

Defenders of the Faith

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

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 Annual Report is published annually by the Order of Saint Andrew Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. © 2010

John J. Mindala II
Editor & Graphic Designer

Order of Saint Andrew
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
8 E. 79th St. New York, NY 10075-0106

P] 212 570 3550 F] 212 774 0214
E] archons@goarch.org

His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Rev. Alexander Karoutsos
Spiritual Advisor

Executive Committee
Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D.,
Aktouarios, National Commander

Nicholas J. Bouras, Depoutalos
National Vice Commander

John Halecky, Jr., Ekdikos
Secretary

James C. Fountas, Depoutalos
Treasurer

Functionaries
Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Notarios
Legal Counselor

Christo Daphnides, Kastirios
Historian

Alexander Pitsos, Hieromonimon
Sergeant-at-Arms

Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA
Dikaiophylax
Assistant Treasurer

Stay Connected!



www.patriarchate.org



www.goarch.org



www.archons.org



Become a Fan of our page!
facebook.com/OrderStAndrew



Become a Follower!
twitter.com/OrderStAndrew



Watch our channel!
youtube.com/OrderStAndrew



View our Photostream!
flickr.com/OrderStAndrew

SUPPORT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR THE MOTHER CHURCH!

Make an online donation at
archons.org/donate

Photos by: N. Manginas, D. Panagos
and J. Mindala

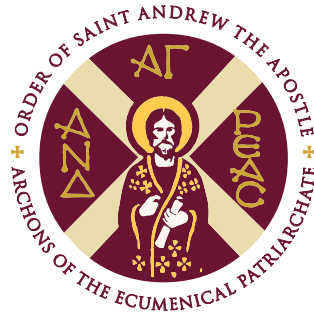
*With profound respect,
the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
offer this Annual Report to our spiritual father,
His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew;
his Exarch in the United States, Archbishop Demetrios of America;
the Metropolitans and Orthodox Hierarchy in America;
the clergy, the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

*Respectfully Submitted,
In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate*

Anthony Limberakis, MD

*Archon Aktouarios
National Commander
October 10, 2010*

ON THE COVER: His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew blesses the hierarchs, clergy and faithful with a hand cross that was presented to him by The Order of Saint Andrew during his Apostolic Visit to the United States at the Archon Grand Banquet held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on Saturday, October 31, 2009. (Photo by J. Mindala)



Defenders of the Faith

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

CONGRATULATORY LETTER

from His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

LETTER OF GREETING

from His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Religious Freedom Mission
of the Order of Saint Andrew
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

by National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D.



✠ BARTHOLOMEW, BY THE MERCY OF GOD, ARCHBISHOP OF
CONSTANTINOPLE, NEW ROME AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

The Honorable Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate serving in America, our beloved in the Lord: Grace be to you and peace from God.

It is our paternal joy to address this Patriarchal Letter on the occasion of your Annual Meeting and the official presentation of the Annual Report of the Order of St. Andrew for the calendar year 2010.

Once again, we would like to extend to you our sincerest and wholehearted congratulations on all that you have achieved in support of the Mother Church as well as to express our fervent and paternal appreciation for your tireless struggles for the Holy Church of Christ through your service within the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Your dedication is truly admirable and your devotion is exemplary.

As we reflect on the numerous initiatives of the Order of St. Andrew over this past year, our heart is filled with gratitude and glory to God for the diverse ways that you have upheld the name and honor of the Mother Church of Constantinople, soothing its pain and lightening its burden as She has continued to lead the Orthodox Church throughout the world in challenging times.

Beyond the numerous services that you provide both visibly and invisibly, tangibly and silently, we are especially indebted to you for your generous and manifold support to the Mother Church through such pioneer events such as the "60 Minutes" program and your "50 State Religious Freedom Initiative," your diverse conferences and lectures, as well as your magnanimous benefactions to various institutions of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Therefore, beloved children in the Lord, we warmly invoke upon all of you every blessing and strength from St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle in order that you might continue to serve the holy Great Church of Christ with your characteristic commitment and diligence.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the 13th of October 2010

Your fervent suppliant before God,

✠ BARTHOLOMEW
Archbishop of Constantinople,
New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

October 29, 2010

Dr. Anthony Limberakis
Supreme Commander
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
Order of Saint Andrew
8 East 79th Street
New York, New York 10075-01006

Dear Dr. Limberakis, Esteemed Members of the National Council, and Beloved Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew,

It is with particular joy that I extend to you my greetings and heartfelt best wishes as you convene the annual meeting of the *Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew*.

Your concerted effort to contribute to the progress of the Church and your steadfastness as supporters of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople serve as vibrant witness and testimony to Orthodoxy and to our sacred calling as Orthodox Christians. It is this initiative to guard the Orthodox faith, to serve as a bearer and witness of the Divine Truth, and messenger of the Gospel of love and salvation that has earned each of you the title, *Archon of the Great Church of Christ*.

During the past year, you, the *defenders of the faith*, have succeeded in securing the adoption of 37 religious freedom resolutions in 32 state legislatures. You have completed the Religious Freedom Mission to the European Union and have immersed yourselves in the planning of the upcoming International Archon Religious Freedom Concert in Belgium. Your steadfastness has helped to bring to fruition the unanimous decision of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasburg that ruled Turkey must return the former Greek Orphanage in Buyukada Island to the Patriarchate.

I congratulate you for your achievements and pray that you will become further *united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind* (Philippians 2:2) as you work towards the growth and advancement of the apostolic mission of the Holy Mother Church.

I pray for Godspeed and inspiration in your deliberations and for His infinite grace upon our Church and your important work.

With love and esteem in Christ,

† DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America



ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW
ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
Defenders of the Faith

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

Religious freedom does not exist in Turkey, although the Order is optimistic that the atmosphere is changing and that there will be fundamental improvement in the very near future. In 2010 the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom placed Turkey on its “Watch List” because of its ongoing religious freedom deficit. The official policies of the government of Turkey threaten the existence of the Holy See in its sacred location, despite its aspirations to join the European Union. In fact, the religious freedom deficit is Turkey’s greatest challenge to entry into the European Union. While the Order supports Turkey’s accession into the EU, we do so with the proviso that Turkey adopts the Copenhagen Criteria for human rights and harmonizes its laws with those of all the EU member states regarding religious freedom and human rights.

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

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

It must be reiterated that **the Order is currently witnessing an air of cautious optimism regarding Turkey’s religious freedom crisis and 2011 may be the breakout year for Turkey to demonstrate concrete actions to ameliorate these longstanding issues.**

At the time of printing of this Annual Report, reports were circulating that the government of Turkey was planning to officially return the previously confiscated Patriarchal Orphanage located on Buyukada Island (Prinkipos) to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and that the new Constitution

of Turkey is seeking to resolve long-standing problems with religious minorities.

The Order continues to execute a multifaceted domestic and international strategy that we advance consistently, systematically and assertively both in the United States and abroad to bring to the forefront the religious freedom deficit in Turkey.

Allow me to summarize the various activities that constitute the **overall Religious Freedom Project** undertaken by The Order. Archon John A. Catsimatidis, serves as Chairman of the Religious Freedom Committee which coordinates our comprehensive strategy.

International Archon
Religious Freedom Conference
European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

This major groundbreaking initiative under the guidance of Archbishop Demetrios of America and in cooperation with Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Director, The Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union and chaired by Archon George C. Rockas is scheduled for November 16 and 17, 2010 at the European Parliament. The two day conference entitled, **“Religious Freedom: Turkey’s Bridge to the European Union”** will bring 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. Speakers will analyze the issues faced by and concerns of religious minorities in Turkey and propose answers. His Excellency Egemen Bagis, Minister for E.U. Affairs and Chief Negotiator and Member of the Turkish Parliament, representing Istanbul is scheduled to represent the Government of Turkey at the conference. 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. Mr. Laki Vingas, a

faithful and dedicated son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate has offered indispensable guidance in the development of the Conference. Mr. Vingas serves as the officially elected representative of all religious minorities to the government of Turkey. The Conference also has served as an instrument to unite the Archons of Europe and the United States in our common mission to Defend the Mother Church. Under the leadership of Archon Odysseus F. Sassayiannis, President of the Pammakaristos Brotherhood of Archons of Europe, we look forward to developing further partnerships in serving the needs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Archon Washington Initiative

Regional Commander Archon Andrew E. Manatos and son Archon Mike Manatos and their public policy team coordinate the Archon Washington Initiative. Their work contributed to the extraordinary success of the 2009 Apostolic Visit of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States and specifically the Washington, DC presence of His All Holiness the highlights of which were as follows:

- The **Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate** and the **Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives**, jointly hosted a lunch for His All Holiness;
- **President Barack Obama** honored His All Holiness with a private meeting in the Oval Office of the White House;
- **Vice President Joe Biden** honored His All Holiness with a meeting and the first formal dinner he hosted at the Vice President's Residence;
- **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton** honored His All Holiness with a meeting and a large, formal dinner at the State Department;
- As well, the **U.S. Chief of Protocol, Capricia Marshall**, officially greeted and frequently interacted with His All Holiness throughout his stay in Washington from his official and formal arrival at Andrews Air Force Base.
- Major speeches presented at the **Brookings Institution with the help of Archon-elect Bill Antholis and at Georgetown University** in cooperation with **John Podesta and the Center for American Progress**

The Archon 50-State Plan to Enact Religious Freedom Resolutions

Archon Stephen Georgeson, Esq. is coordinating the *Archon State Legislative Religious Freedom Resolution Initiative* pro bono. The Order has identified Archons, clergy and key Orthodox Christians in all 50 states and has asked them to participate in local campaigns to enact Religious Freedom Resolutions in their state legislatures under the coordination of Archon Georgeson. Thus far, **37 Religious Freedom Resolutions have been adopted in 32 states**, including the most populous state in the Union, California. Since the last Annual Report, eight more states have been added to the list of those which have enacted religious Freedom Resolutions. These Resolutions ultimately will be presented to the government of Turkey as documentary evidence reflecting the highest priority America places on religious freedom and human rights. The Order congratulates and expresses its appreciation to Archon Georgeson and his team as they proceed state by state to secure Religious Freedom Resolutions.

