

THE ARCHON

Defenders of the Faith

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A message from the Ecumenical Patriarch on the oil spill rupturing in the Gulf of Mexico

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Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew makes official visit to the Russian Orthodox Church

At the invitation of His Beatitude Patriarch Kyrill of Moscow and All Russia, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew traveled to the Russian Orthodox Church for a 10-day visit, beginning in Moscow and concluding in Saint Petersburg.

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Turkey remains on religious freedom “Watch List”

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) announced its 2010 recommendations to Congress, the White House, and the State Department, which included keeping Turkey on its “Watch List” as one of the most serious offenders of freedom of religion towards non-Muslim communities.

“Over the past few months USCIRF has visited a number of human rights ‘hot spots’ where freedom of religion is obstructed and related human rights are trampled,” said Leonard Leo, USCIRF chair. “This year’s report offers new and important policy solutions to improve conditions where foreign policy, national security, and international standards for the protection of freedom of religion can and should intersect. The report’s conclusion is clear-the Administration must do more!”

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On Tuesday, May 25, 2010, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, escorted by Patriarch Kyrill, met with the President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev (above) at the Kremlin. PHOTO FROM PATRIARCHIA.RU

The Order's fundamental goal and mission is to promote the religious freedom, wellbeing and advancement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which is headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey.

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Once again, in a matter only of a few years, the eyes of the world are turned with suspense toward the Gulf Coast. Sadly, the oil spill is following a path similar to Hurricane Katrina and threatening the coast of Louisiana as well as neighboring states.

As citizens of God's creation, we perceive this monumental spill of crude oil in the oceans of our planet as a sign of how far we have moved from the purpose of God's creation. Our immediate reaction is to pray fervently for the urgent and efficient response to the current crisis, to mourn painfully for the sacrifice of human life as well as for the loss of marine life and wildlife, and to support the people and communities of the region, whose livelihood directly depends on the fisheries of the Gulf.

But as the first bishop of the world's second-largest Christian Church, we also have a responsibility not only to pray, but also to declare that to mistreat the natural environment is to sin against humanity, against all living things, and against our creator God. All of us -- individuals, institutions, and industries alike -- bear responsibility; all of us are accountable for ignoring the global consequences of environmental exploitation. Katrina -- we knew -- was a natural calamity. This time -- we know

-- it is a man-made disaster. One deepwater pipe will impact millions of lives in several states as well as countless businesses and industries.

Therefore, we must use every resource at our disposal to contain this disaster. But we must also use every resource to determine liability for the fact that 11 people have died and 5,000 barrels of oil are flowing daily into the delicate ecology of the Gulf of Mexico. In exchange for the benefits and wealth generated by deep underwater drilling, individuals, institutions, and industries assume responsibility for protecting the earth and its creatures from the well-known potential hazards. In this instance, they have clearly failed in those responsibilities; that failure must be acknowledged and strong measures taken to avert future catastrophes.

Although we are halfway around the world from this incident, our interest in it is deeply personal. We visited Louisiana and its bayous only four months after its devastation by Hurricane Katrina and we returned there just last October to convene our Eighth Religion, Science, and the Environment Symposium, "Restoring Balance: The Great Mississippi," in New Orleans. At that time, we noted:

Although the time we have been

on the planet is insignificant in the context of the life of the planet itself, we have reached a defining moment in our story. Let us remember that, whoever we are, we all have our part to play, our sacred responsibility to the future. And let us remember that our responsibility grows alongside our privileges; we are more accountable the higher we stand on the scale of leadership. Our successes or failures, personal and collective, determine the lives of billions. Our decisions, personal and collective, determine the future of the planet.

In the spirit of responsibility, the White House and certain Congressional leaders have declared that, before beginning new offshore drilling for oil, there must be greater understanding of the environmental impact and responsibility for such endeavors. We support this approach. For, as confident as interested parties were that a disaster like this could not occur because of watertight controls and fail-safe mechanisms installed, those controls and mechanisms failed, with the horrific results we witness unfolding each day.

Until such understanding and responsibility have been determined, may God grant us all the strength to curtail the spill, the resources to support the region, and the courage to make the necessary changes so that similar tragedies may be avoided in the future. ■

HIS ALL HOLINESS VISITS THE CHURCH OF RUSSIA



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew arrives at the Vnukovo Airport in Moscow (left) where he was greeted by Patriarch Kyrill; Russian Orthodox church leaders, and representatives from the Russian Federation, including military contingents. His All Holiness blesses the faithful in Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow (right). The cathedral was destroyed by Stalin in 1931 but then rebuilt and consecrated in 2000. It is the largest in Russia.

PHOTOS FROM N. MANGINAS, MOSPAT.RU AND PATRIARCHIA.RU

In Saturday, May 22, 2010, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew arrived at the Vnukovo Airport in Moscow, Russia, where he was greeted by His Beatitude Patriarch Kyrill of Moscow and All Russia, together with other members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as clergy and faithful.

Also welcoming His All Holiness were several diplomats, including representatives from the Russian Federation, military contingents, the Ambassador of Greece in Moscow, and a representative from the Turkish Embassy.

On Sunday, May 23, on the occasion of Pentecost Sunday, His All Holiness and His Beatitude concelebrated the Divine Liturgy at the renowned Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra in Sergiev Posad.

Following the Divine Liturgy, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Patriarch Kyrill greeted the Russian faithful gathered outside the renowned Holy

Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra in Sergiev Posad.

On Monday, May 24, His All Holiness and His Beatitude participated in a festive procession commemorating Saints Cyril and Methodius. The procession began from Christ the Savior Cathedral and continued on the embankment of the Moskva River near the Kremlin and ended outside Red Square where opening ceremonies were held for the “Day of Slavic Letters and Culture”. The mayor of Moscow, Yury Luzhkov, also participated in the procession.

On Tuesday, May 25, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew met with the President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev in the Kremlin.

According to an Interfax news report the Russian government attaches great importance to its dialogue with the Russian Orthodox Church, President Dmitry Medvedev said at a meeting with Patriarch Kirill and Patriarch Bartholomew.

“A lot of changes have taken place recently. And I am very pleased that you will be able to see these favorable changes in the life of the country and the dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the state,” President Medvedev the Ecumenical Patriarch.

“Very complex tasks facing our state and the world as a whole, in light of the economic crisis, can be tackled only through this dialogue. That is why we highly value the constructive and full-fledged dialogue we have had with the Russian Orthodox Church in recent years,” he noted.

The visit of the Patriarch of Constantinople to Russia is a “landmark event,” Medvedev said, adding he was confident that this visit “will help strengthen the dialogue that has always existed between these two sister-Churches.” ■

Photos and videos of His All Holiness' visit to Russia ▶ patriarchate.org



His All Holiness and His Beatitude greet the faithful (left) at the renowned Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra in Sergiev Posad for Pentecost Sunday. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew concelebrated the Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of All Saints with Patriarch Kyrill (right) at St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg.

EPISCOPAL ASSEMBLY

CANONICAL ORTHODOX HIERARCHS OF NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA



MAY 26–28, 2010 · NEW YORK, NY

Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate convenes Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Hierarchs of North & Central America; hierarchs issue message during two-day meeting in New York

NEW YORK

The first Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Hierarchs in North and Central America was convened by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America at the Helmsley Park Lane Hotel in New York City.

