



THE ARCHON

Defenders of the Faith

AUGUST • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER 2010
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**INTERNATIONAL
ARCHON
RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
CONFERENCE**

November 16–17, 2010
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

A two-day conference with speakers from the United States, Europe, and Turkey

PAGES 6-7




Archon Family Reception coverage held at the

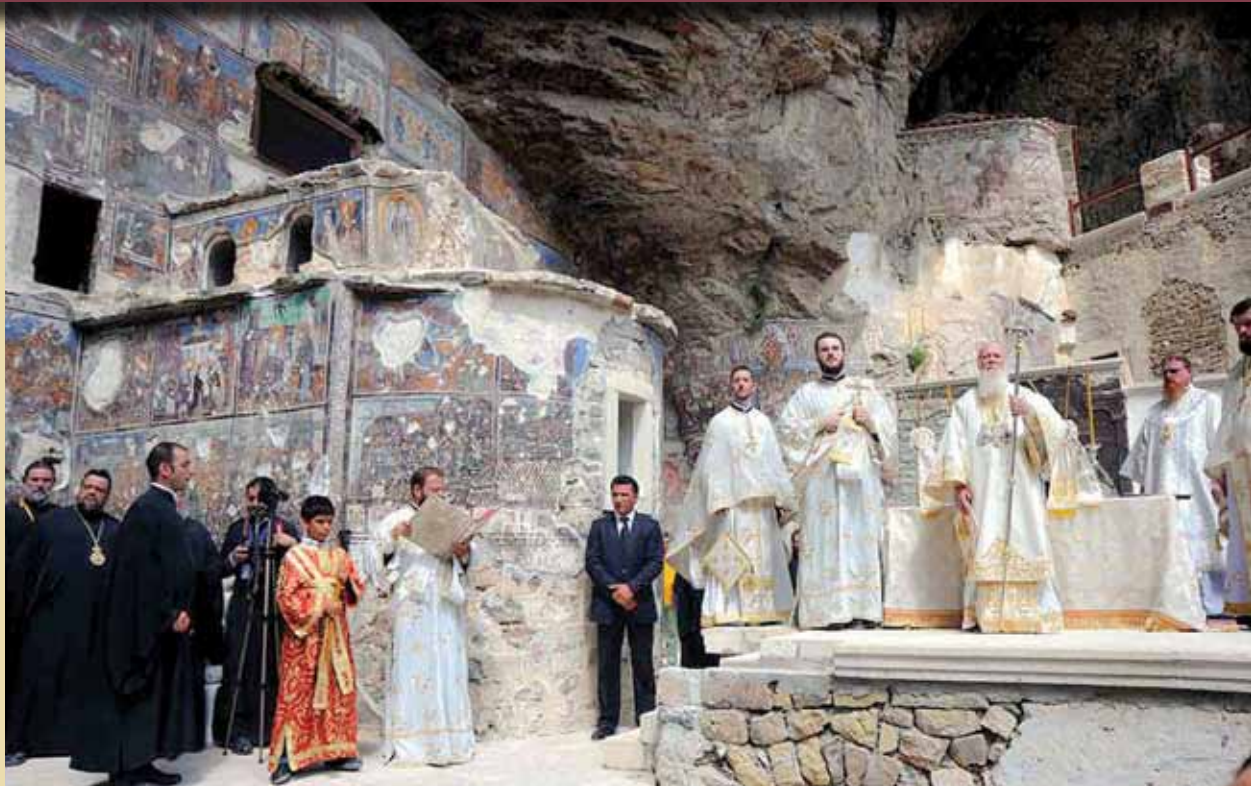
**40TH BIENNIAL
CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS**

PAGES 10-11

Theodore Cardinal McCarrick named Athenagoras recipient, Oct. 30



PAGE 2



First liturgy in nearly 9 decades celebrated at ancient Soumela Monastery

On Sunday, August 15, after 88 years, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos at the Historic Monastery of Panagia Soumela in Trapezounda. In attendance were Metropolitans of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, members of the Greek and Russian parliaments, Turkish authorities as well as numerous pilgrims from Greece, Russia, and other countries.

[Read about the Soumela Monastery of page 4-5 »](#)



CNN's 'World's Untold Stories' documents the Ecumenical Patriarchate's plight

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

In late August, CNN International aired a program entitled "Turkey's Dwindling Greek Christians" as part of its series "World's Untold Stories." Ivan Watson's insightful documentary captured the Ecumenical Patriarchate's plight in Turkey. CNN's international reach is more than 200 million households and hotel rooms in over 200 countries.