The Archon European Union Initiative

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

Since our last Annual Report, the Order has made one Religious Freedom Mission to the EU led by Archon Ambassador George L. Argyros and the National Commander January 27 through February 8, 2010. Archon Argyros served as the United States ambassador to Spain during the presidency of George W. Bush. Together with Archons Argyros and Limberakis, the delegation also included Archon Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Legal Counselor; Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor; and Mr. Robert Lapsely, former assistant Secretary of State for California.

The delegation visited Spain during its EU presidency; traveled to Brussels the EU headquarters to meet with various key EU officials and then concluded the mission in Athens, Greece meeting with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

The Archon visits in the international arena make a very powerful statement in the advocacy of religious freedom when volunteers leave their families, businesses and security of the

United States to travel abroad to seek fundamental human rights and religious freedom for the Spiritual Center of our deep seated Orthodox faith.

The Archon OSCE Religious Freedom Initiative

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is the world's largest regional security organization whose 56 participating States, including the United States and Turkey, span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Every year the OSCE, whose Human Rights Division is headquartered in Warsaw, Poland conducts annual human rights meetings (The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting) where representatives from Member States and NGO's (non-governmental organizations) gather to discuss human rights issues. Since 2005 the Order has sent representatives to these meetings where Archons have offered compelling Religious Freedom presentations before the Member States. The highly effective and informative presentations in September and October 2010 by Archon Theofanis V. Economidis and Archon Achilles G. Adamantiades, PhD in Warsaw resulted in positive reactions from other Member States, including Turkey.

The Archon Legal Initiative

Despite the ongoing domestic and international diplomatic and political initiatives that are being conducted, it may take actual judicial action to force Turkey to change its asphyxiating policies that threaten the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archon Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis

leads a team of top Archon attorneys in the United States, including Emanuel G. Demos, George C. Rockas, John Zavitsanos and Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis. The charge of the Archon Legal Committee is to develop a juridical strategy to redress the religious freedom and human rights issues confronting the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Most of the year the committee concentrated on the organization and development of the International Archon Religious Freedom Conference.

The unanimous, 7-0 decision (July 2008) of the European Court of Court of Human Rights and the June 15, 2010 ECtHR decision requiring Turkey to return the illegally confiscated Patriarchal Orphanage in Buyukada was a major victory in the struggle for religious freedom. His All Holiness announced last November at the Brookings Institution that the Patriarchal Orphanage will be developed into an International Center for Peace and the Environment.

A number of other actions are being considered in the judicial arena to secure religious freedom for the Mother Church.

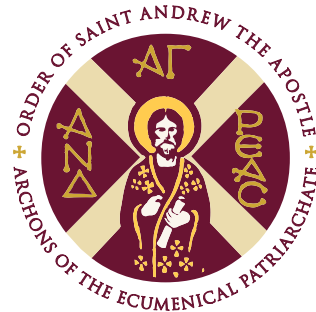
Establishment of the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship

In honor of the extraordinary and incomparable Archon Stewardship Vice Commander Archon Depoutatos Nicholas J. Bouras has demonstrated over the many years of his leadership within the Order, the National Council unanimously voted to establish an award in his honor. The Award will be presented in 2011. The Award Committee chaired by Archon George Safiol is currently reviewing Archon nominations.

Respectfully Submitted,
In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



Archon Aktouarios
National Commander
October 10, 2010

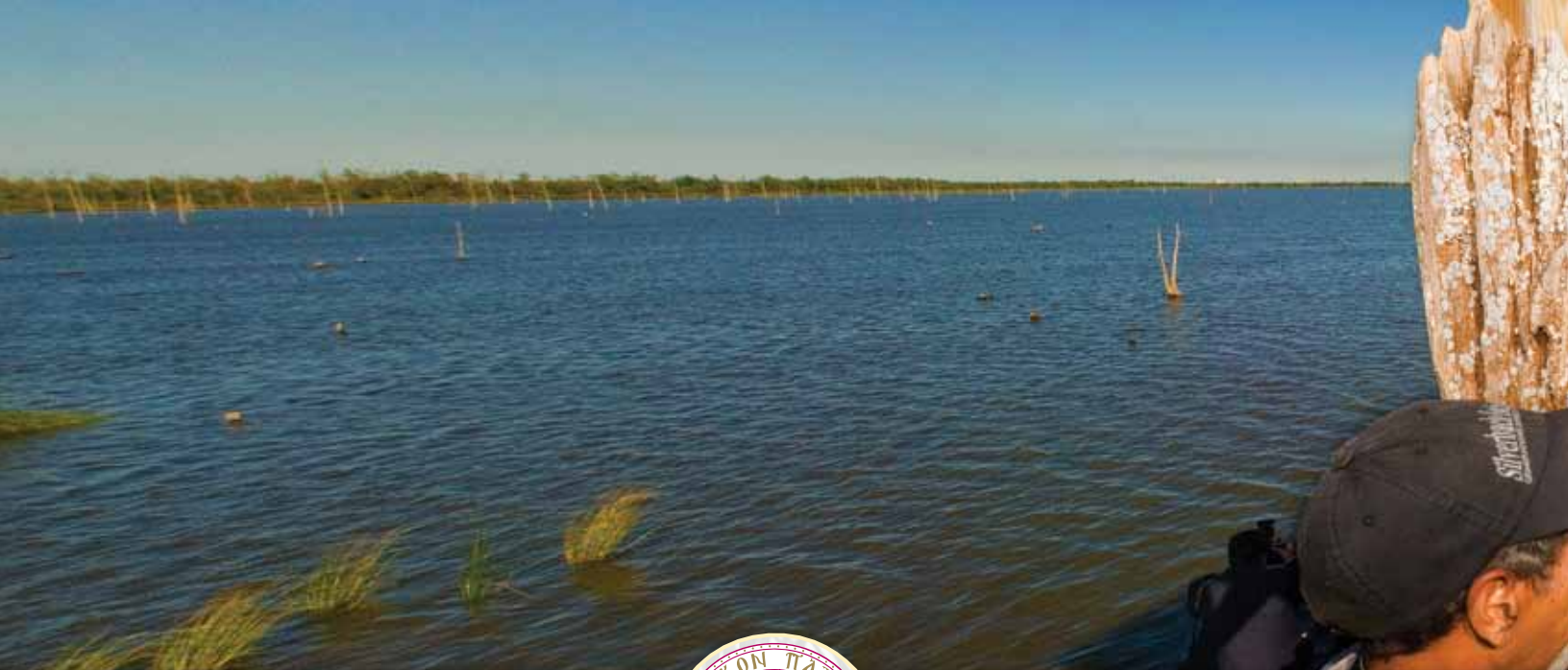


Defenders of the Faith

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR IN REVIEW

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



ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW



APOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

NEW ORLEANS · NEW YORK

ATLANTA · WASHINGTON D.C.



OCT 2009
20

His All Holiness leads Environmental Symposium in New Orleans; blesses the waters of the Mississippi River



OCT 2009
22

His All Holiness meets with Christian Leaders of the New Orleans community; offers support and prayers towards rebuilding



OCT 2009
28

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomes His All Holiness to the United Nations; discuss climate change, environmental concerns



OCT 2009
28

His All Holiness meets with former U.S. President Bill Clinton at Waldorf-Astoria during New York visit



OCT 2009
23

His All Holiness revisits the New Orleans 9th Ward District ravaged by Hurricane Katrina; greeted by Mayor, local officials



OCT 2009
30

President and CEO Muhtar Kent welcomes His All Holiness to Coca-Cola National Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia



NOV 2009
2

Annapolis' Saints Constantine and Helen Church offers warm welcome to His All Holiness, holds Doxology service



A special 52-page commemorative edition of *The Archon* Newsletter was issued in Nov-Dec 2009 and outlined the Ecumenical Patriarch's historic visit to the United States. Read this issue online at: archons.org/newsletter



NOV 2009
2

His All Holiness arrives at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington D.C.; greeted by U.S. Chief of Protocol, Capricia Penavic Marshall



Grand Banquet honors the Ecumenical Patriarch

National Commander Limberakis becomes surprised Athenagoras Award Recipient

The environmental accomplishments of His All Holiness are without parallel. His All Holiness Bartholomew time and again, has called upon humankind to respect God's creation, especially the great waters of the earth; whether on the ice caps of the Arctic Glaciers or on the Amazon River deep within South America's rainforest or most recently from the banks of the mighty Mississippi. His work in this regard is legendary and has earned him worldwide accolades and recognition as the leading environmentalist among the great religious leaders of all time.