This Assembly is the result of the decision of the Fourth Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference, which met in Chambésy Switzerland in June of 2009, after the extraordinary Synaxis of all

the Heads of the Autocephalous Churches convened by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. This Assembly, one of twelve that will be convened around the world in regions where there is no single Orthodox presence, will consist of the active canonical bishops who reside in the region designated as North and Central America. In every Assembly, the chairman will be the senior bishop of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

After their two-day meeting and after several addresses and discussions, the hierarchs issued the following message:



MESSAGE

We glorify the name of the Triune God for gathering us at this first Episcopal Assembly of this region in New York City on May 26-28, 2010 in response to the decisions of the Fourth Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference held at the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambesy, Switzerland, from June 6-12, 2009, at the invitation of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Gathered together in the joy of the Feast of Pentecost, we humbly recognize our calling, in our unworthiness, to serve as instruments and disciples of the Paraclete, who “holds together

the whole institution of the Church” (Hymn of Vespers of Pentecost).

We honor and express gratitude to the Primates and Representatives of the Orthodox Autocephalous Churches who assembled at the Ecumenical Patriarchate from October 10-12, 2008 to affirm their “unswerving position and obligation to safeguard the unity of the Orthodox Church” (Chambesy Rules of Operation, Article 5.1a) and emphasized their will and “desire for the swift healing of every canonical anomaly that has arisen from historical circumstances and pastoral requirements” (Message of the Primates 13.1-2)

We call to mind those who envisioned this unity in this region and strove to transcend the canonical irregularities resulting for many reasons, including geographically overlapping jurisdictions. For, just as the Lord in the Divine Eucharist is “broken and distributed, but not divided” (Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom), so also His Body comprises many members, while constituting His One Church.

We are grateful for the gift of the doctrinal and liturgical unity that we already share, and we are inspired by our leaders, the Heads of all the Orthodox Churches throughout the world, who proposed that which we painfully yearn for in this region, i.e., the “swift healing

of every canonical anomaly” (Message of the Primates 13.2). We are also grateful that they established a fundamental process toward a canonical direction and resolution.

We are thankful to almighty God for the growth of Orthodoxy, for the preservation of our traditions, and for the influence of our communities in this region. This is indeed a miracle and a mystery.

During our gathering, and in accordance with the rules of operation of Episcopal Assemblies promulgated by the Fourth Pan-Orthodox Pre-Conciliar Conference, we established:

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« Continued from page 5

1. A registry of canonical bishops (Article 6.1)
2. A committee to determine the canonical status of local communities in the region that have no reference to the Most Holy Autocephalous Churches (Article 6.2)
3. A registry of canonical clergy (Article 6.3)
4. Committees to undertake the work of the Assembly, among others including liturgical, pastoral, financial, educational, ecumenical, and legal issues (Articles 11 and 12)
5. A committee to plan for the organization of the Orthodox of the region on a canonical basis (Article 5.1).

In addition to the above, we agreed that a directory would be created and maintained by the Assembly of all canonical congregations in our region.

We as Episcopal Assembly understand ourselves as being the successors of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), assuming its agencies, dialogues, and other ministries.

Moreover, at the formal request of the Hierarchs who have jurisdiction in Canada, the Assembly will submit to the Ecumenical Patriarch, in accordance with the rules of operation (Article 13), a request to partition the present region of North and Central America into two distinct regions of the United States and Canada. Additionally, at the request of the Hierarchs who

have jurisdiction in Mexico and Central America, the Assembly will likewise request to merge Mexico and Central America with the Assembly of South America.

As Orthodox Hierarchs in this blessed region, we express our resolve to adhere to and adopt the regulations proposed by the Pan-Orthodox Conferences and approved by the Autocephalous Orthodox Churches, and to do everything in our power by the grace of God to advance actions that facilitate canonical order in our region.

We confess our fidelity to the Apostolic Orthodox faith and pledge to promote “common action to address the pastoral needs of Orthodox living in our region” (Chambesy, Decision 2c). We call upon our clergy and faithful to join us in these ef-

forts “to safeguard and contribute to the unity of the Orthodox Church of the region in its theological, ecclesiological, canonical, spiritual, philanthropic, educational and missionary obligations” (Article 5.1) as we eagerly anticipate the Holy and Great Council.

The Assembly concluded with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Friday, May 28, 2010 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Cathedral in New York City. During the Liturgy prayers were offered for the repose of the eleven victims of the current ecological disaster in the Gulf Coast, for the consolation of their families, for all those adversely affected by this catastrophe, as well as for all people living under conditions of war, persecution, violence, and oppression. ■ PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

Of the sixty-six Hierarchs in the region, the following 55 were present at this Assembly:

Archbishop Demetrios
Chairman
Metropolitan Philip
Vice Chairman
Archbishop Justinian
Vice Chairman
Bishop Basil
Secretary
Archbishop Antony
Treasurer
Metropolitan Iakovos
Metropolitan Constantine
Metropolitan Athenagoras
Metropolitan Methodios
Metropolitan Isaiah

Metropolitan Nicholas
Metropolitan Alexios
Metropolitan Nikitas
Metropolitan Nicholas
Metropolitan Gerasimos
Metropolitan Evangelos
Metropolitan Paisios
Archbishop Yurij
Bishop Christopher
Bishop Vikentios
Bishop Savas
Bishop Andonios
Bishop Ilia
Bishop Ilarion
Bishop Andriy

Bishop Demetrios
Bishop Daniel
Bishop Antoun
Bishop Joseph
Bishop Thomas
Bishop Mark
Bishop Alexander
Metropolitan Hilarion
Bishop Iov
Bishop Gabriel
Bishop Peter
Bishop Theodosius
Bishop George
Bishop Ieronim
Metropolitan Christopher

Bishop Maxim
Archbishop Nicolae
Bishop Ioan Casian
Metropolitan Joseph
Metropolitan Jonah
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archbishop Seraphim
Bishop Nikon
Bishop Tikhon
Bishop Benjamin
Bishop Melchisedek
Bishop Alejo
Bishop Irineu
Bishop Irinee
Bishop Michael

Strasbourg court rules Turkey must return orphanage to Ecumenical Patriarchate

The mandatory ruling opens new perspectives for the legal recognition of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which Turkish authorities have not done yet. It also gives hope to the Armenian, Jewish and Catholic minorities. The orphanage is expected to become an international centre for the protection of the environment as well as a centre for inter-faith dialogue.

In a unanimous decision, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg ruled that Turkey must return the former Greek Orphanage on Buyukada Island, the largest of the Princes' Islands, back to Fener Greek Patriarchate. This concludes the long legal case between the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and Turkish authorities. The case had begun in 1997 when Turkey tried to use various legal means to take the building away from the Patriarchate in order to upgrade the area without compensation.

The orphanage is a large, wooden building—an architectural jewel built in 1898 by a French company and bought in 1903 by Eleni Zarifi, the member of a rich Istanbul Greek family who donated it to the Ecumenical Patriarchate for Christian orphans. The orphanage was closed

down in 1964 and the building left to decay.

The sentence is very important because for the first time the European Court requires the Turkish state to return the property without compromise (restitutio in integrum); for example, paying compensation in order to keep the building.