[Watch CNN's video >](#) archons.org/news/gallery

[Read CNN's Bill Wunner's 'The last Orthodox patriarch in Turkey?' on page 3 »](#)

[Above] Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew celebrates the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos at the Historic Monastery of Panagia Soumela in Trapezounda.

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.

The Archon is published bi-monthly by the Order of Saint Andrew Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Members are encouraged to submit material pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodoxy. All material should be typed, signed with name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication.
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Theodore Cardinal McCarrick Named Athenagoras Human Rights Award Recipient, Oct. 30



His All Holiness with His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick.

NEW YORK, NY

The Order is pleased to announce that His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, one of most prominent Roman Catholic hierarchs in the world, will be the recipient of this year's Athenagoras Human Rights Award. Cardinal McCarrick is a longtime and trusted friend of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, as well as an internationally known advocate of religious freedom and interfaith understanding.

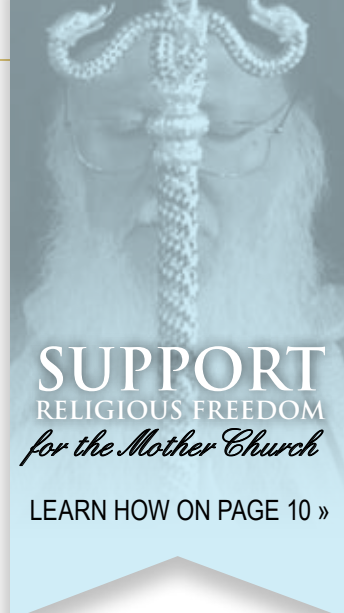
The Athenagoras Human Rights Award will be presented to Cardinal McCarrick during the Grand Banquet of the Order of Saint Andrew, which will be held as part of the Order's annual three-day assembly, Friday, Oct. 29, through Sunday, Oct. 31, at the Hilton Hotel in New York City. The award will be presented during the Grand Banquet on Saturday night, Oct. 30.

Cardinal McCarrick is the former Archbishop of Newark and the Archbishop Emeritus of the

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. His interfaith leadership is recognized not only by the interfaith community around the globe, but particularly by the State Department of the United States of America. He is a prominent interfaith leader in efforts for peace in the Middle East, a distinguished bridge-builder in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim relations, and a constant sojourner for peace, reconciliation and understanding around the world. He is a long time personal friend of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America.

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award is presented annually by the Order to a person or organization, which has consistently exemplified by action, purpose and dedication, concern for the basic rights and religious freedom of all people. The 2009 recipient of the award was Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., current National Commander of the Order of St. Andrew, who was honored by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during his 2009 Apostolic Visit to the United States. ■

Learn about the Award's history at ► archons.org/athenagorasaward



SUPPORT
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
for the Mother Church

LEARN HOW ON PAGE 10 »



Departed Archons

Angelo Gregos
Archon Exarchos
Colts Neck, NJ • May 2010

V. Adm. Michael P. Kalleres
Archon Exarchos
Jacksonville, FL • July 2010

John K. Kontinos
Archon Depoutatos
Ft. Myers, FL • 2010

James J. Mahos
Archon Lambadarios
Milwaukee, WI • April 2010

James E. Mammis
Archon Depoutatos
Vernon Hills, IL • March 2010

Eustace T. Pliakas
Archon Nomophylax
Pawtucket, RI • June 2010

John S. Sakellaris
Archon Hartophylax
Sherman Oaks, CA • August 2010

Lambros E. Siderides, MD
Archon Aktouarios
Stamford, CT • June 2010

Robert P. Skarlis
Archon Notarios
Pittsburgh, PA • January 2009



May Their Memory Be Eternal

The last Orthodox patriarch in Turkey?

BY BILL WUNNER

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the living embodiment of an ancient tradition. From his historic base in Istanbul, Turkey, the 270th Patriarch of Constantinople claims to be the direct successor of the Apostle Andrew.

Today he's considered "first among equals" in the leadership of the Greek Orthodox church, and is the spiritual leader of 250 million Orthodox Christians around the world. But few of them are in his own home country.

"We are a small Christian minority," Bartholomew laments.

"We have suffered because of Greek-Turkish confrontation, struggle, and a lack of mutual trust and confidence. And that is why we lost most of our faithful."

Turkey's once-flourishing Greek community is fading away. The country is predominantly Muslim and led by a secular government that's had a complicated relationship with the patriarchate.

