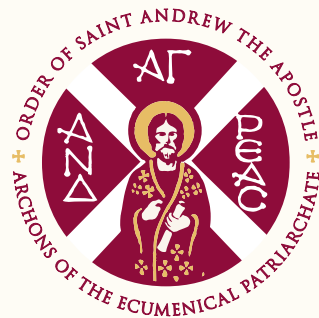




2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Defenders of the Faith



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The Religious Freedom Mission of the Order of St. Andrew *Executive Summary*

Introduction

As *Defenders of the Faith*, The Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America under the inspired leadership of the Exarch, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and members of our Holy Synod in America continues to focus on the religious freedom of the Holy and Great Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Religious freedom does not exist in Turkey. The ongoing official policies of the government of Turkey threaten the existence of the Holy See in its sacred location, despite its aspirations to join the European Union. In fact, the religious freedom deficit is Turkey's greatest challenge to entry into the European Union. While the Order supports Turkey's accession into the EU, we do so with the proviso that Turkey adopts the Copenhagen Criteria for human rights and harmonizes its laws with those of all the EU Member States regarding religious freedom and human rights.

The major issues of the Religious Freedom Deficit in Turkey are as follows:

- o Government interference in selection of Ecumenical Patriarch
- o Lack of Legal Personality
- o Non-recognition of title Ecumenical
- o Property confiscation
- o Closure of Halki School of Theology
- o Personal and institutional security of His All Holiness and Ecumenical Patriarchate

The Order has developed a multifaceted strategy that has consistently, systematically and assertively been advanced contemporaneously in multiple venues to address the above issues. Allow me to summarize the various activities that constitute the overall Religious Freedom Project undertaken by The Order. Archon John A. Catsimatidis, serves as Chairman of the Religious Freedom Committee which coordinates a comprehensive domestic and international religious freedom strategy.

The Archon Washington Initiative

Regional Commander Archon Andrew Manatos and his public policy team coordinate the *Archon Washington Initiative*. The highlight of the Washington effort promoting religious freedom were the visitations to Turkey of President Barack Obama in April 2009 during which he met privately with the Ecumenical Patriarch and prior to that in March the preparatory visit of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. In a joint statement with Foreign Minister Babacan at the Turkish Foreign Ministry in Ankara on March 7, 2009, Secretary Clinton publically raised the issues of the importance of "religious freedom" and the "reopening of Halki Seminary." In an unprecedented statement before the Turkish Grand National Assembly in Ankara on April 6th President Obama stated "For democracies cannot be static – they must move forward. Freedom of religion and expression lead to a strong and vibrant civil society that only strengthens the state, which is why steps like reopening Halki Seminary will send such an important signal inside Turkey and beyond." The following day on April 7th the President met privately with His All Holiness in Istanbul where issues of religious freedom and institutional human rights regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate were discussed.

Between 2006 and 2009 through a comprehensive campaign involving the hundreds of churches of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOA), the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA, the Albanian Orthodox Diocese and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA the signatures of 75 United States Senators were affixed to a letter to President George W. Bush calling for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. An unprecedented 42 of 50 Members of the House Foreign Affairs committee signed a letter to Turkey Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan urging the government to change its repressive policies which asphyxiate the *Spiritual Center of World Orthodoxy*. In follow-up to the 2008 Clergy-Laity Congress

of the GOA, we are now focusing on the entire House of Representatives to help Turkey understand the importance of religious freedom vis-à-vis the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Archon 50-State Plan to Enact Religious Freedom Resolutions

Archon Stephen Georgeson, Esq. is coordinating the *Archon State Legislative Religious Freedom Resolution Initiative* pro bono. The Order has identified Archons, clergy and key Orthodox Christians in all 50 states and has asked them to participate in local campaigns to enact Religious Freedom Resolutions on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in their state legislatures under the coordination of Archon Georgeson. Thus far, 28 Religious Freedom Resolutions have been adopted in 24 states, including the most populous state in the Union, California. Since the last Annual Report, five more states have been added to the list of those which have enacted religious Freedom Resolutions. These Resolutions ultimately will be presented to the government of Turkey as documentary evidence reflecting the highest priority America places on religious freedom and human rights. The Order congratulates and expresses its appreciation to Archon Georgeson and his team as they proceed state by state to secure Religious Freedom Resolutions.