Another important feature of the ruling is the explicit recognition of the legal status of the Patriarchate. The Turkish state has never recognized the Ecumenical Patriarchate despite improved relations between Ankara and the Fener (the Istanbul neighborhood where the Patriarchate is located), especially since Prime Minister Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power.

The prime minister accompanied by the Ecumenical Patriarch

Bartholomew I visited the former orphanage for the first time on 15 August 2009, and since then has said on several occasions that he would not oppose the sentence of the European Court in Strasbourg.

Since the Ecumenical Patriarchate is not legally recognized by the Turkish state, it cannot own property in Turkey. It is only allowed to meet the religious needs of the Orthodox community of Istanbul. Even its headquarters in the Fener belong to the Saint George Foundation (Vakif). The same is true for other religious minorities in Turkey.

Political and diplomatic circles in Strasbourg point out that the ruling now opens new perspectives for religious minorities recognized by Turkey, most notably Jews and Armenians, based on the Treaty of Lausanne (1923). The same is true for the Catholic

minority, whose members live in an unclear legal status and survive by maintaining a few buildings amid difficulties and uncertainties.

Given its importance, Turkish media have given the sentence an extensive coverage. Turkish European Union Affairs Minister Egemen Bagis told reporters that the government was not surprised by the ruling but could not say whether recognition would be given or not.

Some time ago, Prime Minister Erdogan asked Bartholomew what the Patriarchate would do with the orphanage if it were handed back. The Ecumenical Patriarch answered that the intention was to turn one section into an international centre for the environment, and the other into a centre for inter-faith dialogue. ■

[Source: AsiaNews]

This historic orphanage is the largest single-structure wooden building in Europe and second largest in the world having served as the Patriarchal Orphanage until the 1960's.





ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT

“The Inner Meaning of Being an Archon” RETREAT MASTER: FATHER MARK AREY

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, NJ

The Seventh National Archon Lenten Retreat was led by the Rev. Fr. Mark Arey, Director of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Fr. Mark presented an in-depth history of the title 'Archon' and the specific Archon responsibilities associated with the various *offikia* making reference to the Ancient Greek, Byzantine and Christian roots of the title. The forty Archons, their spouses, family members and guests who attended the retreat learned the etiology of their specific *offikion*, its ancient responsibilities in the Imperial or Patriarchal Court and its modern day application in service to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Fr. Mark inspired and captivated the individual Archons present with his frequent scholarly and lively references to Ancient

This honor, extended by the Church, carries with it grave responsibilities, deep commitments, and sincere dedication. Consequently, it is of utmost importance that this honor of obligation be bestowed upon individuals of proven Orthodox Christian character, who conform faithfully to the teachings of Christ, and the doctrines, canons, worship, discipline, and encyclicals of the Church.

Greece, the Old and New Testament, the Holy Roman Empire, the Byzantine Imperial Court and the Ecumenical Patriarchate post 1453.

Archon James D. Speros, Spirituality Committee Chairman, organized the retreat. Archons John Halecky, Jr. and James C. Fountas coordinated the event with the Ukrainian Center. In gratitude to Fr. Arey's lessons, Archon

Halecky said, "Each year, we have gathered together to deepen our understanding of our rich and beautiful Orthodox faith and retreat from the world around us to strengthen our commitment to Christ. This year's retreat provided all in attendance with a deeper understanding of the historical significance of what it means to be an Archon and the importance of the *Offikia* we have been given. Fr. Arey did a marvelous job as our retreat master."

The day and a half retreat was recently held at the Consistory (headquarters) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (Ecumenical Patriarchate) in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. His Eminence Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey attended portions of the Retreat where they addressed the participants.

During the day-and-a-half period, participants attended services at the St. Andrew the First-Called Memorial Church where Archbishop Antony conducted the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Friday evening. The Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Saturday morning by Fr. Taras Chubenko. Throughout the retreat, the participants were offered the hospitality of the Ukrainian Center. ■



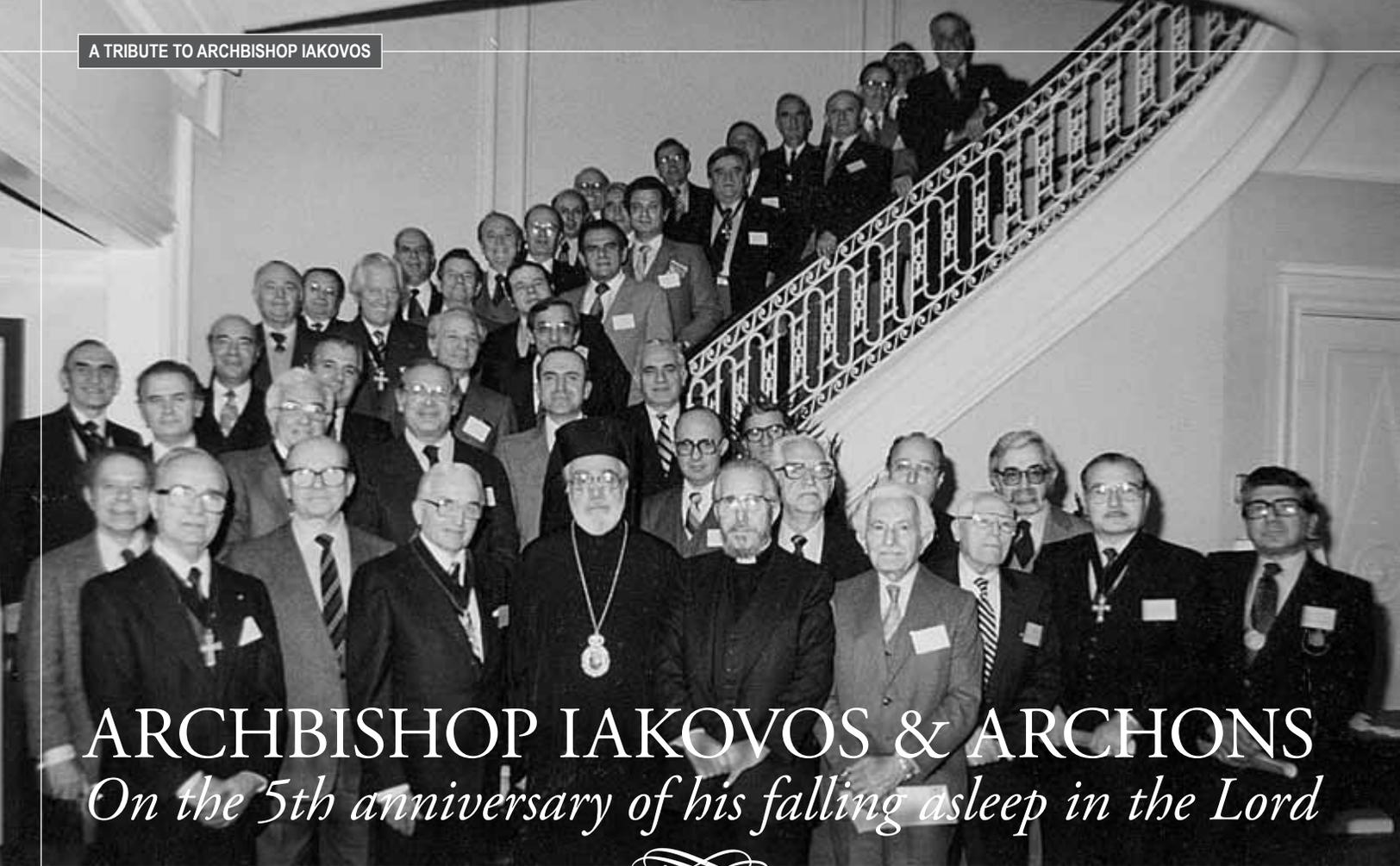
His Eminence Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (top) welcomes the Archons following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Friday evening. National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis (above) in discussion with His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey.

