



THE ARCHON

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Legislators present
Religious Freedom Letters
to Archbishop Demetrios

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THE ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW
TO HONOR

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U.S. ARMED FORCES

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20
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Celebrate His All-Holiness'
twentieth anniversary of
his election

PAGE 16



N. MANGINAS

Secretary of State Clinton meets with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, calls for immediate opening of Halki Seminary

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on Saturday, July 16 at the Phanar during her visit to Istanbul. His All-Holiness warmly received Secretary Clinton who initiated a serious hour-long discussion on various issues, including the reopening of the Orthodox Theological School of Halki.

Read about Clinton's visit on page 2 »

Archon Behrakis becomes first recipient of 'Bouras Stewardship Award'

NEW YORK

The Order of Saint Andrew honored George D. Behrakis, Archon Depoutatos, on June 5 by bestowing upon him the "Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship." Archon Behrakis became the first recipient of this prestigious award during a special tribute dinner dance attended by more than two-hundred people at the Metropolitan Club in New York.



D. PANAGOS

Archon Behrakis receives the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship.

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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.

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SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON *visits the* ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



ISTANBUL

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on Saturday, July 16 at the Phanar during her visit to Istanbul. His All-Holiness warmly received Secretary Clinton who initiated a serious hour-long discussion on various issues, including the reopening of the Orthodox Theological School of Halki.

“40 years of ‘silence’ are enough for the School” Clinton reportedly told media. She reiterated the commitment of the United States on the issue of religious freedom and expressed her support to the concerns of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Secretary of State Clinton, above, is welcomed by His All-Holiness to the Phanar. Members of the Holy and Sacred Synod, below, with Secretary Clinton, Ambassador Susan Johnson Cook and Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall.

PHOTOS BY N. MANGINAS

Secretary of State Clinton also referred to other activities and initiatives of the Ecumenical Patriarch, referencing His All-Holiness as the “Green Patriarch” -- an epithet bestowed on him for his tireless leadership and pioneering work in raising environmental awareness and

underlining spiritual values in addressing the ecological crisis.

Clinton highlighted the interreligious dialogue initiated by the Ecumenical Patriarch in 1994 at the Bosphorus Meeting and the Declaration signed, as well as the continuation of the dialogue in 2001 in Brussels immediately after the terrorist attack of September 11.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew referred to recent positive steps by the Erdogan government to remove barriers that had historically accumulated, limiting the action of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He thanked the U.S. for its “continuous and undiminished ‘interest in the issues of the Orthodox Church.’”





Father Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor, greets the Secretary of State outside the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Ambassador Susan Cook, Assistant Secretary Philip Gordon and Ambassador Francis Ricciardone light candles in the Patriarchal Church of Saint George.



Archbishop Demetrios speaks about the return of the relics of Saints John Chrysostom and Gregory the Theologian.

Finally, the Secretary conveyed the gratitude of President Barack Obama for the supportive letter by His All-Holiness to the President regarding the administration's initiatives pertaining to climate change.

Hillary Clinton was accompanied by Philip Gordon, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; Francis Ricciardone, United States Ambassador to Turkey; Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Europe, National Security Council; Suzan Johnson Cook, Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, and Scott Kilner, United

