

# the ARCHON

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

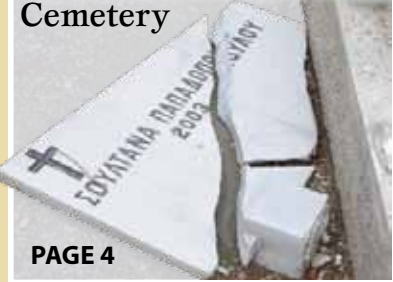


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August-September-October 2009

## 90 TOMBS DESECRATED

in historical Baloukli  
Orthodox Christian  
Cemetery



PAGE 4

Ecumenical Patriarch  
discusses minority  
rights with Turkish  
PM Erdogan



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## *Our Spiritual Shepherd*

N. MANGINAS

## ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO MAKE APOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

Will preside at Religion, Science, and Environmental Symposium in New Orleans; Honor Archbishop Demetrios on 10th Anniversary of Enthronement; Additional stops include New York, Atlanta, and Washington D.C.

**E**cumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's sixth visit to the United States will take him to New Orleans, where he will participate in the eighth Religion, Science and the Environment (RSE) Symposium, to New York, where he will honor Archbishop Demetrios for his first decade as head of the

Archdiocese and where he will receive an honorary doctorate, and to Washington, where he is scheduled to meet with President Barack Obama, Vice President Joseph Biden and leaders of Congress.

His All Holiness also will mark his 18th year as Ecumenical Patriarch in a doxology service

at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Annapolis, MD.

The Ecumenical Patriarch and about 200 other participants – theologians, scientists, policy makers, environmentalists, representatives of business and NGOs, and the me-

*Continued on page 2 »*

2009  
ARCHON  
WEEKEND

OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> – NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>  
WALDORF-ASTORIA · NEW YORK

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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# ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW



# APOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

NEW ORLEANS · NEW YORK

ATLANTA · WASHINGTON D.C.

