



THE ARCHON

Defenders of the Faith

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Supreme Allied
Commander Admiral
Stavridis to accept 2011
Athenagoras Award on
behalf of heroic members
of U.S. Armed Forces

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Archon George Behrakis
to be first recipient of
'Bouras Award'

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Archons lead religious freedom mission to the EU in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a delegation from the Order of Saint Andrew, participated in a rigorous eight-day mission to the European Union in pursuit of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Simultaneously, they also endorsed the accession of Turkey to the EU. The delegation traveled April 2-10, and was guided by His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, director of the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D.

[Read about the mission on page 3 »](#)

U.S. Commission identifies world's worst religious freedom violators: Turkey remains on 'Watch List'

WASHINGTON D.C.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) announced its 2011 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.



"The Obama administration continues to rely on the prior administration's designations but hopefully will make new designations and apply meaningful actions very soon in order to underscore America's resolve in bolstering the freedom of religion or belief around the world," said USCIRF Chair Leonard Leo. "We also urge the newly confirmed Ambassador-at-Large for Religious

[Continued on page 22 »](#)

The Order's fundamental mission is to promote the religious freedom, wellbeing and advancement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate—the spiritual center of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians. The Ecumenical Patriarchate is headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Archon is published by the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America. Members are encouraged to submit material pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodoxy. All material should be typed, signed with name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. © 2011

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Supreme Allied Commander Admiral Stavridis named 2011 Athenagoras Human Rights Award recipient, Oct. 15

NEW YORK, NY

The Order is pleased and honored to announce that Admiral James G. Stavridis, USN, Supreme Allied Commander and Commander of the United States European Command, will be the recipient of this year's Athenagoras Human Rights Award. Admiral Stavridis will accept the award on behalf of the heroic members of our Armed Forces who place themselves daily in harm's way to protect our liberties, religious freedom, human rights and American way of life.

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award will be presented to Admiral Stavridis, Saturday night, Oct. 15, during the Grand Banquet of the Order of Saint Andrew, which will be held as part of the Order's annual three-day assembly, Friday, Oct. 14 through Sunday, Oct. 16, at the Hilton Hotel in New York City.

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., said, "With the presentation of the 2011 Athenagoras Human Rights Award to Admiral Stavridis, the Order is recognizing the extraordinary contributions of the 2.3 million members of our nation's Armed Services who protect our inalienable freedoms bestowed to us by our Creator, but are only experienced by a minority of the world's 7 billion inhabitants."

Admiral Stavridis has served as Commander, European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe since 2009. A Surface Warfare Officer, he commanded the Destroyer USS Barry (DDG 52) from 1993-1995, completing UN/NATO deploy-

ments to Haiti and Bosnia, and a combat cruise to the Arabian Gulf. Barry won the Battenberg Cup as the top ship in the Atlantic Fleet under his command. In 1998, he commanded Destroyer Squadron 21 and deployed to the Arabian Gulf, winning the Navy League's John Paul Jones Award for

Inspirational Leadership. From 2002-2004, he commanded Enterprise Carrier Strike Group, conducting combat operations in the Arabian Gulf in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. From 2006-2009, he commanded U.S. Southern Command in Miami, focused on Latin America and the Caribbean. Ashore, he has served as a strategic and long range planner on the staffs of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He has also served as the Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy and the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense.

He is a 1976 distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a native of South Florida. Stavridis earned a Ph.D. and a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in International



Relations in 1984, where he won the Gullion Prize as outstanding student. He is also a distinguished graduate of both the Naval and National War Colleges.

He holds various decorations and awards, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal and five awards of the Legion of Merit. He is author or co-author of several books on naval ship handling and leadership, including *Command at Sea*, *Destroyer Captain*, and *Partnership for the Americas*.

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award is presented annually by the Order to a person or organization, which has consistently exemplified by action, purpose and dedication, concern for the basic rights and religious freedom of all people. ■



BERLIN, GERMANY
Leading EU State



BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Holds current presidency of the EU
Coordinates negotiations with EU
candidate nations, including Turkey



ISTANBUL, TURKEY • Audience with
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



ANKARA, TURKEY • Capital of Turkey
Second largest city after Istanbul



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPE

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a delegation from the Order of Saint Andrew participated in a rigorous eight-day mission to the European Union in pursuit of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Simultaneously, they also endorsed the accession of Turkey to the EU. The delegation traveled April 2-10, and was guided by His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, director of the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D.

The dual messages supporting the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Turkey's accession to the EU were presented in Budapest, Hungary, the capital of the current EU Presidency, as well as in Berlin, Germany, Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey. Meetings were conducted with the EU Presidency, religious leaders of Germany, the U.S. Ambassadors in Hungary, Germany and Turkey, the Foreign Ministry of Turkey and the Prime Ministry Secretariat General for EU Affairs of Turkey. Meetings were also held with representatives of the religious minorities of Turkey. Many of those same representatives also participated in the International Archon Religious Freedom Conference at the European Parliament last November in Brussels.

National Commander Dr. Limberakis said, "In addition to Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, my deep appreciation is also extended to the members of the delegation, Father Alexander Karloutsos, the Order's Spiritual Advisor, Archon John Halecky,

Jr., National Secretary, Archon James C. Fountas, National Treasurer, and Archon Stephen Georgeson, Coordinator of the Order's State Legislative Religious Freedom Initiative."

In preparation, the Archon leadership, through the efforts of Archons Andrew and Mike Manatos, met with officials in Washington, D.C. on March 9, to review the religious freedom issues affecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to seek the guidance and full support of the United States government for the Archon Mission. They met with Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip H. Gordon, along with the State Department Director for Southern European Affairs Jess Baily. The leadership also met with Assistant to the President and Deputy National Secretary Advisor Denis McDonough in the West Wing of the White House.



[Top] At the State Department with Philip H. Gordon, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs. [Bottom] At the White House with Denis McDonough, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Secretary Advisor.

Continue reading on the next page »



BUDAPEST
HUNGARY

Holds current
presidency of EU

Coordinates
negotiations with EU
candidate nations,
including Turkey



National Commander Dr. Limberakis made a special presentation to Ambassador Tsakopoulos Kounalakis during a dinner hosted in her honor in Budapest.

The delegation began the mission in Hungary, which took over the rotating six-month presidency of the EU this past January. Meetings began on April 4 at the U.S. Embassy with the Honorable Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis, Ambassador to Hungary.

Subsequent meetings were conducted at the Hungarian Parliament with His Excellency Zsolt Semjen, Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary and the Honorable Laszlo Szaszfalvi, Junior Minister for Church Affairs. The specific areas of concern regarding religious freedom confronting the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Turkey's EU accession progress were discussed frankly. The delegation also raised the issue of the continued control by the Moscow Patriarchate of a Greek Orthodox Cathedral that was seized by Soviet Russia when they established a communist regime in Hungary in 1949.