—Excerpt from the remarks of National Commander Limberakis at the Archon Grand Banquet, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel

NEW YORK, NY

During his Apostolic visit to the United States, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew described the moment as a "Patriarchal Privilege" and surprised the nearly 1,200 guests by honoring Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew, with the Athenagoras Human Rights Award. Dr. Limberakis became the 24th recipient of the Award and was honored for his leadership role to the Order and for his untiring devotion, love, and support to the Mother Church of Constantinople.

The evening's festivities, however, centered on honoring the achievements of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians. Limberakis introduced a video tribute on the accomplishments of His All Holiness. At the conclusion of the video, members of the National Council's Executive Committee through the hands of the Exarch, Archbishop Demetrios, presented His All Holiness with a hand cross which was created by Pamela James, beloved niece of Archon Bouras. The cross was crafted in silver and gold and modeled after the cross Archons are bestowed at their investiture.

The Ecumenical Patriarch later presented the National Commander with the Athenagoras Award to conclude the evening saying, "As your



National Commander Limberakis becomes the 2009 Athenagoras Human Rights Award recipient.

Ecumenical Patriarch and spiritual father, we take this moment of personal and indeed Patriarchal privilege, to reinstate the normal tradition this evening. And we call the National Commander, Dr. Anthony Limberakis -- Archon Aktouarios of the Holy and Great Church of Christ, to receive from our hands the Athenagoras Human Rights Award, in recognition of his unceasing advocacy and continuous labors on behalf of the religious liberty of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the most basic human rights, so that we may fulfill our spiritual mission to the Church and to the world." ■



27 New Archons invested at Holy Trinity Cathedral

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew presides, assisted by Archbishop Demetrios

“The Archons have brought to light the injustices with regard to our freedom of religion, while at the same time supporting in diverse ways the extensive ministry of the Mother Church....You are distinguished supporters of the historical, spiritual, theological, and cultural treasures of the Church of Constantinople, which you defend so firmly, which you endorse so eloquently, which you sustain so generously, and which you embrace so warmly. It is precisely for this reason that a distinct and proper title has been personally bestowed upon each of you by us as the Ecumenical Patriarch. It is an honor that you richly deserve.”

—Excerpt from the Investiture remarks of His All Holiness, Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity



NEW YORK, NY

On Sunday, Nov. 1, His All Holiness presided, assisted by Archbishop Demetrios, at the Investiture of twenty-seven new Archons from throughout the United States, following the Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. During the solemn Archon Investiture service, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew pre-

sented each Archon with the Cross of St. Andrew along with the official Patriarchal Certificate specifying the offikion designated for each Archon. Concelebrating hierarchs included His Eminence Geron Metropolitan Athanasios of Chalcedon; His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France; His Eminence Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea; and all the members of the Holy Eparchial Synod. ■



Ecumenical Patriarch's visit to Washington generates legislation

WASHINGTON D.C.

Some of the most influential United States Senators introduced legislation calling on Turkey to reopen the Ecumenical Patriarch's theological school of Halki, "without condition or further delay" and to "address other long-standing concerns relating to the Ecumenical Patriarchate."

"The Executive and Legislative branches of Washington are still reverberating from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's extraordinary impact. We anticipate additional proactive steps to be taken by top U.S. policy makers in the weeks ahead," said Archon Regional Commander Andrew Manatos, Chairman of the 2009 Visit of the Ecumenical Patriarch to Washington, DC and President of CEH.

While in Washington during the first week of November, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew held in-depth discussions with President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), as well as numerous other key Senators, Members of Congress and Administration officials.

The key U.S. Senators who introduced this legislation, S. Res. 356 included:

- The Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD);
- The Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, Senator Harry Reid (D-NV);
- The Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's European Affairs Subcommittee, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH);
- Former Senate Foreign Relations Committee Member and highly-regarded leader on Hellenic and Orthodox issues, Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME);
- The Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's International Development and Foreign Assistance Subcommittee and member of the Senate Leadership, Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ); and
- A leader in the U.S. Senate for religious freedom and member of the influential Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS). ■

[Above] Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and President Barack Obama spoke about the Halki Orthodox Theological Seminary during their conversation held in the Oval Office at the White House on November 3, 2009.

Senate Resolution 356: Calling upon the Government of Turkey to Facilitate the Reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. Brownback, Mr. Reid, Mrs. Shaheen, Ms. Snowe, and Mr. Menendez) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 356

Whereas the Ecumenical Patriarchate is an institution with a history spanning 17 centuries, serving as the center of the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the world;

Whereas the Ecumenical Patriarchate sits at the crossroads of East and West, offering a unique perspective on the religions and cultures of the world;

Whereas the title of Ecumenical Patriarch was formally accorded to the Archbishop of Constantinople by a synod convened in Constantinople during the sixth century;

Whereas since November 1991, His All Holiness, Bartholomew I, has served as Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch;

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997, in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions toward religious understanding and peace;

Whereas during the 110th Congress, 75 Senators and the overwhelming majority of members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives wrote to President George W. Bush and the Prime Minister of Turkey to express congressional concern, which continues today, regarding the absence of religious freedom for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I in the areas of church-controlled Patriarchal succession, the confiscation of the vast majority of Patriarchal properties, recognition of the international Ecumenicity of the Patriarchate, and the reopening of the Theological School of Halki;

Whereas the Theological School of Halki, founded in 1844 and located outside Istanbul, Turkey, served as the principal seminary for the Ecumenical Patriarchate until its forcible closure by the Turkish authorities in 1971;

Whereas the alumni of this preeminent educational institution include numerous prominent Orthodox scholars, theologians, priests, bishops, and patriarchs, including Bartholomew I;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey has been a participating state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) since signing the Helsinki Final Act in 1975;

Whereas in 1989, the OSCE participating states adopted the Vienna Concluding Document, committing to respect the right of religious communities to provide "training of religious personnel in appropriate institutions";

Whereas the continued closure of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki has been an ongoing issue of concern for the American people and the United States Congress and has been repeatedly raised by members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and by United States delegations to the OSCE's annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting;

Whereas in his address to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey on April 6, 2009, President Barack Obama said, "Freedom of religion and expression lead to a strong and vibrant civil society that only strengthens the state, which is why steps like re-opening Halki Seminary will send such an important signal inside Turkey and beyond.";

Whereas in a welcomed development, the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, met with the Ecumenical Patriarch on August 15, 2009, and, in an address to a wider gathering of minority religious leaders that day, concluded by stating, "We should not be of those who gather, talk, and disperse. A result should come out of this.";

Whereas during his visit to the United States in November 2009, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I raised the issue of the continued closure of the Theological School of Halki with President Obama, congressional leaders, and others; and

Whereas Prime Minister Erdogan is scheduled to make an official visit to Washington, D.C., in early December 2009: Now, therefore, be it



[Top] Vice President Joseph Biden and his wife Dr. Jill Biden hosted a dinner for His All Holiness at their residence on November 4, 2009. The following day, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton welcomes His All Holiness to the Department of State [middle]. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid [above] with His All Holiness.

Resolved, That the Senate--

- (1) welcomes the historic meeting between Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I;
- (2) urges the Government of Turkey to facilitate the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay; and
- (3) urges the Government of Turkey to address other longstanding concerns relating to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■

Major media programs document the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate nationally and internationally



MEETING THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

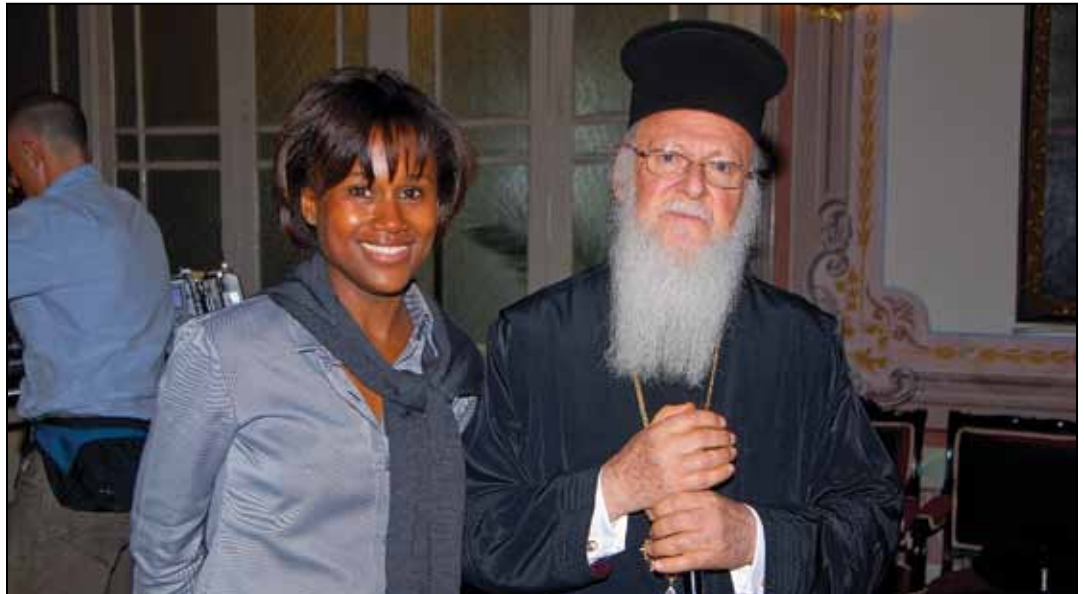
A reflection by *60 Minutes* Associate Producer Magalie Laguerre-Wilkinson



Last May I had the privilege of traveling to Istanbul, Turkey. We were heading there to profile the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Church, Bartholomew I. I didn't know very much about him. For one, I always assumed the heart of the Orthodox Church was in Athens, Greece. Finding out it was in Istanbul, Turkey was the beginning of my history lesson.

