



Ecumenical Patriarch greets
Vatican representative on
Feast of Saint Andrew
the First Called
page 14



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew presides at funeral of Patriarch Aleksy II of Moscow



His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew presided at the funeral services for Patriarch Aleksy II of Moscow and All Russia in Christ the Savior Cathedral, December 9, 2008, leading Orthodox leaders in prayer from around the world.

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His All Holiness presides at the funeral flanked by Metropolitan Kyrill, Locum Tenens of the Moscow Patriarchate (left) and Patriarch Ilia of Tbilisi and All Georgia (right).

(patriarchia.ru)

Archon delegation returns from Religious Freedom Mission to European Union

A delegation of Archons received strong support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate from European leaders in Paris and Brussels, but still continue to receive vague promises from Turkish officials.

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Archons Halecky, Fountas, Rockas, Limberakis, and Stratakis brief His All Holiness, together with Metropolitan Meliton of their meetings with European officials.

(N. Manginas)



Archbishop Demetrios
participates in Inaugural
National Prayer Service
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Order of St. Andrew honors
Archon Konstantine Vellios
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2008 Archon Honor Roll

Over 475 Archons
and Sponsors supported the
2008 Exarch's Appeal
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Ecumenical Patriarch leads Orthodox World Leaders in Funeral Services for Patriarch Aleksy II

MOSCOW, RUSSIA

His All Holiness led the solemn funeral service of the first post-Communist Church leader, together with over 200 Orthodox leaders from around the world, including Archbishop Demetrios of America; Patriarch Ilia of Tblisi and All Georgia; Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece; Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev and Ukraine; Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania; Metropolitan Christopher of the Czech Lands and Slovakia, and other representatives.

Long lines of faithful, over 90,000 people in two-days, joined Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to pay tribute, including Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, and a Vatican delegation, led by Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Members of the Patriarchal delegation included Metro-



politan Germanos of Tranoupolis, the Very Reverend Grand Archdeacon Maximos, the Very Reverend Grand Ecclesiarch Fr. Benjamin, and Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos.

His All-Holiness delivered words following the burial of Patriarch Aleksy at Epiphany Cathedral, saying, "He was truly distinguished as a reviver and brilliant illuminator of

the faith in word and deed, working toward excellent cooperation with the sister Orthodox Churches throughout the world. He looked toward the First among the Thrones, the Church of Constantinople, as a womb of regeneration of the superb people that he selflessly shepherded. Whenever clouds arise in the harmonious relations of the two churches, those relations are restored by the heavenly breath of love and the hierarchical order based on the sacred canons." ■

[Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's address can be read in its entirety on archons.org]



His All Holiness presides over the funeral service beside Orthodox representatives from around the world. (patriarchia.ru)



Archbishop Demetrios of America prays inside Christ the Savior Cathedral. (P. Papadopoulos)



His All Holiness offering the final kiss of peace and farewell. (patriarchia.ru)



The Ecumenical Patriarch addresses the hierarchs, clergy, and dignitaries at a reception following the funeral. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev are seated at the head table with His All Holiness. (P. Papadopoulos)



Religious Freedom Mission

PARIS · BRUSSELS · ISTANBUL

A delegation of Archons received strong support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate from European leaders in Paris and Brussels, but still continue to receive vague promises from Turkish officials.

The six-member delegation traveled to Paris, Brussels, and Istanbul on a religious freedom mission during the week of Nov. 30 - Dec. 6. France holds the European Union presidency for the current six month term ending December 31st. Brussels, Belgium is the headquarters of the EU.

In Paris, Pierre Menant, France's Director of European Cooperation, assured the delegation that France supported religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In Brussels, the Archons were told by EU officials religious freedom is a key issue facing Turkey in its effort to gain entrance to the European Union. National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., led the del-



[Top] Archon delegation at U.S. Embassy to France with Andrew R. Young, Minister Counselor of Political Affairs [Above] Archon delegation meets with His Excellency Osman Koroturk, the Turkish Ambassador to France.

egation and was accompanied by National Secretary John Halecky, Jr.; National Treasurer James C. Fountas; Legal Counsel

Christopher Stratakis, Esq.; Litigation Committee Chairman George C. Rockas, Esq., and Legal Defense Fund Chairman

John Zavitsanos, Esq.

In Paris and Brussels, the delegation was also led by His Eminence, Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Director of the Liaison Office of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the European Union. The Order of St. Andrew expressed its appreciation to Metropolitan Emmanuel for his excellent preparation and assistance on the religious freedom mission.