Archons and their spouses (top) pray in Saint Andrew the First-Called Memorial Church during the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. Fr. Arey addresses the nearly forty participants (above) who attended the day and a half retreat held at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church's consistory in South Bound Brook, NJ.

It is by the grace of God that the Archon has been able to offer his good works and deeds of faith. Further, it is the sworn oath of the Archon to defend and promote the Greek Orthodox faith and tradition. His special concern and interest is to serve as a bulwark to protect and promote the Holy Patriarchate and its mission. He is also concerned with the human race's inalienable rights wherever and whenever they are violated - and the well-being and general welfare of the Church.

An Archon is an honoree by His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch, for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Greek Orthodox Community (at large).

Learn more about the Archon role and *offikion* ► archons.org/archons 



ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS & ARCHONS

On the 5th anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord



WRITTEN BY REVEREND DR. MILTIADES B. EFTHIMIOU

Retired Spiritual Advisor and Executive Director of the Order of St. Andrew

As the representative and advisor to the Order of St. Andrew for 15 years (1980-1995), the rudder for steering the concerns and goals of the Archons was the constant admonition of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, of blessed memory, to bridge the ancient practice of the Church in recognizing the commitment and Faith of the laity. It was in line with the constant concern of His Eminence to provide the spiritual, moral and administrative leadership of our Church. It was in line, and why he will be long remembered, from the Boston Cathedral Days when he succeeded my late father as Dean in the 1940's, to the present, as having a keen understanding for the unity and stability necessary to continue building on the foundation of the past. The Order of St Andrew-the Archons, are a classic example of this Iakovoean strategy.

How might we see this?



Nearly 50 Archons from the NY-NJ area attended Vespers, presided by His Eminence (top) at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in the early 1980's for the Feastday of St. Andrew. Flanking His Eminence are Metropolitan Silas of New Jersey and National Commander Dr. Anthony Borden, who held office from 1976-1989, who is also pictured, above, with National Commander Chris Philip, DDS, who held office from 1989-1998.

1. He established, in the 1960's the knights of St. Andrew, which eventually became the Order of St. Andrew-the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as

"Defenders of the Faith", an admonition from the earliest of Byzantine times, when New Rome was carrying forward the traditions of Old Rome.

2. He created an annual event, from an afternoon of meeting with Archons, to a weekend of activities which included meetings bringing together Archons from all over America, along with new candidates for investiture and induction into the Order, introducing all in a grand banquet in N.Y., all as a prologue to an hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Orthodoxy Sunday with all bishops of the Holy Synod present for the ancient ceremony of Investiture. Offikia and Titles would be conferred on approved candidates at the ceremony.

In a brilliant strategy linking Byzantium to the present, these titles or ranks which were Roman in origin and were now assimilated into the ecclesiastical system and Hellenized, gave an aura of importance for unifying the destinies of the Empire back then, and consequently, the Church, for years to come.



Archbishop Iakovos confers the 39th President of the United States Jimmy Carter with the Medal of Saint Andrew (far left) during the investiture of Archons in 1987. President Carter is depicted with the First Lady Rosalynn (left) at Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York.

It was this concept that Iakovos, ingeniously, re-introduced in a 20th century context which laid the groundwork for not only the Archons, but for almost every other aspect of management and administration of an immigrant Church and Archdiocese which had to wrestle with such issues as language and ethnic identity. This task-driven strategy of Iakovos gave impetus to one of his major contributions to Orthodoxy in general affecting the other Orthodox jurisdictions: that of having Orthodoxy recognized in the U.S.A. as one of the 4 major Faiths. The Archons, in line with this strategy, and so well demonstrated by its present leadership based on this rudimentary groundwork of Iakovian innovation, and past national Commanders, the Order honors those who serve the Church, as in the

past, with distinction and commitment.

This was the great contribution of Iakovos, and how and why he will be long remembered. Yes, he was accused of being too innovative in the almost 40 years of Archiepiscopal ministry in the Americas, but great

leaders are bound to be controversial. Iakovos' foresight and vision of establishing a strong Greek Orthodox Archdiocese as a daughter Church of the Ecumenical Patriarchate was his trademark, from the days of Pomfret where he taught theology to the first crop of American born priests, to the days of being elected President two times to the World Council of Churches. In this period of time, he left his

legacy to the rest of us, clergy and laity: a cleric of extraordinary conviction and powerful witness to the past as prelude to the present and future, but in such a way, as his ministry concluded, which would carry the Church forward toward His greater glory. ■

PHOTOS BY YANNIS DEMOTISIS, COSTA HAYDEN, AND DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

Archbishop Iakovos and President Carter greet other religious leaders present for the 1987 investiture (below, left). The Archbishop presides at an investiture of Archons (below, right) on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Fr. Alex Karloutsos, current Archon Spiritual Advisor, bears the Episcopal staff.



Over 1,000 people attended the Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet at the Marriott Marquis in New York on February 27, 1988. Archbishop Iakovos presented the award to Sister Frederick (middle) of the National Headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity. Mother Teresa, recipient of the Award, was unable to be present that evening because of an illness. Honored dais guests included (L-R): the Fr. Efthimiou; Ambassador of Greece to the United Nations Constantine Zepos; Master of Ceremonies Andrew Athens; Ambassador of Greece to the US George Papoulias; Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD); Commander Emeritus Borden; and Consul of Cyprus in NY Andreas Kakouris.



Archbishop Iakovos invests Spyros Skouras (right) as an Archon, who was the chairman of 20th Century Fox.

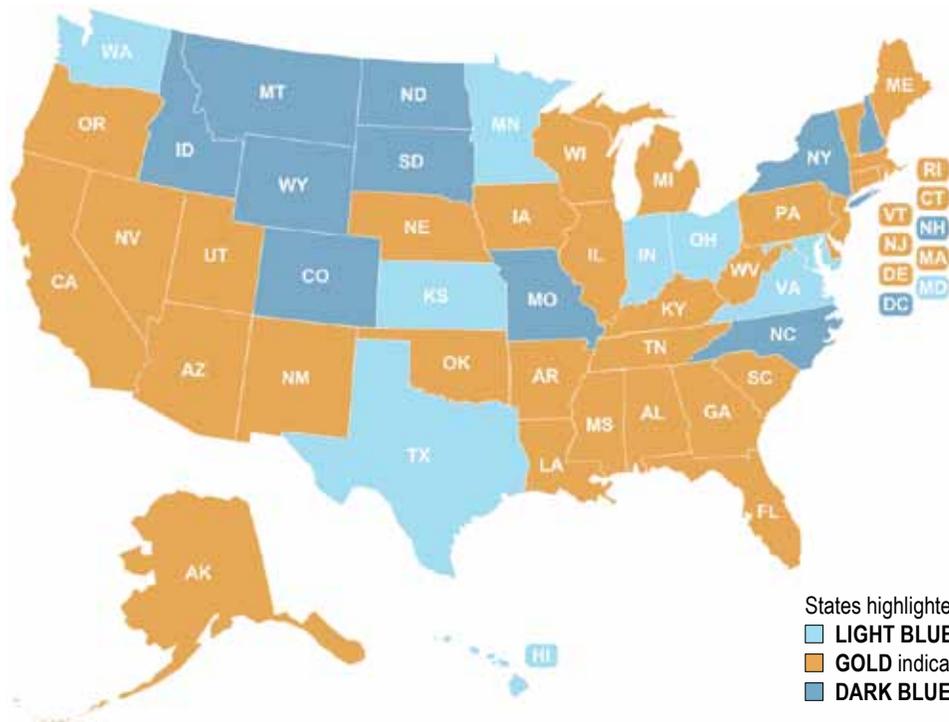
The Archbishop with the first National Commander, Pierre Demetz (far, right) who held office from 1966-1976.