The Archon European Union Initiative

The Order developed *The Archon European Union Initiative* because Turkey seeks entry to the EU and this venue provides an opportunity for Turkey to abandon its repressive policies that have constricted human rights and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other minorities.

Since our last Annual Report, The Order has made two Religious Freedom Missions to the EU. A delegation traveled to Europe from November 30 to December 6, 2009 to meet with officials in France, which at that time held the EU Presidency. Another delegation traveled during the week of February 21 – 28, 2009 to Vienna, Austria, (Headquarters of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE]), Prague, Czech Republic (holder of EU Presidency) and Bucharest, Romania (a major Orthodox Member State of the EU) and concluded its mission with an audience with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Phanar.

The Archon visits in the international arena make a very powerful statement in the advocacy of religious freedom when volunteers leave their families, businesses and security of the United States to travel abroad to seek fundamental human rights and religious freedom for the Spiritual Center of our deep seated Orthodox faith.

The Archon OSCE Religious Freedom Initiative

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is the world's largest regional security organization whose 56 participating States, including the United States and Turkey, span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Every year the OSCE, whose Human Rights Division is headquartered in Warsaw, Poland conducts annual human rights meetings (The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting) where representatives from Member States and NGO's (non-governmental organizations) gather to discuss human rights issues. Since 2005 the Order has sent representatives to these meetings where Archons have offered compelling Religious Freedom presentations before the Member States. Archon Theofanis V. Economidis' highly effective and informative presentations last fall in Warsaw resulted in strong reactions from other Member States, including Turkey. Archons Economidis and Achilles G. Adamandiades PhD represented the Order at the 2009 Human Dimension meetings in Warsaw.

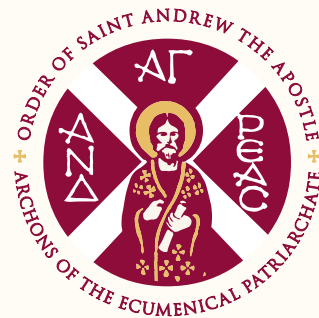
Despite the ongoing domestic and international diplomatic and political initiatives that are being conducted, it may take actual judicial action to force Turkey to change its asphyxiating policies that threaten the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archon Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis leads a team of top Archon attorneys in the United States, including Emanuel G. Demos, George C. Rockas, John Zavitsanos, Tom Constance, Michael Jaharis, Ted Theophilos and a number of non-attorneys. The charge of the Archon Legal Committee is to develop a juridical strategy to redress the religious freedom and human rights issues confronting the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The recent unanimous, 7-0 decision (July 2008) of the European Court of Court of Human Rights in vindicating the position of the Ecumenical Patriarchate requiring Turkey to return the illegally confiscated Patriarchal Orphanage in Buyukada was a major victory in the struggle for religious freedom. Unfortunately, as of this writing, the resolution of this matter is still pending. A number of other actions are being considered in the judicial arena to secure religious freedom for the Mother Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



Archon Aktouarios
National Commander
October 10, 2009



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Highlighting the Activities of the Order of St. Andrew

In the subsequent pages the reader is offered a pictorial highlight of the Archon initiatives of the past year including significant news regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate



On Saturday, October 25, 2008, His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, together with the Archons and Archon-elects of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, met at the New York Hilton Hotel for the Annual Archon Assembly. Various reports and presentations were heard during the assembly which included words from the Honorable James F. Jeffrey, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey and a keynote address from Jay Sekulow of the ECLJ and ACLJ.



Jeffrey



Sekulow

On Saturday evening, October 25, 2008, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate honored Rabbi Arthur Schneier, founder and president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation with the 2008 Athenagoras Human Rights Award at the annual Archon Grand Banquet, held at the NY Hilton Hotel.

Mike Emanuel, White House Correspondent for Fox News, served as the Toastmaster that evening.

Invited guests included the Honorable Senator Paul Sarbanes, the Honorable U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, James F. Jeffrey, and His Excellency Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Papal Nuncio to the United Nations, as well as religious and government leaders and Orthodox faithful from throughout the country.



OCT 2008

26

INVESTITURE BY OF 22 NEW ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE AT THE ARCHDIOCESAN CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY BY THE EXARCH ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS OF AMERICA



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios presided at the Investiture of 22 new Archons, from throughout the United States, following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.