If Turkish laws, demographics and attitudes aren't changed, Bartholomew could ultimately be the last Patriarch of Constantinople.

"We are not all in despair for the future of our church," Bartholomew said. "It is not easy, but it is not impossible."

The Turkish government can veto any candidate put forward for the position of patriarch. And it requires the patriarch be a Turkish citizen. Bartholomew is, but most of those best qualified to succeed him are not.

So the government has proposed

offering Turkish citizenship to Orthodox archbishops overseas. Several have applied; so far, none has been approved.

The Turkish government also refuses to recognize the title Ecumenical Patriarch, or Bartholomew's role as an international religious leader.

Officially, he is viewed as a local bishop who leads a shrinking community of a few thousand Greek Orthodox citizens. Yorgo Stefanopoulos is one of them. "I am a curiosity now in Turkey," he said. "We used to be a minority; now we are a curiosity."

Stefanopoulos is an outspoken leader of Istanbul's Greek community. About 50 years ago, that community numbered more than 100,000. Today, it's probably less than 3,000.

He insists that decline was not accidental. Instead, he blames the Turkish government. Decades ago, he said, they targeted ethnic Greeks with nationalist policies, like wealth taxes, property seizures, and campaigns to speak only Turkish in the streets.

Then there was the pogrom in 1955: riots directed against Greeks and Greek-owned property. The violence was later found to have been orchestrated by Turkish authorities.

As a result, Greeks left Istanbul in droves. "The Turkish government somehow managed to do a bloodless ethnic cleansing," Stefanopoulos said. Today's Turkish government says those events are from the distant past, and they're now looking ahead to reconciliation.

"Turkey is going through a period of transition," said Egemen

Bagis, the country's Minister for European Union Affairs. "Turkey's becoming a much more democratic, much more prosperous, much more transparent society."

Yet, the government has resisted calls to reopen the patriarchate's main school of theology.

For more than a century, the Halki seminary educated future Greek Orthodox bishops, theologians and patriarchs, until Turkey's highest court ordered it closed in 1971. Since then, it's remained empty, worrying former students like theologian Satirios Varnalidis.

"We want to reopen this school so that we can provide new priests to the Ecumenical Patriarchate," Varnalidis said. "Otherwise, in a little while our community just won't have any more priests."

For years, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has talked of reopening the school. Bagis insists the government is still working on it.

Despite these difficulties, Patriarch Bartholomew is heartened by new signs of hope that his community and his church will survive.

"We have many young people from Greece who want to come and be established in Turkey," he says. "This is an opposite current than before."

Haris Rigas is part of that trickle of fresh immigration, which offers perhaps the best hope of reviving Istanbul's Greek community. "The minute I came I was in love with the city and felt that I had to live here," he said.

Rigas has been studying the city's

indigenous Greek community. He's also a musician in a band that plays Rembetiko, a genre of old, mostly Greek, folk songs. His studies and his music are focused on the preservation and promotion of Greek culture.

"The only way for the community to survive is to attain a degree of visibility," he said. "They've played an important historical role in this city throughout the centuries, and I think they should still do it."

Earlier this month, the Turkish state and the Ecumenical Patriarchate made a historic step towards reconciliation.

Thousands of Orthodox Christians gathered for a prayer service at the ancient cliffside monastery of Sumela, near Turkey's Black Sea Coast, on August 15. Patriarch Bartholomew conducted a divine liturgy, the first Christian service of its kind at Sumela, in more than 80 years.

Even if Istanbul's Greek community makes a comeback, some fear that the patriarchate itself may not last much longer, due to demographics and lingering suspicion from the Turkish government.

And the patriarch remains hopeful and resolute. He rejects conjecture that he could be the last Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.

"Absolutely not," Bartholomew insists. "We trust a divine providence, and the guarantee given to us by our Lord himself, that the church can survive."

"This is our faith, this is our conviction, this is our hope, this is our prayer. And all the rest we leave at the hands of God." ■