The delegation later met with His Eminence Peter Cardinal Erdo of Budapest, who is also the president of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Europe (CCEE).

The delegation was hosted that evening by His Excellency Vassos Chamberlen, Ambassador of Cyprus to Hungary, Mr. Alexis Galanos, Mayor of Famagusta, and Mr. Athos Eleftheriou, Mayor of Lapithos. They attended a Cypriot photography exhibition, entitled, "Famagusta: A European Ghost Town" and "Lapithos: Dawn of Nostos" at the Kempinski Hotel, Corvinus Budapest.

The Archons hosted a dinner that evening in honor of Ambassador Kounalakis and presented her with a commemorative plaque, "in grateful acknowledgment of your committed support of human rights and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and in

recognition of a career of distinguished service to our beloved nation."

On their second day in Budapest, His Excellency Balint Odor, Deputy State Secretary for EU affairs, received the delegation at the Foreign Ministry for additional meetings. The delegation visited Fr. Joseph Kalota, a native Hungarian and Protopresvyteros of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the proestamemos of Budapest Greek Orthodox Church, St. Stephanos where a donation was offered in honor of Fr. Karloutsos who was celebrating his birthday.

U.S. Ambassador Kounalakis, hosted the delegation that evening with her husband Markos, at their official residence. By invitation of the Ambassador, the delegation attended The Duke Ellington Band Concert at the Budapest Concert Center.



On Monday, April 4, 2011, the Archon delegation met with His Excellency Zsolt Semjen, Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary at the Hungarian Parliament.



Archons meet with Kinga Szuly, the Head of Communications Section European Commission Representation at the EU offices.



The delegation met with His Excellency Balint Odor, the Hungarian deputy state secretary for European affairs, European Director, at the Foreign Ministry.



Archons delegation with the Honorable Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis, U.S. Ambassador to Hungary.



The delegation with His Eminence Peter Cardinal Erdo of Budapest who is also the president of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Europe (CCEE).


BERLIN
GERMANY

Leading EU State

Turks represent largest ethnic minority in Germany (estimated 3.5 million people of Turkish origin reside in Germany)



The delegation with the Honorable Thomas Rachel, MP, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Education and Research and Federal Chairman of the Christian Democrat Party/Christian Social Party and Metropolitan Augoustinos of Germany.

On Wednesday, April 6, a full day of meetings took place in Berlin beginning with His Eminence, Metropolitan Augoustinos of Germany who has served the Orthodox faithful in Germany for 50 years. An insightful meeting followed at the U.S. Embassy with the Honorable Philip Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to Germany.

The Archon delegation met with representatives of the two major religions of Germany: The Evangelical Church in Germany (26 million faithful) and the Roman Catholic Church (26 million faithful). The Rev. Dr. Volker Faigle, the Plenipotentiary of the Council for the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union for the Evangelical Church in Germany hosted the delegation to a working luncheon. Later, a meeting was held



Metropolitan Augoustinos and the National Commander with the Honorable Philip Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to Germany, at the U.S. Embassy, Berlin.

with His Excellency Dr. Matthias Heinrich, Bishop and Diocesan Administrator of the Berlin Roman Catholic Archdiocese.

A meeting followed with the Honorable Thomas Rachel, MP, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Education and Research, Federal Chairman of the Christian Democrat Party/Christian Social Party working group of Protestant MPs (EAK).

An Archon tribute dinner was held that evening in honor of the

Exarch of Central Europe Metropolitan Augoustinos. The delegation made a special presentation to His Eminence with a plaque which read, "to a faithful son of the Mother Church, distinguished hierarch, dutiful disciple and defender of the Great Church of Christ." Cyprus Ambassador to Germany (and former Consul General in New York) His Excellency Pantias D. Eliades was an honored guest at the tribute dinner.

Meetings conducted at Turkey's Embassy in Berlin took place with Minister-Counselor Iskender Okyay and Mustesar Murat Omeroglu.

The delegation concluded their visit to Berlin with a meeting with His Excellency Dimitris Rallis, Greek Ambassador in Berlin.



The Archon delegation hosted a dinner in honor of His Eminence Metropolitan Augoustinos of Germany, Exarch of Central Europe. The delegation made a special presentation to His Eminence with a plaque which read, "to a faithful son of the Mother Church, distinguished hierarch, dutiful disciple and defender of the Great Church of Christ." Cyprus Ambassador to Germany (and former Consul General in New York) His Excellency Pantias D. Eliades was an honored guest at the tribute dinner.



The delegation, at the Turkish Embassy in Berlin, meeting with Minister-Counselor Iskender Okay and Mustesar Murat Omeroglu.



Archon delegation, with Metropolitan Augoustinos of Germany, meets with Rev. Dr. Volker Faigle. Dr. Faigle is the Plenipotentiary of the Council for the Federal Republic of Germany, representing the Evangelical Church of Germany.



The delegation with His Excellency, Dr. Matthias Heinrich of the Catholic Church of Germany. His Excellency is the Bishop and Diocesan Administrator of the Berlin Archdiocese.



Archon delegation met with His Excellency Dimitris Rallis, Greek Ambassador in Berlin, during their religious freedom mission to the European Union.

 **ANKARA**
TURKEY

Capital of Turkey

Second largest city
after Istanbul



The Archon delegation had afternoon meetings with Deputy Undersecretary Ambassador Birnur Fertekligil, Ambassador Kerim Uras and Human Rights officer Ambassador Kaan Esener, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Ankara.

The delegation arrived in Ankara and met with the Honorable Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, at the U.S. Embassy Residence where productive discussions commenced. Ambassador and Mrs. Ricciardone graciously hosted a working luncheon with the human rights officer of the Embassy. The Delegation once again paid their respects at the 9/11 Memorial Orchard on the Embassy grounds, where in 2002 the Archons presented a California Oak to then Ambassador W. Robert Pearson.

In the afternoon, meetings were held with Turkish officials, including Deputy Undersecretary Ambassador Birnur Fertekligil, Ambassador Kerim Uras and Human Rights officer Ambassador Kaan Esener at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Ankara meetings were concluded at the Prime Ministry Secretariat General for EU Affairs meeting with Deputy Secretary General F.H. Burak Erdenir, Ph.D.

The meetings in Ankara with the Turkish officials acknowledged the positive steps the government has recently taken in support of religious freedom, including the return of the illegally confiscated Patriarchal Orphanage in full compliance of the European Court of Human Rights, the granting of Turkish citizenship to 12 Metropolitans of the Holy See personally sponsored by EU Chief Negotiator Minister Egemen Bagis, the granting of work visas to non Turkish staff at the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the return of property control of numerous schools that were formally under the management of the government setting the stage for real estate development of these proper-

ties into buildings supporting the worldwide ministry of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, such as conference centers, community centers, etc.

Yet, the issues that continue to plague and constrict the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate were raised with vigor and without compromise, including reopening Halki and the granting of Legal Personality. The analogy of Halki becoming the Berlin Wall of Turkey was made effectively, having just returned from visiting the Berlin Wall, which represented injustice, asphyxiation of fundamental human rights and man's inhumanity to man. After these momentous meetings, the Archons were in agreement that they may have witnessed for the first time a significant shift in the disposition of the government toward improving the religious freedom deficit in Turkey. Time will tell.



The Archon delegation made a special presentation to the Honorable Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, "in grateful acknowledgment of your committed support of human rights and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and in recognition of a career of distinguished service to our beloved nation," at Embassy Ankara.



National Commander Dr. Limberakis, at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, makes reference to the presence of Egemen Bagis, in the last issue of *The Archon*, who addressed participants in the Brussels conference last November.



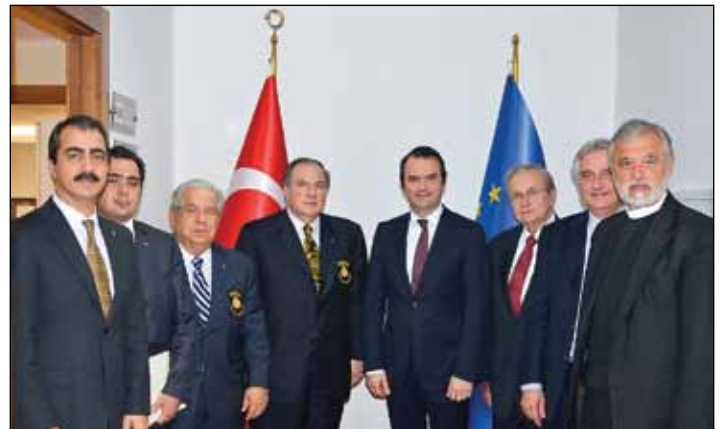
The Honorable Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, is presented with important documents by the delegation, at Embassy Ankara.



2002: National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras with Mrs. Robert Pearson, wife of U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, at the commemorative 9/11 memorial orchard, at Embassy Ankara.



2011: Nine years later, National Commander Dr. Limberakis stands with the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, at the commemorative 9/11 memorial orchard, at Embassy Ankara.



Archon delegation with Deputy Secretary General F.H. Burak Erdenir, Ph.D., at Secretariat General for E.U. Affairs.



Headquarters of
the Ecumenical
Patriarchate

Audience with
His All-Holiness

Address of the National Commander at the
Archon Tribute Dinner, Marmara Hotel ►

archons.org/docs/NC-index.asp



The Archon delegation hosted a reception in honor of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Honored guests included hierarchs of the Holy and Sacred Synod, hierarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and members of the Patriarchal Court, at the Marmara Hotel, Istanbul.

Prior to their Ankara visit, the Order hosted a tribute dinner on Thursday, April 7 and honored His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Marmara Hotel. Honored guests included hierarchs of the Holy and Sacred Synod, hierarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and members of the Patriarchal Court.

National Commander Dr. Limberakis addressed those gathered saying, "As all of us know very well, this year marks a significant milestone for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and for our Church inasmuch as we are celebrating the 20th blessed anniversary of the Patriarchal tenure and pastoral ministry of His All-Holiness, our spiritual Father and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew."

"This watershed anniversary is significant not only because of the innumerable and impressive achievements of our spiritual leader, but even in and of itself. Because over the last seventeen centuries, only nine Patriarchs completed twenty years of continuous ministry on the Throne of Constantinople-New Rome. Indeed, from the 20th century, only Patriarch Athenagoras; and from this century, only Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew served 20 years. I would humbly claim that it is a unique blessing that both

of these visionary leaders were so closely associated with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America," Limberakis said.

After citing several examples of personal achievements of leadership roles of His All-Holiness, Dr. Limberakis concluded by saying, "A visionary leader is more than simply the sum of the achievements that he has managed to accumulate over the years. Vision is by definition forward-looking. And we are grateful to God that we are blessed with a spiritual father, who will undoubtedly shower and surprise us with even more gifts and successes in the future."

After the day-long visit to Ankara, the delegation returned to Istanbul and briefed the Ecumenical Patriarch on their extensive mission in support of the Holy and Sacred See of Constantinople. Before departing, the delegation gathered outside the gates of the Phanar where, in solemn observance, they witnessed His All-Holiness commemorate the martyrdom of Ecumenical Patriarch Gregory V who was hanged by order of the Sultan 190 years ago on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1821. The gates have been welded-shut ever since.

Final meetings concluded their mission, which included a recep-

tion and working luncheon in honor of the participants to the First International Archon Religious Freedom Conference, held in mid-November of 2010 in Brussels, Belgium. Many of the participants attending were representatives of religious minorities of Turkey and are officially represented in Ankara by Archon Laki Vingas, who was duly elected to this important government position. Members of the Roman Catholic, Protestant, Greek Orthodox, Muslim Alevi, Syriac (Aramaean) religious communities were present.

As the Order of Saint Andrew now plans for the Second International Archon Religious Freedom Conference, Turkey's religious minorities have committed to be fully engaged and participate in this upcoming initiative. The Order of Saint Andrew made two donations during this event: one to the host community and a second to the Organization of Foundations.

The Archons left Turkey with the blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew energized and redoubled in their efforts to achieve complete and unfettered religious freedom for the Great and Holy Mother Church of Constantinople, the Great Church of Christ. ■



The Archon delegation made a special presentation to the newly-consecrated Metropolitan Elpidophoros of Proussa, at the Phanar.



On Sunday, April 10, 2011, following the Divine Liturgy, His All-Holiness lit a candle of memory and laid flowers before the central gate, where Patriarch Gregory V was martyred on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1821.



Archon Stephen Georgeson presents His All-Holiness with all 42 of the state resolutions adopted to date in support of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



A reception and working luncheon was held in honor of the participants to the First International Archon Religious Freedom Conference, during which time special birthday wishes were offered for Father Karloutsos and Archon Georgeson.



National Commander Limberakis and Archons Stephen Georgeson, James Fountas, and John Halecky outside the Phanar.

Archon Behrakis slated to be the first recipient of the 'Nicholas J. Bouras Award,' June 5

NEW YORK, NY

The Order of Saint Andrew is proud to announce that Archon Depoutatos George D. Behrakis has been named to be the first recipient of the "Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship." A special tribute dinner dance will be held on June 5 at the Metropolitan Club in New York.

Archon George Safiol, Award Committee chairman, said, "Archon Behrakis has exemplified tremendous stewardship of time, talent and resources in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the mission of the Order of Saint Andrew. His stewardship has also extended into the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the United States. Our commit-

tee deemed it appropriate to recognize his efforts and name him as our first recipient of this prestigious award in recognition of the extraordinary service of Vice Commander Bouras."

Archon Behrakis has distinguished himself as a pioneer in the pharmaceutical industry as a researcher and marketer of asthma and allergy products. He is a devout churchman who has served as a past president of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lowell, Mass; serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council; was vice chairman of Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology; an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and as chairman of Leadership 100. He is an alumnus and

served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern University. He is also a member of the Board of Overseers of Tufts University Medical School and the Boston Symphony.

The National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew unanimously voted in 2010 to establish the Nicholas J. Bouras Award, a lasting tribute to this truly unique Archon par excellence. Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order, stated "the Award will be presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary and incomparable stewardship to the Order, enabling Archons to vigorously pursue securing religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople. It is indeed appropriate that this Award be named after National



Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, who himself has demonstrated remarkable leadership as a faithful son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate." ■



National Commander delivers religious freedom lecture to Drexel University students

NEW YORK, NY

On Wednesday, April 27, 2011, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., delivered a lecture to the students of Greek Studies at Drexel University's Pearlstein Business Learning Center. Dr. Maria Hnaraki, Professor of Greek Studies, offered introductory remarks. The CBS program, *60 Minutes*, which documented the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was viewed by the students. Dr. Limberakis then lectured on the religious freedom mission of the Order of Saint Andrew. Students later had the opportunity to ask questions. A reception concluded the evening. ■

J. MINDALA



FUKUSHIMA 福島市 NUCLEAR EXPLOSION



It is with burdened and painful heart that the entire world is witnessing the drama of the tragic earthquake, which over the last days has afflicted Japan and cost numerous lives of our brothers and sisters. Moreover, it is with much anguish and sorrow that we behold the related devastation in the Land of the Rising Sun as well as in other nations of the Pacific. Every corner of the planet is offering prayers both for the repose of the departed souls and for the

support of those who continue to be grieved and imperiled by the ensuing seismic tremors and ferocious tsunami. Lamentably, yet another calamitous consequence has struck the region with the explosion of the nuclear plant at Fukushima, rendering still more frightening the recent nightmare in Japan.

The disastrous ramifications of this event will become more evident over the next days. Of course, with regard to the earth-

“Our Creator granted us the gifts of the sun, wind, water and ocean, all of which may safely and sufficiently provide energy....

Why do we persist in adopting such dangerous sources of energy?”

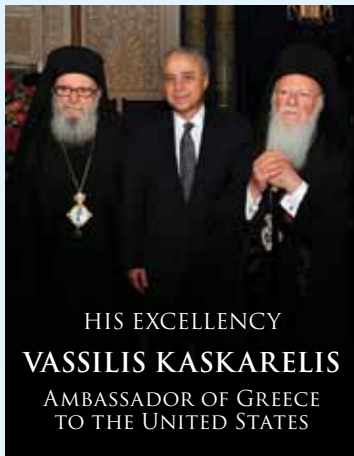
quake, no human response is adequate. The causes and results eclipse human words. Nevertheless, with regard to the explosion of the nuclear reactor and the aftermath of a nuclear adversity, there is indeed a response that we are called to make. With all due respect to the science and technology of nuclear energy and for the sake of the survival of the human race, we counter-propose the safer green forms of energy, which both moderately preserve our natural resources and mindfully serve our human needs.

Our Creator granted us the gifts of the sun, wind, water and ocean, all of which may safely and sufficiently provide energy. Ecologically-friendly science

and technology has discovered ways and means of producing sustainable forms of energy for our ecosystem. Therefore, we ask: Why do we persist in adopting such dangerous sources of energy? Are we so arrogant as to compete with and exploit nature? Yet, we know that nature invariably seeks revenge.

From the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we raise fervent prayers for our beloved Japanese people for the trial and tribulation it currently faces, while at the same time passionately appeal to all those responsible for a reconsideration of the nuclear policy of nations throughout the world. ■





HIS EXCELLENCY
VASSILIS KASKARELIS
AMBASSADOR OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED STATES

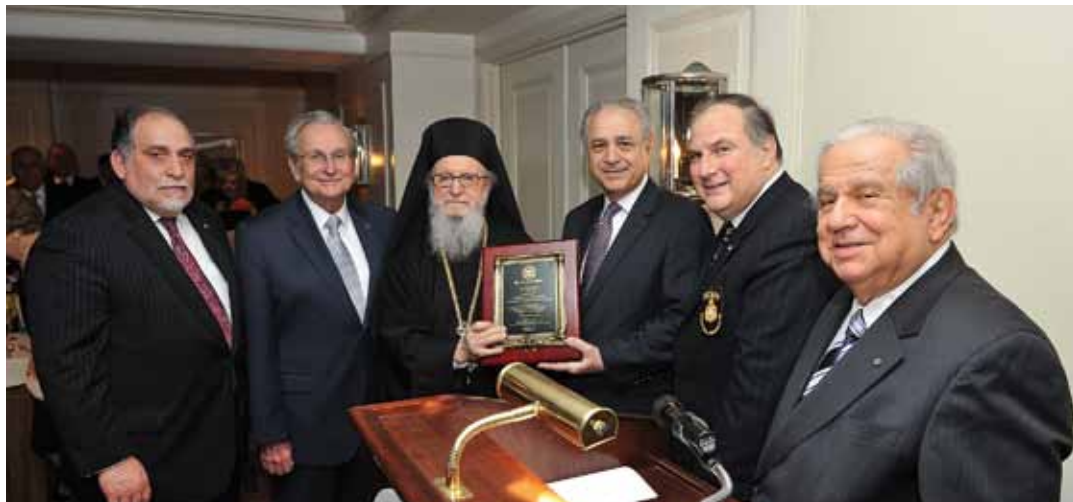
BIOGRAPHY »

Ambassador Kaskarelis, who joined the Greek Foreign Service in 1974, has had a long and distinguished diplomatic career, bringing to Washington 16 consecutive years of international experience.

Prior to his current post as Greece's Ambassador to the U.S., Ambassador Kaskarelis served in Brussels as Greece's Permanent Representative to the European Union (2004-2009) and Permanent Representative to NATO (2000-2003), while also serving as key negotiator for the Confidence Building Measures between Greece and Turkey, and in New York as Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations (2000-2003). He has also served, among various posts, in Ankara, Nicosia, and West Berlin, witnessing first-hand the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Born in Athens, Greece, on November 26, 1948, Vassilis Kaskarelis holds an Economics and Political Science Degree from the University of Thessaloniki and a Degree in Law from the University of Athens. He and his wife Anna Kaskarelis have two sons, Dyonissis and Loucas.

Among other distinctions, Ambassador Kaskarelis is the recipient of the Grand-Cross of the Order of the Phoenix and Grand Commander of the Order of the Phoenix, bestowed upon him by the President of Greece, as well the Knight of the Order of Merit, bestowed upon him by the Government of France.



Archons honor Ambassador Kaskarelis of Greece during tribute dinner

His Excellency Vassilis Kaskarelis, Ambassador of Greece to the United States was honored for his extraordinary support of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate by the Order of Saint Andrew. The event was held on Thursday, February 17, 2011, at the Carlyle Hotel in New York and hosted by National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras.

NEW YORK, NY

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., delivered introductory remarks followed by a toast offered by Archon Andrew E.

Manatos. Dr. Limberakis then highlighted the Ambassador's diplomatic career, beginning with his assignment in Turkey serving as a key negotiator in confidence building measures between Greece and Turkey.

Limberakis offered his

gratitude for behind the scenes briefings that gave the Order of Saint Andrew a lay of the diplomatic land during their religious freedom missions abroad. He also thanked His Excellency for promoting the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



[Left] Ambassador Kaskarelis greets Archon Andrew Athens. [Below, left, L-R] Andreas Comodromos, George Safiol, Nikitas Drakotos, Andrew Athens, Ambassador Kaskarelis, Anna and Nicholas Karacostas and National Commander Dr. Limberakis. [Below, right] Ambassador Kaskarelis greeted by Archons Constantine Caras and Andrew Manatos.



at every opportunity during his tenure as Ambassador to the European Union. “Truly, you have served the needs of the Great Church of Christ with the ‘shield of faith,’ the ‘helmet of salvation’ and the ‘sword of the Spirit,’ in the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, as we all seek religious freedom for the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople.”

That evening, on behalf of the Order, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America together with the National Commander and officers John Halecky, James Fountas and Alex Pritsos presented Ambassador Kaskarelis with a commemorative plaque, reading, “with profound gratitude and deep appreciation for his extraordinary support of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and in recognition for being honored as ‘Diplomat of the Year for 2011.’”

Following the presentation, the Ambassador thanked the Order and reflected on the importance of the institution of

Watch a video clip of the event on ► [youtube.com/OrderStAndrew](https://www.youtube.com/OrderStAndrew)

the Ecumenical Patriarchate, saying, “It goes without saying that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is of profound importance to Orthodox believers everywhere. It is our common point of reference. It is the lighthouse that guides our journey.” His Excellency continued, “This Sacred institution has endured for more than seventeen centuries, always envisioning the future, evolving in accordance with the spiritual needs of its faithful, navigating the contemporary world.” His Excellency also commended the Archons on organizing their first-ever International Religious Freedom Conference held at the European Parliament in Brussels. He spoke about how he witnessed the Archons “diligence and dedication” in securing religious freedom rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as he served as Ambassador to the European Union in Brussels.

The evening concluded with remarks offered by Archbishop Demetrios who commended

the Ambassador’s firm position on religious freedom rights. His Eminence also said that “encouraging progress has been made” regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate “due to the efforts of the Archons,” but, noting that several “unresolved issues” remain such as the recognition of the legal personality of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the right to “manage its affairs and property rights.”

Esteemed hierarchs, clergy and guests that evening, in addition to Archbishop Demetrios of America, included; His Grace Bishop Savas of Troas; His Grace Bishop Philotheos of Meloa; Archon Nicholas Karacostas, AHEPA supreme president; Mrs. Aphrodite Skeadas, president of the National Philoptochos Society; Archon Constantine Caras, chairman of Leadership 100; and Archon Peter Kikis, president of Faith Endowment. ■

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS AND J. MINDALA

[Right, L-R] Dr. Cary Limberakis and his wife, Alexis, Dr. Maria Limberakis, Anna Kaskarelis, Ambassador Kaskarelis, National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas, National Commander Dr. Limberakis, Peter Skeadas, and Stephen Cherpelis. [Below, left] The ambassador is welcomed by Archon Christopher Stratakis, legal counselor. [Below, right] The National Commander speaks with His Excellency Pablo Antonio Thalassinis, the Ambassador of Panama to the United Nations.



CAREER TIMELINE »

1974	Attache of Embassy, Western European Political Affairs Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1976	Third Secretary, Embassy of Greece, Ankara, Turkey
1979	Consul of Greece, Venice, Italy
1983	First Secretary, Embassy of Greece, Nicosia, Cyprus
1984	Counselor, Embassy of Greece, Nicosia, Cyprus
1987	Head of the Military Mission of Greece Berlin (West), Germany
1990	Consul General of Greece, Berlin, Germany
1991	Deputy Director, Turkish Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1993	Minister Plenipotentiary, Head of the Cabinet of the Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1995	Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN, New York
2000	Permanent Representative of Greece to NATO Brussels, Belgium (2000-2003) Negotiator, Operational Confidence Building Measures between Turkey and Greece
2004	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Greece to the European Union, Brussels, Belgium

DECORATIONS »

1975	Knight of the Order of Merit (France)
1996	Grand Commander of the Order of the Phoenix (Greece)
2005	Grand-Cross of the Order of the Phoenix (Greece)



8th Annual Archon
**LENTEN
 RETREAT**

An Ancient Faith for a Modern World

with retreat master Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis



1



2



3



4

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, NJ

The Eighth National Archon Lenten Retreat was led by the Rev. Dr. John Chrysavgis, who works in the Ecumenical Office of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and as theological advisor to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on environmental issues. The theme of the retreat was “An Ancient Faith for a Modern World” and addressed fundamental principles of Orthodox spirituality and in particular of Great Lent – such as fasting, prayer, forgiveness, silence, and love – interpreting these in light of Scripture and the early Desert Fathers and Mothers, but also in relation to contemporary challenges and reality.

Archon Peter Skeadas, Spirituality Committee chairman, organized the retreat. Archons John Halecky, Jr. and James C. Fountas coordinated the event with the Ukrainian Center. In gratitude to Father Chrysavgis lessons, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D. said, “Every year, we are blessed to have a speaker who deepens our understanding of our holy Orthodox Christian faith. Father Chrysavgis referenced important teachings from the Holy Fathers and we must implement these teachings into our personal and professional lives.”

The three sessions of the retreat began on Friday evening, March 25, with Presanctified Liturgy celebrated by Archbishop Antony, and continued on Saturday with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy celebrated by Father Taras Chubenko. Throughout the weekend, participants were blessed with the generous hospitality of the Ukrainian Center at the Consistory (headquarters) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (under the Ecumenical Patriarchate) in New Jersey. His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos attended the lunch and final session of the retreat, addressing participants on proposed projects of the Metropolis. ■

Over fifty Archons and their spouses were introduced to the world and thought of the early desert monastics of Egypt, Palestine and Sinai, particularly with reference to The Sayings of the Desert Fathers and The Letters of Saints Barsanuphius and John, whose influence and relevance for our time was highlighted with stories and anecdotes.



[1] Father Taras Chubenko celebrated the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning. [2] Archons Theodore Klingos, Captain Mark Poneris, Stephen Cherpelis, and Larry Hotzoglu pray during the Divine Liturgy. [3] Fr. John answers questions to retreat participants in between sessions. [4] National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis thanks the retreat master for his enlightening words during Great Lent. [5] Spirituality committee chairman Peter Skeadas welcomes Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey. [6] Fr. John speaks with National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas and other retreat participants during a short break. [7] Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church welcomes Archons after presanctified liturgy.

PHOTOS BY A. LIMBERAKIS AND J. MINDALA

Watch a video clip ▶ [youtube.com / OrderStAndrew](https://www.youtube.com/OrderStAndrew)



Remembering Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos

AMERICAN CARPATHO-RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE IN THE USA



JOHNSTOWN, PA

Funeral services for His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas concluded with the Interment Service at St. John the Baptist Church Cemetery in Perth Amboy, NJ.

During the six days of public viewing and memorial services, a large number of Orthodox Bishops, Ecumenical Leaders, Clergy and Faithful of all Orthodox and Christian denomina-

tions, civic leaders and friends came to offer prayers and pay their last respects. In addition, more than 1,000 people were reported to have viewed the funeral services, which were streamed on-line over the internet and are now available for viewing on demand on the Metropolitan Nicholas memorial webpage.

The outpouring of love for His Eminence, from all walks of life, was a fitting tribute to one who, as an icon of Christ "the Good Shepherd," spent

[Top] His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, leads the funeral service with visiting hierarchs and local clergy. [Above] Archon John Halecky, National Secretary, venerates the cross along with other Carpatho-Russian Archons attending the funeral service.

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS

MARCH 13
1983

MARCH 19
1985

NOVEMBER 24
1997

MARCH 13
2011

Consecrated as Bishop

*Enthroned as Ruling Bishop
of Carpatho-Russian Diocese*

Elevated to Metropolitan

Reposed in the Lord



more than a half century in humble and compassionate service to the Church. This love was expressed in many ways, in tears, in laughter - while remembering the many joyful moments spent with His Eminence, and in the power of the pen - in the many inspirational and moving reflections which many have written and are now posted on line.

While much can be said and written about Metropolitan Nicholas - perhaps the simple

concluding words of the eulogy delivered by Protopresbyter Michael Rosco, best captures his inner essence or "duch": "perhaps it is most fitting that we remember him simply as being a good and decent man...."

May His Memory be Eternal!
Вечная Ему Память!



[Top] His Eminence poses with newly-invested Carpatho-Russian Archons in 2009 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York. [Above] His Eminence delivers words during the Archon Grand Banquet, which honored His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America with the 2007 Athenagoras Human Rights Award.

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

U.S. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTION

43 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN **37** STATES
REPRESENTING **83.5%** OF THE UNITED STATES POPULATION

UPDATE



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

States highlighted in:

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

Learn more about the Religious Freedom Resolutions Project ► archons.org/resolutions

NORTH DAKOTA SCR 4014 - Introduced on 1/26/2011 Adopted on 3/24/2011 Senator Tim Mathern Rep. Andy Maragos	TEXAS HCR 193 - Introduced on 4/23/2009 Adopted on 5/5/2011 Rep. Dennis Bonnen SCR 4 - Introduced on 1/3/2011 Adoption Pending Senator Joan Huffman	KANSAS SR 1807 - Introduced on 1/6/2011 Adopted by Senate 2/3/2011 Senator Tim Owens	INDIANA SR 4 - Introduced on 1/5/2011 Adoption Pending Senator Lonnie Randolph
<p>In the state with the fewest Orthodox Christians in the country, it was only through the determined efforts of Father Oliver Herbel, Father Anastassy Fehr, and our sponsors, Senator Tim Mathern and Rep. Andy Maragos, that the Archons were able to succeed in adopting this resolution.</p> <p>The Archons especially thank Father Oliver for his time, dedication and leadership.</p>	<p>We congratulate Metropolitan Isaiah, Representative Bonnen, Chris Pappas, John Zavitsanos, Frank Mihalopoulos, Stephen Georgeson, Mike Manatos, Bill Miller, Thomas Suehs and all the clergy and laity responsible for this huge accomplishment, including the nearly 1000 Orthodox Christians from the Houston, Dallas and Austin parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America who wrote letters to their state representatives calling for religious freedom.</p>	<p>Thanks to the efforts of Peter Jouras and our sponsor, Senator Tim Owens, the Kansas Senate gave final adoption to resolution, SR 1807.</p> <p>This marks the first adoption of the 2011 legislative sessions.</p> <p>Peter and Senator Owens have worked for three years on this matter, and the Archons thank them for their persistence.</p>	<p>SR 4 was introduced on January 5th. The Archons efforts there are being led by Tom Cappas and Father Paul Bebis.</p>
OHIO SCR 3 - Introduced on 2/1/2011 Adoption Pending Senator Joe Schiavoni	HAWAII SCR 57 and SR 31 Introduced on 3/4/2011 Adoption Pending Senator Carol Fukunaga	NEW YORK Adopted by Senate and House on 4/1/2011 Senators Dean Skelos & Michael Gianaris Assemblywomen Aravella Simotas & Nicole Malliotakis	COLORADO Adopted on 4/7/2011 Representatives Lois Court & John Kefalas Senators Joyce Foster & Nancy Spence
<p>A new resolution has been introduced in the Senate thanks to Senator Joe Schiavoni.</p>	<p>New resolutions have been introduced in the Senate thanks to Senator Carol Fukunaga.</p>	<p>New York posed a particular challenge as a result of rules not allowing the adoption of the more traditional resolutions and the tremendous partisan infighting that has been taking place for the past two years.</p> <p>The Archons thank each of them, who helped achieve this extraordinary result of securing the support of all 50 senators and 94% of the members of the Assembly.</p>	<p>Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Gregory Papadeas and Fr. Apostolos Hill, who led our effort with the full and active support of Metropolitan Isaiah, the Colorado House and Senate gave final adoption to the Religious Freedom resolution, HJR 1014.</p> <p>With that action, Colorado became the 36th state to adopt a resolution in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.</p>

Bismarck - The North Dakota state Senate has adopted a resolution in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. With this action, the North Dakota Senate joins 33 other states that have adopted similar resolutions of support.

The resolution was sponsored by Senator Tim Mathern and Representative Andrew Maragos.

The resolution has the active support of the leadership of the two largest Christian denominations in the state: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the North Dakota Catholic Conference of Bishops, as well as the members of the Orthodox communities in North Dakota.



NORTH DAKOTA

Senator Mathern commented, "This was a victory for the spirit of ecumenism in North Dakota and an expression of support for our sisters and brothers in Turkey."

The effort in North Dakota is being led by Father Oliver Herbel of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Fargo, and Father Anastassy Fehr of Saint Peter the Aleut Orthodox Church in Minot.

Father Herbel said, "This resolution is important to the Orthodox in North Dakota because of the Ecumenical Patriarch's leadership in world wide Orthodox administration. We are proud and gratified that the resolution has also received support from the Roman Catholic and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America leadership in North Dakota." ■

Denver - The Colorado state Senate and House of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. With this action, the Colorado Senate and House join 35 other states that have adopted similar resolutions of support.

The resolution, sponsored by Representatives Lois Court, John Kefalas and Senators Joyce Foster and Nancy Spence.

With the blessings of Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, the effort in Colorado was led by Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas, Regional Commander of the Archons, Order of St. Andrew the Apostle of the 10th district.

Representative Kefalas stated, "As the only Greek-American in



COLORADO

the Colorado General Assembly, I am honored to support the Greek-Orthodox community and this legislative resolution that speaks to the importance of upholding religious freedom."

Metropolitan Isaiah was honored by offering the opening prayer to begin the legislative day. He commented, "Our heritage has always supported religious freedom for individuals. On that basis, we would like to also see religious freedom for our spiritual leader in Istanbul, Turkey!"

Dr. Papadeas remarked, "During this season of Great and Holy Lent, this is an important statement on behalf and in defense of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and for all religious minorities living in Turkey!" ■

Albany - In a display of overwhelming support for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, all sixty two members of the New York State Senate and one hundred and forty-four members of the New York State Assembly signed letters calling for the Turkish Government to cease its discrimination of the Holy See.

In the legislature, the effort was led by Senators Dean Skelos and Michael Gianaris and Assemblywomen Aravella Simotas and Nicole Malliotakis, each of whom diligently approached colleagues individually to educate them about the Turkish government's harmful policies toward the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to encourage them to sign on to the letter.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, noted the significance of the overwhelming support the letters received. "This is a great day for the State of New York and for the Greek Orthodox Church in America," His Eminence stated. "The cause of religious liberty is fundamental to the American way of life, and the State legislature of New York, under the leadership of Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Senator Michael Gianaris, and Assemblywomen Aravella Simotas and Nicole



NEW YORK

Malliotakis, have borne a powerful witness to the rights of all by underscoring the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

We also commend the Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew, and the effective leadership of Archon John Catsimatidis, the chairman of the Archon Religious Freedom project. We look forward to the day when every one of the fifty states stands up for the spiritual freedom and human dignity of our Holy Mother Church of Constantinople, and the American values of justice and fairness for all are enshrined in all the State Houses of government."

Senator Michael Gianaris also noted the importance of the bipartisan effort, stating: "The future of Orthodox Christianity is being threatened by the Turkish government's oppressive policies restricting the full exercise of religion in its country. I am pleased that the New York State Senate has taken a bipartisan stand for religious freedom and look forward to the day when people of all faiths feel free to worship as they see fit."

The legislative religious freedom initiative for New York State was coordinated by Archons John Catsimatidis, Peter Skeadas, Nikiforos Mathews, Theodore Klingos and John Kassimatis. ■



J. MINDALA



[Top] NY State Assemblywomen Aravella Simotas (D) and Nicole Malliotakis (R) held meetings with National Commander Limberakis, National Council member Peter Skeadas and Regional Commander Nikiforos Mathews. [Above] Fr. James Dutko with Archons David Gdovin, left, and Michael Kundrat, right, of Binghamton, NY, during their meeting with NY State legislators Senator Tom Libous and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo.



Departed Archons

Dr. Dino Anagnost

Archon Exarchos
New York, NY
3/30/2011

Sam Constant

Archon Orphanotrofos
Daytona Beach, FL
1/29/2011

John N. Economou

Archon Ekdikos
Akron, OH
2/25/2011

Frank Finui

Archon Hartophylax
Carllisle, PA
2/10/2011

Dr. Vasilios S. Lambros

Archon Aktouarios
San Marino, CA
3/4/2011

Dr. Basil J. Photos

Archon Aktouarios
Glenview, IL
2/13/2011

Charles L. Poulos

Archon Depoutatos
Lincoln, MA
3/9/2011

Stephen J. Redding

Archon Hieromnimon
Santa Barbara, CA
1/11/2011

James W. Shenias

Archon Depoutatos
Stuart, FL
1/31/2011

James Tsairis

Archon Exarchos
Westbury, NY
04/03/11



May Their Memory Be Eternal

USIRF reports indicates Turkey on 'Watch List'

« Continued from page 1

Freedom to encourage relevant follow-up actions to protect religious freedom where it is most threatened.”

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 twenty-one page section is devoted to the current situation in Turkey in which the Commission begins with its findings, stating:

“The Turkish government continues to impose serious limitations on freedom of religion or belief, thereby threatening the continued vitality and survival of minority religious communities in Turkey. Turkey has a democratic government, with an energetic civil society and media, and the country’s constitution protects the freedom of belief and worship and the private dissemination of religious ideas. However, the Turkish government’s formal, long-standing efforts to control religion by imposing suffocating regulations and by denying full legal status to religious institutions results in serious religious freedom violations. The government has failed to take decisive action to correct the climate of impunity against religious minorities and to make the necessary institutional reforms to reverse these conditions. Instead, Turkey continues to intervene in the internal governance and education of religious communities and to confiscate places of worship. The alleged involvement of state and military officials in the Ergenekon conspiracy, which included alleged plans to assassinate minority religious leaders and to bomb mosques, is also of serious concern, as is the alleged use of preventive arrests to repress critics of the AK Party. Also concerning is the rise in anti-Semitism in Turkish society and media.

“Due to these concerns, and others set forth in this chapter, USCIRF continues to place Turkey on its Watch List in 2011. Turkey was first placed on the USCIRF Watch List in 2009, and the Commission notes with concern that conditions have deteriorated further since then, underscoring the need for continued vigilance in monitoring.

“State secularism in Turkey has significantly restricted religious freedom, especially for religious minority communities, including the Greek, Armenian, and Syriac Orthodox Churches; Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches; and the Jewish community, but also for the majority Sunni Muslim community and the minority Alevis, which some view as a unique sect of Islam. The government officially permits the Hanafi school of Sunni Islam, but controls all official mosques and the training of Sunni Muslim clergy.

“However since 2007, imams reportedly may choose the content of sermons, indicating greater official openness. Despite Turkey’s obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, the government has not recognized minority religious communities, such as the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Church, as independent entities with full legal status. These restrictions, including policies that deny non-Muslim communities the rights to train religious clergy, offer religious education, and own and maintain places of worship, have led to the decline, and in some cases the virtual disappearance, of these communities in Turkey. As part of its EU accession process, Turkey has adopted some reforms relevant to religious freedom, and although the Turkish government has arrested those suspected of violent hate crimes linked to religion and has instituted legal reforms to decrease military involvement in civilian politics, protracted trials underscore judicial weakness in correcting impunity on religious freedom violations.