The Order of Saint Andrew.

U.S. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTION UPDATE

36 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED IN 31 STATES



The National Council of the Order of St. Andrew initiated in 2006 the Religious Freedom Resolutions project. The goal of this project, which represents one component of the overall, multi-faceted Religious Freedom Initiative, is the adoption of religious freedom resolutions in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in every state legislature. This project is an ongoing effort of the Order of Saint Andrew and represents an important part of the governmental and public affairs strategy of the Religious Freedom Initiative.

ALASKA	WISCONSIN	HAWAII	NEBRASKA
<p>SJR 28 - Introduced on 2/18/2010 Adopted by Senate on 4/5/2010 Adopted by House on 4/11/2010 HR 15 - Introduced on 2/23/2010 Adoption Pending</p>	<p>SR 10 - Introduced on 3/4/2010 Adopted on 4/22/2010</p>	<p>HCR 213 and HR 143 Introduced on 3/10/2010 Adoption Pending SCR 182 and SR 83 Introduced on 3/10/2010 Adoption Pending</p>	<p>LR 273 - Introduced 1/6/2010 Adopted on 4/13/2010</p>
<p><i>The Alaska House of Representatives gave final approval to the Religious Freedom Resolution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate (SJR 28), sponsored by Senator Kevin Meyer. The Senate had earlier adopted it on April 5th.</i></p> <p><i>This positive result was the product of a team effort by Archon Cliff Argue, Father Leo Scheffe, Father Michael Oleksa, Bill Copadis, Kimberly Copadis and Diane Primis. Their enthusiasm and commitment for the cause also secured the support of the Orthodox Church in America in Alaska as well as the Alaska Conference of Catholic Bishops.</i></p> <p><i>Senator Meyer's leadership was indispensable, as was the support of Reps. John Harris and Bob Lynn. Archon Cliff Argue persisted in this effort for almost three years, and without his leadership the Order would not have achieved this goal.</i></p>	<p><i>Thanks to the tireless efforts of Fr. James Dokos, the Wisconsin Senate gave final adoption to the Religious Freedom Resolution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate (SR 10) sponsored by Senator Ted Kanavas.</i></p> <p><i>Our Wisconsin initiative also required 3 years of persistence by Fr. Dokos, and we all appreciate his work on behalf of the Mother Church.</i></p>	<p><i>Thanks to the efforts of Athena Adams, four new Religious Freedom Resolutions for the Ecumenical Patriarchate were introduced today in the Hawaii legislature. Under the Hawaii legislative rules, companion resolutions are filed in each chamber.</i></p> <p><i>HCR 213 and HR 143 were introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Sylvia Luke, and SCR 182 and SR 83 were introduced in the Senate by Senator Carol Fukunaga.</i></p>	<p><i>Thanks to the efforts of Fr. Peter Pappas and Craig Clawson, the Nebraska State Senate has given final approval to our Religious Freedom Resolution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate (LR 273) sponsored by Senator Gwen Howard.</i></p> <p><i>Fr. Pappas and Craig not only worked with our sponsor in developing support for the resolution but also testified on its behalf in committee.</i></p>
<h2>YOU CAN TAKE ACTION</h2> <p><i>for your State to pass a Resolution for Religious Freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate!</i></p> <p>Archon Stephen Georgeson National Coordinator for the State Resolutions Project sgeorgeson@yahoo.com</p>			

Save the Date

November 16-17, 2010

INTERNATIONAL ARCHON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONFERENCE

Brussels, Belgium
Further details will be forthcoming.

 VERMONT JRS 47 - Introduced on 2/9/2010 Adopted on 5/12/2010 <i>Thanks to the work of Dr. Alex Tenentes and Father Robert Athas, the Vermont state Senate gave final adoption to our Religious Freedom Resolution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate (JRS 47).</i> <i>It was the last day of the 2010 Vermont legislative session and our resolution would have died in the House had not our sponsors, Senators Richard Sears and Robert Hartwell, pursued its passage with a real commitment.</i> <i>Thanks to Dr. Tenentes and Father Athas for their months-long efforts.</i>	
 CONNECTICUT Adopted on 4/30/2010 <i>Connecticut has become the 30th state to express officially its strong support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.</i> <i>Connecticut is one of a handful of states that don't entertain traditional resolutions of the type that the Archons have worked on before. As a result, our dedicated team in Connecticut instead developed a plan to prepare a letter of resolution that would require the participating Connecticut legislators to sign the letter manually.</i> <i>This approach is very time consuming and labor intensive and could only be accomplished by the extraordinary efforts of our legislative leaders and fellow Orthodox Christians, Rep. Demetrios Giannaros, Rep. Themis Klarides and Rep. John C. Geragosian.</i> <i>Special thanks to the efforts of Archons Nik Mathews and Peter Skeadas whose leadership of this initiative has been inspiring. Your success in obtaining this result will serve as our model in the other states that won't entertain traditional resolutions. We are indebted to all of you involved in this months long initiative.</i> <i>A long list of individual's efforts were critical to this success and is a testament to the breadth of the commitment to this cause as well as a demonstration of what we can accomplish when we focus our efforts.</i>	 FLORIDA HM 191 - Introduced on 3/2/2010 Adopted on 4/23/2010 SM 314 - Introduced on 3/1/2010 Adopted on 4/28/2010 <i>The Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate has adopted the Religious Freedom Resolution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate (HM 191 and SM 314), sponsored by Representative Peter Nehr and Senators Mike Fasano and Mike Haridopolos.</i> <i>This result is the product of a three-year effort led by Archons Dr. Ted Vlahos, John Scurtis, and George Psetas. The grassroots network that they established in the Orthodox community in Florida was critical to the adoption of these resolutions.</i> <i>The Florida legislature has historically refused to deal with resolutions of this type. In fact, this is the first resolution of this nature adopted by the legislature in over 10 years.</i> <i>At the time that Resolution HM 191 came to a vote on the floor of the Florida House of Representatives there were 109 of the 120 members of the House present. This is the third year that Representative Nehr has sponsored this Bill in the House. Upon the Resolution being brought forth for discussion, Representative Nehr made a motion allowing all those present who wished to add their name to this Resolution as a Sponsor to do so at that time. The Resolution passed the House of Representative by a unanimous vote given by its then 109 Sponsors and Co Sponsors.</i> <i>Also integral to this success were Fr. Demetrios Tsigas, Fr. Stanley Harakas and Zachary Kallis. Representatives Jimmy Patronis and Adam Hasner assisted Rep. Nehr throughout the legislative process.</i>

Learn more about the Archons efforts toward the Religious Freedom Project ► archons.org/resolutions

U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and Orthodox Christian Leaders send letters in support of religious freedom to U.S. Government Leaders

WASHINGTON, DC

Members of the US Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) issued a letter to President Barack Obama, calling on him to reiterate the importance to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan that the Orthodox Theological School of Halki be reopened. The Turkish leader recently attended an international nuclear summit hosted by President Obama in Washington on April 12-13.