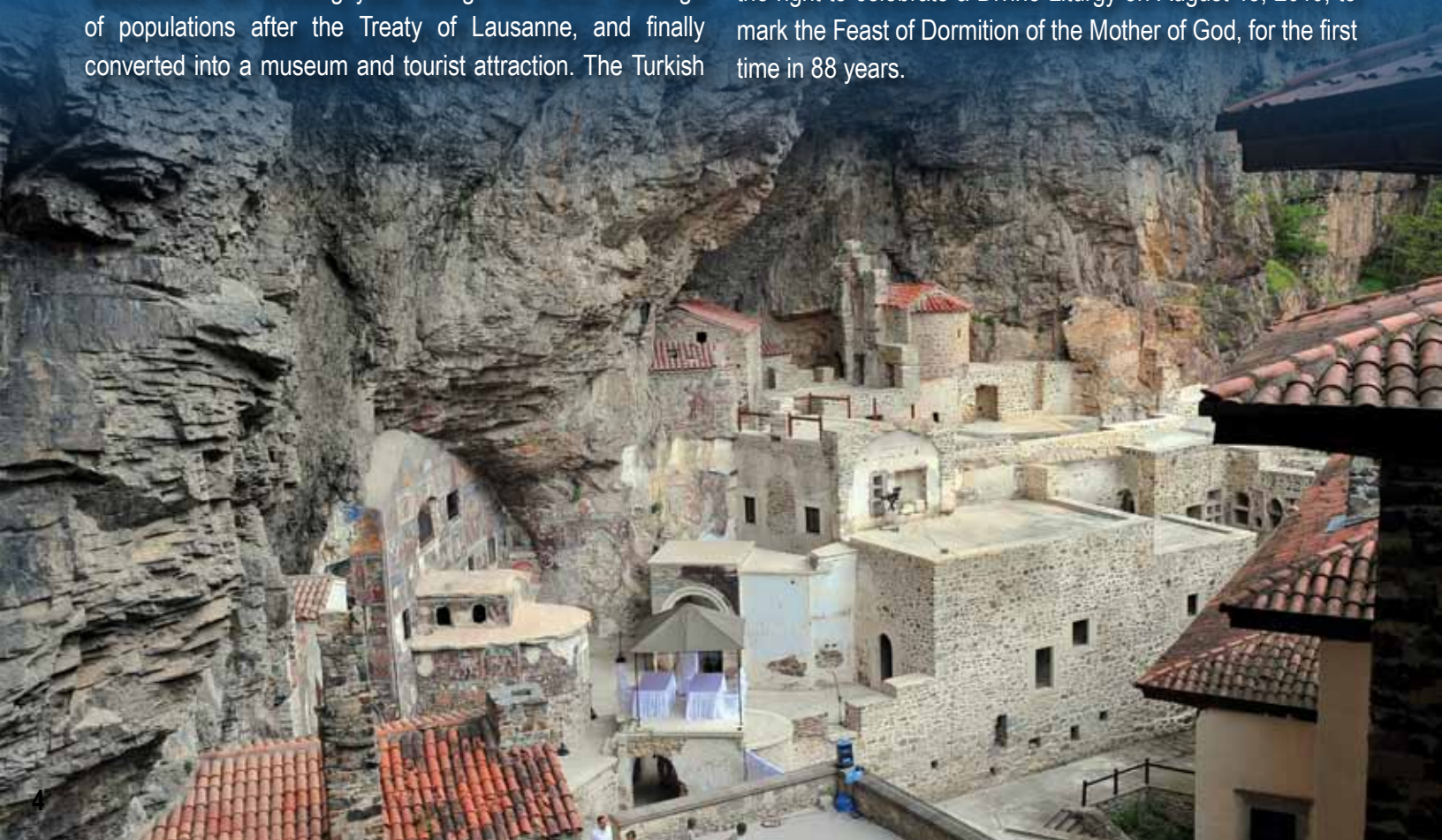


THE ANCIENT MONASTERY OF PANAGIA SOUMELA

The historic Monastery of Panagia Soumela in Trapezounda stands at the foot of a cliff - with parts constructed in the rock - facing the Altindere Valley in the Macka region of Trabzon Province, Turkey. The monastery was founded in the year 386 AD during the reign of Theodosius the Great. It gained wide prominence and imperial protection in the 13th-14th centuries. Over the centuries, the monastery fell into ruin several times, was restored by various Emperors, and seized by the Russian Empire during the occupation of Trabzon in the years 1916-1918. The site was destroyed by the Neo-Turks in 1922, abandoned the following year during the forced exchange of populations after the Treaty of Lausanne, and finally converted into a museum and tourist attraction. The Turkish



Government recently granted the Ecumenical Patriarchate the right to celebrate a Divine Liturgy on August 15, 2010, to mark the Feast of Dormition of the Mother of God, for the first time in 88 years.