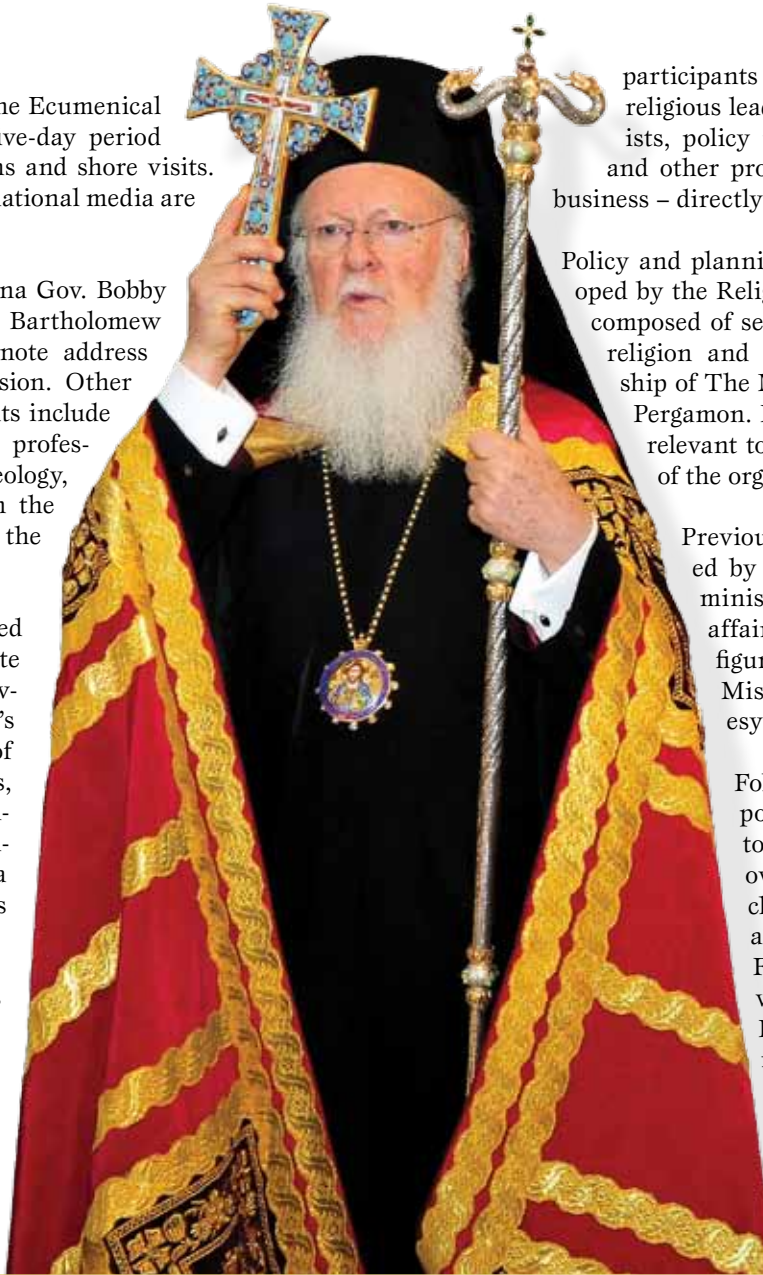
« Continued from page 1

dia – under the patronage of the Ecumenical Patriarch, will gather for a five-day period of plenary sessions, discussions and shore visits. Some 80 members of the international media are expected to attend.

After a welcome from Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will deliver the opening keynote address prior to the first plenary session. Other Orthodox Christian participants include Fr. John Chryssavgis, former professor at Holy Cross School of Theology, who is scheduled to speak on the topic “Can Religion Help Save the Planet?”

Since 1995, RSE has convened seven symposia to study the fate of the world’s waters which cover seven-tenths of our planet’s surface. These assemblies of scientists, environmentalists, policy-makers and representatives of the world’s main religious faiths have established a vibrant environmental ethics movement.

Underlying RSE’s strategies is a core belief that the analytical tools of science and the spiritual messages of religion must work in harmony if the earth’s environment is to be safeguarded. The symposia take place afloat, bringing



participants – international and regional religious leaders, scientists, environmentalists, policy makers, media representatives and other prominent figures in politics and business – directly to endangered bodies of water.

Policy and planning for the symposia are developed by the Religious and Scientific Committee composed of senior international figures from religion and science, under the chairmanship of The Most Rev. Metropolitan John of Pergamon. Representatives from countries relevant to each symposium are also part of the organizing committee.

Previous symposia have been attended by heads of state, environmental ministers, ministers of economic affairs and prominent intellectual figures. (More information on the Mississippi symposium: [www.rs-symposia.org](http://www.rs-symposia.org))

Following the New Orleans symposium, His All Holiness will fly to New York for a series of events over a four day period that will include the acceptance of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Fordham University, meetings with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and with Jewish religious and lay leaders hosted by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

Tuesday October 20	Wednesday October 21	Thursday October 22	Friday October 23	Saturday October 24	Sunday October 25	Monday October 26	Tuesday October 27	Wednesday October 28
New Orleans, LA <i>Arrival</i>	New Orleans, LA Religion, Science and the Environment Symposium <i>The Great Mississippi River: Restoring Balance</i>				New Orleans, LA Symposium concludes	Astoria, NY St. Demetrios Cathedral	New York, NY Fordham University	New York, NY Metropolitan Museum of Art
					<i>Departure</i>	New York, NY SCOBA / SCOOCB United Nations Prayer Service		United Nations
					Merrick, NY St. Demetrios Church			Appeal of Conscience

OCTOBER 20 - NOVEMBER 6, 2009



[Above] His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople was joined by religious leaders from all over the world to participate in a "silent prayer for the planet" during the environmental symposium, "The Arctic: Mirror of Life", held in Ilulissat, Greenland in September 2007.

[Right] His All Holiness walking through the Amazon's rainforest while participating in the Religion, Science, and the Environment's 2006 Amazon River Symposium.

PHOTOS BY N. MANGINAS



After a two-day sojourn for a private visit in Atlanta, he will return to New York to celebrate Archbishop Demetrios' 10th anniversary at a concert at Lincoln Center.

The Ecumenical Patriarch also will tour a pictorial tribute in honor of his pioneering leadership for the environment hosted by the American Bible Society at the Museum of Biblical Art in Manhattan.

He will be the honored guest of the Archons of the Order of St. Andrew at their annual Grand Banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel; and will preside at the investiture of the new Archons at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the

Holy Trinity. He is scheduled to attend a session of the Archdiocesan Council on October 31st.