President Obama addressed the need to reopen the seminary one year ago before the Turkish Grand National Assembly. Since then, the longstanding matter has yet to be resolved. The Halki Seminary, owned by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was established in 1844, but the Turkish Government forcibly closed the theological institution in 1971.

The Commission, also known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, is an independent agency of the Federal Government charged with monitoring compliance with the Helsinki Accords and advancing comprehensive security through promotion of human rights, democracy, and economic, environmental and military cooperation in 56 countries. ■

Turkey remains on USCIRF's religious freedom "Watch List"

« Continued from page 1

Congress created the Commission in 1998 through the International Religious Freedom Act. It serves to monitor 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. It provides independent policy recommendations to the President, Secretary of State, and Congress.

A fifteen-page section is devoted to the current situation in Turkey in which the Commission begins:

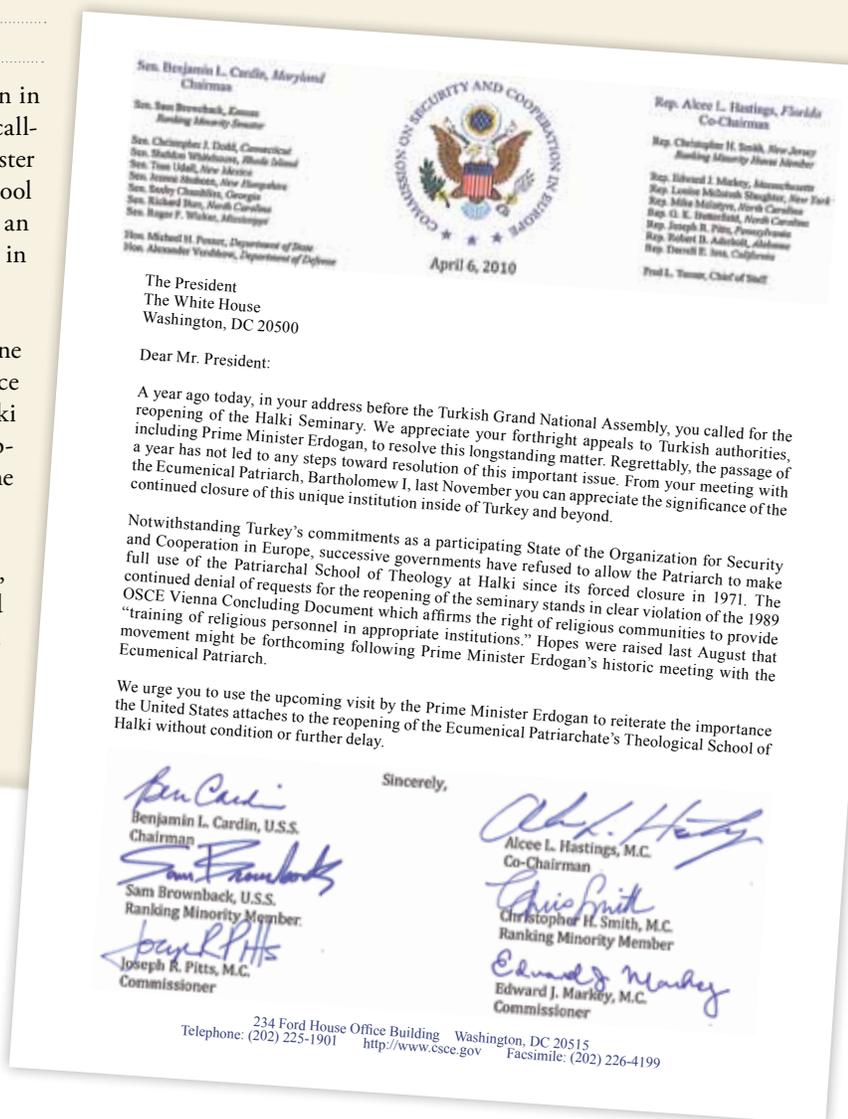
"Serious limitations on the freedom of religion or belief continue to occur in Turkey. Turkey's active civil society,

media, and political parties influence the climate for religious freedom and help define the debate about the appropriate role of religion in society. Turkey has a democratic government, and the country's constitution calls for the protection of the freedom of belief and worship and the private dissemination of religious ideas. Nonetheless, the Turkish government's attempt to control religion and its effort to exclude religion from the public sphere based on its interpretation of secularism result in serious religious freedom violations for many of the country's citizens, including members of majority and, especially, minority religious communities. The European

Union (EU) continues to find that, despite some improvements since its 2001 bid to join the EU, "Turkey needs to make additional efforts to create an environment conducive to full respect for freedom of religion in practice." An additional factor influencing the climate during the past year includes the alleged involvement of state and military officials in the Ergenekon plot, which included alleged plans to assassinate the Greek Orthodox and Armenian Orthodox patriarchs and to bomb mosques."

The report continues saying,

"U.S. policy should place greater emphasis on Turkey's compliance with its international commitments regarding freedom of religion or belief. For instance, the United States should encourage the Turkish government to address the long-standing lack of full legal recognition for religious minorities, including Alevis; Greek, Armenian, and Georgian Orthodox; Roman and Syriac Catholics; Protestants; and Jews. As President Obama noted in his April 2009 address



ANCHORAGE, AK

Excerpt from the Acting Chancellor of the Diocese of Sitka, Anchorage and Alaska (OCA)

Writing to Ms. Marasigan of the Senate committee that considered one of the Archon's Alaska resolutions.

“The world headquarters of the Orthodox Church, the center where the ‘First Among Equals’ the leading bishop of our community, remains Istanbul. His position as “first” derives from his ministry at the ancient Eastern Roman capital. If he moves, if he is forced from there, his leadership position within the worldwide Orthodox community is jeopardized.

“There will be no historical precedent for this situation, and our Church will suffer from a loss of international unity and focus. We all need the ecumenical ministry of the Ecumenical Patriarch. It is he who convenes our councils and presides when the self-governing churches gather.

“Thousands of Alaskans are vitally concerned about the deplorable condition of the Patriarchate in Constantinople, the closure and seizure of property, the restriction on free movement and funding, the unreasonable political and social restrictions imposed on the Patriarch personally. Such ‘Jim Crow’ rules



once were common in our country and around the world. But the 20th century brought liberation to women, Native Americans and African Americans in the last 80 years. And we have come to expect that our allies adopt equally democratic policies toward their minorities Turkey is bound by international treaties and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights to respect the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We are only asking that government to abide by its own treaty obligations.

“If nearly 30 other states have adopted such resolutions, I believe Alaska has every reason to join them. We have a longer history of involvement with Orthodox Christians, indigenous and colonial, than any other state in the Union. We have, by percentage, the largest concentration of Orthodox Christians in North America. If we remain silent, the support and encouragement the other State Legislatures have already offered will be much undermined.