My knowledge of Greco-Turk relations was also very thin and so learning about the fragile position the Orthodox Church finds itself in, in a country that is 99 percent Muslim was also an eye opener. As with all stories done on "60 Minutes" the first step is research; some stories require more than others and this one involved 17 centuries worth of research! I knew that I was going to see Istanbul; Cappadocia in Eastern Turkey, the Sinai in Egypt and our trip would end in Jerusalem. Overall our story was about the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Church and the position of Christianity in the part of the world where it all began.

Seeing Istanbul for the first time is like walking into a giant museum; not only is it a beautiful city, but you somehow get a sense that things happened there a very long time ago. Turkey in general is a beautiful country with lovely people and such a rich culture. So I constantly had to remind myself that our story was about a controversial issue in Turkey which had to do with a minority of people -



60 Minutes Associate Producer Magalie Laguerre-Wilkinson and the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Turks of Greek ancestry - whose presence had gone from a population of nearly 2 million in the early 1920s to only 4,000 today. The story was ultimately about discrimination and the lack of religious freedom on the part of the Turkish government. Our profile of His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was to be his first on a major American television network and his candor, calm and determination are qualities to be appreciated considering the risk he took in speaking with us.

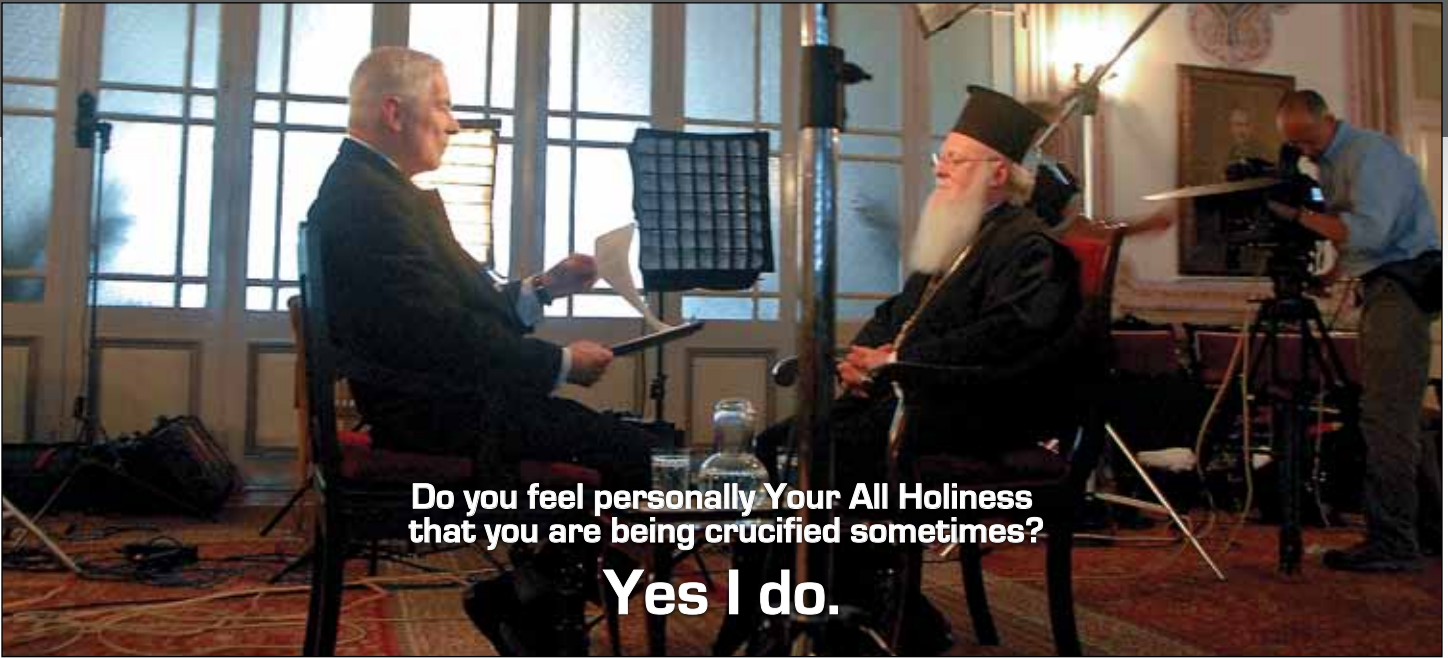
A slight man in stature, his presence is that of greatness. My first encounter with him is one that I will never forget. I was filming some shots with my camera crew at the Phanar - the Church's headquarters in Istanbul - when

someone from His All Holiness's office came to us stating that The Patriarch wanted to meet us right then and there. Because this meeting was not to happen until that evening, I didn't feel I was appropriately dressed to meet him right then and there. We are so focused on people's perceptions of first impressions that I feared his first impression of me wouldn't have been so positive. I felt - and was - underdressed to meet such a person of his stature, but of course I couldn't exactly say 'no, I'd rather go back and change and meet him later.' So here I am feeling both nervous and shy, walking through these lovely corridors and through two doors.

I walk in and up from his desk Patriarch Bartholomew walks towards me, with his hand out

to shake mine and as soon as I felt him, I simply begin to weep. Rarely have I felt someone exude so much goodness, and he just held my hand for what seemed to be a good, long while in the most reassuring way. I composed myself and was invited to sit down.

Someone brought in a treat called "Mastica" which was a sweet, white paste on a spoon in a glass of cold water. I watched as the others began licking their spoons, so I followed and as the Patriarch was licking his, I couldn't help but think that here we are, so relaxed and this man is fighting a battle of survival, the survival of his church. It was really quite surreal. ■



His All Holiness speaks to CBS News Anchor Bob Simon of 60 Minutes inside the Halki Orthodox Theological Seminary.



REACTIONS FROM THE TURKISH PRESS

Since CBS's **60 MINUTES** aired its segment on Sunday, December 20, 2009, the Ecumenical Patriarchate received significant attention and support worldwide.

Hürriyet

Being Crucified...

YUSUF KANLI
12 / 22 / 2009

"The attacks on Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew over his remarks during an interview with the U.S. television network CBS are indeed yet another attempt to crucify him."

TODAYS ZAMAN

Being Crucified in Turkey

BÜLENT KENEŞ
12 / 23 / 2009

It seems rather understandable to me, as an ordinary Turkish citizen, that if it is possible for Muslim Turks to feel "crucified" at the hands of the bureaucratic state dominated by elitist circles, then the leader of a religious minority whose numbers decrease every day must experience this agonizing feeling much more deeply.

Hürriyet

It might be true, we are crucifying the patriarch

MEHMET ALİ BİRAND
12 / 21 / 2009

"I don't agree with Foreign Minister Davutoğlu. The patriarch is right. The state, with its ignorance of a Turkish institution for 38 years, has not been able to keep its word and has crucified the patriarch.

"Bartholomew is one of the most important religious functionaries living in Istanbul. His international influence is enormous and he can immediately reach any person he wishes to reach. He is a leader for who millions of people get in line to kiss his hand.

"This country has lived with conspiracy theories for many years. The Patriarchate has been viewed as an institution that sneaks plans about dividing Turkey so Greece can invade the country anew. (!) When his ecumenical presence is accepted, people thought the Christians would create a Vatican in Turkey. This absurd theory was supported by the state, military and some nationalists."

world's untold stories

BY BILL WUNNER



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.

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 vio-

lence 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.

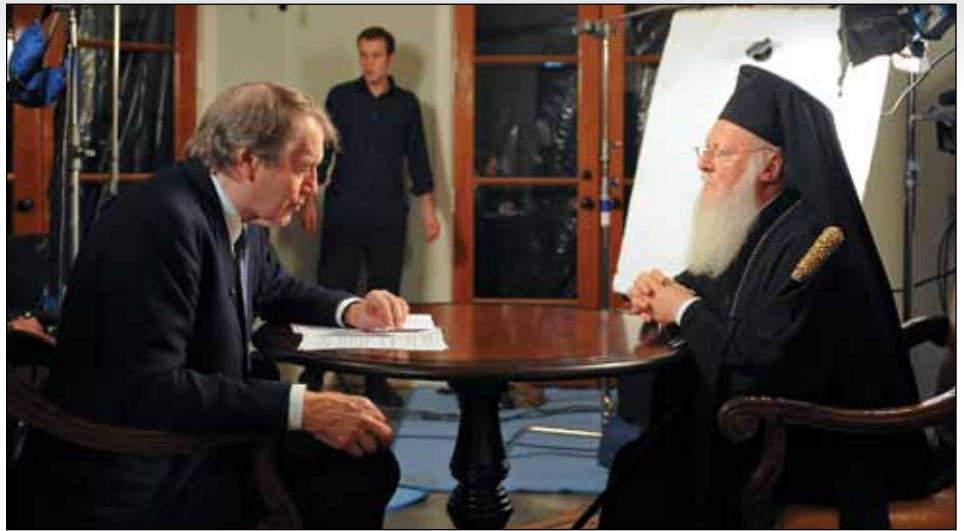
"Absolutely not," Bartholomew insists. "We trust a divine providence, and the guarantee given to us by our Lord himself, that the church can survive."