Upon arrival in Paris on Nov. 30, the Feastday of St. Andrew the First Called Apostle, the delegation proceeded to the Cathedral of St. Stephen, where Metropolitan Emmanuel presid-

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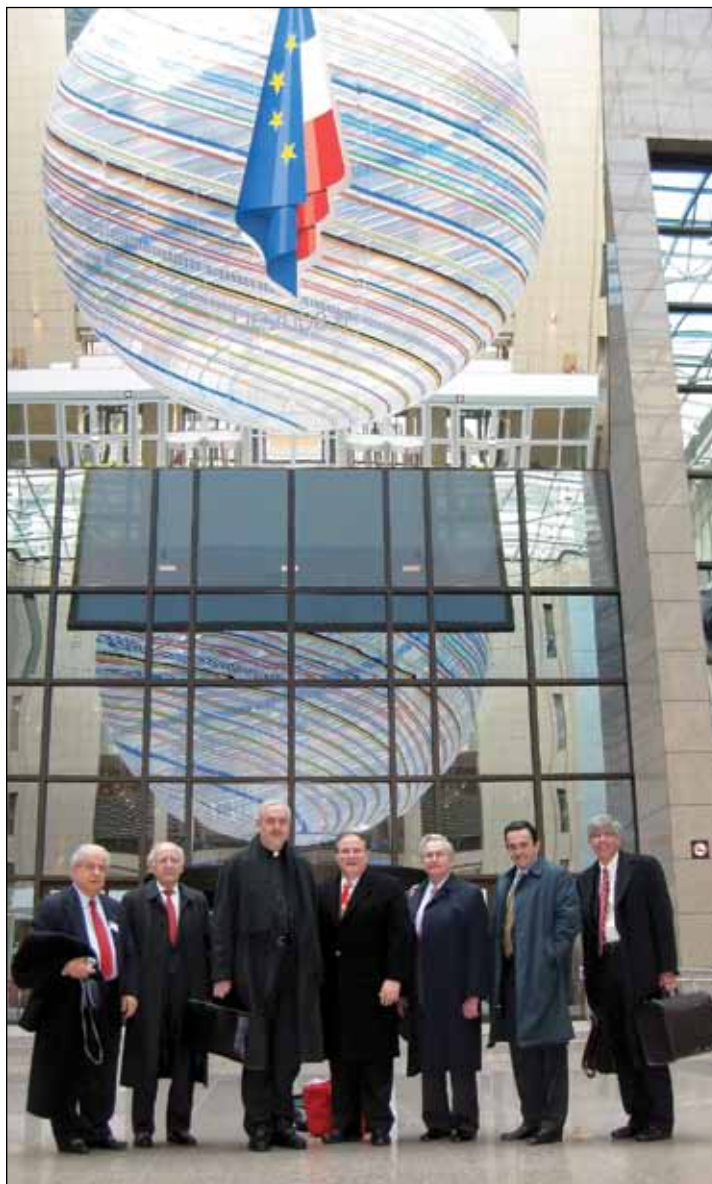
ed over Divine Liturgy. At the end of the liturgy, Dr. Limberakis made a presentation before the congregation on the religious freedom issues confronting the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Dimitrios Paraskevopoulos, Ambassador of Greece to France, was in attendance.

Over the next two days in Paris, the delegation met with diplomats and members of the clergy, including Andrew R. Young, Counsel of Political Affairs, U.S. Embassy to France; five individuals from the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior, including Director Menat and Stephane Chmelwsky, Counselor for Religious Affairs. The delegation also met with His Eminence Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois, Archbishop of Paris; Osman F. Koruturk, Ambassador of Turkey to France, and Ambassador Paraskevopoulos.

At the beginning of each meeting, Dr. Limberakis made a presentation focusing on the major religious freedom and human rights facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate and on the activities of the Archons in this area. Highlights from the Paris meeting include the following:

The meeting at the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs was enlightening because President Sarkozy of France, who has expressed skepticism about Turkey's accession into European Union, was in the process of completing his country's six month term as president of that body. France has been particularly vocal about Turkey's prospects of gaining entrance into the EU.

Director Menent stated that one of the utmost conditions for Turkey's entrance into the EU was freedom in general and freedom of religion. "You can count on France. ... In France we respect all religions. ... We respect your fight. We support you." He went on to say that the Archon's request for religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is the European Union's request, as well and that



Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Director of Liaison Office of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the European Union, with the Archon delegation in front of the European Commission building, Brussels.

France will continue to support this principle after its EU Presidency concludes.

Ambassador Koruturk stated that "legal documents control Turkey's treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;" that "the Ecumenical Patriarchate is a respected institution in Turkey;" that "the Turkish government will not interfere in the election of the next Ecumenical Patriarch as long as he is a Turkish citizen" and that he "cannot imagine a vacant throne."

On the issue of the Patriarchal Orphanage confiscation case decided in July 2008 by the European Court of Human

Rights (ECHR), he stated that decisions of the ECHR are always implemented by the Government of Turkey. The Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Government have until April 2009 to reach a settlement agreement, or the ECHR will enter an award for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which will be either money damages or return of the property.

Mr. Paraskevopoulos, Greece's Ambassador to France, expressed Greece's strong support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He stated that His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarchate Bartholomew is the most popular individual in Greece and that he is a great leader when leaders are

scarce. The delegation discussed with the Ambassador working with the Greek Government in 2009 to advance religious freedom initiatives, perhaps during Greece's presidency of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Ambassador Paraskevopoulos enthusiastically received this possibility.

On Dec. 3, the delegation had a full day of meetings in Brussels:

The first session was held at the European Commission with Dr. Heather Grabbe, a member of the cabinet of Olli Rehn, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and Christos Makridis, Principal Administrator, Enlargement Directorate. The delegation then met with Jorge Cesar Das Neves, of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers, which maintains an on-going dialogue with religious organizations, churches and communities of conviction.

The next session was at the Council of the European Union with Christos Katharios, head of the Division Responsible for Enlargement. This was followed by a meeting at the European Parliament with Parliamentarians Margaristas Schinas and Professor Antonios Trakatellis, M.D., PhD, the former Vice President of the European Parliament. The delegation also had the opportunity to express its concerns on the religious freedom deficit in Turkey to Dutch politician, Ms. Ria Oomen-Ruijten, European Parliament Rapporteur on Turkey. The final meeting was at the United States Mission to the European Union with Ambassador Kristen Silverberg, United States Ambassador to the European Union, and Christopher R. Davis, Minister Counselor for Political Affairs.

Dr. Limberakis again made presentations focusing on the human rights and religious freedom issues facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the activities of the Archons. All individuals with whom the delegation met expressed awareness of the issues facing the Ecumenical

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Patriarchate, and more importantly, they expressed strong support. For example, Dr. Grabbe stated that in order to gain entrance into the EU, Turkey must comply with the Copenhagen Criteria (the EU Human Rights Criteria) and that compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights is not negotiable. Adviser Das Neves stated that if Turkey makes no progress on religious freedom, then it will make no progress in gaining entrance into EU. Finally, Ambassador Silverberg stated that she appreciated the Archons work and that she would work with the Archons on religious freedom issues. She asked the delegation to submit to her concrete proposals to further the religious freedom agenda in Turkey. The Archon Legal Committee intends to comply with this request during the first quarter of 2009.

After Brussels, the delegation traveled to Istanbul. On Dec. 4, they met Fikret Kasapoglu, Deputy Governor of Istanbul for Religious Affairs and Minorities. Dr. Limberakis expressed frustration over the lack of progress concerning the religious freedom issues facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In response, Mr. Kasapoglu said that there were "good developments on religious freedom." When asked what those developments were, the Deputy Governor had no concrete answers.

He did say, however, that the Government will implement the ECHR decision in the Orphanage case and that the Ecumenical Patriarchate will receive the property back indirectly through a foundation. It should be noted that any attempt to give the property back indirectly through a foundation will be opposed. The

property should be returned directly to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. At the end of the meeting, the Deputy Governor invited direct input and suggestions from the Archons to move religious freedom issues forward. It is the intention of the Archon Legal Committee to take the Deputy Governor up on his offer and to make concrete suggestions to improve religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The delegation also met with U.S. Consul General, Sharon Wiener and Harold F. Bonacquist, Senior Political Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul. They stated that the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is a "major element of the U.S. Mission in Istanbul."

At the conclusion of the trip, the delegation had an audience with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and reported to him about the Paris, Brussels, and Istanbul meetings. As a result of that meeting, the Archon Legal Committee will be reviewing issues associated with the Orphanage case, including the return of the property directly to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

During the first quarter of 2009, the Archon Legal Committee intends to follow-up on the meetings, including opening lines of communication directly with Ambassador Silverberg and Deputy Governor Kasapoglu. In addition, it intends to assist the Ecumenical Patriarchate obtain a proper and just resolution of the Orphanage case. ■



[Top, 1] Archon delegation with Prof. Dr. Antonios Trakatellis (3rd from left), Vice President of the European Parliament and Member of the Bureau of the Group of the European Peoples' Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats.

[2] Metropolitan Emmanuel and Archon delegation with Roman Catholic Archbishop of Paris Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois

[3] Delegation meets with Dutch politician, Ms. Ria Oomen-Ruijten, European Parliament Rapporteur on Turkey and Margaritis Schinas, Member of European Parliament

[4] Meetings with Governorship of Istanbul, Fikret Kasapoglu, Deputy Governor of Istanbul

[Bottom, 5] Consul General of the United States of America in Istanbul Sharon Anderholm Wiener.



The Order of Saint Andrew honors Archon Konstantine Vellios

NEW YORK, NY

The National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew honored one of its most dedicated members, Mr. Konstantine L. Vellios, Archon Depoutatos, who retired from the National Council. Vellios was one of the founding fathers of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award and one of the first members of the newly-organized National Council since the Order's inception on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 10, 1966.