An estimated 15,000 faithful climbed the mountain where the Soumela Monastery stands, perched on a cliff. Those who were unable to climb the mountain due to lack of space, followed the ceremony on two giant screens at the foot of the valley. At the beginning of the Liturgy, His All Holiness exclaimed, "Dear friends, now is a great moment for the Church of Constantinople. Thanks to the courtesy of the Turkish government, to which we are grateful, after 88 years of lethargy we can all celebrate together, coming from Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and the rest of the world, the Dormition of our Lady." His All Holiness concluded, "Let us pray that Our Lady of Soumela become the guarantor of the peaceful coexistence of the two peoples, Christians and Muslims who now gather on this sacred place. A place of pilgrimage for Christians and Turks. And this our pilgrimage to become a bridge between the two peoples. Today we can truly say that the Black Sea is once again the Good Sea".

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS AND N. MANGINAS

View photos and the video from the celebration on ► patriarchate.org

Archons prepare itinerary for November's International Conference



A two day conference bringing together scholars, religious freedom and human rights advocates, journalists, diplomats, parliamentarians, religious leaders, representatives of the Government of Turkey, lawyers and members of minority communities that will focus on religious freedom, Turkey's bridge to the European Union. Speakers will analyze the issues faced by and concerns of religious minorities in Turkey and propose answers. The conference is sponsored by the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America and the Pammakaristos Brotherhood of Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Europe, in cooperation with the Patriarchal Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union.

On July 18, several members of the Order of Saint Andrew traveled to Brussels, Belgium, to meet with key individuals preparing the itinerary and scheduling for the International Archon Religious Freedom Conference, slated to take place November 16-17, 2010. Archons traveling included National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD; Father Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor; Archon Alexander Pritsos, Sergeant at Arms; and Archon George Rockas, Planning Committee Chairman.

The following month, Archon Dr. John Bailey, Chancellor of the American College of Greece, who was appointed by Archon Odysseus F. Sassayiannis, President of the Archon Pammakaristos Brotherhood of Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, met with the National Council's Executive Committee on August 5, in New York, NY. A working luncheon was held at the Central Park Boathouse to discuss how to organize Archons in Europe in pursuit of Religious Freedom and how they can work closer together for the upcoming conference.



Learn more at ► archons.org/conference

[Top] Advance Team members meet with Mr. Robert J. Faucher, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy Brussels, during their trip to Brussels.

[Bottom] Executive Committee members with Archon Bailey of Athens, Greece, representing the Archons of Europe, during a working luncheon included National Commander Limberakis; National Secretary John Halecky, Jr.; National Treasurer James C. Fountas; and Sergeant at Arms Alex Pritsos. Archon Dean Poll who hosted the meeting at the Boathouse Restaurant also participated in the meeting.



INTERNATIONAL
**ARCHON
RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM**
CONFERENCE

November 16–17, 2010
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

DISTINGUISHED CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS OF AMERICA • Primate, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
METROPOLITAN EMMANUEL OF FRANCE • Director, Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the E.U.
MUSTAFA AKYOL • Journalist and Political Commentator, Istanbul, Turkey
ORHAN KEMAL CENGIZ • Lawyer, Human Rights Defender, Newspaper Columnist, Izmir, Turkey
COLE DURHAM • Susan Young Gates University Professor of Law and Director, Provo, Utah
DR. STEVEN EALY • Senior Fellow, Liberty Fund, Indianapolis, Indiana
MARIO MAURO • Member and Former Vice President European Parliament, Italy
MUNA B. NDULO • Professor of Law, Cornell Law School, Ithaca, New York
DR. OTMAR OEHRING • Director, Human Rights Office, Missio Society, Germany
PETER OMTZIGT • Minister, Council of Europe, Netherlands
GREGOR PUPPINCK • PhD, Director, European Center of Law of Justice, Strasbourg, France
DR. BICAN SAHIN • Assistant Professor, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey
RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER • President of Appeal of Conscience Foundation, New York, New York
JAY SEKULOW • Chief Counsel, ACLJ, Washington, D.C. and ECLJ, Strasbourg, France
JAMES J. SILK • Clinical Professor of Law, Director, Orville H. Schell Jr. Center for International Human Rights, Yale Law School
DR. RENATE SOMMER • Member of the European Parliament, Germany
KONRAD SZYMANSKI • Member, European Parliament, Poland
RIZA TURMEN • Former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, from Turkey
ANGELA WU • International Law Director, Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, Washington, D.C.
DR. ATILLA YAYLA • University Professor and President, Association of Liberal Thinking, Ankara, Turkey