"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." ■



Emmy award
winning
journalist

Charlie Rose has been praised as “one of America’s premier interviewers.” He is the host of Charlie Rose, the nightly PBS program that engages the world’s best thinkers, writers, politicians, athletes, entertainers, business leaders, scientists and other newsmakers. Rose sits down for an hour-long interview with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on the current situation facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■



Turkish citizens hold demonstration outside Phanar *in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate*

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

A demonstration in support of minorities was organized on Saturday, January 9, outside the compound of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul. The event was organized by a coalition of liberal and peacemaker organizations named ‘70 Million Steps Against Coups’. Demonstrators shouted slogans and held banners reading: ‘No one should be able to touch the Patriarchate and Patriarch Bartholomew’; ‘Long live the brotherhood of peoples’; ‘Freedom’; ‘Dissolve Ergenekon’; in Greek: ‘All peoples are brothers and sisters’; and in Turkish: ‘Bring coup instigators and ones planning “Klovo” to Justice.’

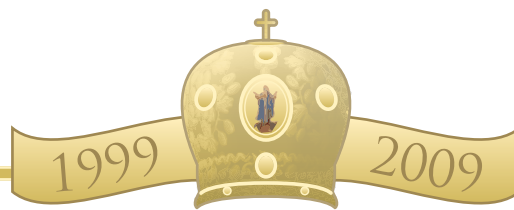
The Turkish government has recently revealed that “Klovo” is a plan of some forces in the army to perform assassinations aimed at creating incidents like the September 1955 pogrom against the Greek Orthodox minority (Septemvriana).

In a statement which was read by their representative they referred to three bloody coups which took place within the past 50 years; as well as elected mayors who are still being sent to prison, political parties being shut down, and the existence of article 301 of the Penal Code and the recent assassination of the Journalist Hrad Dink. They say that Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew would be the victim of the first planned assassination according to the “klovo” plan and stress that they neither would allow a new coup nor new “Septemvriana”.



The Coalition, which performed the demonstration today outside the Phanar, was created two years ago by non-governmental organizations. “We have organized many demonstrations against police state and coup instigators,” stated their representative Ms. Gilsin Enen, to ANA MPA and added that, “today we are demonstrating in support of our fellow Turkish citizens of the Greek minority who have been victims of attacks. We are here preventing a new attack against Greeks and we will offer our support towards them.”

His All Holiness was not present in the Phanar at the time of the demonstration but he was informed by reporters who were at his side while he was at the Black Sea countryside with the Greek Orthodox young people of Istanbul. ■



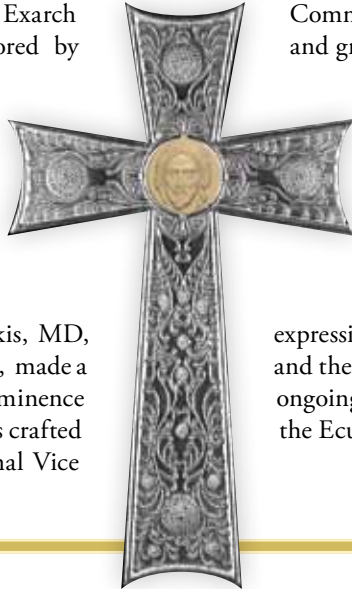
A Decade of Archiepiscopal Ministry



Archon Leadership tribute dinner honors His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America on 10th anniversary of his enthronement

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was honored by the National Council, and Regional Commanders of the Order of St. Andrew, along with distinguished clergy and guests on January 13, 2010 at the Central Park Boathouse. A dinner was held in His Eminence's honor in tribute of his 10th anniversary of enthronement.

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, together with officers of the National Council, made a special presentation of a hand-cross to His Eminence at the conclusion of the dinner. The cross was crafted by Pamela Kariotis, beloved niece of National Vice



Commander Nicholas, and the late Anna K. Bouras, and granddaughter of Protopresbyter Nikitas Kesses of Blessed Memory, long time pastor of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago. This cross is based on the cross presented to American Archons when they are invested into the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle.

His Eminence concluded the evening by expressing his appreciation to the Archons for the gift and their dedication and love for His All Holiness and ongoing support and struggle for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■





Archon Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis MD, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Archons Alexander Pritsos, John Halekcy, and James Fountas [top]. Archbishop Demetrios bears the hand cross designed by Pamela and James Kariotis [above].

His Eminence cuts the Vasilopeta for the New Year and shares it with the guests gathered for the occasion [top]. The Order of St. Andrew is appreciative to Archon Dean Poll [third from left, above] for hosting the tribute dinner at his restaurant. Archon Poll is seated next to Fr. Karloutsos, Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos, and Archon Emanuel Demos.



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios addresses the hierarchs, clergy, and Archon leadership at the tribute dinner at the Central Park Boathouse in New York.



Religious Freedom presentations delivered throughout the country



Discussions held on Connecticut's Legislative Religious Freedom Initiatives

STAMFORD, CT

On Sunday, January 24, 2010, a meeting was held at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Stamford, Connecticut, regarding the status of the Legislative Religious Freedom Initiative in the State of Connecticut. Over thirty clergy, Archons and other interested persons, including Dr. John Grossomanides, Supreme Vice President of AHEPA, attended the event, organized by Archon Regional Commander Peter Skeadas, and Archon Nikiforos Mathews.

Archon Mathews began the meeting by making a presentation to the group about the current situation of the Ecumenical



Archon Regional Commander Peter Skeadas and Archon Nikiforos Mathews.

Patriarchate, describing the history of the institution and highlighting its current struggle for human, religious and property rights. A discussion outlining subsequent steps to be taken by the participants and their respective parishes and communities followed. ■

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

[Above, right] Archons of the Charlotte-area along with Proestamenos Fr. Steve Dalber and Fr. Kevin Millsaps of St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church.



Tampa Bay Archons host Regional Forum

TAMPA BAY, FL

More than 120 people from across the Tampa Bay, Florida area attended a presentation on "The Plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate", sponsored by the area Archons and organized by Regional Commander of North and Central Florida, Dr. Theodore P. Vlahos MD. The event was held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Clearwater.

Father James Rousakis, proistamenos, opened with a moving prayer for the protection of the Mother Church and introduced Archon Vlahos. The program began with the recent *60 Minutes* interview of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Following the video, a presentation was given by Archon Vlahos highlighting the five main issues of concern facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He then discussed the Archon initiatives in Washington D.C, Europe and the Religious Freedom Initiative being pursued in each state. State Representative Peter Nehr, the sponsor of the resolution in the Florida House of Representatives, spoke on his efforts to pass this important legislation support-



Archon Regional Commander Dr. Theodore Vlahos.

ing religious freedom and calling for an end to the persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Church in Turkey. Retired Congressman Michael Bilirakis offered several personal vignettes regarding his tireless efforts on behalf of Greek American issues and especially in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Congressman Bilirakis emphasized the involvement of citizens with their legislative representatives and offered many pearls of political wisdom.

The evening ended with a reception offered by the Archons and a grass roots mail campaign from the attendees to all the area legislators. ■



National Commander & Fordham University Professor speak at Religious Freedom Symposium in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, PA

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 Philadelphia area. 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, located in the Philadelphia suburb of Broomall, PA.

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 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)



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.

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. ■



National Commander addresses Charlotte Archons and Saint Nektarios faithful on plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

CHARLOTTE, NC

It was our sincere pleasure to have Archon Commander, Dr. Anthony Limberakis join us for a weekend in the Queen City of Charlotte N.C. Commander Limberakis was invited to our parish of St. Nektarios to present on October 2nd the oppressive situation our spiritual Father and Patriarch Bartholomew is faced with in Istanbul. A crowd in excess of 100 people gathered to see the eye opening presentation Dr. Limberakis had to offer and left the evening more aware of the plight of the Patriarchate and how they could help.

The evening presentation was preceded by a dinner attended and sponsored by the Archons of the Charlotte area who were joined by their wives. In attendance at this dinner were N.C. Senator Robert Rucho and his wife Teresa. It was Senator Rucho who sponsored and helped gain the approval in the N. C. state Senate of the resolution on religious freedom in Istanbul. We are currently working on getting the same positive results in the N. C. House of Representatives as the resolution will be introduced in January by N.C. Representative Becky Carney. Also in attendance were Fr. Steve Dalber, Protopresbyter of St. Nektarios, Our Vicar Fr. Demetri



National Commander Limberakis with Archons at St. Nektarios Church.

Kangelaris and Fr. Kevin Millsaps also of St. Nektarios.