Members of the National Council presented Vellios with a plaque at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese on December 12, 2008. The plaque acknowledged his efforts and accomplishments in promoting religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, stating:

"The National Council, Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in grateful acknowledgment of your exemplary National

Depoutatos, Konstantine L. Vellios. New York City"

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD thanked Vellios for his tireless

Ecumenical Patriarchate. Each year, Konstantine donates all the floral arrangements for the Archon Grand Banquet and supports the Archons endeavors. We will

miss his presence on the National Council, but wish him well on his retirement." Other members of the Order also expressed their personal reflections of working with Vellios and extended best wishes.

Vellios, who was accompanied by his son, and two grandchildren, offered his appreciation, saying, "It has been a privilege for me to serve the Mother Church as a National Council member. I wanted to bring my grandsons

with me to see first-hand the great work accomplished by the Order for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, with hope that they too may be worthy of the Archon offikion someday." ■



The National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew honored one of its most dedicated members, Mr. Konstantine L. Vellios, Archon Depoutatos, who retired from the National Council. Vellios was one of the first National Council members since the Order's inception on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 10, 1966.

(Photos by J. Mindala)

Council service. God grant you many years, good health, abundant blessings, and continued commitment to our Orthodox Faith through the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and its Apostolates. Archon

hours of dedication, saying, "The Order of Saint Andrew is grateful for Konstantine's commitment and love for the Orthodox Christian Faith and his desire to uphold religious freedom rights for the

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW: Turkish Bureaucracy Is Trying To Make Us Disappear

“We will never permit tricks or the vagaries of history to wipe us out from this land”: the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, has commented on the report of the Turkish foreign ministry, which denigrates the “minority” presence of the Greek Orthodox community in Turkey, and refuses to recognize the “ecumenical” character of the ancient patriarchate.

Presiding over the reopening of the church dedicated to Saints Constantine and Helena in the Bozacak neighborhood in Istanbul, Bartholomew I highlighted for the faithful present that “we are not finished, or hopeless.” And recalling the great battle of Greek king Leonides against Xerxes of Persia, he added: “we will never abandon our Thermopylae.”

It seems that the Turkish foreign ministry is trying to make the Ecumenical Patriarchate “disappear,” continuing to call Bartholomew I “the patriarch of Fanar [editor’s note: the neighborhood where the Ecumenical Patriarch resides],” refusing to use the title “ecumenical” and acknowledging only that he has spiritual responsibility for the domestic Greek minority, and not for the Orthodox communities connected to Constantinople. It also seems almost a concession from above to accept that Bartholomew I uses the title “ecumenical” abroad.

The Turkish foreign ministry and the state bureaucracy continue their efforts to diminish the role of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, according to the recently released minorities report submitted to the Turkish Parliament. The condescending report towards the Ecumenical Patriarchate is addressed in this originally published article by AsiaNews, by Nat da Polis, on December 18, 2008.

All of this has an impact on the juridical status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on its freedom to travel abroad, and to host foreign delegations in Turkey.

This position has been reaffirmed in a report on the minorities in Turkey, presented by the foreign ministry in parliament, the details of which have been released recently. The report states that according to the Treaty of Lausanne (1923), the patriarchate of Fanar is allowed ecumenical status: its presence and residence in Turkey is only in function of its service to the religious needs of the Orthodox, Turkish citizens who because of the persecutions and expulsions of the past have been reduced to a small minority of 3,000 souls, with an average age of 60.

But the report does not say that this interpretation is not accepted by the international community, and is also contested by eminent Turkish personalities like Professor Baskin Oran.

The report also excludes the possibility of reopening the theological school of Halki,

in the name of state secularism, but does not say that the Turkish state, secular (and Sunni), finances mosques and schools for imams.

The curious thing is that the report on the minorities should be produced by the foreign ministry. In this way, Turkish citizens are in practice considered foreigners in their own country, under the constant and vigilant observation of the Turkish bureaucracy.

The report also contains manipulations of a political nature. In order to demonstrate to the world the magnanimity of the Turkish state toward the Orthodox minority - especially in view of entry into the European Union - the fact is cited that in Turkey, there are at least 270 places of worship for the Orthodox. But it says nothing about the fact that all of these were built before the foundation of the Turkish republic, during the Ottoman Empire, which, although it was a Muslim state, defended the minorities much more than the current state does.

The report also talks about the “interest” that

the United States allegedly has in supporting the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. This “interest” is due to the fact that the United States would like to counterbalance the importance and influence of the Church of Moscow.

“It is clear,” says an Orthodox source, “that the bureaucracy of Ankara wants to diminish the importance of the Patriarch after the reconciliation between Moscow and Constantinople, in Kiev and during the pan-Orthodox summit.”

“Besides,” continues the same source, “Turkey was highly disturbed by the emphasis that the Russian media gave to the presence of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the funeral for Alexy II.”

On that occasion, the Head of the Patriarchal see of Moscow, Metropolitan Kyril of Smolensk, praised the role of Constantinople. And even Prime Minister Putin thanked Bartholomew I and expressed his desire to visit the see of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■

Ecumenical Patriarch addresses Ukrainian Nation on 75th anniversary of Holodomor

The Holodomor is the name given to the famine that took place in Soviet Ukraine in the 1932-1933 agricultural season, as part of a wider famine which took place in other regions of the USSR. The famine was caused by the food requisition actions carried by Soviet authorities. The Holodomor is considered one of the greatest national catastrophes to affect the Ukrainian nation in modern history where millions of inhabitants of Ukraine died of starvation in an unprecedented peacetime catastrophe. Estimates for the total number of casualties within Soviet Ukraine vary between 2.2 million (demographers' estimate) and 3-3.5 million, and up to 14 million (historians' estimate).

Beloved children of the Church, dear Ukrainians!

By God's Providence, we have another occasion for a paternal address to you. The Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, hereby again addresses you to share with you not only joy, but also the grief caused by the Holodomor.

The few sons and daughters of the Ukrainian nation whom the Lord helped to survive at the time of the Ukrainian tragedy, the Holodomor of 1932-1933, increasingly often are leaving forever their homes, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Therefore, our address is first of all to young people representing the future of the Ukrainian state.

Together with you, we seek to comprehend not only the number of Ukrainians killed by the famine, but, above all, the causes which led to the tragedy. Let us leave the study of the political and social causes to secular scholars. We will try to look at the Holodomor from the Church's viewpoint. Why did Ukraine, which from ancient times supplied bread to countries which lacked it, begin at a peaceful time to starve more severely than any European nation did in times of war?

The power of the newly-established state on the territory of the collapsed empire replaced the star of Bethlehem with one of human blood, and in place of Christ's purple, which absorbed the holy blood of the Savior of the world and which has been its holy banner, leading to eternal life and always followed by believing people, the red flag began flying, which made the innocent blood of the best sons and daughters of your nation invisible.



As soon as an oppressor comes to power, he does not care about the good of the governed native nation or respect its spiritual, cultural and material values. He knows well that sooner or later the people will begin to see and get rid of the yoke. Therefore, to ensure a long rule, it is necessary to terrorize the titular nation. The preserved historic documents of the Soviet Union are rich in information about the nationality of the repressed. The overwhelming majority of the destroyed, imprisoned or exiled people were Ukrainians who were nationally conscious or good managers. The inspirers, organizers, managers and chief executors of the extermination of the Ukrainians were people who can be described with the words of Jesus Christ: "You belong to your father, the devil... He was a murderer from the beginning..." (Jn. 8:44)

Three holodomors, repressions, and war should have become for you, the Ukrainian nation, a stimulus to spiritual purification, moral improvement, return to your forefathers' Christian tradition with its own Church and internal Christian spirituality and not an imported external, formal Christianity verging on the worship of ritual. And our visit to Kyiv for the celebration of the 1020th anniversary of the

Baptism of Rus-Ukraine showed us the real sons and daughters of the Ukrainian Church, who pray to God and not to man, even if he holds a high post. We saw that even the terrors of the 20th century did not break the backbone of the nation, did not make the Ukrainian a slave and obedient executor of other people's intentions.

We call all to turn their faces to Kyiv, to Ukrainian spiritual shrines, religious and cultural, to the Ukrainian nation: all people born in Ukraine have one and the same mother, Ukraine, which should be served by everyone, without exception, both those vested with power and "small" citizens. Remember the Savior's words: "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand." (Matt. 12:25)

Dear Ukrainians! Your past, whether joyful and victorious or sad and tragic, especially the Holodomor, will always remain with you, even when you try to forget, diminish or distort it to please your neighbors. The following words of the Apostle Paul apply to you: "Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to." (1st Cor. 7:24) Your calling is to be good Christians within

the ancient Ukrainian Church tradition and citizens of Ukraine, as well as to witness unanimously to the tragedies of the Ukrainian nation in the 20th century, especially the Great Holodomor of 1932-1933, to the world. It is your duty to the memory of your great grandparents, grandparents and parents, for there was no tragedy in human history when more representatives of a single nation were destroyed in one peaceful year than during the several years of a war. And no matter what anyone says or if they try to belittle the evil, this is the clear sign of genocide.

Children of Christ's Church, dear Ukrainians! In the days of remembrance of the victims of the Great Holodomor of 1932-1933, especially on its 75th anniversary, your Mother-Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, grieves together with you and expresses its deep and sincere sympathies to all of you and Ukraine's President, Viktor Yushchenko, who represents Ukraine before the world and through whose persistent efforts the world learns increasingly more information about the terrible tragedy of Ukrainians in the 20th century. We bring our prayers to our Lord Jesus Christ and ask the Most Gracious Savior to give rest in holy dwellings to the souls of all those killed by the Famine and admit them to the assembly of His Martyrs as those innocently killed. May their memory live forever and may the heavenly blessing of the Most High be on you who are alive!

At the Phanar, 20 November 2008

+ Bartholomew
Archbishop of Constantinople and
Ecumenical Patriarch



For every Turkish DITIB mosque in Germany Build one Christian church in Turkey!

The Society for Threatened Peoples, an international human rights organization which campaigns with and on behalf of threatened and persecuted ethnic and religious minorities, nationalities and indigenous peoples, published an article supporting religious freedom rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate on October 28, 2008, entitled... For every Turkish DITIB mosque in Germany build one Christian church in Turkey!

GOTTINGEN, GERMANY

The Society for Threatened Peoples (GfbV) welcomes in the spirit of religious diversity and tolerance the construction of places of prayer for all faiths in our country. It is worth noting that the new mosque in Duisburg falls under the jurisdiction of the Islamist society DITIB, which with its 880 branches is an arm of the Turkish "Ministry of Religious Affairs" in Ankara. At the same time the Turkish administration persecutes and suppresses to the present day the Christian minorities.

"We call for the license for one Christian church in Turkey for each of the many hundred DITIB mosques opened in Germany. As long as the DITIB propagates the anti-Kurdish and Kemalistic ideology and takes no action for freedom of religion in Turkey

it damages the reputation of Islam in Germany. Many European Moslems, among them Bosniaks, Sanjaks, Albanians and Roma have already turned their backs on the German DITIB mosques", said Tilman Zulch, General Secretary of the Society for Threatened Peoples. "Our human rights organisation draws attention to the fact that the Turkish state, which is still dominated by Kemalistic ideology, is still suppressing and persecuting the indigenous Christians."

Thanks to the policies of Kemal Ataturk and his Young Turk predecessors the proportion of Christians in the population has dropped inside the frontiers of today's Turkey from 25% to 0.1%. From 1913 until 1922 there was genocide and from 1923 onwards ethnic cleansing took place (today played down as "population exchange") against Armenian,

Aramaic Assyrian and Greek-Orthodox Christians, by pogroms and expulsion in the so-called "Istanbul Kristallnacht" of 1955 and during the Cyprus crisis of 1974 and the discrimination and persecution of Christians since then.

The Catholic and Evangelical churches in Turkey have to the present day no legal status of their own, are therefore not independent public bodies having no legal capacity. Their religious services must for the most part be held in private houses. The building of new churches is as a rule not allowed except in tourist areas. The Orthodox Patriarch of more than 250 million Orthodox Christians throughout the world, who resides in Istanbul/Constantinople, is recognized in Turkey only as the head of about 3,000 Greek-Orthodox believers still remaining. Work and residence permits

are generally not allowed for ministers of religion who have no Turkish citizenship. Although according to Para. 20 of the Lausanne Agreement non-Muslims have the right to hold property, religious minorities were until 2002 not allowed to acquire such properties. There have been countless cases of confiscation.

According to estimates of the Society for Threatened Peoples there are living in Turkey about 60,000 Apostolic, United or Evangelical Christians of Armenian nationality, some 3,000 Greek-Orthodox in Istanbul, 2,000 Syrian orthodox in Tur Abdin in the south-east of the country and about 3,000 in Greater Istanbul, 3,000 Syrian United and about 10,000 each of the Catholic and Evangelical Christians mainly of non-Turkish nationality. ■

Save the Date
March 13-14, 2009

6TH ANNUAL ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT
Hellenic College / Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
Brookline, Massachusetts Further details will be forthcoming.

2008 Archon Honor Roll

THE 2008 EXARCH'S APPEAL RAISED \$613,840 IN SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

The following list of names are all participants who have made a contribution to the 2008 Exarch's Appeal Program. Their contribution will enable the Order of Saint Andrew to continue its advocacy for religious freedom for the Apostolic See of Saint Andrew so that the gilding light of the Phanar will forever enlighten God's oikoumene.

Mr. Achilles G. Adamantiades	Mr. George M. Cantonis	Mr. Peter G. Demetriades	Mr. Michael Halikias
Mr. Nikolas Agathis	Mr. Michael G. Cantonis	Mr. Theodore D. Demetriou	Mr. Stephen Hall
Dr. Menelaos A. Aliapoulous	Mr. Thomas S. Cappas	Mr. John William Demetropoulos	Mr. Ron J. Harb
Dr. Peter Allan Ph.D.	Mr. Chris W. Caras Sr.	Mr. John N. Deoudes	Dr. Antoine C. Harovas
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Mr. Ernie Anastos	Dr. Nicholas L. Carayannopoulos	Dr. James F. Dimitriou	Dr. William N. Hunter
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Mr. Louis Anderson	Mr. Nicholas Andrew Carras	Mr. Nikitas Drakotos	Mr. Michael Jaharis
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Mr. Arthur C. Anton Sr.	Mr. James T. Cavalaris	Mr. John N. Economou	Mr. Peter Kakoyiannis
Mr. Peter Anton	Mr. Gus A. Chafoulias	Mr. Peter E. Ellis	Mr. Harry Kalas
Mr. Paul J. Apostolos	Mr. Anthony F. Chapekis	Mr. Antonios J. Emmanouilidis	Mr. John A. Kalinoglou
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Mr. William Aspros	Mr. George C. Chryssis	Mr. George Nicholas Flessas	Mr. Andrew G. Kampiziones
Mr. Basil M. Assimakopoulos	Mr. Gerald Clonaris	Mr. James C. Fountas	Mr. George A. Kappos
Dr. Vaios N. Athanasiou	Mr. Frank C. Cockinos	Dr. Kenneth Frangadakis	Mr. Pete Kappos
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* In memory of her husband

Regional Archons gather to discuss **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AGENDA**

National Commander Limberakis delivers keynote presentation

A regional meeting of the Archons of the Metropolis of Chicago was held on November 22, 2008 at St. Andrew Church in Chicago, Illinois. With the blessings and presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, the meeting's principle speaker was National Commander Anthony Limberakis, M.D.



Over 50 participants attended the regional meeting held at St. Andrew Church.

With over 50 participants, distinguished guests in attendance were His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos and His Excellency Ambassador Anastasios Petrovas, Consul General of Greece in Chicago. The meeting was chaired by Regional Co-commanders Andrew A. Athens, Archon Maestor and Harold A. Peponis, Archon Depoutatos.

Beginning with a prayer service, the morning session dealt with the national and

international efforts of the Order on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate relative to violations of human rights by the Government of Turkey. Introduced by Regional Commander Athens, National Commander Dr. Limberakis made an outstanding power point presentation on the plight of the Patriarchate and the achievements of the Order at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

During a working lunch Dr. Limberakis addressed issues and comments of the Archons relative to his presentation.

The afternoon portion of the assembly consisted of an open forum with the question "What do we (as Archons) expect from the Order?". Facilitated by Archons Kosmas Pablecas and Harold A. Peponis, the discussion brought forth meaningful expressions and suggestions which will be summarized

and disseminated to the Archons of the region and the National Council for future consideration and possible implementation.

Ending with closing comments by Dr. Limberakis, Archon Athens and His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, who offered the benediction, the assembly was a day of productive endeavor and constructive fellowship. ■

Chicago



National Commander Limberakis addresses the Archons of the NY Regional District.



New York

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD addressed Archons of the NY Regional District during a meeting held at St. Paul Cathedral in Hempstead, NY, Saturday, November 15, 2008.

Fr. Luke Melackrinos, Dean of the Cathedral, led the Archons in an opening prayer. The meeting

was chaired by Regional Commander Inspector John Kassimatis who offered remarks along with Archon Harry Raptakis.

Limberakis offered a thorough presentation to over 30 participants including local clergy, highlighting recent news and developments of the Archon Legal Committee as well as ef-

forts pursued by Archons with leaders in Washington, Ankara, Istanbul, Brussels, and Strasbourg, in pursuit of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Limberakis addressed issues and questions posed by Archons following his presentation.

The afternoon concluded

with a prayer offered by Fr. John Vlahos and ended with a luncheon.

The meeting was comprised of Archons who reside in the Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island, Nassau, and Suffolk areas of NY/Long Island area. ■

(Chicago photos by A. Peponis)
(New York photos by J. Mindala)



Archon Inspector John Kassimatis (NY)



Archon Peter Skeadas (NY)



Archon Harold A. Peponis (Chicago)



Archon Andrew A. Athens (Chicago)



Ambassador Anastasios Petros, Consul General of Greece



His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos (center) stands with Archons of the Metropolis of Chicago.

Pope sends greetings to Ecumenical Patriarch on Feast of Saint Andrew the First Called

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received warm, fraternal greetings from Pope Benedict XVI on November 30th, the Feastday of the Ecumenical Throne, of St. Andrew the First-Called Disciple.

In his message, the Pope observed that Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has visited the Vatican three times during this calendar year, most recently to deliver his “most thoughtful address” to the XIIth Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church this October, held in the Sistine Chapel. This historic occasion was the first time ever that an Ecumenical Patriarch has addressed this Synod of over 400 Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops. The Pope also expressed his trust that the relationship between Catholics and



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew welcomes Cardinal Walter Kasper, who represented Pope Benedict XVI, in the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George for the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. (N. Manginas)

Orthodox is becoming more substantive and that the day will come when both Churches will share the celebration of the Eucharist.