From Nov. 2-5, the Ecumenical Patriarch will be in the Washington area for a series of events, including meetings with U.S. government leaders. He is scheduled to speak at the Brookings Institution and attend a joint House and Senate luncheon hosted by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D. - Nev.), and a dinner at the State Department hosted by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

[Source: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)]

WWW.USVISIT2009.ORG

Thursday October 29	Friday October 30	Saturday October 31	Sunday November 1	Monday November 2	Tuesday November 3	Wednesday November 4	Thursday November 5	Friday November 6
<b>New York, NY</b> <i>Departure</i>	<b>Atlanta, GA</b> The Coca-Cola Company	<b>New York, NY</b> Archon Grand Banquet	<b>New York, NY</b> Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral	<b>Washington D.C.</b> Turkish Embassy	<b>Washington D.C.</b> Georgetown University	<b>Washington D.C.</b> Brookings Institution	<b>Washington D.C.</b> Department of State	<b>Washington D.C.</b> <i>Departure for Istanbul</i>
<b>Atlanta, GA</b> <i>Arrival</i>	<i>Departure</i>		Archon Investiture	Embassy of Greece	U.S. Ambassador to Turkey	Naval Observatory Vice-President	Secretary of State	
Annunciation Cathedral	<b>New York, NY</b> MOBIA		<i>Departure</i>	<b>Annapolis, MD</b> SS. Constantine and Helen Church				
	<i>Tribute to Peacemakers Concert</i>		<b>Washington D.C.</b> <i>Arrival</i>					



2009  
ARCHON WEEKEND



# 90 TOMBS DESECRATED IN HISTORICAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CEMETERY

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

**N**inety tombs were desecrated by vandals in the beginning of September, at Baloukli cemetery, bringing to mind the tragic pogrom of the Greek community in September 1955. The vandalism was ascertained in the morning of September 2nd by the guards of the nearby historical Monastery of the Life-giving Spring of Baloukli.

The unknown individuals, who committed the sacrilege act, entered by the stone fence of the cemetery that faces the road.

After viewing the destroyed tombstones, the Board of Trustees of Baloukli Hospital began construction of a higher fence so that access to the cemetery may be prevented. In most of the graves, are buried ethnic Greeks who lived the last years of their

lives in the Nursing Home of Baloukli.

The vandals broke into pieces the tombstones that were bearing the cross, the names and dates of birth and death of those who died. The authorities are looking into the case. This incident, which has not yet been widely known, has created great concern among the Greek minority in Istanbul. It should be noted that on many other occasions

in the past, the government has tracked down desecrations of smaller scale but this is the first time that so many burial plots have been vandalized. The destroyed tombstones will be restored when the work for building the outside fence is completed so that a new “invasion” of vandals will be prevented. ■

*[Report by N. Manginas]*



His All Holiness is led by a nun of the Monastery of the Life-Giving Spring of Baloukli where he inspects the condition of the vandalized graves.

PHOTOS BY N. MANGINAS

# Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew discusses Minority Rights with Turkish PM

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew had a luncheon meeting on the island of Buyukada with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other senior ministers concerning non-Muslim minority and religious freedom rights on Saturday, August 15, 2009. The meeting coincided with government reform aimed to address decades-old tensions with the country's 12 million Kurds. His All Holiness, joined by leaders of the Armenian, Jewish, Assyrian Orthodox, and Catholic communities, delivered a report on the main problems of religious minorities and presented it to Erdogan.

The 88-article report includes such issues as reopening the Orthodox Theological School of Halki, violations of property rights, and bringing attention to cultural diversity and to the problems of local administration on the island of Heybeliada (Halki).

While only reporters from the Anatolia News Agency and the



His All Holiness presents a painting of the Saint George Monastery to Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan.

PHOTOS BY N. MANGINAS

state-run Turkish Radio and Television Corporation were allowed to attend the meeting, Prime Minister Erdogan promised democratic reforms to the religious leaders. Turkey is passing through a transition period, Erdogan said in his remarks, admitting that problems have been experienced during this process along which the government has been exerting efforts for further democratization of the country, Anatolia reported.

The government is against both ethnic and religious nationalism, he continued, underlining that they have kept an equal distance from every ethnic and religious group in society. "Are there not deficiencies regarding implementation? Yes, there are. We will overcome these [deficiencies] with a struggle to be carried out all together, and I believe that this democratic initiative will change a lot of things in our country. Only if we stand hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder."

Erdogan was quoted as saying by Anatolia. "Persians have a saying, 'They gathered, talked and dispersed.' We should not be of those who gather, talk and disperse. A result should come out of this."

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Prime Minister later toured the Haghia Yorgi Church, where they had a private conversa-

tion in which His All Holiness voiced his community's concerns. They also visited the Patriarchal Orphanage on Buyukada, which was seized by the Turkish state a decade ago. The European Court of Human Rights issued a landmark decision last year that the Turkey Government had wrongly confiscated the property. The government has yet to act on that ruling. His All Holiness also raised the issue of the Halki Seminary, but Erdogan made no statement on the issue. An Ecumenical Patriarchate official later said. "We believe the prime minister is looking for a way to open the school. There is movement on this. It was a very positive, very friendly meeting."

Turkey signaled last month that the seminary may open after pressure from the EU and U.S. President Barack Obama who, while visiting Turkey in April said, "Freedom of religion and expression lead to a strong and vibrant civil society that only strengthens the state, which is why steps like reopening the Halki Seminary will send such an important signal inside Turkey and beyond."

The EU has made reopening Halki Seminary a test of the government's commitment to religious freedom for non-Muslims. The Theological institution was forcibly closed by the Turkish Government in 1971.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew voiced pleasure over the meeting with the Prime Minister, saying "We have been inspired with hope; we are optimistic." His All Holiness was also quoted saying the meeting was "historical" and "a big step." ■

The Prime Minister is given a tour by His All Holiness of the Patriarchal Orphanage. The historic orphanage is the largest single-structure wooden building in Europe and second largest in the world having served as the Patriarchal Orphanage until it was confiscated by the Turkish Government in the 1960's.





## Fordham University symposium focuses on religious freedom concerns for the Ecumenical Patriarchate

NEW YORK, NY

**H**is Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis, members of the National Council together with Archons, scholars and legal experts gathered together at New York's Fordham University for a symposium that examined the core issues threatening the Mother Church of Constantinople from the perspective of international law. The Sept. 16 conference "Religious Freedom in Turkey: The Case of the Ecumenical Patriarchate," featured discussion about efforts to end the persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

George Demacopoulos, Fordham University associate professor of theology and co-founding director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Program spoke in depth of the seizure of property by the Turkish governments; the closure of Patriarchal seminaries while its prelates are taunted by extremists who demonstrate outside the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and His All Holiness who is denied of his title as "Ecumenical" Patriarch.

"... the [Ecumenical] title was embedded in Roman law as early as the sixth century because Christians throughout the world understood that the Patriarch of Constantinople played an international and transnational role in the

leadership of the Christian community," explains Demacopoulos.

Emanuel Demos, Esq., general counsel for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, briefly discussed some of the persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate throughout the years, such as the pogrom of 1955, riots driven primarily by Islamic fanaticism that targeted the Greek population of Istanbul with the intent of driving non-Muslims from Turkey, and the closing of the Orthodox Theological School of Halki in 1971 by Turkish authorities.

In July 2008, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in favor of the Ecumenical Patriarchate that the 1964 evacuation, closing and subsequent taking of a historical orphanage, once owned by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was unlawful.

"Even the name of the case was significant—'Ecumenical Patriarchate vs. Turkey,'" Demos said. "In the opening paragraph of the case, they indicate the Patriarchate is ecumenical and 'unites the Orthodox community,' shooting down the things the Turkish government has denied."

Demos said Turkey's 2005 application to the European Union (EU) could be a positive development for the Orthodox Christian community, as the country would

have to adhere to the EU's religious protections.

Panelist Ruti G. Teitel, the Ernst C. Steifel Professor of Comparative Law at New York Law School, said the move also could bring risks.

"What I've seen in looking at issues of religious minorities more broadly in the European Court is that the court tends to be more conservative in its rulings and upholds whatever the state regulation requires," Teitel said. The European Courts have justified civil liberties in a number of cases in countries such as France and Switzerland, where Islamic women were banned from wearing head scarves in public as a way to maintain order and avoid giving preference to any religion, Teitel said.

"There are a number of countries in Europe that ... have this idea that public domains need to remain antiseptic and free of religious symbols," she added. "My concern is that Europe, because of the specter of Islam, will end up coming out with a case law that is ... more along the lines of those countries."

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will visit Fordham in late October during his Apostolic visit to the United States. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America attended

the conference and thanked organizers for "shedding light on a complex issue."

He recalled attempts by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush to convince Turkish officials to reopen the Halki seminary. This past April, President Barack Obama also urged the prime minister of Turkey to reopen the seminary.

"It was a nice meeting. It went so beautifully," he said, "but then there was a unanimous decision against it, which, to me, indicates the unpredictability on the part of the Turkish government."

The conference was sponsored by the Law School's Institute on Religion, Law and Lawyer's Work and Fordham's Orthodox Christian Studies Program.

"The questions we are exploring tonight are of particular interest and concern, not only for the Orthodox community, but for anyone who would like to see the protection and growth of religious freedom, anywhere in the world," said Amy Uelman, director of the institute. ■

George Demacopoulos, Fordham University associate professor of theology and co-founding director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Program, addresses symposium attendees.

D. PANAGOS

# U.S. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTION **UPDATE**

Ohio Legislators asked to back religious freedom resolution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate

 [archons.org/resolutions](http://archons.org/resolutions)

Resolutions for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate continue to become introduced to state lawmakers around the country. Two new resolutions have been introduced to the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives: SCR 14 was introduced by Senator Joe Schiavoni and HCR 29 was introduced by Rep. Tom Letson.

In Ohio, Fr. Thomas M. Constantine of St. John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Church has been a main advocate for the Mother Church of Constantinople, testifying in Columbus, Ohio before the Senate's state and local government affairs committee in support of a religious freedom resolution.

Archon Stephen Georgeson, who serves as the national coordinator for the state resolutions project for the Order of St. Andrew said, "We are grateful to Fr. Constantine, along with Archons Dr. Nicholas Tererzis, Dr. Manuel Tzagournis, and Mr. Harry Meshel for their efforts."

An article on these efforts in the Ohio Senate was published in The Vindicator, the daily newspaper in Youngstown, Ohio.

## BOARDMAN PASTOR ASKS SENATORS TO BACK ANTI-PERSECUTION RESOLUTION

BY MARC KOVAC / THE VINDICATOR  
DAILY NEWSPAPER IN YOUNGSTOWN, OH

COLUMBUS, OH

**A** Boardman clergyman is hoping state lawmakers will take a symbolic stand against persecution of Eastern Orthodox Christians by the Turkish government.

"In Turkey, one is not allowed to express his religious freedom," said the Rev. Thomas M. Constantine, from St. John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Church, Glenwood Avenue. "One cannot wear a cross or any other religious symbols. A clergyman must wear secular clothes and is not allowed to celebrate freely. Many Christians in Turkey must worship secretly."

Father Constantine testified Tuesday in Columbus before the Senate's state and local government affairs committee in support of a resolution offered by Sen. Joe Schiavoni of Canfield, D-33rd.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 urges Turkish officials to "respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Eastern Orthodox Church," which has existed in Istanbul since the mid-1400s.

OHIO
SCR 14 - Introduced on 5/14/2009 <b>Adoption Pending</b> Senator Joe Schiavoni
HCR 29 - Introduced on 9/15/2009 <b>Adoption Pending</b> Rep. Tom Letson
<i>In Ohio, <b>SCR 14</b>, has been introduced by Senator Joe Schiavoni and <b>HCR 29</b> was introduced by Rep. Tom Letson.</i>
<i>Our efforts are being led by Archon Dr. Nicholas Tererzis, Archon Dr. Manuel Tzagournis and Mr. Harry Meshel.</i>

The church has some 300 million members worldwide. But the Turkish government does not acknowledge the church's international status and has confiscated its properties and taxed a church hospital.

"Over the years, the government of Turkey has pared away at the institutional presence of the Patriarchate, including closing down the Halki Seminary, the only school of theology in the country for training Orthodox clergy," said Thomas Kasulis, a professor of cultural studies at Ohio State University and former head of the American Society for the Study of Religion.



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.

He added, "This is clearly a violation of the kinds of religious freedoms we would expect of a nation known to be a loyal ally of the United States and an important representative democracy in the region."

Father Constantine said there have been increased physical attacks on Christians in the country, as well.

"Hand grenades, cluster bombs, gasoline bombs have been thrown into the Patriarchate compound, which have damaged the buildings and injured some people," he said. "The Turkish

government has not taken any decisive action to stop these attacks."

Schiavoni's resolution is a symbolic gesture, offering the state's official opinion of the matter.

"It is our prayer the persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate cease, as well as the persecution to all the Christians," Father Constantine said. "We pray that there will be religious freedom in Turkey. The passage of this resolution is a major step in that direction." ■

As of 9/25/2009, **28 resolutions** have been adopted by **24 states**.



# DAY of the PROTECTION of the ENVIRONMENT

ENCYCLICAL OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

+ BARTHOLOMEW  
By the Mercy of God  
Archbishop of Constantinople,  
New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

To the Plentitude of the Church, Grace and Peace  
From the Creator of the Entire Universe, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

As we come again to the changing of the Church year, we reflect once more on the state of God's creation. We think about the past and repent for all that we have done or failed to do for the earth's care; we look to the future and pray for wisdom to guide us in all that we think or do.

These last twelve months have been a time of great uncertainty for the whole world. The financial systems that so many people trusted to bring them the good things of life, have brought instead fear, uncertainty and poverty. Our globalised economy has meant that everyone - even the poorest who are far removed from the dealings of big business - has been affected.