“Alaska has a greater responsibility to address this issue than any other State. I implore the State Legislature to adopt the resolution calling upon Turkey to abide by its treaty and its moral obligation to bring tolerance and peace, to end persecution, discrimination and harrassment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and to join in the community of civilized and democratic nations in embracing the basic principle of Religious Freedom for all her citizens.” ■

to the Turkish parliament, the United States should continue to urge Turkey to permit all religious minorities to train religious clergy in Turkey, including by reopening the Greek Orthodox Theological Seminary of Halki.”

Regarding the restrictions on legal status of non-Muslim minorities, the report states:

“The 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, a peace treaty signed between Turkish military forces and several European powers that formally established the Republic of Turkey, contained specific guarantees and protections for all non-Muslim religious minorities in Turkey. Since that time, however, the Turkish government has interpreted those treaty obligations as limited to the Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, and Jewish com-

munities. Nevertheless, despite this unique status, legal recognition of these three religious minority communities, and guarantees cited, have not been implemented in Turkish law or practice, and the Turkish government continues to use the denial of legal personality to restrict their rights of religious freedom.

“Furthermore, religious groups that fall outside the Turkish government’s view of the Lausanne Treaty’s definition of religious minorities are severely limited in their right to freedom of religion or belief. Over



the decades, the absence of legal personality has resulted in serious problems with regard to minority communities’ right to own, maintain, and transfer both communal and individual property. They also face major obstacles in deciding internal arrangements and training religious clergy. In some cases, these obstacles have led to a critical decline in these communities on their historic lands. The problems for the Christian minorities--including on property rights, education, and in some instances, physical security-- partly arise from the fact that most are both religious and ethnic minorities, and therefore are

viewed with suspicion by some ethnic Turks.

“In Turkey today, there are about 65,000 Armenian Orthodox Christians, 23,000 Jews, and approximately 1,700 Greek Orthodox Christians. When Turkey was founded in 1923, there were 200,000 Greek Orthodox Christians in the country. By 1955, the number had fallen to 100,000; that year, pogroms against the Greek Orthodox resulted in the destruction of private and commercial properties, desecration of religious sites, and killings. Due to ongoing threats, the Greek Orthodox community’s numbers continued to decline to their present level.

Continued on page 16 »

OMAHA, NE

Fr. Peter Pappas and Craig S. Clawson

Excerpt from the Pastor and Parish Council President of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Omaha, Nebraska, writing to Senator Adams that considered one of the Archon's Nebraska resolutions.



“Archbishop Iakovos, who was born on the Turkish island of Imvros (Gokceada) and served for 37 years as the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma. His actions were not well received by everyone, but he later said this about the event, “I came to the United States from Turkey where I was a third category citizen. So, when Martin Luther King, Jr. had his march to the courthouse in Selma, Alabama, I decided to join him.

“We respectfully ask you to take this opportunity to affirm the values of religious freedom and human rights that define us as Americans, and Nebraskans, by supporting LR 273.” ■

« Continued from page 15

“For more than fifty years, the Turkish government has used convoluted regulations and undemocratic laws to confiscate hundreds of religious minority properties, primarily those belonging to the Greek and Armenian Orthodox communities, as well as those of the Catholic and Jewish communities.”

Further reporting about the restrictions faced by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Armenian Patriarchate, state:

“The Turkish state also has closed minority communities’ seminaries, denying these communities the right to train clergy, and has interfered with their internal arrangements and leadership decisions. For

example, the Turkish government still does not recognize the Greek Ecumenical Patriarchate as a legal entity. “Moreover, it only acknowledges the Patriarch as head of the Greek Orthodox community in Turkey, not as Ecumenical Patriarch, despite Prime Minister Erdogan’s January 2008 statement in parliament that Patriarch Bartholomew’s “Ecumenical” title was an internal church issue. In March 2010, the Venice Commission, a Council of Europe advisory body, stated that there is no factual or legal reason, including the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, for the Turkish government not to acknowledge the status of the Patriarch as “ecumenical,” based on the historically recognized title and prerogatives. The Turkish government also maintains

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Fr. Thomas Constantine

Excerpt from the Pastor of St. John Church, Youngstown, Ohio, testifying to Chairman Hughes and the Ohio Senate Committee members that considered one of the Archon's Ohio resolutions.



“In Turkey, one is not allowed to express his religious freedom. One cannot wear a cross or any other religious symbols. A clergyman must wear secular clothes and is not allowed to celebrate freely. Wearing the Clerical collar that I have on today is a criminal offense in Turkey and would subject me to arrest.

“In 1997, His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his outstanding religious efforts. I was honored to be invited by US Congressman Mark Souder of Indiana to attend. It was a proud day as I stood in the Rotunda of our nation’s capital to witness this beautiful event. The greatest nation on earth recognized the significance, efforts, works, and Christian love of our Spiritual leader. Unfortunately six weeks later, the Patriarchate was bombed seriously injuring Deacon Nectarios as he worked in his office.

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

that only Turkish citizens can be candidates to be Patriarch or hierarchs in the Church’s Holy Synod. The Turkish embassy in Washington, DC informed USCIRF in February 2010 that the government had discussed the possible application for Turkish citizenship of the relevant Greek Orthodox Metropolitans in August 2009 in a meeting with the Patriarchate, but no action has been taken.

“In 1971, the government’s nationalization of higher education institutions included the Greek Orthodox Theological School of Halki on the island of Heybeli, thereby depriving the Greek Orthodox community of its only educational institution for its religious leadership in Turkey. Furthermore, in November

1998, the school’s Board of Trustees was dismissed by the General Authority for Public Institutions. The Halki seminary remains closed; according to the Turkish embassy in Washington, DC, as of early 2010, the Turkish authorities continued to explore with the Patriarchate possible venues for its reopening.

“In 2008, the ECtHR ruled in a case brought by the Greek Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate that Turkey was in violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The case concerned the Turkish government’s expropriation of the Greek Orthodox orphanage on the Turkish island of Buyukada. The court unanimously ruled

New Archon Regional Commanders appointed for District 10 and Metropolis of New Jersey

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and pursuant to the Archon governing Bylaws, two new regional commanders of the Order of Saint Andrew have been appointed by National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD. Limberakis stated, "These men are truly outstanding Archons whose commitment to the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople is exemplary at the local, national, and international levels. AXIOS!"



DR. GREGORY GEORGE PAPADEAS, D.O., F.A.O.C.D. of Greenwood Village, Colorado has been appointed Associate Regional Commander of District 10. Archon Papadeas, a member of the Assumption of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Denver is a prominent dermatologist who is committed to dedicating time and energy to many ministries of the Church. He is the Medical Director of the Archdiocesan Youth Camp, Ionian Village and had the blessing of being on the first ever medical mission team sent by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese to Kenya in 1987.

Regional Commander Papadeas is married to Stelée and has four children, Venetia, Ioanna, Nicolía, and George.



THE HONORABLE B. THEODORE BOZONELIS of Chatham, New Jersey has been appointed Regional Commander of Metropolis of New Jersey. Archon Bozonelis, a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, currently serves as the Assignment Judge for the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey. He administers the state and municipal court judges and as Chief Judge, hears cases in Morris and Sussex counties. Judge Bozonelis served two terms as Parish Council President at Holy Trinity and remains an active member of the Council since 1995 serving on a number of church-related committees.