CONFERENCE TOPICS

DAY ONE: THE BRIDGE

Religious Freedom: The Fundamental Human Right

An Overview of the Issues and concerns of Religious Minorities in Turkey

The Specific Religious Freedom Issues and Concerns of the Following Religious Minorities: (1) Alevi Muslim; (2) Armenian; (3) Catholic; (4) Greek Orthodox; (5) Jewish; (6) Protestant; and (7) Syriac – *A Panel Discussion*

The Rights of Religious Minorities under the Turkish Legal System

Turkey's obligations under Treaties and Conventions

The Mindset that creates obstacles to Religious Freedom

Commentary, Government of Turkey on Religious Minority Issues

Religious Freedom: Legal and Humanitarian Perspectives

DAY TWO: CROSSING OVER

Commentary on Religious Freedom

The View from the Turkish Side of the Bridge: Obstacles and Prospects

Are Religious Minorities compatible with a Secular Turkish State?

The view from the European Parliamentarians' side of the Bridge

The Positive Role of the AK Party in Securing Change for Religious Minorities

Case Law from the European Court of Human Rights dealing with Religious Freedom Issues

Finding Answers in International Forums, including the European Court of Human Rights

Symposium - Interactive Dialogue regarding Religious Freedom in Turkey



[Top] Advance Team members, led by His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, meet with His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and Greece during their visit to Belgium. [Middle] Father Karloutsos and National Commander Limberakis with Emma Hannah, Political Officer of the U.S. Consulate. [Bottom] National Commander Limberakis speaking with Archon Dr. John Bailey.

De-crucifying Turkey's Christians

A little more than a year ago, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, made the headlines for saying that he feels “crucified” in Turkey. Many Turks had reacted to this statement then, arguing all was just fine for the Patriarchate. But His All Holiness was right to complain, and Turkey certainly needed to take steps to advance religious freedom -- such as the one it took last Sunday.

I am referring to the Christian mass celebrated in the ancient of Sumela Monastery, in north-eastern Turkey, a little outside the city of Trabzon. Thousands of Orthodox Christians from Russia, Greece, Georgia and the United States joined the historic worship, led by Bartholomew I himself. “Those who believe in Christ are celebrating today,” said the 70-year-old patriarch. “Now is a great moment for the church of Constantinople.”

Enter 1922

It was such a great moment, for the Sumela Monastery had been closed to worship for a long time. The ecumenical patriarch marked the exact date, by noting, “after 88 years of lethargy we can all celebrate together.”

But what had exactly happened 88 years ago, in 1922?

Well, that was the year that the Ottoman monarchy, the protectorate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate since the mid-15th century, was abolished by

Mustafa Kemal, Turkey's new leader. It was also the year of the Treaty of Lausanne that Turkey signed with the British to define the borders and the tenets of the Republican regime that would be announced a year later.

One of the clauses of the treaty was about a “population exchange” with Greece. Accordingly, with the exception of Istanbul and Western Thrace, Greeks in Turkey and Turks in Greece would be “replaced” with each other. Trabzon (then “Trebizond”) was one of the settings for this enforced exodus. British journalist Bruce Clark explores this little-known history in his excellent book, “Twice A Stranger: How Mass Expulsion Forged Modern Greece and Turkey.” In early January 1923, Clark notes, “most of the Orthodox Christian families who still lived in [Trebizond] were told they must leave within an hour, bring whatever they could carry, and gather near the harbor.”

That's how the diverse Trebizond suddenly became the all-Turkish Trabzon -- a background which might perhaps partly explain why the city has been a notorious crucible of nationalism. Consequently, Christian sanctuaries were deserted, and the most important of them, the Sumela Monastery, was soon converted into a “museum.”

As a believer in religious freedom and diversity, I feel certainly sad about this tragic end to the Greek Orthodox presence

in Trabzon, and, actually, all of Anatolia. But I can also understand it, for it was a reaction to the invasion of Western Anatolia in 1919 by Greece, against which Turkey waged its perilous War of Liberation. That was a time of crisis, which replaced six-century-old Ottoman pluralism with nationalist monism.

What I don't understand, though, is the dogmatic preservation of that phobia of the Greeks, and other Christians, to date. Their situation should have gone better, whereas it got only worse throughout the 20th century. In 1971, the Greek Orthodox seminary on the island of Heybeliada (Halki) was closed down by the military-dominated government of the time. In the 1990s, Turkish nationalists, official or civil, even started to lash out against the “ecumenical” title of Patriarchate, saying that it implies a “universal” authority, which surpasses that of the Turkish state. (Whereas the Patriarchate's title should be nobody's business except the Patriarchate itself.)