Commander Limberakis and his wife Maria, who also joined the commander on this trip, joined the entire community of St. Nektarios for Divine Liturgy on Sunday and offered more pertinent comments on our Patriarchate to a filled house of over 400 people.

The entire weekend was part of our Adult Religious Education Speaker Series, *Strictly Speaking*, at St. Nektarios and was a weekend that left a huge impact on our community. We thank Commander Limberakis and Maria for taking the time out of their busy schedule to join us for this illuminating presentation.

Gerry Clonaris, Archon Depoutatos ■



Archons lead Religious Freedom Mission to the European Union in support of Ecumenical Patriarchate

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a delegation from the Order of St. Andrew, led by Archon Ambassador George L. Argyros and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, participated in a Religious Freedom Mission to the European Union in pursuit of human rights and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate from January 26-February 7, 2010.

The delegation traveled to Madrid, Spain, which at that time held the EU presidency; Brussels, Belgium, the headquarters of the EU and ended in Athens, Greece where they joined His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. They were guided by His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Director of the Liaison Office of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the European Union. Together with Archons Argyros and Limberakis, the delegation also included Archon Christopher Stratakis, Legal Counselor; Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor; and Mr. Robert Lapsely, former assistant Secretary of State for California.

Prior to their departure the Archon Leadership met with Assistant Secretary of State Philip H. Gordon at the State Department in Washington on December 17, 2009, to review the religious freedom issues regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to seek the guidance and full support of the United States government for the Archon Religious Freedom Mission. Secretary Gordon was most forthcoming in his support for the religious freedom goals of the Mission.

In preparation for the Mission, the Archon Leadership consulted and met with H.E. Vassilis Kaskarelis, ambassador of Greece to the United States. Ambassador Kaskarelis prior to his post in the United States served with great distinction as Greece's ambassador to the European Union and is well known and respected in the EU community as one of its finest diplomats. Ambassador Kaskarelis facilitated a number of critical meetings throughout the Archon Religious Freedom Mission and for which The Order is most grateful.

The delegation had substantive meetings with government and religious officials which were reported during the mission utilizing the social networking tool "Twitter" for the first time. ■



[Top] Archon Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Archon Ambassador George Argyros, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Archon Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alex Karloutsos, and Mr. Robert Lapsely, former assistant Secretary of State for California (top), prior to their meeting at the Council of the EU in Brussels. [Above, top] Archon Leadership meets with Assistant Secretary of State Philip H. Gordon at the State Department in Washington. [Above, bottom] Archon Leadership consulted and met with H.E. Vassilis Kaskarelis, Ambassador of Greece to the United States.



MAR 2010
12-13

Archon Lenten Retreat focuses on *'The Inner Meaning of Being an Archon'* with 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 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.



[Top] His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of NJ and Fr. Arey with retreat participants. [Right, top] His Eminence Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church welcomes the Archons following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Friday evening. [Right, bottom] Fr. Arey addresses the nearly 40 participants who attended the day and a half retreat.

APR 2010
29

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. Professor Elizabeth Prodromou, Vice Chair of the Commission and a long time friend of the Order, has particular expertise on the religious freedom deficit in Turkey.

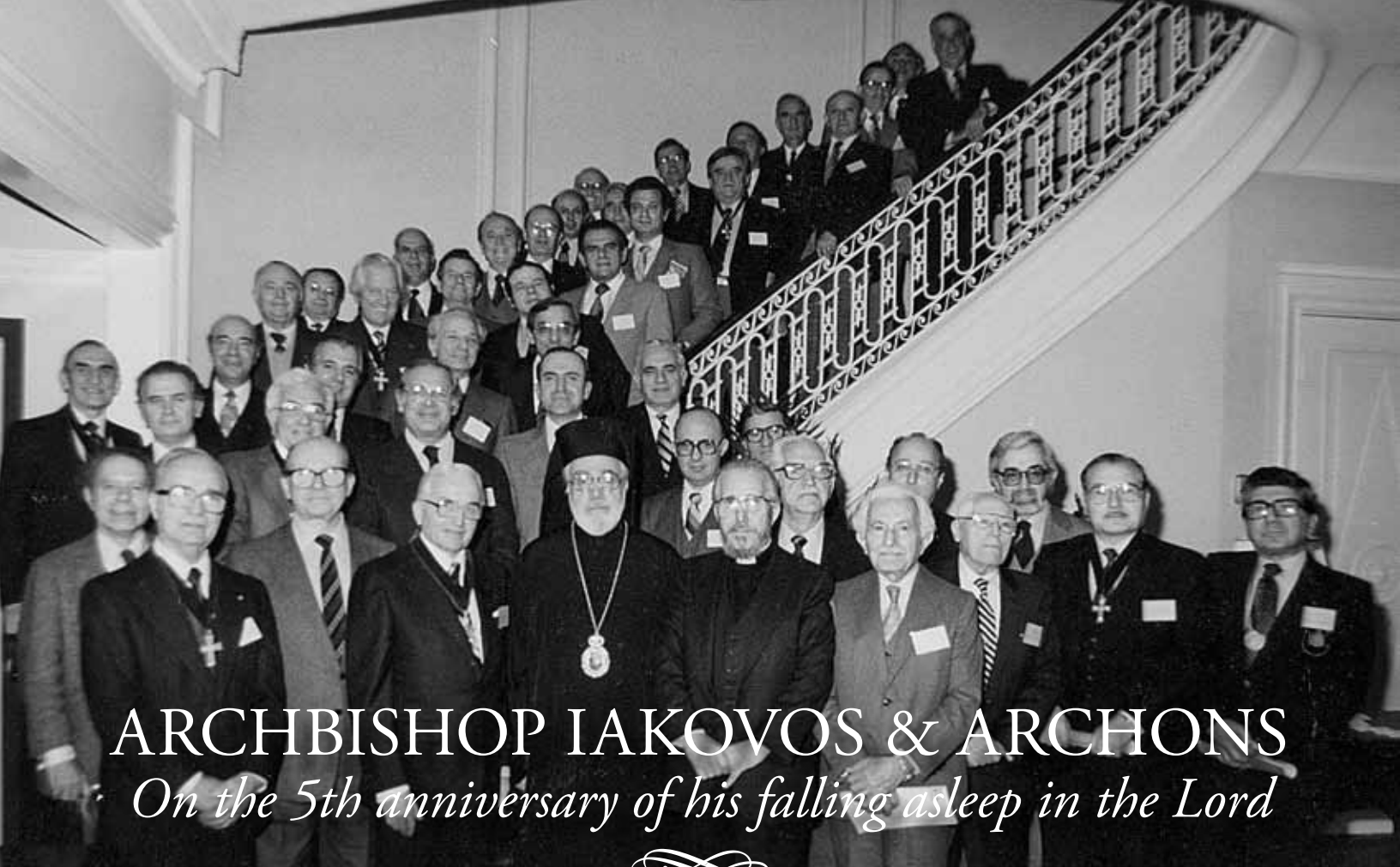
"Over the past few months USCIRF has visited a number of human rights 'hot spots' where freedom of religion is obstructed and related human rights are trampled," said Leonard Leo, USCIRF chair. "This



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!"

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 15-page section is devoted to the current situation in Turkey. ■



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 ruler 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 Iakovean 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 Feast-day 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

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 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 Archepiscopal ministry in the

those who serve

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.



The Order of Saint Andrew.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew meets with foreign leaders during official Church visits



THE CHURCH OF RUSSIA



On Saturday, May 22, 2010, His All Holiness made an official visit to the Church of 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 diplomats, including representatives from the Russian Federation, military contingents, the Ambassador of Greece in Moscow, and a representative from the Turkish Embassy. His All Holiness met later that week with the President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev in the Kremlin. He then concluded his official visit in St. Petersburg and celebrated the Divine Liturgy at St. Isaac's Cathedral (below). ■



THE CHURCH OF FINLAND



His All Holiness was greeted by Archbishop Leo of Finland at the airport during His All Holiness' official visit to the Church of Finland in June 2010. Later that week, he visited with Finland President Tarja Halonen at her summer residence at the Kulturanta. President Halonen congratulated His All Holiness for his efforts regarding the orphanage on Prince Island and the various ministries offered by the Patriarchate. ■

His All Holiness with Patriarch Kyrill at Saint Isaacs Cathedral in St. Petersburg, Russia.



THE CHURCH OF BULGARIA



On Friday, July 16, 2010, His All Holiness made an official visit to the Church of Bulgaria. He was welcomed by His Holiness Maxim, Metropolitan of Sofia and Patriarch of All Bulgaria, at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. Alexander Nevsky as well as at the Palace of Holy Synod of the Church of Bulgaria. His All Holiness was officially received later that week 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. ■





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.



European Court of Human Rights, on June 15, 2010, rules Turkey must return orphanage to Ecumenical Patriarchate

STRASBOURG, FRANCE

In a unanimous decision, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France ruled that Turkey must return the former Patriarchal Orphanage located on Buyukada Island (Prinkipos), the largest of the Princes' Islands, back to the Ecumenical 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 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 decision is very important because for the first time the European Court required the Turkish state to return the property without compromise (restitutio in integrum).