Regional Commander Bozonelis is married to Helen and has one son, Justin, and one daughter, Lia.

against the Turkish state for improperly taking the orphanage owned by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Turkish government has yet to implement the court's ruling.

"The Armenian Orthodox community, which is Turkey's largest non-Muslim religious minority, also lacks a seminary in Turkey to educate its clerics and today only has 26 priests. In 2006, the Armenian Patriarch submitted a proposal to the Minister of Education to enable the Armenian Orthodox community to establish at a state university a faculty on Christian theology with instruction by the Patriarch. To date, the Turkish government has not responded to this request. Additionally, like the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, the

Armenian Patriarch lacks legal personality. The Armenian Patriarch reportedly receives about 300 email threats daily, and has two secret police bodyguards who accompany him at all times.

"Due to the Turkish law banning the public wearing of clerical garb, foreign Christian clergy, including Georgian, Greek and Russian Orthodox, were required in 2009 to remove their church vestments before they were allowed to enter Turkey. Christian clerics in Turkey who are Turkish citizens cannot wear their clerical dress anywhere in public."

Among the several recommendations regarding Turkey, the Commission proposes that the U.S. government should:

- instruct officials to drop their legal case to seize some of the land which is the property of the Mor Gabriel Syrian Orthodox monastery;
- instruct officials to uphold the decision of the European Court of Human Rights and return the orphanage on the Turkish island of Buyukada to the Greek Orthodox Church;
- carry out Prime Minister Erdogan's 2008 statement that the Ecumenical status of the Greek Orthodox

Patriarchate should be an internal church issue by granting official recognition to the Ecumenical status of the Patriarch, in line with the 2010 opinion by the Council of Europe Venice Commission; and,

- permit all religious minorities, including those not covered by the Lausanne Treaty, to train religious clergy, including by as repeatedly and formally requested by every U.S. President since 1971, permitting the reopening of the Halki Seminary, according to Turkey's international obligations, and allowing for religious training to occur. ■

Read the Commission's findings on Turkey in their Annual Report (pages 303-317) ▶

www.uscifr.gov

National Commander & Fordham University Professor speak at Religious Freedom Symposium

A religious freedom symposium entitled, "The Great Schism and the Current Dialogue of Love and Truth," was held May 8 in the Philadelphia region, hosted by Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey and Archons from the Greater Delaware Valley. Several National Council members, Archons, and Orthodox faithful of all ages from throughout the area attended the symposium at St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church's Education and Cultural Center.

Dr. George E. Demacopoulos, associate professor of historical theology and co-founding director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Program at Fordham University, offered insight on the historical and theological origins of the schism as well as surveyed some recent scholarly reappraisals of the East/West



Archon Regional Commander Dr. Cary Limberakis thanks Dr. George Demacopoulos of Fordham University for his insightful presentation on the history of The Great Schism held at St. Luke's Education and Cultural Center.

divide. Dr. Demacopoulos also detailed the recent developments in the Orthodox/Catholic dialogue.

In the afternoon session, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., discussed

the five major issues confronting the Ecumenical Patriarchate in its struggle for religious freedom in Turkey: 1) Government interference in Patriarchal elections, 2) Non-recognition of "Ecumenical" status, 3) No legal identity, 4) Closing of seminary

and inability to train new clergy, and 5) Confiscation of property. He concluded by describing the initiatives being pursued at the highest level by the Order here in the United States and in Europe, which included their January mission to Madrid, Venice, and Athens.

Metropolitan Evangelos offered his gratitude to both presenters, Archon Regional Commander Dr. Cary Limberakis, symposium moderator, and to Father Christ Kontos and the parish community for hosting the event. His Eminence concluded by commending the Archon's efforts in pursuit for religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■



[L-R] Archons George Grigos & Alexander Pritsos, Dr. George Demacopoulos, Fr. Christ Kontos, His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, Regional Commmander Dr. Cary Limberakis, Archons Christos Skeadas, and George Kyvernitis.

The National Geographic Magazine in its special issue on 'Water' featured a baptism at the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The caption of the photo states: "To be baptized is to be born into a new life in Christ, according to the Greek Orthodox Church. Seven-month-old Stellios Theodore Gikas is dipped three times during a ceremony at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George in Istanbul, Turkey."

Theodore is the son of Meltem and Paul Gikas. Paul is a graduate of Holy Cross Seminary and serves as an assistant to His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

PHOTO BY JOHN STANMEYER



In Memoriam: Father John Limberakis

Father John A. Limberakis, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, June 10, 2010. Father John was the father of National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, Archon Cary Limberakis, and their sister Catherine.

His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey officiated the funeral service at St. Sophia, Ss. Faith, Hope, and Agape Greek Orthodox Church in Jeffersonville, PA, assisted by His Grace Bishop Andonios, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, who represented His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. Father John was buried at Lawnview Cemetery in Rockledge, PA on Tuesday, June 15.

Father John A. Limberakis was an exemplary priest in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America having shepherded four parishes into building houses of worship. A dynamic homilist and liturgist, a devoted husband of 60 years, a loving father, grandfather and great grandfather, he always supported and defended the Mother Church of Constantinople, the Ecumenical Patriarchate. His remarkable and pioneering ministry will long be remembered by the thousands of lives and souls who were comforted by his loving pastoral care.



May His Memory Be Eternal



Departed Archons

Louis G. Manesiotis
Archon Megas Hypomnematografos
Pittsburgh, PA • May 2010

Hon. Nicholas Mavroules
Archon Depoutatos
Peabody, MA • May 2010

Theodore O. Prounis
Archon Depoutatos
New York, NY • May 2010

Zenon N. Trivelis
Archon Exarchos
Haverford, PA • February 2010



May Their Memory Be Eternal



PHOTO BRIEFS



The Vice President of the United States Joe Biden was at a recent event at the Water Works Restaurant in Philadelphia on May 24, 2010. The Vice President expressed his support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the reopening of the Orthodox Theological School of Halki, and stated the following about His All Holiness: "I have met two saints of extraordinary courage in my lifetime and one was Nelson Mandela and the other was His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew."



Students from Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary visited the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese on Tuesday, April 15. Father Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor, discussed the mission and recent work of The Order of Saint Andrew to the seminarians.

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



Ecumenical Patriarchal Bartholomew invested George Kalantzis, former Minister of Macedonia-Thrace, as a new Archon of the Ecumenical Throne on Friday, April 23, following the Divine Liturgy for the feastday of Saint George.



Sharon Anderholm Wiener, US Consul General, greets His All Holiness at a concert of the Popular Orchestra of Mikis Theodorakis at the Lufti Kardar Music Hall as part of celebrations of Istanbul as European Capital of Culture on May 1.



On Saturday, April 17, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew warmly received the President of Estonia, Thomas Hendrik Ilves at the Phanar.



On Tuesday, April 27, His All Holiness received the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Quentin Bryce, accompanied by her husband Michael, at the Phanar.



The Ecumenical Patriarch lit a candle and laid flowers at the place of martyrdom of Patriarch Gregory V on April 10.



On Saturday, April 24, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew welcomed Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem at the Phanar.

PHOTOS BY N. MANGINAS

More photos at ► archons.org/photo-gallery