Ottoman wisdom

Today, what is ironic is the nature of the opposing camps on the Turkish side: Those who keep fueling paranoia against the Christians are often the secular nationalists, who take inspiration from the arch-secularist Mustafa Kemal. Those who are more tolerant on this matter are often the so-called “Islamists,” who take inspiration from the

Islamic Ottoman Empire.

I called this “ironic,” but maybe it isn't. History, after all, shows that the Ecumenical Patriarchate had the darkest of its times during the Kemalist Republic. On the other hand, both the pre-Kemalist Ottoman centuries, and the emerging post-Kemalist future, look much brighter.

For a careful eye, that was evident in Bartholomew I's address at Sumela. He blessed “the souls of the Ottoman sultans,” who “over the centuries helped the monastery of Our Lady.” And he expressed gratitude to “the courtesy of the Turkish government,” which is, as you know, run by the “Islamist” party of Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan.

The next day, Erdogan took another good step, by publicly supporting the Patriarchate, blaming its opponents for paranoia, and praising religious freedom. He also advised the nationalists to “open up Ottoman history and read.”

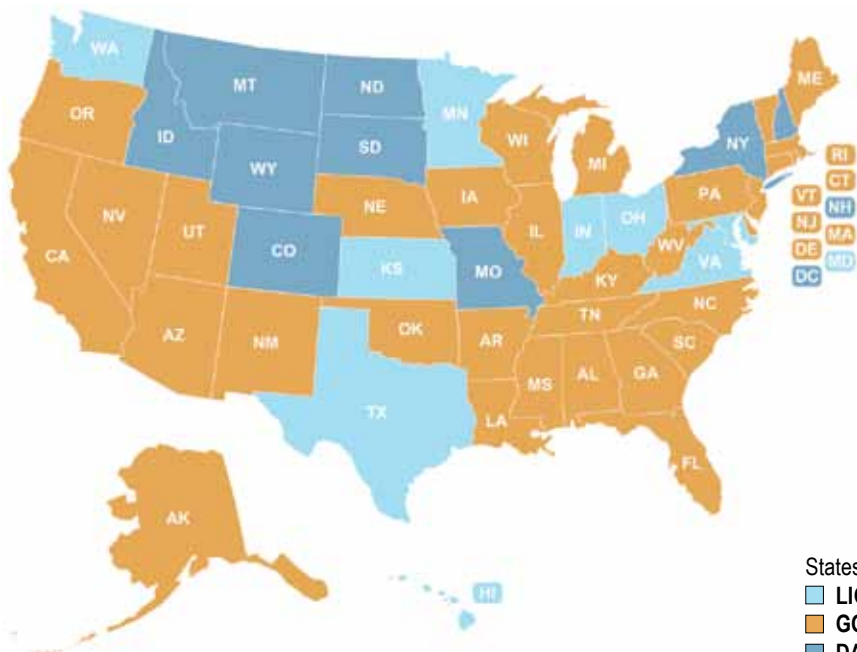
Good job. But Erdogan should not confine himself with Sumela, and move on to solve other problems of Turkey's Christians, beginning with the re-opening of the Halki Seminary.

He should, in other words, de-crucify all the followers of Christ in this country. They have suffered enough. ■

U.S. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTION

37 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN 32 STATES

UPDATE



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.

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.

NORTH CAROLINA

Adopted on 6/28/2010
 Sen. Bob Rucho

Thanks to the efforts of Senator Bob Rucho, Archon Regional Commander Tommy Cavalaris and Archons Sam Kleto, Gerry Clonaris, Constantine Vrettos and Gus Kazakos, the North Carolina state Senate on June 28 adopted a Letter of Resolution in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

All 50 senators signed on in support. As was true in our Connecticut effort, this was a labor intensive endeavor that would not have moved forward without the total commitment of Senator Rucho.

TAKE ACTION

 for your State to pass a Resolution for Religious Freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate!

Contact Archon Stephen Georgeson, National Coordinator for the State Resolutions Project
 spgeorgeson@yahoo.com

ANCHORAGE, AK

Alaska State Senator Kevin Meyer (right) presented a framed copy of the Religious Freedom Resolution he sponsored and which was adopted unanimously by both houses of the State Legislature earlier this year to Fr. Leo Schefe (left), proistamemos of Anchorage's Holy Transfiguration Church. Also participating in the presentation during the parish Greek Festival in August were former Parish Council President Vasilios (Bill) Copadis and his daughter Kimberly Copadis who used to work for Sen. Meyer. They played a major role in getting the resolution, calling for the Turkish government to allow Religious Freedom and Human Rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, adopted. In turn, the parish presented Sen. Meyer with a copy of the famous painting "The Secret School" by Nikolaos Gyzis. Alaska is one of 32 states so far to adopt such a resolution as part of the Religious Freedom Project.