Another important feature of the ruling is the explicit recognition of the legal status of the Ecumenical

Patriarchate. The Turkish state has never recognized the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a legal entity 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. ■



Archon Family Reception at the 40th Clergy-Laity Congress

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 to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios that evening. ■



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

Advance Team paves way for International Conference;

National Council Executive Committee meets with Archon Bailey of the Pammakaristos Brotherhood of Archons in Europe



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



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. ■



NEW YORK, NY



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. ■



[Top, left] Advance Team members meet with Mr. Robert J. Faucher, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy Brussels, during their trip to Brussels. [Top, right] National Commander Limberakis speaking with Archon Dr. John Bailey. [Above, left] 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. [Above, right] Father Karloutsos and National Commander Limberakis with Emma Hannah, Political Officer of the U.S. Consulate. [Above] 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.



AUG 2010
15

First liturgy in nearly 9 decades celebrated at ancient Soumela Monastery

TRAPEZOUNDA, TURKEY

On Sunday, August 15, 2010, after almost 9 decades, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition of 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. ■



AUG 2010
25

U.S. Senator Casey meets with Archons on Religious Freedom Issues

NEW YORK, NY

On August 25, 2010, U.S. Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania 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 His Grace Bishop Andonios, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese; Father Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor; Father Mark Arey; Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, National Commander; Archons Michael Jaharis, John Catsimatidis, and Dennis Mehiel and also Michael Karloutsos. ■



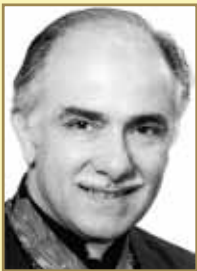
Establishment of the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship

NEW YORK, NY

In honor of the extraordinary and incomparable Archon Stewardship Vice Commander Archon Depoutatos Nicholas J. Bouras has demonstrated over the many years of his leadership within the Order, the National Council unanimously voted to establish an award in his honor. The Award will be presented in 2011. The Award Committee chaired by Archon George Safiol is currently reviewing Archon nominations. ■



In Memoriam



Fr. John A. Limberakis

Protopresvyteros of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
Philadelphia, PA • June 2010

Father John A. Limberakis, 84 a leading priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for over 60 years died in Philadelphia, with his loving wife Elizabeth and his children and grandchildren at his bedside. Known as a builder of churches, he led four Greek Orthodox parishes (Fresno, California, Cranston, Rhode Island, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania and Valley Forge (Jeffersonville), Pennsylvania in building houses of worship. A senior priest in the Philadelphia area since 1970, he served in various leadership and ecclesiastical capacities for the Greek Orthodox Church.

Father John A. Limberakis was an exemplary pioneer 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.

This past year, 22 Archons of the Great Church of Christ fell asleep unto the Lord. *Eternal be their memory!*

Michael G. Cantonis

Archon Hieromnimon
Tarpon Springs, FL • November 2009

V. Adm. Michael P. Kalleres

Archon Exarchos
Jacksonville, FL • July 2010

Hon. Nicholas Mavroules

Archon Depoutatos
Peabody, MA • May 2010

John S. Sakellaris

Archon Hartophylax
Sherman Oaks, CA • August 2010

George Chimples

Archon Megas Primikirios
Lyndhurst, OH • March 2010

John K. Kontinos

Archon Depoutatos
Ft. Myers, FL • 2010

Michael W. Miaoulis

Archon Notarios
Montgomery, AL • March 2010

Frank Sarris

Archon Laosynaktis
Canonsburg, PA • March 2010

Leo P. Condakes

Archon Depoutatos
Swanpscott, MA • December 2009

Peter T. Kourides

Archon Megas Nomophylax
Forest Hills, NY • February 2010

John Patronik

Archon Depoutatos
South Holland, IL • November 2009

Lambros E. Siderides, MD

Archon Aktouarios
Stamford, CT • June 2010

Dr. George S. Croffead

Archon Aktouarios
Johns Island, SC • January 2010

James J. Mahos

Archon Lambadarios
Milwaukee, WI • April 2010

Eustace T. Pliakas

Archon Nomophylax
Pawtucket, RI • June 2010

Zenon N. Trivelis

Archon Exarchos
Haverford, PA • February 2010

John W. Georgas

Archon Hartophylax
West Palm Beach, FL • November 2009

James E. Mammas

Archon Depoutatos
Vernon Hills, IL • March 2010

Theodore O. Prounis

Archon Depoutatos
New York, NY • May 2010

Angelo Gregos

Archon Exarchos
Colts Neck, NJ • May 2010

Louis G. Manesiotis

Archon Megas Hypomnematografos
Pittsburgh, PA • May 2010

William Rummel

Archon Notarios
Chicago, IL • March 2010

May Their Memory Be Eternal



THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



NOV 2009
26
Rev. Dr. Kiell Magne Bondevik
Former Prime Minister of Norway



DEC 2009
14
Grand Duchess
Maria Vladimirovna Romanova
Descendant of the Tsarist family



DEC 2009
30
His Excellency Yves Leterne
Prime Minister of Belgium



JAN 2010
8
Guido Westerwelle
German Foreign Minister



FEB 2010
11
His Excellency David Bakradze
President of the Georgian Parliament



FEB 2010
11
Bishop Mark S. Hanson
President of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America



MAR 2010
16
His Excellency Stefan Füle
European Commissioner for
Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy



MAR 2010
24
James F. Jeffrey, US Ambassador to
Ankara and Sharon Anderholm Wiener,
US Consul General at Istanbul



MAR 2010
25
Mary McAleese
President of Ireland



MAR 2010
27
Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk
External Church Relations
Moscow Patriarchate



APR 2010
24
Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem



APR 2010
27
Quentin Bryce, Governor General
of the Commonwealth of Australia

A Year In Review

VISITATIONS TO THE PHANAR



MAY 2010
7 Graduate Students from the University of Thessaloniki.



JUNE 2010
10 Viktor Yanukovich President of Ukraine



JUNE 2010
17 Admiral George Demetriades of the Greek Navy (Military Fleet)



JUNE 2010
23 His Excellency George Papandreou Prime Minister of Greece



JUNE 2010
24 Filip Vujanovic President of Montenegro



JUNE 2010
28 Jim Belushi Hollywood Actor



JUNE 2010
29 His Excellency Brian Mulroney Former Prime Minister of Canada



JULY 2010
1 Prince Radu of Romania



SEP 2010
21 Officers of the Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America