The Pope’s message was delivered to the Ecumenical Patriarch by Cardinal

Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, during the Divine Liturgy in the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George. The Vatican delegation also included Bishop Brian Farrell, secretary of the Council, and

Father Vladimiro Caroli, a member of the Council, and Archbishop Antonio Lucibello, the apostolic nuncio in Ankara.

After the midday Angelus with crowds in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Benedict spoke of the bonds of friendship with the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Speaking of the relationship of Sts. Peter and Andrew the Pope said:

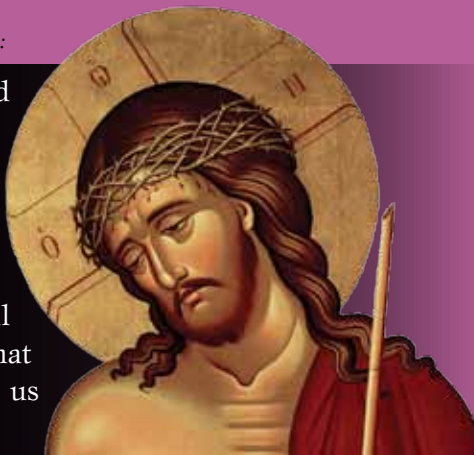
“St. Andrew is the patron of the Patriarchate of Constantinople and so the Church of Rome feels linked to the Church of Constantinople by a special fraternal bond.... With all my heart, I offer my greeting and my best wishes to him [His All Holiness] and to the faithful of the Patriarchate, invoking the abundance of heavenly blessings upon all.”

[The Pope’s message to His All Holiness can be read on www.archons.org]

Pray in Lent for the Persecuted Mother Church

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes about his experiences in the province of Asia Minor:

“We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers.”



For Great Lent 2009 we would like to encourage the Archons to join together in prayer for His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and his flock in Turkey specifically, who, like Paul when he was in Asia Minor, find themselves under great pressure. They need our prayers.

We feel it is only appropriate to pray for the Mother Church during Great Lent as we remember our Lord’s passion and prepare to celebrate His sacrifice on the cross and the glorious hope we experience through His Resurrection. May the resurrection bells of religious freedom for our Sacred Apostolic See begin to ring freely and clearly in the not so distant future.

Departed Archons

Nicholas E. Gretakis
Archon Ekdikos
Norfolk, VA • January 2009

Elias J. Kulukundis
Archon Referendarios
New York, NY • January 2009

Alec K. Gianaras
Archon Depoutatos
Bannockburn, IL • January 2009

George Nichols
Archon Notarios
Broomall, PA • December 2008

May Their Memory Be Eternal

Photo Briefs



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America participated in the Inaugural National Prayer Service held at the Washington National Cathedral, attended by President Barack Obama, First lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joseph Biden, his wife Jill, former President Bill Clinton, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

(N. Symeonides)



His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew honored the Russian Cosmonaut of Greek Heritage, Mr. Theodore Yurchikhin-Gramatikopoulos with the cross of "Panagia Pammakaristos" of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, at the Phanar.



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan shares an apple with ministers, diplomats, and with His All Holiness during a dinner reception which marked the month of fasting for the Alevites.



His All Holiness attended the Holy House of the World Foundation Dinner. He is pictured between Minister of Education Huseyin Celik (left) and Minister of the Interior Abdulkadir Aksu (right) and President of the Foundation, Mr. Fermani Altun.



His All Holiness received the mayor of Athens, Nikita Kaklamanis and the mayor of Beyoglu (Pera District) of Istanbul Ahmet Misbah Demircan at the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The mayor of Athens attended the Christmas Divine Liturgy at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George in the Phanar and the mayor of Beyoglu presented hundreds of individually packaged pitas in the courtyard of the Ecumenical Patriarchate following the Christmas services.



During celebrations in Poli, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew met the former Turkish President, for many years Prime-Minister Souleiman Demirel. Mr. Demirel during a short conversation with His All Holiness, said, "Please do not deprive us of your prayers." His All Holiness was present at a social event which was organized by the Marmara Foundation, where he presented an award to Souna Kiratz, sister of entrepreneur Raxmi Kotz, in recognition of her social responsibilities.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew celebrated the feast of the Theophany of Our Lord at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George in Istanbul, Turkey. Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, the Ecumenical Patriarch participated in the traditional blessing of waters and throwing of the cross into the waters of the Golden Horn.

(Photos by N. Manginas unless otherwise noted)

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Father Alex Karloutos, Spiritual Advisor to the Archons, are seated with the Governors as they participate in the Inauguration Ceremonies for the 44th President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C. (CNN.com)



The ARCHON

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