OCT 2008

26

ORDER OF ST. ANDREW HOSTS RECEPTION IN HONOR OF ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS NAMEDAY

On Sunday evening, October 26, 2008, the Archons sponsored a reception in honor of Archbishop Demetrios' nameday on the feast of St. Demetrios. The reception was held at the Archdiocesan Cathedral Center of Holy Trinity.



AUG 2008

30

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE PASSES RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTION

After one year of intense work, the California State Senate Joint Resolution for Religious Freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (SJR 17) has passed unanimously by both houses of the California Legislature, the Senate and the Assembly. The measure passed on Aug. 30. Last January, the resolution was introduced by California State Senator Elaine Kontominas Alquist and passed unanimously by the State Senate.

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

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



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

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



message issued at the end of the meeting.

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

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

At the personal invitation of Pope Benedict XVI, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew addressed the 12th General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church at the Vatican. This was the first time ever that an Ecumenical Patriarch has addressed this gathering which meets approximately every two years. After the celebration of evening prayer on October 18 by more than 400 cardinals, bishops, priests, and lay people in the Sistine Chapel, Pope Benedict introduced His All Holiness who highlighted in his address how this “is the first time in history that an Ecumenical Patriarch is offered the opportunity to address a Synod of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, and thus be ‘part of the life’ of this sister Church at such a high level. We regard this as a manifestation of the work of the Holy Spirit leading our Churches to a closer and deeper relationship with each other, an important step towards the restoration of our full communion”.

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

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



Following the Ecumenical Patriarch’s address, the Pope thanked him for his words assuring him they would be studied and examined by the Synod. “This too was a joyful experience”, he said, “an experience of unity, perhaps not perfect but real and profound.” Before offering the synod members his blessing, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew said all Christians, especially Christian leaders, are called to discern, highlight and strengthen the traces of God’s word in a world often marked by evil.

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

OCT 2008

16

HISTORIC PATRIARCHAL PAULINE SYMPOSIUM COMMEMORATES 2000TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SACRED MINISTRY OF ST. PAUL



[L] On Monday, October 13, 2008, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew led the Patriarch of Alexandria, the Archbishops of Cyprus, Athens, Albania and bishops of other Orthodox churches, along with the symposium attendees to various places of historical interest in Izmir and Ephesus. The hierarchs prayed at the ruins of the Holy Church of the Theotokos where the 3rd Ecumenical Council had gathered. Archbishop Demetrios of America served as the Symposium Chairman.

[R] Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew along with heads of other Orthodox Churches and representatives attending the Pauline Symposium visited historic sites in Lindos of Rhodes, Greece where St. Paul journeyed in his ministry as Apostle to the Nations.

NOV 2008

15

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK ARCHONS CONVENE REGIONAL ARCHON ASSEMBLY AT ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL, HEMPSTEAD, NY HOSTED BY REGIONAL COMMANDERS JOHN KASSIMATIS AND PETER SKEADAS

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



NOV 2008

22

METROPOLITAN CHICAGO ARCHONS CONVENE REGIONAL ARCHON ASSEMBLY HOSTED BY METROPOLITAN IAKOVOS OF CHICAGO AND REGIONAL COMMANDERS ANDREW A. ATHENS AND HAROLD PEPONIS

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.



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.



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 delegation 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.



DEC 2008

9

HIS ALL HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW PRESIDED AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES FOR PATRIARCH ALEKSY II OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA AT CHRIST THE SAVIOR CATHEDRAL LEADING ORTHODOX LEADERS IN PRAYER FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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.

DEC 2008

12

ORDER HONORS RETIRING NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER KONSTANTINE L. VELLIOS

The National Council 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.



DEC 2008

31

ARCHON EXARCH'S APPEAL HONOR ROLL: THE ARCHONS IN AMERICA RAISED \$618,840 IN SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Contributions in 2008 enabled the Order of Saint Andrew to continue its advocacy for religious freedom for the Apostolic See of Saint Andrew so that the guiding light of the Phanar will forever enlighten God's oikoumene.



JAN 2009

20

ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS PARTICIPATES IN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL ACTIVITIES OF THE 44TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BARACK OBAMA

Archbishop Demetrios of America participated in the National Prayer Service held at the Washington National Cathedral, attended by President Barack Obama, First lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden and his wife Jill. The National Prayer Service is a tradition dating back to the Inauguration of George Washington, and this year had a strong interfaith character embodying the themes of tolerance, unity and understanding.