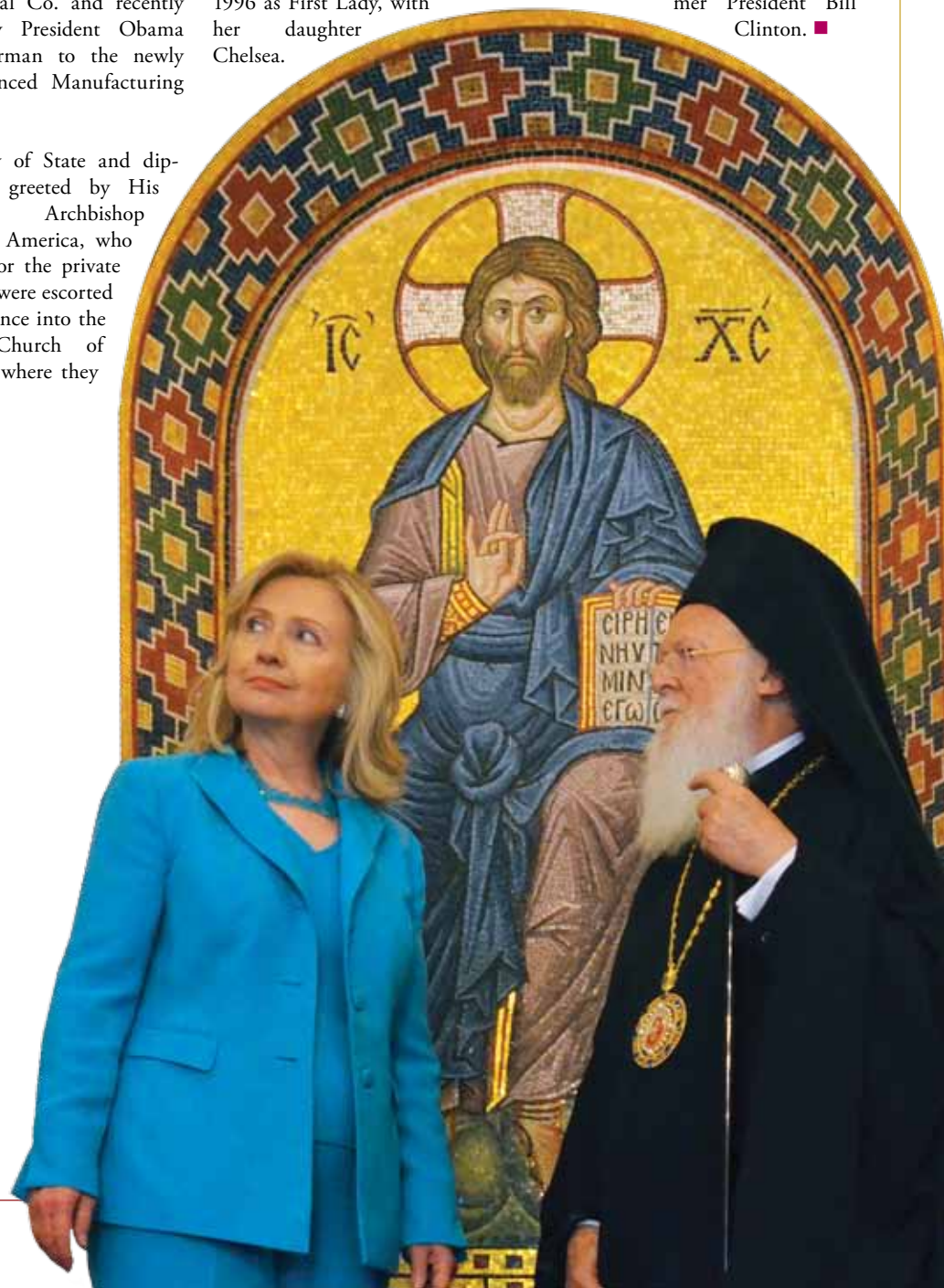
States Consul General. Also present during the Secretary's visit was Archon Andrew J. Liveris, CEO of Dow Chemical Co. and recently appointed by President Obama as a co-chairman to the newly formed Advanced Manufacturing Partnership.

The Secretary of State and diplomats were greeted by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, who was present for the private meeting, and were escorted by His Eminence into the Patriarchal Church of Saint George where they lit candles.

This was the third visit of Hillary Clinton to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The first took place in 1996 as First Lady, with her daughter Chelsea.

The second visit occurred in 1999, again as First Lady, when she accompanied her husband, former President Bill Clinton. ■

Archbishop Demetrios escorts Secretary Clinton outside the Patriarchal Church of Saint George.



Departed Archons

Peter G. Calomiris

Archon Lambadarios
Washington, D.C.
7/22/2011

Dr. Constantine P. Cavarnos

Archon Depoutatos
Belmont, MA
3/3/2011

Emmanuel Fellouzis

Archon Exarchos
Largo, FL
5/31/2011

Peter C. Latsis

Archon Depoutatos
Culver City, CA
5/13/2011

Dr. Nicholas D. Mamalis

Regional Commander
Archon Aktouarios
Tulsa, OK
6/30/2011

William H. Oldknow

Archon Depoutatos
Pasadena, CA
7/19/2011

James W. Pihos

Archon Skevophylax
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
5/13/2011

Spiros G. Raftis

Archon Skevophylax
Pittsburgh, PA
6/1/2011

Harry C. Vournas

Archon Hartoularios
San Gabriel, CA
6/27/2011

May Their Memory Be Eternal

Archdiocesan Youth Choir performs in honor of His All-Holiness twentieth anniversary of election and enthronement

The Archdiocesan Youth Choir of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America gave a concert on July 2 in honor His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the election and enthronement of His All-Holiness to the first throne of the Orthodox Church.

The concert was held in the historic church of St. Irene, which stands next to "Agia Sophia" and was the site of the Second Ecumenical Synod in 381 A.D. The Archdiocesan Youth Choir was led by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America in a tour to Constantinople, Cyprus and Greece, which ended with a performance at Ionian Village (Bartholomio, Greece) on July 12.