DIANE PRIMIS

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


ARCHON FAMILY RECEPTION

SUPPORT
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
for the Mother Church

The Order of Saint Andrew has recently implemented an online donation feature onto its website using the secure web service Network for Good. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support The Order's efforts in securing religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

*Exarch's Appeal
General Donations
Religious Freedom Donations*

MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

archons.org/donate 

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc., is a tax exempt organization under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are deductible to the extent provided by the law.



Archons Emanuel Demos, Gus Stavropoulos, Lou Kircos, and Dr. Harry N. Kotsis.



Archons Ted Klingos, Larry Hotzoglou, Archon Nick Carras with his wife, Marie, and Gus Malios.



Archons Nick Farris, Charles Masterpolis, and George Donkar.

“Gather My People to My Home Come and See”

ATLANTA, GEORGIA



On Sunday, July 4, 2010, the Archon Family Reception was held at the 40th Clergy-Laity Congress in Atlanta, GA. Members of the National Council made a special presentation of a statue of George Washington to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

ALL PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



Archon Stephen Georgeson, Regional Commander John C. Scurtis, Reception Chairman, National Commander Limberakis, Mrs. Cary Limberakis, Mrs. Nick Loutsion, Mrs. Dolly Demetris, Reginal Commander Dr. Cary Limberakis, and Archon Charles Masterpolis.



Archbishop Demetrios, National Council members, along with Archon Family Reception chairman John C. Scurtis (far right), honor His Eminence Archbishop Irenaios of Crete, the Patriarchal Representative, with a commemorative gift.



Archons gathered together with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston (seated).



On July 7, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis MD presented the Archon Religious Freedom which outlined the religious freedom crisis that the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

J. MINDALA



REGIONAL NEWS

Archon Tzakis, of University of Miami, awarded Honorary Degree

ATHENS, GREECE

Archon Andreas G. Tzakis, M.D., Ph.D., professor of surgery and Director of the Liver/GI Transplant Program at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, received a Doctor of Science honoris caus from Deree, The American College of Greece during commencement on June 26, 2010 in Athens.

Archon Tzakis was accompanied by his koumbaro Archon John Scurtis, Regional Commander of South Florida. Coincidentally, Archon John's daughter Anastasia also attended Deree.

Each year the institution selects honorary degree recipients who have contributed significantly to their field of expertise. Previous recipients include notables: His Eminence



[L-R] Archon Dr. Andreas G. Tzakis; David G. Horner, President of the American College of Greece; and Archon Regional Commander of FL John C. Scurtis.

Archbishop Demetrios of America, US Senators George Mitchell and Olympia Snowe. The American College of Greece was founded in 1875 and is Europe's oldest and largest U.S. accredited academic institution.

A native of Greece, Archon Tzakis is world renowned and best acknowledged for his work in intestinal and multivisceral organ transplantation and has pioneered many techniques in pediatric and adult abdominal transplant procedures.

Upon receiving his degree, Archon Tzakis said "I am humbled and honored to be added to the impressive list of recipients of this Honorary Degree at the American College of Greece. The American College has a long tradition of excellence and has educated thousands of students in Greece, including members of my family. This honor is truly special". ■



Archon Andreas G. Tzakis receives a Doctor of Science honoris caus from Deree, the American College of Greece in Athens.

PHOTO BRIEFS



On August 25, U.S. Senator Bob Casey of PA met with Archons at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to discuss issues pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, religious freedom issues in Turkey, and the rebuilding efforts of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at Ground Zero. Attending the meeting were Bishop Andonios, Chancellor; Father Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor; Father Mark Arey; National Commander Limberakis; Archons Michael Jaharis, John Catsimatidis, and Dennis Mehiel and also Michael Karloutsos.

J. MINDALA



On July 18, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was officially received by the President of Bulgaria, Georgi Purvanov, at the Presidential Palace in Sofia. During their discussions, President Purvanov expressed his full support for the reopening of the Theological School of Halki.

N. MANGINAS



On June 28, renowned Hollywood actor Jim Belushi visited the Phanar with his family to receive the blessing of His All Holiness. Belushi and his children are Albanian Orthodox Christians.

N. MANGINAS

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