Prior to the ceremony the Archbishop had the opportunity to see the President and convey to him the congratulations and best wishes of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Orthodox faithful of America.

His Eminence read during the service from the New Testament a passage from the Gospel of Matthew.

On Tuesday, the Archbishop, together with Archon Spiritual Adviser Fr. Alex Karloutsos, were the guests of honor at the Presidential Inauguration and attended the ceremony from the Presidential platform.

FEB 2009

21-28

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MISSION TO OSCE AND THE EU



Religious Freedom Archon delegation visited Central and Eastern Europe during the week of February 21 – 28, 2009, having traveled to Vienna, Austria (headquarters of OSCE), Prague, Czech Republic (holding EU Presidency) and Bucharest, Romania (major Orthodox country and EU Member State) and concluded its mission with an audience with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Phanar. Members of the delegation included Spiritual

Adviser Fr. Alex Karloutsos, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, National Secretary John Halecky, Archon Spiro Macris, and Archon Christopher Stratakis.

MAR 2009

7

ARCHONS OF METROPOLITAN PHILADELPHIA HOLD RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SYMPOSIUM AT ST. LUKE CHURCH, BROOMALL, PA HOSTED BY METROPOLITAN EVANGELOS AND REGIONAL COMMANDER CARY J. LIMBERAKIS, DMD

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, Fr. Christ Kontos, Proistamenos of St. Luke, 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.



MAR 2009

12-13

ANNUAL ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT FEATURES CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE HOLY & SACRED SYNOD OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE VERY REVEREND ARCHIMANDRITE DR. ELPIDOPHOROS LAMBRIANIDIS, AS RETREAT MASTER AT HOLY CROSS SEMINARY



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 impressive 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.

“ 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



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.

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 outstanding 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.



APR 2009

6

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ADDRESSES TURKISH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CALLS ON TURKEY TO REOPEN HALKI SEMINARY

In his address to the Turkish Parliament on April 6, 2009, President Barack Obama, pressing the issue of religious freedom, highlighted the reopening of the Theological School of Halki (the Patriarchal Institution which was shut down by Turkish authorities in 1971).



In this historic address, he says, “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.”

APR 2009

7

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW HOLDS PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA IN ISTANBUL

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 commitment 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.

MAY 2009

2

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PLACES TURKEY ON WATCH LIST

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom placed Turkey on its “Watch List” as one of the most serious offenders of religious freedom abuse toward non-Muslim communities. It was the Commission’s most extensive report on religious freedom in its ten-year history.

An eleven-page section is devoted to the current situation in Turkey in which the Commission states: “The significant restrictions on religious freedom for religious minority communities, including state policies and actions that effectively deny non-Muslim communities the right to own and maintain property, to train religious clergy, and to offer religious education, have led to the decline--and in some cases virtual disappearance--of some religious minorities on lands they have inhabited for millennia. Because these and other religious freedom problems persist, and the existence of several religious communities in Turkey remains imperiled, the Commission decided this year to place Turkey on its Watch List.”

HISTORIC AND EXTRAORDINARY ARCHON PILGRIMAGE TO CAPPADOCIA, THE HOLY LAND AND MOUNT SINAI

Archons and pilgrims from across the U.S. returned from a 13-day pilgrimage visiting historic sites of Cappadocia, Turkey, the Holy Land in Israel and Mt. Sinai, Egypt. One of the many highlights of the pilgrimage for the almost 80 participants was being in the presence of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem and All Palestine and His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania. While in Cappadocia meeting with His All Holiness, Konstantine Stephanopoulos, Former President of The Hellenic Republic was a guest at the Archon Banquet in honor of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, leading the pilgrimage were National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD; Sergeant-of-Arms Alexander Pritsos; and Spiritual Advisor to the Archons Fr. Alexander Karloutsos.





JULY 2009

4-6

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW RECEIVES PATRIARCH KIRILL OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA AT ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew welcomed His Beatitude Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia to the Phanar on July 4-6, 2009. This was the first official visit of Patriarch Kirill to the Mother Church of Constantinople as Patriarch. Shortly after his election as Primate of the Russian Church, he had announced his intention to follow the traditional ecclesiastical protocol for Heads of Churches, that is, to make a visit to the other Heads (Greek, Prokathemenoi) in the proper order, beginning with the Ecumenical Patriarch, the Archbishop of Constantinople and New Rome. His entourage included, among other clergymen, His Eminence Archbishop Hilarion of Volokolamsk.