SEP 2010
27 Trajko Veljanovski President of the FYROM Parliament



OCT 2010
4 Alexander Lukashenko President of Belarus with his son, Nicholas



OCT 2010
8 Ms. Maria Damanaki European Union Commissioner

U.S. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTION

37 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN 32 STATES **UPDATE**

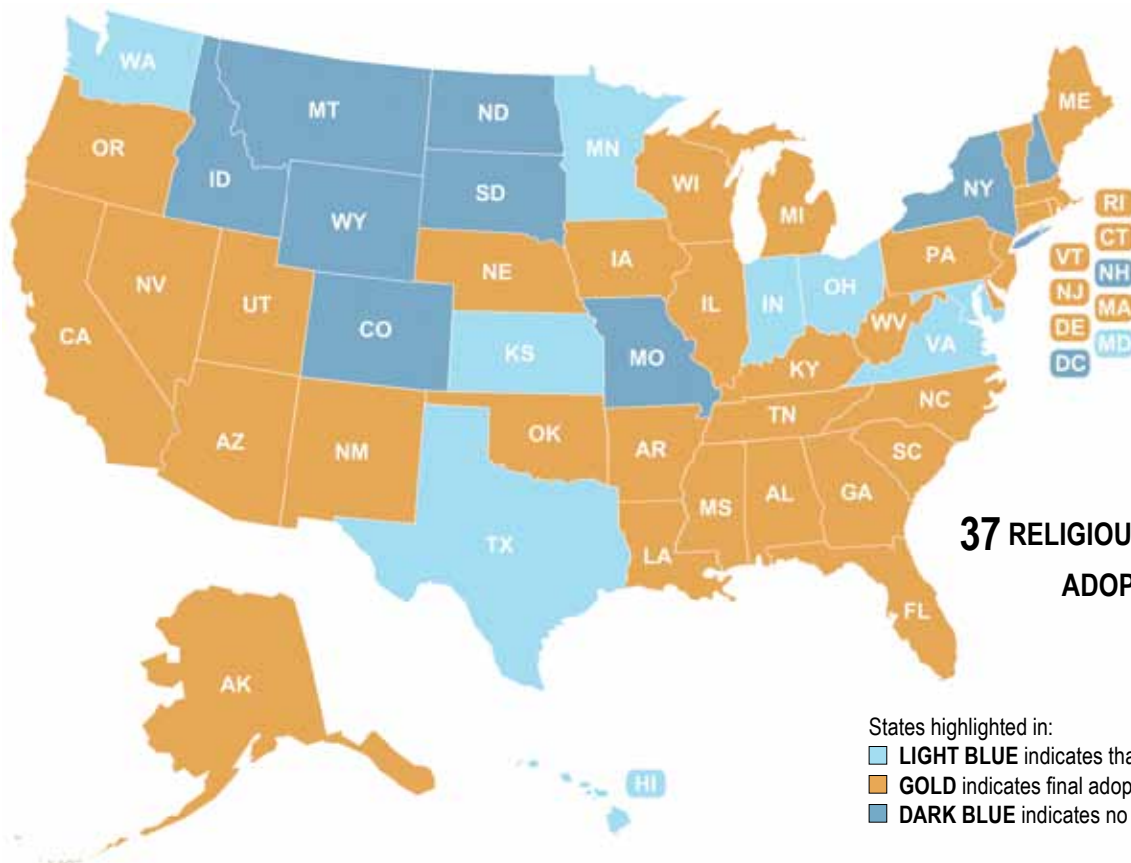
ALABAMA SJR 73 Adopted by House and Senate on 5/2007	ALASKA SJR 28 - Introduced on 2/18/2010 Adopted by Senate 4/5/2010 Adopted by House 4/11/2010 HR 15 - Introduced on 2/23/2010 Adoption Pending	ARIZONA HCM 2009 Introduced on 1/17/2008 Adopted by House 3/18/2008 Adopted by Senate 5/22/2008	ARKANSAS SCR 3 Introduced on 1/22/2009 Adopted by Senate on 2/18/09 Adopted by House 3/12/2009	CALIFORNIA SJR 17 Introduced on 9/10/2007 Adopted by Senate 2/28/2008 Adopted by Assembly 8/30/2008
COLORADO No resolution has been introduced at this time.	CONNECTICUT Adopted on 4/30/2010	DELAWARE HR 9 Introduced on 3/10/2009 Adopted on 3/19/2009	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	GEORGIA HR 415 Adopted by House 4/2007 SR 1038 Introduced on 2/27/2008 Adopted by Senate 3/6/2008
HAWAII HCR 213 and HR 143 Introduced on 3/10/2010 Adoption Pending SCR 182 and SR 83 Introduced on 3/10/2010 Adoption Pending	IDAHO No resolution has been introduced at this time.	ILLINOIS HR 666 Introduced on 8/10/2007 Adopted on 10/4/2007 SR 100 Introduced on 2/25/2009 Adoption Pending	INDIANA SR 5/SR 11 Introduced on 1/8/2009 Adoption Pending	IOWA HR 27 Introduced on 3/12/2009 Adopted on 3/23/2009
KANSAS SR 1835 Introduced on 2/27/2009 Adoption Pending	KENTUCKY HR 244 Adopted on 3/26/2008	LOUISIANA SR 109 Adopted by Senate 6/2007	MAINE HP 924 Introduced on 3/25/2009 Adopted by House 3/31/2009 Adopted by Senate 4/2/2009	MARYLAND HJR 5 Introduced on 3/14/2008 Adoption Pending
MASSACHUSETTS Adopted on 4/16/2008	MICHIGAN SCR 6 Introduced on 3/19/2009 Adopted by House 3/19/2009 Adopted by Senate 3/25/2009	MINNESOTA SR 178 Introduced on 4/2/2008 Adoption Pending	MISSISSIPPI Introduced on 3/19/2008 Adopted by House 3/31/2008 Adopted by Senate 4/16/2008	MISSOURI No resolution has been introduced at this time.
MONTANA No resolution has been introduced at this time.	NEBRASKA LR 273 Introduced 1/6/2010 Adopted on 4/13/2010	NEVADA ACR 31 Adopted by Assembly and Senate on 5/6/2009	NEW HAMPSHIRE No resolution has been introduced at this time.	NEW JERSEY SJR 11 Adopted by Senate and House 6/2006
NEW MEXICO HM 39 Introduced on 2/2/2010 Adopted by House 2/13/2010	NEW YORK No resolution has been introduced at this time.	NORTH CAROLINA Adopted on 6/28/2010	NORTH DAKOTA No resolution has been introduced at this time.	OHIO SCR 14 Introduced on 5/14/2009 Adoption Pending HCR 29 Introduced on 9/15/2009 Adoption Pending

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

OKLAHOMA SR 54 Introduced on 2/19/2008 Adopted on 3/24/2008	OREGON SJR 16 Introduced on 5/4/2009 Adopted by Senate on 5/6/2009 Adopted by House on 6/1/2009	PENNSYLVANIA HR 876 Adopted by House 11/2006 SR 188 Introduced on 10/24/2007 Adopted by Senate 3/10/2008	RHODE ISLAND SR 895 Adopted by Senate 3/2007	SOUTH CAROLINA HR 4727 Introduced on 2/20/2008 Adopted by House on 4/9/2008 SR 735 Adopted by Senate 5/2007
SOUTH DAKOTA No resolution has been introduced at this time.	TENNESSEE SJR 535 Adopted by Senate 6/2007 Adopted by House on 4/17/2008	TEXAS HCR 193 Introduced on 4/23/2009 Adoption Pending SCR 70 Introduced on 5/4/2009 Adoption Pending	UTAH SR 1 Introduced on 1/23/2009 Adopted on 2/5/2009 HR 2 Introduced on 2/3/2009 Adopted on 2/19/2009	VERMONT JRS 47 Introduced on 2/9/2010 Adopted on 5/12/2010
VIRGINIA HJ 126 Introduced on 1/9/2008 Adoption Pending	WASHINGTON HJM 4003 Introduced on 1/15/2009 Adoption Pending	WEST VIRGINIA HCR 37 Introduced on 2/11/2008 Adopted by House 3/3/2008 Adopted by Senate 3/8/2008	WISCONSIN SR 10 Introduced on 3/4/2010 Adopted on 4/22/2010	WYOMING No resolution has been introduced at this time.

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



**37 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED IN 32 STATES**

States highlighted in:

- **LIGHT BLUE** indicates that the resolution has been introduced.
- **GOLD** indicates final adoption and no further action is necessary.
- **DARK BLUE** indicates no resolution has been introduced at this time.

His All Holiness was presented with the Hollister Award by the Temple of Understanding in New York on Tuesday, October 19, 2010. Awards were also presented to Prince El Hassan bin Talal, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Prof. Karen Armstrong. CNN invited His All Holiness to contribute an opinion article for their online edition.

RELIGION AND THE ENVIRONMENT *The Link Between Survival and Salvation*

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Last October, the Ecumenical Patriarchate convened an international, interdisciplinary and interfaith symposium in New Orleans on the Mississippi River, the eighth in a series of high-level conferences exploring the impact of our lifestyle and consumption on our planet's major bodies of water. Similar symposia have met in the Aegean and Black Seas, in the Adriatic and Baltic Seas, along the Danube and Amazon Rivers, and on the Arctic.

At first glance, it may appear strange for a religious institution concerned with "sacred" values to be so profoundly involved in "worldly" issues. After all, what does preserving the planet have to do with saving the soul? It is commonly assumed that global climate change and the exploitation of our nature's resources are matters that concern politicians, scientists and technocrats. At best, perhaps, they are the preoccupation of special interest groups or naturalists.

So the preoccupation of the Orthodox Christian Church and, in particular, her highest spiritual authority, the

Ecumenical Patriarchate, with the environmental crisis will probably come as a surprise to many people. Yet, there are no two ways of looking at either the world or God. There can be no double vision or worldview: one religious and the other profane; one spiritual and the other secular. In our worldview and understanding, there can be no distinction between concern for human welfare and concern for ecological preservation.

Nature is a book, opened wide for all to read and to learn, to savor and celebrate. It tells a unique story; it unfolds a profound mystery; it relates an extraordinary harmony and balance, which are interdependent and complementary. The way we relate to nature as creation directly reflects the way we relate to God as Creator. The sensitivity with which we handle the natural environment clearly mirrors the sacredness that we reserve for the divine. We must treat nature with the same awe and wonder that we reserve for human beings. And we do not need this insight in order to believe in God or to prove His existence. We need it to

breathe; we need it for us simply to be.

At stake is not just our ability to live in a sustainable way, but our very survival. Scientists estimate that those most hurt by global warming in years to come will be those who can least afford it. Therefore, the ecological problem of pollution is invariably connected to the social problem of poverty; and so all ecological activity is ultimately measured and properly judged by its impact upon people, and especially its effect upon the poor.

In our efforts, then, to contain global warming, we are admitting just how prepared we are to sacrifice some of our greedy lifestyles. When will we learn to say: "Enough!"? When will we direct our focus away from what we want to what the world needs? When will we understand how important it is to leave as light a footprint as possible on this planet for the sake of future generations? We must choose to care. Otherwise, we do not really care at all.

We are all in this together. Indeed, the natural environ-

ment unites us in ways that transcend doctrinal differences. We may differ in our conception of the planet's origin, whether biblical or scientific. But we all agree on the necessity to protect its natural resources, which are neither limitless nor negotiable.

It is not too late to respond – as a people and as a planet. We could steer the earth toward our children's future. Yet we can no longer afford to wait; we can no longer afford not to act. People of faith must assume leadership in this effort; citizens of the world must clearly express their opinion; and political leaders must act accordingly. Deadlines can no longer be postponed; indecision and inaction are not options.

We are optimistic about turning the tide; quite simply because we are optimistic about humanity's potential. Let us not simply respond in principle; let us respond in practice. Let us listen to one another; let us work together; let us offer the earth an opportunity to heal so that it will continue to nurture us. ■



GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW
ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

8 East 79th Street • New York, NY 10075

P • 212 570 3550 F • 212 774 0214 archons@goarch.org www.archons.org

ADVOCATES OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE