days of Holy Week, our prayers and thoughts are with his family and friends.



Ecumenical Patriarch holds discussions with President Obama in Turkey *(continued from page 1)*

Counsel, an icon of the Prophet Baruch (patron of the President) with a handwritten inscription. He also congratulated the President for the championship victory of the University of North Carolina's Basketball Team, which the President had chosen to win.

In a speech to the Turkish Parliament on Monday, President Obama said that re-opening the Halki Seminary would "send a strong signal inside Turkey and beyond" that Turkey respected freedom of religion and expression.

"As the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we are much more optimistic about the opening of the Halki Seminary," His All Holiness said in a statement after the meeting. "The Halki seminary is not a matter of prestige for us. Opening this school is a true necessity for our patriarchate to fulfill its religious mission."

The European Union has urged Turkey to open the seminary, located on an island off the coast of Istanbul and shuttered for almost four decades, in order to meet its political criteria for membership. Turkey has argued that having a seminary in Istanbul would violate the country's secular order. ■

National Commander honored by NYC Comptroller

NEW YORK, NY

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD received the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by William C. Thompson, Jr., Comptroller of the City of New York

in recognition "for being a constant source of spiritual strength and wisdom while serving as an Archon the the Ecumenical Patriarchate; for his firm commitment to helping people in need as President of Bustleton Radiology Associates; for his outstand-

ing work on behalf of the Duke Medical Center; and for his lasting contributions to both the Greek community and the people of New York

City." The event honored Greek Heritage and Culture and was held at the Surrogate Courthouse, New York, NY. ■

(Photos by J. Mindala)





Religious Freedom Mission

FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania receives the Archon delegation consisting of [L-R] Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Archon Christopher Stratakis, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, Archons John Halecky and Dr. Spiro Macris. Fr. Michael Tita, Romanian Patriarchal Counselor, is pictured on the far right.

A delegation of Archons visited Central and Eastern Europe during the week of February 21 – 28, 2009, in continuation of the Archons’ Religious Freedom Mission in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The five-member delegation traveled to Vienna, Prague and Bucharest and concluded its mission with an audience with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Phanar. National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, led the delegation which consisted of National Secretary John Halecky, Legal Counsel Christopher Stratakis and Dr. Spiro Macris, member of the National Council. Father Alexander Karloutsos, Assistant to Archbishop Demetrios of America and Spiritual Advisor to The Order of St. Andrew also accompanied the delegation.

Continued on page 4



	AUSTRIA		Headquarters of the Organization of Security & Cooperation in Europe
	CZECH REPUBLIC		Current Presidency of the European Union
	ROMANIA		Newest member of the European Union, Headquarters of the Romanian Patriarchate
	TURKEY		Headquarters of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



[Top, left] Shortly upon arrival in Vienna, Austria, members of the Order of St. Andrew celebrated a Divine Liturgy, presided by Metropolitan Michael of Austria at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. [Top, right] Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Archon delegation, during meeting with Deputy Chief of Mission Kyle Scott (US Mission OSCE) Thaddeus Kontek, Political Officer of the OSCE U.S. Mission. [Bottom, left] Victor Dvorak, Czech Republic Deputy Chief of Mission to the OSCE. [Bottom, right] Meeting with His Excellency Reverend Michael Banach, Permanent representative of the Vatican to the OSCE.

VIENNA

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF SECURITY & COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

Vienna, the site of the OSCE headquarters was visited on February 22 and 23. The OSCE consists of 56 participating states from Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and North America. It was created during the Cold War as an East-West forum. Among its many mandates, the OSCE investigates issues such as violations of human rights and religious freedoms, issues which the Order of St. Andrew finds relevant to its mission regarding the protection and promotion of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In Vienna, the Archon delegation was joined by Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Director of the Liaison Office of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the European Union. The delegation met with Kyle Scott, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission to the OSCE and Thaddeus Kontek, Political Officer of the Mission. Dr. Limberakis briefed the officials on the repressive conditions under which the Ecumenical Patriarchate functions and which threaten its very existence.

Mr. Kontek also introduced the delegation to Ms. Winsome A. Packer, who is serving as the representative of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe to the OSCE in Vienna.

The delegation, accompanied by Mr. Kontek, then met with Greek officials posted to the OSCE: Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Ambassador of Greece to the OSCE; Deputy Chief of Mission Dionyssios Kyvetos, Counselor Christos Sofianopoulos and Public Affairs and Press Officer Alexandros Dimitrakopoulos. Dr. Limberakis introduced the Archon delegation and reviewed the objectives of the Archon mission to the OSCE relative to the current status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Ambassador Marinaki stated that the OSCE worked by consensus of all 56 participating states and had no powers of enforcement or punitive authority. Greece, which

holds the chair of the OSCE for this year, 2009, is obligated to preside with total objectivity. Dr. Limberakis stated that all Christians, not just Orthodox, as well as non-Sunni Muslims are discriminated against in Turkey.

The delegation's final meeting in Vienna was with the Czech Deputy Chief of Mission to the OSCE Victor Dvorak and Human Dimension Officer Jara Kalimonova. It should be noted that the Czech Republic currently holds the presidency of the European Union.



PRAGUE

CURRENT PRESIDENCY OF EU
(1/1/2009 – 6/30/2009)

COORDINATES NEGOTIATIONS
WITH EU CANDIDATE
NATIONS, INCLUDING TURKEY

The delegation then went to the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and met with JUDr. Pavel Svítal, Head of Working Group for Enlargement of the EU, for South and South East Europe. Dr. Limberakis briefed Dr. Svítal on the state of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

On February 24, in Prague, the Czech Republic, the delegation visited the U.S. Embassy and met with Mary Thompson-Jones, Deputy Chief of Mission; Charles O. Blaha, Political Officer; and James K. Connell, Political Officer. Dr. Limberakis briefed the officials on the state of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Deputy Chief of Mission Thompson-Jones congratulated the delegation on its EU and OSCE initiatives, and advised the delegation to visit Sweden prior to its acceding to the EU presidency in July of this year.

On February 25, in Bucharest, Romania, the delegation went to the U.S. Embassy and met with Charge d' Affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission Jeri Guthrie-Corn; Political Counselor Theodore Tanoue; and Political Specialist Rodica Barlanescu. Dr. Limberakis briefed the officials on the state of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the specific elements relating to its suppression.

Continued on page 6 »



Members of the Archon delegation traveled by an overnight train and arrived in Prague on February 24, 2009, where they met with the head of the Catholic Church in the Czech Republic, Archbishop Miloslav Cardinal Vlk.

[Top] Meetings were held with the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JuDr. Pavel Svítal, Head of the Working Group for the EU Enlargement for South & South Eastern Europe. [Bottom] Archon delegation with Mary-Thompson Jones, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy..



BUCHAREST

MOST POPULOUS ORTHODOX COUNTRY IN EU

ARCHON VISITATION REINFORCED THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PROCESS FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

On February 26, the delegation met with a number of officials of the Romanian government. Meetings were held with Presidential Adviser Bogdan Tataru Cazaban; at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Bogdan Aurescu, Secretary of State, and Razvan Rotundu, Director of Human Rights and Council of Europe Division; and at the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs, with Adrian Nico-

lae Lemeni, Secretary of State. The delegation also met Dr. Dorina-Maria Nastase, Political Reporter and Head of the Political Section, and Doina Servan, Coordinator Team Europe and EDC Coordinator, both European Commission Representatives in Romania. Dr. Limberakis discussed the state of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the delegation received a sympathetic hearing.

The delegation received the support of U.S. embassy officials in Vienna, Prague and Bucharest in arranging meetings with government officials. Discussions with U.S. officials were both frank and cordial. Meetings with government and OSCE officials in all three cities were informa-

tive and the delegation was respectfully received. A briefing packet containing several items of information regarding the mission of the Archons and the present state of the Ecumenical Patriarchate was given to every individual with whom the delegation met – some 60 packets in all. Dr. Limberakis and the delegation clearly stated at all meetings that the Order of St. Andrew supported the entry of Turkey into the EU, but through it mission hoped to improve the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

No less important than the delegation's meetings with U.S. and European government and OSCE officials, was the delegation's meetings with clergy in

all three cities visited. In Vienna the delegation attended Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and met with Metropolitan Michael of Austria. Also in Vienna, the delegation had a meeting with His Excellency Reverend Michael Banach, permanent representative of the Vatican to the OSCE. In Prague the delegation met with Miloslav Cardinal Vlk, Archbishop of Prague and Head of the Catholic Church in the Czech Republic. In Bucharest the delegation met with His Beatitude Daniel, Archbishop of Bucharest and Patriarch of Romania. Also present were Metropolitan Ciprian Campineanu and Father Michael Tita, Patriarchal Counselor.



Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiro Macris, National Commander Limberakis, and members of the Archon delegation met with the Presidential Advisor Bogdan Tataru Cazaban at the Cotroceni Palace in Bucharest, Romania.



[L-R] Mr. Razvan Rotundu, Director of Human Rights, Council of Europe Division; Archons Stratakis, Halecky, Limberakis; Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Fr. Andreea Nanu, translator provided by the Romanian Patriarchate; Archon Macris, and Fr. Karloutsos.



Archon delegation with Mr. Adrian Nicolae Lemeni, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs.



At the European Commission Representation, National Commander Limberakis addresses Dorina-Maria Nastase, PhD, Political Reporter and Head of the Political Section and Doina Servan, Coordinator of Team Europe and EDC.



ISTANBUL

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

The mission of the Archon delegation concluded on Saturday February 28 with a meeting with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Secretary John Halecky reported on the delegation's meetings in Vienna, Prague and Bucharest. Legal Counsel Christopher Stratakis discussed several issues pending before the Archon Legal Committee. Archbishop Meliton was also in attendance. His All Holiness thanked the Archon delegation for its efforts on behalf of the Mother Church. ■



The Archon delegation presents material which defends religious freedom rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate to Patriarch Daniel of Romania, Metropolitan Ciprian, and Fr. Michael Tita.



His Beatitude presents a gift to the visiting Archons. [Right] Inside the Romanian Patriarchal cathedral.



GREEK INDEPENDENCE

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE AT CENTER OF DISCUSSIONS

WASHINGTON D.C.

President Barack Obama welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and the Greek-American Orthodox community to the White House on March 25th and hosted a celebration and reception for the 188th Anniversary of the start of the Greek War for Independence of 1821.

The President received the Archbishop in private and along with Vice-President Joseph Biden had a very cordial and open conversation. Later they all came into the East Room of the White House, where for the first time in the history of this event, the Vice-President introduced Archbishop Demetrios and said: "I speak on behalf of every American, Greek or otherwise, who cares about the union we share when I say that, Archbishop, we are truly lucky to have you here. And I feel and the President feels fortunate to be able to call you a friend, as well as a leading leader of one of the great faiths in the world."

Archbishop Demetrios in talking

the podium thanked the Vice-President, and in addressing the President and the guests of the event congratulated President Obama on his election and thanked him for the "kind and personal" invitation to a "truly Presidential celebration." The Archbishop paid tribute to those who fought and died for freedom and liberty during the Greek War of Independence of 1821.

Subsequently, the Archbishop asked the President's special assistance "... in resolving chronic injustices related to issues of religious freedom, human rights, peaceful coexistence, democratic rule of law, and the pursuit of happiness," naming three unresolved

issues relating to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Cyprus and the name of FYROM. "We are confident, Mr. President, that you, following the brilliant example of Alexander the Great, will be able to cut the Gordian knot of these unresolved issues, and by so doing, enhance peace and reconciliation among the peoples included and involved," said His Eminence and concluded with the following:

"As you continue to lead our blessed United States, the world's greatest democracy, please know, Mr. President that our fervent prayers are with you, our First Lady Michelle, and your daughters Sasha and Malia. We thank you once again for the great honor of this noble celebration of March



National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis with the Vice-President. Archon Panicos Papanicolaou and Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor, are also photographed.



[L-R] Archon Mike Manatos; Mr. Aleco Haralambides, President of AHI; Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL); Nick Geanopoulos; Congressman Albio Sires (D-NJ); Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL); Congressman Zack Space (D-OH); and National Commander Limberakis.



Fr. Alex in conversation with the President.



Vice-President Biden and Archon Andrew Manatos.



Archon Andrew Athens with Congressman Patrick Kennedy.



Vice-President Biden with Archon Nick Larigakis.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

25th, 1821.”

President Barack Obama in his response thanked the Archbishop for the favorable comparison to Alexander the Great and said it was a great honor to be with His Eminence “as we mark the 10th anniversary” since his enthronement. The President making the case for the long and historic ties between the United States and Greece mentioned the role the Hellenic ideals have played in establishing the American democracy.

At the conclusion of the program President Obama and the Vice-President greeted many of the attendees and the reception continued in a festive atmosphere. The Archdiocesan Metropolitan Youth Choir performed for the second

year at the White House event, songs related to the occasion. President Obama asked to see the children of the choir greeted them warmly and was photographed with them.

The morning of March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, Archbishop Demetrios presided at the Divine Liturgy in Washington’s St. Sophia Cathedral, followed by the service of Doxology. In the evening and following the White House event he attended the reception hosted by the Ambassador of Greece to the United States Alexandros Mallias at the Greek Embassy. Minister of Justice Nikolaos Dendias represented the Greek Government at these events. ■

[Source: www.goarch.org]

“ In this spirit, and in full awareness of the tremendous power, both personal and institutional, of the President of the United States, we feel that we can kindly ask you for your special assistance. An assistance in resolving chronic injustices related to issues of religious freedom, human values, peaceful coexistence, democratic rule of law, and the pursuit of happiness.

I am specifically referring to the following ... case:

The case of the religious freedom of our Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. This means the free and unfettered exercise of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew’s purely spiritual mission of leading the leading Orthodox Christian world of over a quarter of a billion people. Furthermore, his possibility to proceed freely and effectively in his is pioneering work for the environment, and his passionate promotion of inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue.”

Excerpt from the remarks of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America to President Barack Obama on the Occasion of Greek Independence Day The White House, March 25, 2009



Archbishop Demetrios addresses the Greek-Americans gathered for the celebration and extends his gratitude to President Obama and Vice-President Biden for their support of religious freedom rights for the Mother Church of Constantinople. (Photos by D. Panagos)



National Commander & Fordham University Professor speak at Religious Freedom Symposium



Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey speaks with National Council members and guests during a breakfast hosted by the St. Luke parish community. [Top] Dr. Limberakis (left), Professor Demacopoulos (right).

Regional Commander Dr. Cary Limberakis, Symposium Moderator (Photos by J. Mindala)

BROOMALL, PA

The newly constructed Education and Cultural Center of the St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall, Pennsylvania, was the setting on March 7th for the inaugural Symposium presented in the Philadelphia region by the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, along with several National Council members, Archons, and Orthodox faithful of all ages from throughout the Greater Delaware Valley attended the Symposium, entitled, *The Ecumenical Patriarchate: A Church in Captivity and the Religious Freedom Crisis in Turkey*.

The two-part program began with

Fordham University Professor George E. Demacopoulos, Ph.D., whose expertise is Catholic-Orthodox relations between the 5th and 14th centuries, presenting a chronological and ecclesiological overview of why the Ecumenical Patriarchate is so important not only to Orthodoxy but to the entire Christian world. This historical perspective segued to the second half of the Symposium, the present situation at the Phanar.

In the afternoon session, Archon National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, discussed the five major issues confronting the Ecumenical Patriarchate in its struggle for religious freedom in Turkey: 1) Government interference in Patriarchal elections, 2) Non-recognition of "Ecumenical" status, 3) No legal identity, 4) Closing of

seminary and inability to train new clergy, and 5) Confiscation of property. He concluded by describing the initiatives being pursued at the highest level by the Order here in the United States and in Europe.

Metropolitan Evangelos offered his gratitude to both presenters, Archon Regional Commander Dr. Cary Limberakis, symposium moderator, and to Father Christ Kontos and the parish community for hosting the event. His Eminence concluded by stressing the importance of prayer, especially during this Lenten Season, for the persecuted Mother Church of Constantinople and commended the Archon's efforts in pursuit for religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■

Turkish judiciary and state behind Alienation of non-Muslims

Turkey's non-Muslim communities have been alienated, and it was done by the state and judiciary, said the writers of a new report revealing the facts behind the real estate ownership problems of non-Muslim foundations dating from the Ottoman period.

"In the 1930s, it became evident that pushing or directly forcing the few non-Muslims left in Turkey to abandon the country was an explicit state policy," said Kezban Hatemi, the co-author of the report, titled "The Story of an Alien(ation): Real Estate Ownership Problems of Non-Muslim Foundations and Communities in Turkey," which was released on Saturday as part of the democratization program of the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV). Speaking at a panel discussion convened to make the report public, Hatemi was referring to various restrictions and conditions imposed through a series of laws, acts and practices.

One example she gave was the Civil Code of 1926 that pruned minority rights granted in the Treaty of Lausanne, which adopted the principle that the status granted to Muslim citizens in terms of religious rights and liberties should also be granted to non-Muslim citizens.

"Only a short while after the Treaty of Lausanne, it became obvious that the state did not intend to implement the rights

A new report reveals the facts behind confiscated properties of non-Muslim foundations inside Turkey. The Ecumenical Patriarchate is among those persecuted non-Muslim minorities. The findings have been released by the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) and determine that the Turkish State and Judiciary policies are to blame.

TESEV's report indicates that the Ecumenical Patriarchate, along with Jewish, Armenian, and Catholic communities, have long been asking the courts to return confiscated foundations and churches.

Since domestic avenues have been exhausted, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, along with these other communities, have moved their legal battle to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg, France.

it was supposed to give," she said, citing other discriminatory laws and practices including the most detrimental one, the 1936 Declaration, in which non-Muslim foundations were given the status of "affiliated" foundations and placed under the guardianship of the Directorate General for Foundations (VGM), which "played a crucial role in implementing repressive policies" imposed on non-Muslim foundations.

"More than 30 [pieces of fixed property] of the Armenian community were seized, on the unlawful basis that they were acquired after 1936. The Tuzla Armenian Children's Camp is one of the most striking and heartbreaking examples of the seizure of properties from the Armenian non-Muslim foundations," she added, pointing out that Hrant Dink, a Turkish-Armenian journalist murdered in 2007, was among the first group of children who built the camp, which he later managed with his wife for many years.

Dilek Kurban, co-author of the report, said that when Turkey became a candidate for European Union membership, it became evident that it was not possible to sustain this state policy toward non-Muslim communities. Kurban started filing lawsuits with the European Court of Human Rights after exhausting avenues within the Turkish legal system.

"It was no longer easy for the bureaucracy to take over the assets of non-Muslim foundations, and the government was expected to take legal action to return or pay indemnity for seized assets," Kurban said.

The report also pointed out that the Justice and Development Party (AK Party), which came to power in 2002, made several amendments to the Law on Foundations in order to solve the problem. In February 2008, after strong opposition from nationalist elements within Parliament, a new law was enacted that endowed non-Muslim foundations with

new rights, such as the acquiring and disposing of assets and registering assets in their possession. Even though the law falls short of returning all assets that were seized and paying indemnity for assets that have been transferred to third parties, the main opposition parties objected to the law, appealing it to the Constitutional Court.

"It is important to look at which properties these are and to whom they belong," Kurban said in apparent reference to a historical building owned by non-Muslims that now belongs to the Workers' Party (IP), whose leader was arrested last year for suspected membership in Ergenekon, a clandestine terrorist organization nested within state organs and charged with plotting to overthrow the government.

"I was fighting against a group for 15 years without knowing who they really were. Thank God they are all in prison,"

Continued on page 18 »



ORDER OF
SAINT ANDREW
THE APOSTLE

ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

ARCHON HIS

MAY 28 - JUNE 9,



Join the Order of St. Andrew on an Archon historic pilgrimage to Cappadocia, Turkey, the Holy Land & Mount Sinai. Join His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew celebrate Vespers and Divine Liturgy in one of the historic churches in Cappadocia. Joining him will be Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem and Patriarch Daniel of Romania.

CAPPADOCIA

HOLY LAND

MT. SINAI

Cappadocia is a moonscape of rock carved cities and surrealistic shapes where nature has scoured and sculpted the earth into cones, capped pinnacles and fretted ravines. For a thousand years, persecuted Christians dug secret underground cities and left a remarkable legacy of Byzantine frescoes in hidden caves. One of the included sites is the Goreme Open Air Museum where religious education began. This moonscape volcanic valley is filled with richly painted monastic churches hollowed from the soft volcanic stone. It houses 30 of the finest rock churches in the area. The churches date from approximately 9th-11th centuries.

In the Holy Land, visit the most important sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho and Tiberias. Included are:

- The Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- Mt. Zion
- The Room of the Last Supper
- The Western Wall
- The House of St. John the Theologian
- Garden of Agony
- The Tomb of the Virgin Mary
- The Prison of Christ (Praitorium)
- The Church of the Nativity
- The Monastery of the Holy Cross and Mt. Zion
- The Dead Sea
- Mt. of Temptation
- Church of St. Elisseos
- Zacchaeus Tree
- The River Jordan for Agiasmos & A Spiritual Baptism
- Boat-ride on the Sea of Gallilee
- The Mount of Beatitudes
- The Church of Tabgha
- Capernaum
- The Church of the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor
- Cana - The Site of Our Lord's First Miracle
- Church of the Annunciation

A visit will also be made to St. Catherine in Sinai for Esperinos and Divine Liturgy and to venerate the Holy Relics. Early morning climb to the top of the Mountain of Moses possible.



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TORIC PILGRIMAGE

2009 · 13 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS



HIGHLIGHTS WILL INCLUDE...

- Private Audiences with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem
- Banquet in honor of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
- Banquet in honor of Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem

RESERVATIONS & DEPOSITS ARE DUE BY APRIL 20th!

Double Occupancy: **\$4295 per person**

Single Occupancy: **\$5135 per person**

Rates indicated above include air and fuel surcharges of \$480, gratuities of \$80 and Sinai, St. Catherine's and Israeli departure taxes of \$45.

Rates include...

AIR

- International air JFK / ISTANBUL / TEL AVIV / ISTANBUL / JFK
- Turkish domestic air ISTANBUL / KAYSERI / ISTANBUL

CAPPADOCIA

- Three nights hotel accommodations in Urgup, Cappadocia at the Dinler Hotel (★★★★ *Superior*) including daily breakfast, service fees and taxes
- Additional meals included are buffet dinner at hotel on May 29, dinner on May 30, lunch after Divine Liturgy on May 31 and lunch at Beyti in Istanbul on June 1 (beverages not included)
- Banquet in honor of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with round trip transportation.
- All private transfers in air conditioned motorcoach and English speaking guide.
- Two half day private sightseeing tours in air conditioned motorcoach and English speaking guide.

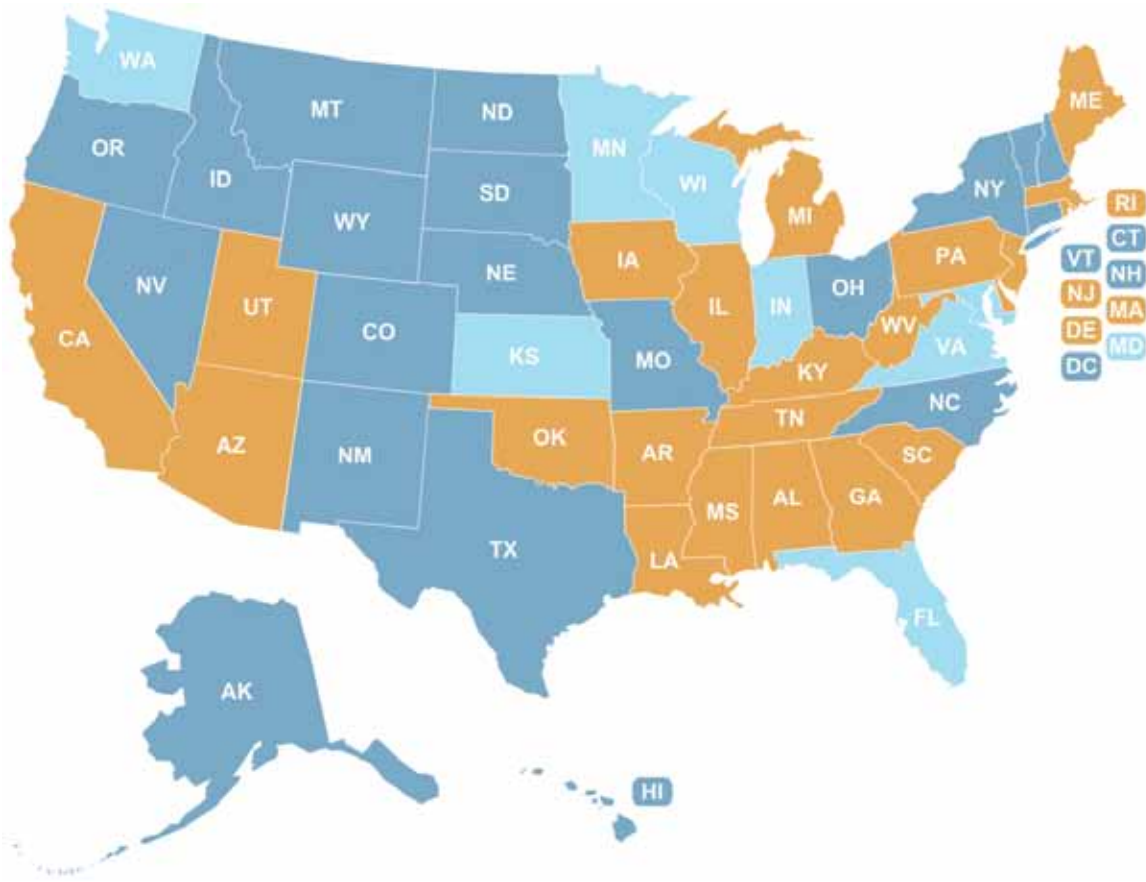
ISRAEL & MT. SINAI

- Five nights hotel accommodations at the Grand Court Hotel (★★★★ *Superior*) in Jerusalem including daily breakfast and dinner, service fees and taxes
- One night hotel accommodation at the Golan Hotel in Tiberias including daily breakfast and dinner, service fees and taxes
- One night hotel accommodation at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Jericho including daily breakfast and dinner, service fees and taxes
- One night hotel accommodation at the Sinai Plaza Hotel in Sinai including daily breakfast and dinner, service fees and taxes
- Seven days of sightseeing in an air conditioned motorcoach with English speaking guide per the above itinerary including entrance fees and St. Catherine's Monastery in Sinai
- Private arrival and departure transfers in air conditioned motorcoach with English speaking escort
- St. Peter's fish lunch in Tiberias

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS ARE DUE BY APRIL 20.

For reservations and deposits after April 20, a late booking fee of \$50 and any air differentials will apply.

US States continue to promote Religious Freedom Resolutions for the Ecumenical Patriarchate



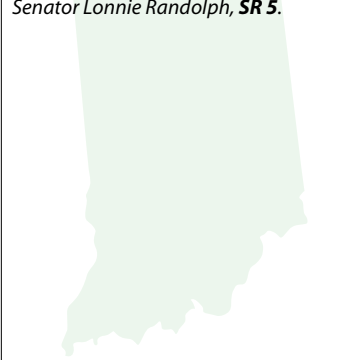

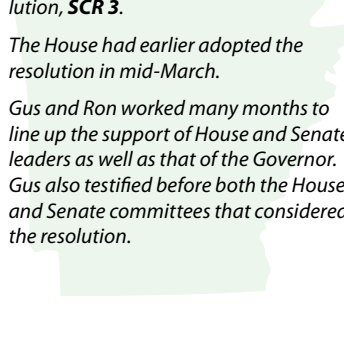
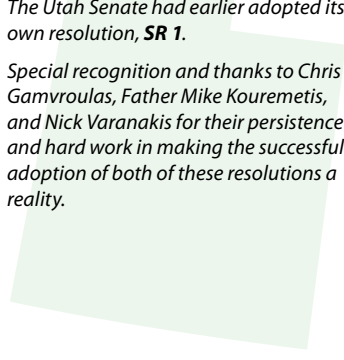


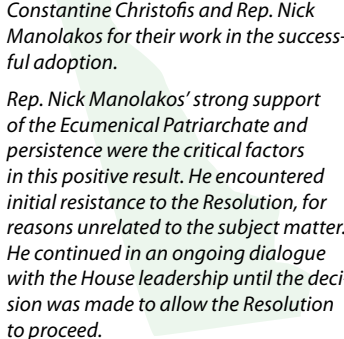


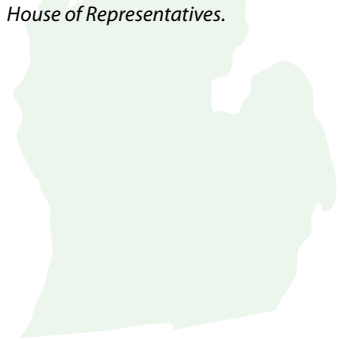
States highlighted in:
 ■ LIGHT BLUE indicate that the resolution has been introduced.
 ■ GOLD indicate final adoption and no further action is necessary.
 ■ DARK BLUE indicate no resolution has been introduced at this time.

Learn more about the Archons efforts toward the Religious Freedom Project: 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

The National Council of the Order of St. Andrew initiated in 2006 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. 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.

<p>INDIANA</p> <p>Introduced on 1/8/2009 Adoption Pending</p>	<p>WASHINGTON</p> <p>Introduced on 1/15/2009 Adoption Pending</p>	<p>ARKANSAS</p> <p>Introduced on 1/22/2009 Adopted by Senate on 2/18/09 Adopted by House 3/12/2009</p>	<p>UTAH</p> <p>SR 1 - Introduced on 1/23/2009 Adopted on 2/5/2009 HR 2 - Introduced on 2/3/2009 Adopted on 2/19/2009</p>
<p>Thanks to the efforts of Archon Tom Capps, a Religious Freedom resolution was introduced in the Indiana Senate by Senator Lonnie Randolph, SR 5.</p> 	<p>The first of the 2009 Religious Freedom resolutions was introduced in Washington state by Rep. Deb Wallace, HJM 4003.</p> <p>Thanks to Archons Stefanos Vertopoulos, Isidoros Garifalakis and Cliff Argue for their work on this.</p> 	<p>Thanks to the work of Archons Gus Vratsinas and Ron Harb, the Arkansas Senate gave final adoption to the resolution, SCR 3.</p> <p>The House had earlier adopted the resolution in mid-March.</p> <p>Gus and Ron worked many months to line up the support of House and Senate leaders as well as that of the Governor. Gus also testified before both the House and Senate committees that considered the resolution.</p> 	<p>The Utah House of Representatives gave final adoption in a unanimous vote to the Religious Freedom resolution, HR 2. The Utah Senate had earlier adopted its own resolution, SR 1.</p> <p>Special recognition and thanks to Chris Gamvroulas, Father Mike Kouremetis, and Nick Varanakis for their persistence and hard work in making the successful adoption of both of these resolutions a reality.</p> 
<p>ILLINOIS</p> <p>SR 100 - Introduced on 2/25/2009 Adoption Pending</p>	<p>KANSAS</p> <p>Introduced on 2/27/2009 Adoption Pending</p>	<p>FLORIDA</p> <p>Introduced on 3/2/2009 Adoption Pending</p>	<p>DELAWARE</p> <p>Introduced on 3/10/2009 Adopted on 3/19/2009</p>
<p>Thanks to the work of Archon Andy Athens, Diamond Mendonides and Elias Mossos, a new Religious Freedom resolution, SR 100, was introduced in the Illinois Senate by Senator Antonio Munoz.</p> <p>The Illinois House adopted its own resolution, HR 666, in October 2007.</p> 	<p>Thanks to the work of Peter Jouras and Father Nicholas Papedo, the Religious Freedom Resolution, SR 1835 was introduced in the Kansas Senate by Sen. Tim Owens.</p> 	<p>Thanks to the work of Archons Bill Planes, Dr. Ted Vlahos and John Scurtis, the Religious Freedom resolution, HM 1417, was introduced in the Florida House of Representatives by Rep. Peter Nehr.</p> 	<p>The Delaware House of Representatives gave final adoption to HR 9.</p> <p>Thanks to Archon Gus Caras, Father Constantine Christofis and Rep. Nick Manolakos for their work in the successful adoption.</p> <p>Rep. Nick Manolakos' strong support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and persistence were the critical factors in this positive result. He encountered initial resistance to the Resolution, for reasons unrelated to the subject matter. He continued in an ongoing dialogue with the House leadership until the decision was made to allow the Resolution to proceed.</p> 
<p>As of 4/15/2009</p> <p>26</p> <p>RESOLUTIONS</p> <p>have been adopted by 22 states.</p>	<p>MAINE</p> <p>Introduced on 3/25/2009 Adopted by House 3/31/2009 Adopted by Senate 4/2/2009</p>	<p>IOWA</p> <p>Introduced on 3/12/2009 Adopted on 3/23/2009</p>	<p>MICHIGAN</p> <p>Introduced on 3/19/2009 Adopted by House 3/19/2009 Adopted by Senate 3/25/2009</p>
	<p>Thanks to the persistent efforts of Father Basil Arabatzis, the Maine Senate gave final adoption on 4/2/2009 to our Religious Freedom resolution, HP 924. The Resolution was earlier adopted by the House on 3/31/2009. The Resolution was sponsored by Rep. Linda Valentino, Senator Margaret Craven and Senator Barry Hobbin.</p> 	<p>Thanks to the efforts of Archon John Pappajohn, the Iowa House of Representatives gave final adoption to HR 27. Mr. Pappajohn was present when the House gave its approval. It was introduced by Rep. Wayne Ford and Rep. Pat Murphy.</p> 	<p>Thanks to the work of George Reganis, the Michigan Senate gave final adoption to the Religious Freedom resolution, SCR 6. It was also adopted by the House of Representatives.</p> 



UNITED NATIONS' COMMITTEE
CALLS ON TURKEY TO
RE-OPEN
THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL OF
HALKI



The United Nations' Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) has called on Turkey to reopen the Orthodox Theological Seminary on the island of Halki, to return confiscated properties and to promptly execute all judgments by the European Court of Human Rights relating to it.

"The Committee invited Turkey to promote adequate representation of the various ethnic groups in the Parliament and other elected bodies, as well as their participation in public bodies. It recommended that research be conducted with a view to effectively assessing and evaluating the incidence of racial discrimination in Turkey, with particular focus on discrimination based on national or ethnic origin, and that Turkey take targeted measures to eliminate such discrimination," a press release by the Committee in Geneva said on Tuesday.

The Committee noted its concern "at the particularly serious situation of the Greek minority" and called upon Turkey "to redress such discrimination and to urgently take the necessary measures to reopen the Greek Orthodox theological seminary in the island of Heybeliada (Halki), to return confiscated properties and to promptly execute all relevant judgments by the European Court of Human Rights in that respect."

Pointing out that no country was entirely free from racial discrimination, the Committee also urged Turkey "to investigate why there had been no complaints of discrimination and recommended that it verify that the lack of such complaints was not the result of lack of effective remedies, victims' lack of awareness of their rights, fear of reprisals, or lack of confidence in the police and judicial authorities, among others," a CERD press release added.

The Committee also "regretted the absence of a definition of racial discrimination in domestic law, which might impede the adequate application of relevant legislation. It was noted that some groups, such as the Roma and the Kurds, faced a more difficult socio-economic situation than the

rest of the population.

The Committee was concerned that the application of restrictive criteria to determine the existence of ethnic groups (by following criteria established in the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne), official recognition of some and refusal to recognize others, might give rise to differing treatment for various ethnic and other groups which might, in turn, lead to de facto discrimination.

It was further concerned by allegations of persisting hostile attitudes on the part of the general public, including attacks and threats, towards Roma, Kurds and persons belonging to non-Muslim minorities. Another concern was that Turkey maintained the geographical limitation to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, which reduced the protection, offered to refugees from non-European States and might subject them to discrimination.

In that connection, the Committee was also concerned at reports on deportation and refoulement (repatriation to danger zone) of refugees recognized under UNHCR's mandate, as well as of persons registered with UNHCR as asylum-seekers.

A remaining concern was that there were inadequate possibilities for children belonging to ethnic groups to learn their mother tongue," it also said. ■

[Source: EMportal, ANA]



Departed Archons

Dr. Constantine Papadakis

Archon Didaskalos tou Genous
Philadelphia, PA • April 2009

John D. Maniatis

Archon Depoutatos
Scottsdale, AZ • March 2009



May Their Memory Be Eternal





Chief Secretary of the Holy & Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is featured speaker for Archon Lenten Retreat

BOSTON, MA

The Sixth National Archon Lenten Retreat was held at the Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts where 45 Archons and their spouses, family members and guests attended the day and a half retreat.

The retreat was led by the Very Reverend Archimandrite Dr.

Elpidophoros Lambriniadis, Chief Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod. Fr. Elpidophoros led a stimulating discussion on the topic of confession and repentance or metanoia (a change of one's ways and a reorientation of our lives).

During the day-and-a-half period, participants attended services at the Holy Cross Chapel, dined together, visited the bookstore and the im-

pressive Archbishop Iakovos museum collection.

Archon Jim Speros, Spirituality Committee Chairman said, "We were blessed to have Fr. Elpidophoros come all the way from Constantinople to lead our discussions. His comments and interaction with retreatants really made us think much more critically about the role and importance of confession and

repentance in our spiritual lives."

At the conclusion of the retreat, National Commander, Dr. Anthony Limberakis, presented Holy Cross Seminary with a check for \$15,000 to support the needs of the theological school and in appreciation for hosting the retreat. ■



Fr. Elpidophoros Lambriniadis addresses the Archon Retreat participants.



National Commander Limberakis, flanked by National Council members makes a special presentation to Holy Cross Seminary on behalf of The Order.



Archon Jim Speros, Spirituality Committee Chairman, Fr. Thomas FitzGerald, Dean of Holy Cross, and Fr. Elpidophoros Lambriniadis, Retreat Master.

« Continued from page 11

Hatemi said, again referring to the detention of some suspects for alleged links to Ergenekon.

Part of the investigation has suggested that there may be links between Ergenekon and the self-declared “Turkish Orthodox Patriarchate” run by the Erenerol family. On behalf of the Fener Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, based in what is now Istanbul since A.D. 356, Hatemi, an attorney, has long been asking the courts to return four churches confiscated by the fake patriarchate in the mid-1920s.

The Fener Greek Orthodox Patriarchate once had 90 churches in Istanbul and on the islands of Gokceada (Imbros) and Bozcaada (Tenedos), the deeds of which belong to the foundation of each church.

TESEV's report indicated that as of November 2008, 24 foundations of the Jewish community were included among the seized foundations, and as of November 2007, 30 real estate parcels of the Armenian community were seized. Two pieces of fixed property of the Catholic community, a church and a building, were also seized.

Mahcupyan: Taxpayers should be concerned

Opening the panel discussion, TESEV's democratization program director Etyen Mahcupyan said since domestic avenues have been exhausted, non-Muslim foundations moved their legal battle to Strasbourg. The first ruling was made in a case filed by the Fener Greek High School Foundation of the Greek Orthodox Community and the European Court of Human Rights found Turkey in violation. In 2007, the court ordered Turkey to return the seized property to the founda-

tion or to pay almost 900,000 euros. Other cases followed because of the non-Muslim foundations' successes.

“While non-Muslim foundations win in the European court, Turkey is losing. And the money is paid out of the taxpayers' pockets. All Turkish citizens should be concerned about this,” he said. ■

[Source: Today's Zaman]

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009

★★★★★

Battle Over an Orthodox Christian Monastery Tests Turkey's Tolerance of Minorities

Mor Gabriel, one of the world's oldest functioning Orthodox Christian monasteries in Turkey for more than 1600 years, is in jeopardy of losing more than half its property. Turkish surveyors and Muslim villagers, armed with old maps and aerial photographs, are redrawing property boundaries owned by the monastery and plan to designate their land as public forest.

Last summer, Turkish officials informed the monastery that approximately 100 acres of land, currently enclosed within a high wall was actually state-owned forestland, resulting in a loss of about 60 percent of its core property. Even the monastery wall was also declared illegal. This threat by the



Mor Gabriel Monastery

Turkish government is an ongoing signal of religious persecution and confiscation of property rights of non-Muslim minorities, which includes institutions owned by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The dispute over Mor Gabriel is being closely watched in the United States and abroad as it is now in the hands of a Turkish court. Bishop Timotheus Samuel Aktas is battling to keep the

monastic lands and has mobilized support from foreign diplomats, clergy, and politicians. The European Union and several embassies in Ankara sent observers to a court hearing in February, and a Swedish diplomat attended this week's session.

The trial comes at a critical stage in Turkey's 22-year drive to join the EU since protection of minority rights is a condition for entry.

The historic monastery, viewed by Syrians as a “second Jerusalem”, was built in 397 A.D. and has seen invasions by Romans, Byzantines, Crusaders, and Muslim armies. Three monks, fourteen nuns, a bishop, and thirty-five students reside and worship on the ancient grounds and preserve the Syriac liturgy in a chapel adorned with Byzantine mosaics.

The originally published article, which appears in The Wall Street Journal and reported by Andrew Higgins, can be read by visiting archons.org. ■

Photo Briefs



His Excellency Vuk Jeremic, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, met with His All Holiness. Jeremic emphasized that Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is an irreplaceable charismatic personality. After his meeting, the Serbian Minister said, "This is the first time [visiting the Phanar], I am really happy. I have a very strong impression; it is a great honor to be here and it is a completely fascinating experience."

(N. Manginas)



His All Holiness received members of the Committee on Foreign and Interior Ministries of Turkey. Among the issues discussed at the meeting which lasted an hour and a half was the necessity of reopening the Theological School of Halki and the problems of Omogeneiakon Communities and Institutions. (N. Manginas)



Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He was accompanied by U.S. Consul General to Turkey Dr. Sharon Anderholm Wiener and Mr. Endy Zemenidis, Director of the Political Bureau of the Illinois State Treasurer, Mr. Alexi Giannoulis.

In statements to Turkish media, Durbin reported on the issue of the Halki Theological School and announced that in his talks in Ankara with Turkish government officials, he expressed the undiminished interest of many Americans, including himself, for the school's reopening. (N. Manginas)



His Eminence Archbishop Irenaios of Crete, representing Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, extends greetings to the new Patriarch Kyrill of Moscow and All Russia. (patriarchia.ru)



His All Holiness welcomes the new Minister of Tourism of Greece, Mr. Kostas Markopoulos to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. (N. Manginas)



Archons listen to Fr. Elpidophoros Lambriniadis speak at the annual retreat held at Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, MA.



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios was honored by the National Council of the Order of St. Andrew at their annual dinner on March 20, 2009. The National Council's March meeting was held prior to the dinner at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. (J. Mindala)



The National Council held their February meeting at the offices of National Vice-Commander Nicholas J. Bouras in Summit, NJ and spoke of preliminary plans for the historic Archon pilgrimage to Cappadocia, Holy Land, and Mt. Sinai. (J. Mindala)



Fr. Mark Arey, Director of Inter-Orthodox & Ecumenical Relations for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, led the National Council members in an opening prayer before their January meeting, followed by a memorial for departed Archons, and the cutting of the Vasilopita to mark the New Year. (J. Mindala)

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew blesses the faithful gathered in the courtyard outside of St. George Cathedral on the Feastday of the Sunday of Orthodoxy. His All Holiness is flanked by hierarchs of the Holy and Sacred Synod. (N. Manginas)



The ARCHON

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