JULY 2009

16

SCRIPTURE READING AND COMMENTARY NOW INCLUDED IN ALL NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS BEGINNING WITH JULY 2009 MEETING

His Grace Bishop Savas led National Council members in an opening prayer followed by the prescribed Epistle and Gospel readings for the day prior to their meeting, held on July 16, 2009 at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.



AUG 2009

15

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW MEETS WITH TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ERDOGAN

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. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Prime Minister later visited the confiscated Patriarchal Orphanage at Prinkipos.



90 ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN TOMBS DESECRATED AT HISTORIC BALOUKLI CEMETERY IN ISTANBUL DURING ANNIVERSARY OF 1955 SEPTEMBER POGROMS ... THE INTIMIDATION CONTINUES



Ninety 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 vandalisms were 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.

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM FOCUSES ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONCERNS FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



A conference examining the core issues threatening the Mother Church of Constantinople from the perspective of international law was held on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at New York's Fordham University School of Law. The conference entitled, "Religious Freedom in Turkey: The Case of the Ecumenical Patriarchate," was sponsored by the Institute on Religion, Law and Lawyer's Work and the Fordham University Orthodox Christian Studies Program.

The featured speakers included Mr. George Demacopoulos, Fordham University associate professor of theology and co-founding director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Program; Mr. Emanuel Demos, general counsel, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; and Ruti G. Teitel, New York Law School, Ernst C. Stiefel Professor of Comparative Law, Human Rights Watch, Europe Steering Committee.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, National Council members, and Archons from the NY region attended the symposium.

Archons Theofanis Economidis and Achilles G. Adamantiades, PhD delivered religious freedom presentations for the Ecumenical Patriarchate on behalf of the Order of St. Andrew, at Europe's largest human rights conference, The Human Dimension Meetings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), September 29 and 30. The OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization whose 56 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.



His Excellency Gabriel Koptsidis, Ambassador of Greece to Poland at the Greek Embassy is pictured with Archons Economidis and Adamantiades.

IN MEMORIAM...

This past year 17 Archons of the Great Church of Christ Fell Asleep unto the Lord.
Eternal be their memory!

Thomas Bartzos
Archon Ekdikos
Englewood Cliffs, NJ
August 2009

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

James W. Morris
Archon Exarchos
Troy, OH
October 2009

Dr. John E. Skandalakis
Archon Megas Aktouarios
Atlanta, GA
August 2009

George P. Condakes
Archon Megas Notarios
Beverly Farms, MA
September 2009

Michael E. Kusturiss
Archon Hieromnimon
Canonsburg, PA
October 2008

George Nichols
Archon Notarios
Broomall, PA
December 2008

William Zacharellis
Archon Proto Psaltis
Elmhurst, PA
2009

Alec K. Gianaras
Archon Depoutatos
Bannockburn, IL
January 2009

Gus Kyrkostas
Archon Kastrinsios
East Marion, NY
July 2009

Peter H. Paleologos
Archon Ekdikos
Silver Spring, MD
May 2009

Nicholas E. Gretakis
Archon Ekdikos
Norfolk, VA
January 2009

John D. Maniatis
Archon Depoutatos
Scottsdale, AZ
March 2009

Thomas M. Pallad
Archon Hartophylax
Glendale, AZ
November 2008

George Husar Jr.
Archon Hieromnimon
Binghamton, NY
July 2009

John S. Manos
Archon Depoutatos
Philadelphia, PA
June 2009

Dr. Constantine Papadakis
Archon Didaskalos tou Genous
Philadelphia, PA
April 2009

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of all the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our efficient, hardworking and dedicated staff: Presvytera Xanthi Karloutsos, Mrs. Christa Pourou, Mrs. Elpida Pouprou and Mrs. Maria Alwin who volunteers her invaluable service to The Order. Special acknowledgment is offered to our talented and creative graphic designer and webmaster John Mindala. Words are inadequate to convey the gratitude of The Order, to our indefatigable and peripatetic Spiritual Adviser Fr. Alexander Karloutsos. To our spiritual father in the United States Archbishop Demetrios of America we offer our warm congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of his enthronement as Archbishop of America.



With profound respect, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate offer this Annual Report to our spiritual father, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew; his Exarch in America, Archbishop Demetrios; the Metropolitans and Orthodox Hierarchy in America; the clergy, all Orthodox Faithful and people of goodwill with the pledge that The Order of St. Andrew will continue the good fight for the full and complete religious freedom of the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople until the bells of freedom can be heard emanating from the Phanar!

Respectfully Submitted,
In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony Aktouarios, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

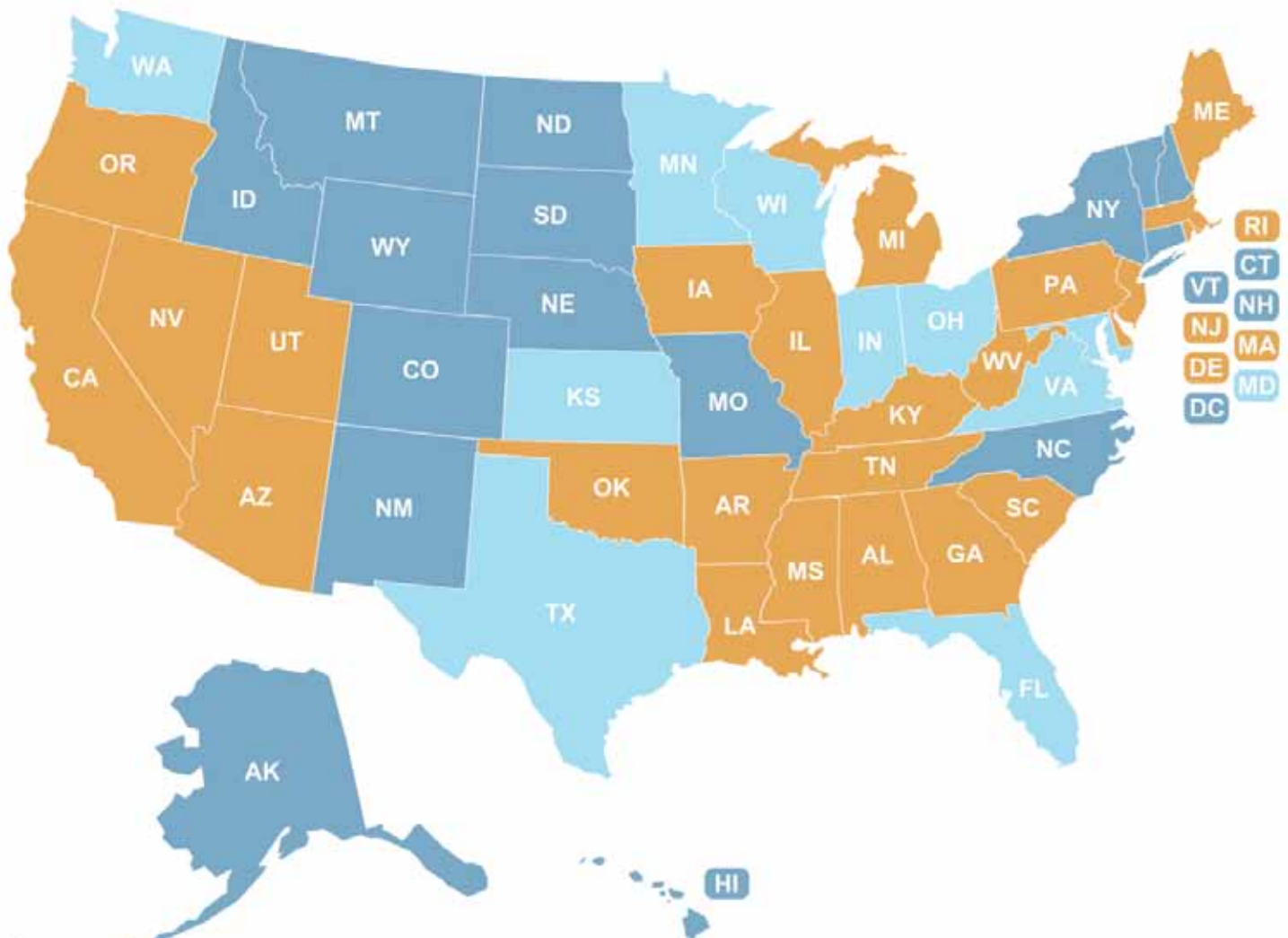
Archon Aktouarios
National Commander
October 15, 2009

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

28 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED IN 24 STATES

ALABAMA	ALASKA	ARIZONA	ARKANSAS	CALIFORNIA
SJR 73 Adopted by House and Senate on 5/2007	No resolution has been introduced at this time.	HCM 2009 Introduced on 1/17/2008 Adopted by House 3/18/2008 Adopted by Senate 5/22/2008	SCR 3 Introduced on 1/22/2009 Adopted by Senate on 2/18/09 Adopted by House 3/12/2009	SJR 17 Introduced on 9/10/2007 Adopted by Senate 2/28/2008 Adopted by Assembly 8/30/2008
COLORADO	CONNECTICUT	DELAWARE	FLORIDA	GEORGIA
No resolution has been introduced at this time.	No resolution has been introduced at this time.	HR 9 Introduced on 3/10/2009 Adopted on 3/19/2009	HM 1417 Introduced on 3/2/2009 Adoption Pending	HR 415 Adopted by House 4/2007 SR 1038 Introduced on 2/27/2008 Adopted by Senate 3/6/2008
HAWAII	IDAHO	ILLINOIS	INDIANA	IOWA
No resolution has been introduced at this time.	No resolution has been introduced at this time.	HR 666 Introduced on 8/10/2007 Adopted on 10/4/2007 SR 100 Introduced on 2/25/2009 Adoption Pending	SR 5/SR 11 Introduced on 1/8/2009 Adoption Pending	HR 27 Introduced on 3/12/2009 Adopted on 3/23/2009
KANSAS	KENTUCKY	LOUISIANA	MAINE	MARYLAND
SR 1835 Introduced on 2/27/2009 Adoption Pending	HR 244 Adopted on 3/26/2008	SR 109 Adopted by Senate 6/2007	HP 924 Introduced on 3/25/2009 Adopted by House 3/31/2009 Adopted by Senate 4/2/2009	HJR 5 Introduced on 3/14/2008 Adoption Pending
MASSACHUSETTS	MICHIGAN	MINNESOTA	MISSISSIPPI	MISSOURI
Adopted on 4/16/2008	SCR 6 Introduced on 3/19/2009 Adopted by House 3/19/2009 Adopted by Senate 3/25/2009	SR 178 Introduced on 4/2/2008 Adoption Pending	Introduced on 3/19/2008 Adopted by House 3/31/2008 Adopted by Senate 4/16/2008	No resolution has been introduced at this time.
MONTANA	NEBRASKA	NEVADA	NEW HAMPSHIRE	NEW JERSEY
No resolution has been introduced at this time.	No resolution has been introduced at this time.	ACR 31 Adopted by Assembly and Senate on 5/6/2009	No resolution has been introduced at this time.	SJR 11 Adopted by Senate and House 6/2006
NEW MEXICO	NEW YORK	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTH DAKOTA	OHIO
No resolution has been introduced at this time.	No resolution has been introduced at this time.	No resolution has been introduced at this time.	No resolution has been introduced at this time.	SCR 14 Introduced on 5/14/2009 Adoption Pending HCR 29 Introduced on 9/15/2009 Adoption Pending

OKLAHOMA	OREGON	PENNSYLVANIA	RHODE ISLAND	SOUTH CAROLINA
SR 54 Introduced on 2/19/2008 Adopted on 3/24/2008	SJR 16 Introduced on 5/4/2009 Adopted by Senate on 5/6/2009 Adopted by House on 6/1/2009	HR 876 Adopted by House 11/2006 SR 188 Introduced on 10/24/2007 Adopted by Senate 3/10/2008	SR 895 Adopted by Senate 3/2007	HR 4727 Introduced on 2/20/2008 Adopted by House on 4/9/2008 SR 735 Adopted by Senate 5/2007
SOUTH DAKOTA	TENNESSEE	TEXAS	UTAH	VERMONT
No resolution has been introduced at this time.	SJR 535 Adopted by Senate 6/2007 Adopted by House on 4/17/2008	HCR 193 Introduced on 4/23/2009 Adoption Pending SCR 70 Introduced on 5/4/2009 Adoption Pending	SR 1 Introduced on 1/23/2009 Adopted on 2/5/2009 HR 2 Introduced on 2/3/2009 Adopted on 2/19/2009	No resolution has been introduced at this time.
VIRGINIA	WASHINGTON	WEST VIRGINIA	WISCONSIN	WYOMING
HJ 126 Introduced on 1/9/2008 Adoption Pending	HJM 4003 Introduced on 1/15/2009 Adoption Pending	HCR 37 Introduced on 2/11/2008 Adopted by House 3/3/2008 Adopted by Senate 3/8/2008	SR 30 Introduced on 3/13/2008 Adoption Pending	No resolution has been introduced at this time.