The report continues with its “Priority Recommendations,” stating:

The United States regards Turkey as an important strategic partner and continues to support Turkey’s EU accession process. U.S. policy should place greater emphasis on Turkey’s compliance with its international commitments regarding freedom of religion or belief. Specifically, the United States should encourage the Turkish government to end the longstanding denial of full legal recognition for religious communities and to permit religious minorities to train religious clergy in Turkey, including by reopening the Greek Orthodox Theological Seminary of Halki and returning the entire territory of the Mor Gabriel Syrian Orthodox monastery to its rightful owners. The United States

should also encourage the Turkish government to allow women the freedom to express their religious or non-religious views through dress. The United States should also urge Turkey to end the prohibition on religious minorities wearing religious dress in public.

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

- permit religious communities to select and appoint their leadership in accordance with their internal guidelines and beliefs, according to Turkey’s international obligations, end Turkish citizenship requirements for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church, and grant official recognition to the Ecumenical status of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, in line with the 2010 opinion by the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission;
- permit all religious minorities, including those not covered by the Lausanne Treaty, to train religious clergy, including by:
 - permitting the reopening of the Halki Theological Seminary, according to Turkey’s international obligations, and allowing for religious training to occur;
 - organizing a technical committee comprised of representatives from the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Turkish government representatives, to review all technical details relevant to the expeditious opening of Halki seminary;
 - returning the Greek Orthodox school on the island of Imvros to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and approving the Patriarchate’s application for the operation of the school; and encouraging the Ministry of Education to respond favorably to the official request of the Armenian Patriarch to permit his community to establish a theological faculty on Christian theology that incorporates instruction from the Patriarch, as required under Turkey’s international obligations.

Read the entire Commission’s Annual Report on their website, www.uscirf.gov (Pages 317-338 will refer to the Commission’s findings on Turkey)



Archons gather for consecration of Saint Katherine's Church in Naples



NAPLES, FL

Archons gathered in Naples, Florida, the weekend of February 25-27 to mark a singular and momentous occasion in the life of an Orthodox Christian parish, its consecration. St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church was consecrated on Saturday, February 26 before an eager congregation of parishioners, visitors and assembled Archons as His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, assisted by the V. Rev. Archimandrite Constantine Mersinas, pastor of St. Katherine's, and visiting clergy, installed the relics of Saints Panteleimon, George and a martyr of the St. Sava monastery into the altar table, thus sanctifying the church and

[Above, L-R] Archons Dr. John Eliopoulos, Xen Zapis, Costa Stavropoulos, Michael Emanuel, SE FL Regional Commander John C. Scurtis, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, V. Rev. Father Constantine Mersinas, Archons Dr. Nick Terezi, Dr. Larry Gess, Harry Demas, Peter Stavropoulos, and Tom Kyrus.

[Left] Archon John C. Scurtis, Regional Commander for Southeastern Florida, fills the vigil light at the Saint Katherine's consecration service.

dedicating its building for use as a church.

Approximately 500 people witnessed the literal chrismation of the church and its holy relics and altar table, sanctifying it by the grace of the Holy Spirit. The congregants were fully engrossed as His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios washed the altar table, anointed it with chrism, vested the table and anointed the walls and icons of the church.

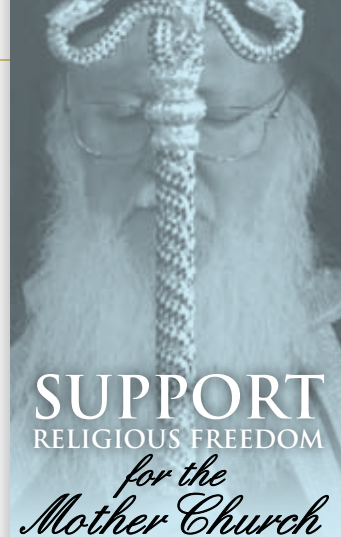
All those present—clergy, parishioners and Archons—were active participants in this solemn ceremony as each filled the vigil lamp with oil that is placed on the altar table. The attendees also received a cherished souvenir from this truly memo-

orable day: a small boxed icon of St. Katherine with a piece of the white savanon worn by His Eminence while washing the altar table.

A luncheon was held at the Ritz Carlton Resort celebrating the consecration as well as recognizing founders and supporters of St. Katherine. Master of Ceremonies for this event was Archon and Fox News White House Correspondent, Mike Emanuel. Regional Commander for Southeastern Florida, Archon John C. Scurtis, met with Archons from Naples and other areas of the country discussing an upcoming event to be held in Miami this fall with the central theme "Religious Freedom for Our Mother Church". ■

PHOTOS BY DR. MICHAEL KONTOS
AND ANASTASIA SCURTIS ARVANITIS

Archon and Fox News White House Correspondent Mike Emanuel emceeds the consecration banquet at the Naples Ritz Carlton.



**MAKE YOUR
DONATION TODAY!**

archons.org/donate

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle has recently implemented an online donation feature onto its website using the secure web service *Network for Good*.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support The Order's efforts in securing religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Exarch's Appeal General Donations Religious Freedom Donations

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THE ARCHON
8 EAST 79TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10075-0106



PHOTO BRIEFS



On April 24, thousands of pilgrims participated at the Resurrection Service presided by His All-Holiness at the Patriarchal Church of St. George. In attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Angelopoulos, Greek journalist Lefteris Papadopoulos, Greek Political Party PASOK member and former Minister, Costas Geitonas and many Archons of the Throne from Greece and abroad.

N. MANGINAS



On Tuesday, March 29, seminarians from the senior class of Holy Cross School of Theology gathered at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America where they had the opportunity to become further educated on the work of the Order of Saint Andrew. Archons John Halecky, Alex Pritsos and Regional Commander Nik Mathews offered presentations on the work of the Order and the religious freedom issues effecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

J. MINDALA



On March 13, Archons of the North and Central Florida District, carried icons in procession during the Divine Liturgy for the commemoration of the First Sunday of Great Lent and the Feast of the Sunday of Orthodoxy. The procession of icons took place at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Clearwater, FL. The Archons were led by Regional Commander Dr. Theodore P. Vlahos.



National Commander Limberakis, along with Archon Andrew E. Manatos, greet President Barack Obama on March 25, asking for him to press the issues of religious freedom violations against the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the reopening of the Halki Seminary in Turkey.

J. MINDALA



On April 17, His All-Holiness presided over the Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday. In attendance among the congregation were the Vice President of Greece, the Hon. Theodore Pangalos, with his family.

N. MANGINAS