The present crisis offers an opportunity for us to deal with the problems in a different way, because the methods that created these problems cannot provide their best solution. We need to bring love into all our dealings, the love that inspires courage and compassion. Human progress is not just the accumulation of wealth and the thoughtless consumption of the earth's resources. The way that the present crisis has been dealt with has revealed the values of the few who are shaping the destiny of our society; of those who can find vast sums of money to support the financial system that has betrayed them, but are not willing to allot even the least portion of that money to remedy the piteous state the creation has been reduced to because of these very values, or for feeding the hungry of the world, or for securing safe drinking water for the thirsty, who are also victims of those values. On the face of every hungry child is written a question for us, and we must not turn away to avoid the answer. Why has this happened? Is it a problem of human inability or of human will?

We have rendered the Market the centre of our interest, our activities and, finally, of our life, forgetting that this choice of ours will affect the lives of future generations, limiting the number of their choices that would probably be more oriented towards the well-being of man as well as the creation. Our human economy, which has made us consumers, is failing. The divine economy, which has made us in the image of the loving Creator, calls us to love and care for all creation. The image we have of ourselves is reflected in the way we treat the creation. If we believe that we are no more than consumers, then we shall seek fulfilment in consuming the whole earth; but if we believe we are made in the image of God, we shall act with care and compassion, striving to become what we are created to be.

Let us pray for God's blessing on the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December, so that the industrially developed countries may co-operate with developing countries in reducing harmful polluting emissions, that there may exist the will to raise and manage wisely the funds required for the necessary measures, and that all may work together to ensure that our children enjoy the goods of the earth that we leave behind for them. There must be justice and love in all aspects of economic activity; profit - and especially short-term profit - cannot and should not be the sole motive of our actions.

Let us all renew our commitment to work together and bring about the changes we pray for, to reject everything that is harming the creation, to alter the way we think and thus drastically to alter the way we live.

September 1st, 2009 A.D.  
Your beloved brother in Christ and  
fervent supplicant before God,

† BARTHOLOMEW of Constantinople



# 2009 ARCHON WEEKEND OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> - NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>



*The Waldorf-Astoria*

301 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY  
TEL: 212-355-3000

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2009

#### 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

ARCHONS-ELECT ORIENTATION DINNER  
[Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus,  
12th Floor]

*Archons-elect, National Council and Regional  
Commanders with their Guests*

Fordham University  
Lincoln Center Campus, 12th Floor  
113 W. 60th St.,  
New York, NY 10023  
Tel: 212-636-6000

*Transportation (Round Trip) will be available  
from the hotel at 49th Street between Park  
and Lexington Avenues. Depart 3:15 PM sharp*

#### 8:00 PM – 10:30 PM

TRIBUTE TO PEACEMAKERS CONCERT  
[Alice Tully Hall]

*Orientation Dinner Guests are invited to at-  
tend the concert in honor of His All Holiness,  
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and in  
celebration of the 10th Anniversary of His  
Eminence Archbishop Demetrios as Archbishop  
of America and Exarch*

Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center  
70 Lincoln Center Plaza  
New York, NY 10023  
Tel: 212-875-5000

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2009

#### 12 Noon – 1:00 PM

LUNCHEON [Hilton Room]

*All Archons, Archons-elect, Wives and Family  
Members*

#### 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ARCHON GENERAL ASSEMBLY [Empire Room]

*All Archons, Archons-elect, Wives and Family  
Members*

#### 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

RECEPTION [Basildon, Jade & Astor Salon]

*Archons and Banquet Guests*

#### 7:00 PM

ARCHON GRAND BANQUET [Grand Ballroom]

*Honoring His All Holiness Bartholomew  
Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome  
and Ecumenical Patriarch*

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2009

#### 9:00 AM

MATINS [Archdiocesan Cathedral]

Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity  
319-337 East 74th Street  
(between 1st and 2nd Avenues)  
New York, NY 10021  
Tel: 212-288-3215

#### 9:30 AM

PROCESSION OF ARCHONS  
AND ARCHONS-ELECT  
[Cathedral Undercroft, Lower Level]

*Archons and Archons-elects*

*Archons and Archons-elect assemble in  
Cathedral Undercroft, lower level for instruc-  
tions, photos and procession into Cathedral.  
Archons wear emblems!*

*\* Archons-Elect \* Be sure you have reserved  
your Archon emblems and Cross of St.  
Andrew by contacting the National Office  
at 212-570-3550*

#### 10:00 AM

PATRIARCHAL DIVINE LITURGY  
*Celebrated by Ecumenical Patriarch  
Bartholomew with concelebration of Hierarchs  
and Clergy*

#### 12:00 PM

INVESTITURE of new Archons of the  
Ecumenical Patriarchate by Ecumenical  
Patriarch Bartholomew  
*Presentation of Offikia and Cross of St. Andrew*

#### 1:00 PM

RECEPTION [Cathedral Ballroom]

# Concerning the RANKINGS OF THE CHURCHES

BY FR. MAKARIOS GRINIEZAKIS

On August 4, 2009, a website posted an article presenting some of the recent developments taking place at the Moscow Patriarchate. Specifically, the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Moscow had begun reevaluating the ecclesiastical rank of the Orthodox Churches. According to Archpriest Maxim Kozlof, a member of the committee entrusted with this task, the Patriarchate of Moscow is considered a Church of the pentarchy, that is, of the five Churches of ancient Christendom. He also claims that by virtue of its magnitude, the Patriarchate of Moscow maintains such a status. He also declares that the Patriarchate of Moscow has extended its jurisdiction across numerous countries. After reading these comments, Fr. Makarios Griniezakis, a professor of theology and ethics at the Theological Academy of Heraklion in Crete, responded with a different perspective. In what follows, Fr. Makarios frames the claims made by Fr. Maxim in their proper historical, canonical, and ecclesiological setting.

*Fr. Makarios Griniezakis is an Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne; he is also the official preacher of the Archdiocese of Crete, and the director of the Archdiocese's radio station.*

A few days ago your reputable website posted an article that discussed a series of efforts by the Holy Synod of the Church of Russia to formulate the Patriarchate of Moscow's position relative to the ranks of the Orthodox Churches. In a recent interview, the Archpriest Maxim Kozlof, a member of this newly formed committee, provided the details of the

committee's work. With regard to these comments, but also in response to various ecclesiological and theological uncertainties often put forth by Russian clergymen and theologians, permit me the following thoughts:

1. The fact that an Orthodox Patriarchate has yet to clarify in its conscience who is the First of Orthodoxy incites sad-

ness. During their Synaxis this past October, the Primates of the Orthodox Church signed an official declaration that re-emphasized who has the first place in Orthodoxy. We are troubled, however, that only a few months after this historic moment a committee is formed to reevaluate the ranking amongst Orthodox Churches. We remind the reader that the Primates, including the Patriarch of Russia, stated that they gathered "at the invitation and under the presidency of the First among us, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew." If this statement is not sufficient, then our faithful brothers in Russia should refer to the Patriarchal Tome of 1589, which granted to them the Patriarchal Status. In the pages of this document they will discover exactly who signed the Tome, and thus realize who holds the eminent position in Orthodoxy.

2. To question issues that have been settled by Ecumenical Councils and established for centuries is quite dangerous. We speak in terms of "danger" because even a cursory study of history shows us that every heresy, schism and ecclesiastical division stemmed from personal ambition and egotism, only later to be robed in the mantle of dogmatic diversity. Arius, Dioscorus, Nestorius, Apollinarius, and Marcion, were pious and religious; however, they also were men who had tremendous egos and lacked ecclesiastical ethos. If they truly believed in God,

if they were obedient to their bishops, if they respected the canons of the Church, and if they recognized the authenticity of the Holy Synods, then they would not have reached the point where they created division in the unified Body of Christ. Consequently, it is not enough for us to uphold the dogma of the Fathers in isolation—even the "old-calendarists" do this. We must also maintain the ethos of the Fathers, which helps to secure the unity of the Church.

3. When we speak about ecclesiastical ethos, we certainly do not identify with the logic based on size and figures. If we did, we would give the impression that we were economists, sociologists, and politicians. In the life of the Church, and especially in our spiritual lives—which the Church of Russia has much fruit to offer—two plus two does not always equal four. When we emphasize our vastness and point to statistical demonstrations, it means that we are not shepherds, but rather operatives of power, exploiting the administrative and spiritual authority that springs forth from our position. This is even more so the case when we put forth such efforts to earn the praise of the world and acquire the primary position in Orthodoxy. Given our current condition, those who participate in the administration of the Church must consider that their role is not to compete on stage with Stalin and Hitler. They are called to enter that sacred space where



Church Fathers such as Basil the Great, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, Saint Gregory the Theologian, and Saint John Chrysostom live, and to be inspired by them. This is what we mean when we pronounce, “we who follow the fathers,” especially since the patristic era has not ended. Every moment in time has the potential of becoming patristic if it secures and protects the Orthodox ecclesiological criteria for responding to prevalent problems and concerns. This is lost when we follow the philosophy and logic of the world, of arithmetic, of expediency, and of statistics and consequences.

4. It has been noted that, “the place of the Patriarchate of Moscow in the pentarchy of the ancient Patriarchates is very significant.” It seems that some have still not realized that which is quite obvious, that is, that the Patriarchate of Moscow has never been a member of the pentarchy of the ancient Patriarchates. The pentarchy is comprised of Old Rome, New Rome (Constantinople) and the Patriarchates of Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem. Not only was Moscow never considered a member of the pentarchy, but also there are no ecclesiastical or canonical texts that designate Moscow as the replacement or substitute for Old Rome. This is made clear when we look at some of the central moments in church history: the schism with Old Rome occurred on 1054 during the reign of

Michael Kerularios, while Russia was elevated to the status of a Patriarchate in 1589, under Patriarch Jeremiah II. If there was ever a pressing need to replace Old Rome this would have occurred immediately after the schism (1054), and not five centuries later, when Russia was elevated to a Patriarchate.

5. It is also noted “that after the fall of Rome, the Patriarchate of Moscow acquired a seat amongst the five most significant Churches, and extends its jurisdiction over a series of countries.” At this point we must emphasize that the 28th Canon of the Fourth Ecumenical Council grants only to the Church of Constantinople the jurisdictional oversight of the “barbaric lands.”

The extension of the Patriarch of Russia’s jurisdiction across lands outside its ecclesiastical borders is uncanonical and a violation of Church order. This is the case when other Primates act similarly. Local Churches would have been able to extend into lands beyond their established ecclesiastical border if the canon referred to ethnicities (“barbarians”) instead of geographical regions (“barbaric lands”). If this were the case we would have been able to say, for example, that the Romanian Patriarch is the spiritual leader of the Romanian people across the world, or that the Russian Patriarch is the leader of every Russian. However, the 28th

Canon is unambiguous and mentions geographical jurisdictions and not ethnicities. Every Orthodox Church has a specific geographical border. Constantinople, however, maintains the license to extend throughout the Ecuomene, except, of course, into those areas under the canonical jurisdiction of other autocephalous or synodal Orthodox Churches.

The present ecclesiological circumstances are accepted through *ekonomia*. After all, it is not ideal to have five Archbishops of America, or to have multiple ecclesiastical jurisdictions in a single European country. We should not forget, however, that our compliance with the current state of affairs through *ekonomia* should not become an occasion for boastful arrogance and deviation from canonical tradition. Moreover, the uncanonical extension of a Church’s jurisdiction should not be viewed as a strict execution of canon law, nor should it be perceived as a priori right that every Primate enjoys because of their canonical jurisdiction over a specified ecclesiastical geographic region.

The thoughts that we have shared express a much deeper problem concerning what is often said about primacy in the Orthodox Church, about the idea of a “third Rome,” about ecclesiastical rank, etc. These ideas would not be taken seriously had some random laymen or clergymen issued them. It is disturbing, however, when

an official Church arbitrarily creates a committee (according to Fr. Maxim’s comments) to evaluate matters that have already been resolved; to decide on those issues for which the Church has already decided. We would expect a Church such as Russia, which has undergone trials and tribulations, to have a completely different way of thinking. We would expect to see the Church of Russia rely more on faith than on logic, on miracles rather than facts and figures.

It is clear from the discussion that the Ecumenical Patriarchate will certainly not lose the position of primacy that it maintains; the ranking of the Orthodox Churches will not change; and the committee in question--or any other committee that is formed--will not institute rebellious changes in the Orthodox Church. We owe it to the faithful to always speak the truth so that they may hear a different perspective, and in order to avoid stirring false impressions in them. It is important not to forget that truth abides. The truth will release us from our parochial attitude and self-love; the truth will liberate us from spitefulness and our egos; the truth will allow us to move beyond feelings that instigate internal quarrels and erect narcissistic partitions. ‘The truth shall set us free.’ Irrespective of who we are, as members of the Church we have a constant and sacred duty to actively defend the truth. ■



# The ARCHON



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His Grace Bishop Savas of Troas offers a meditation on the daily Gospel and Epistle lessons during the September National Council Meeting held at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. J. MINDALA



Ms. Ruti G. Teitel, the Ernst C. Steifel Professor of Comparative Law at New York Law School, was among the featured speakers at the Fordham University Religious Freedom Symposium. D. PANAGOS



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