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.



Senate Joint Resolution No. 17

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 142

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17—Relative to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 9, 2008.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 17, Alquist. Republic of Turkey: Ecumenical Patriarchate.

This measure would respectfully request the Republic of Turkey to uphold and safeguard religious and human rights, to cease discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate ecumenical recognition, ecclesiastic succession, and the right to train clergy of all nationalities, and to respect the property rights, human rights, and religious rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

WHEREAS, The Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul, Turkey, is the Sacred See that presides in a spirit of brotherhood over a communion of self-governing churches of the Orthodox Christian world; and

WHEREAS, The See is led by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is the 269th in direct succession to the Apostle Andrew and holds titular primacy as *primus inter pares*, meaning "first among equals," in the community of Orthodox churches worldwide; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, along with leaders of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, cosponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance, which brought together Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religious leaders for an interfaith dialogue to help end the Balkan conflict and the ethnic conflict in the Caucasus region; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, the Congress of the United States awarded Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with the Congressional Gold Medal; and

WHEREAS, Following the terrorist attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew gathered a group of international religious leaders to produce the first joint statement with Muslim leaders that condemned the 9/11 attacks as "antireligious"; and

WHEREAS, In October 2005, the Ecumenical Patriarch, along with Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders, cosponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance II to further promote peace and stability in southeastern Europe, the Caucasus region, and Central Asia via religious leaders' interfaith dialogue, understanding, and action; and

WHEREAS, The Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for nearly 2,000 years, numbers approximately 300,000,000 members worldwide with more than 2,000,000 members in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since 1453, the continuing presence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul has been a living testament to the religious coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and

WHEREAS, This religious coexistence is in jeopardy because the Ecumenical Patriarchate is considered by the Turkish government to be the head of the Greek minority in Istanbul exclusively, rather than the head of the Greek Orthodox Church; and

WHEREAS, The Turkish government has limited the candidates available to hold the office of Ecumenical Patriarch to only Turkish nationals, and there remain less than 2,000 of the Ecumenical Patriarch's flock in Turkey today; and

WHEREAS, The Turkish government closed the Theological School on the island of Halki in 1971 and has refused to allow it to reopen, thus impeding training for Orthodox Christian clergy; and

WHEREAS, The Turkish government does not recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a legal entity, and is therefore confiscating all of its properties along with the majority of the property belonging to the Greek community and its parishes, and imposing high taxes on the Balouki Hospital and Home for the aged, a charity hospital; and

WHEREAS, The European Union, a group of nations with a common goal of promoting peace and the well-being of its peoples, began accession negotiations with Turkey on October 3, 2005; and

WHEREAS, The European Union defined membership criteria for accession at the Copenhagen European Council in 1993, obligating candidate countries to achieve certain levels of reform, including stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, adherence to the rule of law, and respect for and protection of minorities, human rights, and religious rights; and

WHEREAS, The Turkish government's current treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is inconsistent with the membership conditions and goals of the European Union; and

WHEREAS, Orthodox Christians in California and throughout the United States stand to lose their spiritual leader because of the deliberate actions of the Turkish government; and

WHEREAS, The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, a group of laymen who each have been honored with a patriarchal title, or "offikion," by the Ecumenical Patriarch for their outstanding service to the Orthodox Church, will send an American delegation to Turkey to meet with Turkish government officials, as well as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, regarding the Turkish government's treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully requests the Republic of Turkey to: (1) uphold and safeguard religious and human rights without compromise; (2) cease its discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarchate; (3) grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate ecumenical recognition, ecclesiastic succession, and the right to train clergy of all nationalities; and (4) respect the property rights and religious rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

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