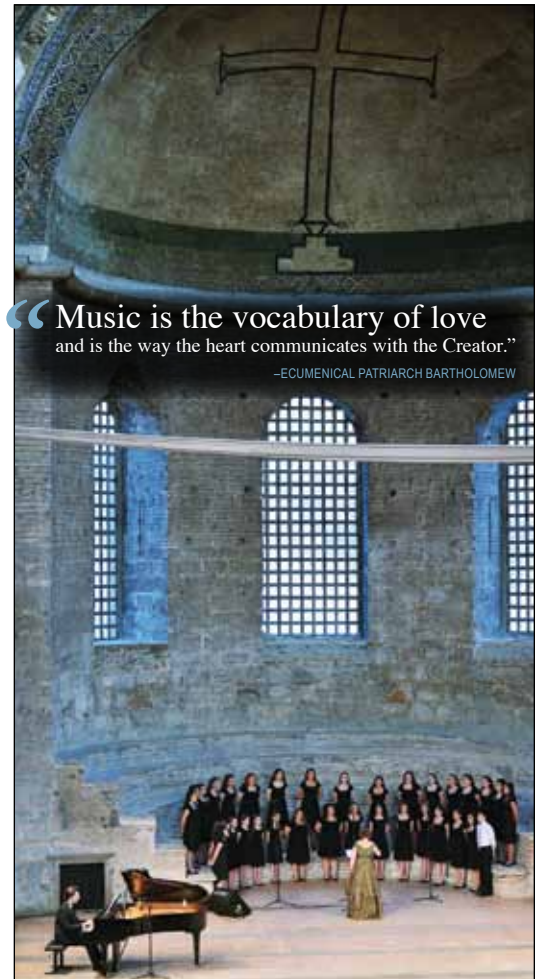
The Church of St. Irene, which is used as a venue for musical events and concerts, was an idyllic and meaningful location for a moving musical recital of angelic voices singing a rich and diversified repertoire of orthodox ecclesiastical pieces, traditional and modern Greek compositions and international selections.

The thirty-nine member Archdiocesan Youth Choir, under the very skilled direction of Conductor Maria Koleva and with the piano accompaniment of the accomplished pianist Vasilis Varvaressos performed superbly a program of 18 songs in Greek, English and Turkish. The evening began with the traditional version of the Hymn to the Most Holy Theotokos "Ti Ypermaho," followed by a second version in an arrangement by composer Sophia Serghi. It included some well known and loved songs by renown Greek composers Manos Hatzidakis and Mikis Theodorakis, a song by Turkish composer Livanelli Zuelfue, and pieces by Mozart, George Gershwin and others. It concluded with the "Polychronion" of the Ecumenical

Patriarch. Vasilis Varvaressos performed solo an excerpt from Franz Liszt's Concert for Piano as an interlude in the program. The hundreds of guests, from the Omogeneia of Constantinople, Greece, Cyprus and the United States applauded enthusiastically and complimented the excellence of the offering.

Upon the conclusion of the performance, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios publicly expressed his gratitude to the Ecumenical Patriarch for having accepted the offering of the concert in His All Holiness' honor and for his support in realizing the performance. The Archbishop particularly thanked the benefactors and sponsors of the Archdiocesan Youth Choir Dimitrios and Georgia Kaloidis and Panikos Papanokolaou, who is also the president of the Choir board, for making the Concert and Tour possible.

"Music is the vocabulary of love and is the way the heart communicates with the Creator," said the Ecumenical Patriarch addressing the children of the Choir, the delegation from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the audience of the concert. His All



Conductor Maria Koleva directs the Archdiocesan Youth Choir inside the Church of Saint Irene.

D. PANAGOS

Holiness praised the musical performance of the Choir and said that he had the opportunity to receive many expressions of love from the orthodox faithful of America in the past, manifestations and expressions of love which continue to this day with the presentation of this concert. "As in the past, these expressions of your love towards me personally and towards the Mother Church are supporting us and strengthen us- and the Mother Church is truly appreciative of this love and support we receive," said the Ecumenical Patriarch. ■

[Source: www.goarch.org]



Honoring
GEORGE D. BEHRAKIS
 ARCHON DEPOUTATOS

The evening began with welcoming remarks and a personal reflection delivered by Archon George Safiol, Award Committee Chairman, who detailed Archon Behrakis' outstanding accomplishments in business, religion, medicine, philanthropy and heritage, saying, "George is truly a man for all seasons and we salute him, his wife Margo and his entire family."

Drake Behrakis, master of ceremonies, gave insight on his father, outside of his professional accomplishments, as a personal friend to many and as a family man, saying, "It really comes from his heart and we can honestly say that. Whether it relates to his family, his church, his homeland or the many activities he's involved with. The choices he makes, the paths he follows, and the opinions he voices are sincere, honest and respectful."

After an intermission of dinner and dancing, the remarks of Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, who was unable to attend that evening, were delivered: "Although I prefer the honor of being anonymous, I am deeply honored that the Order

of Saint Andrew established the Nicholas J. Bouras Award in recognition of my humble service to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and our Archdiocese. I believe that my friend, George D. Behrakis, is worthy of any tribute given him. Therefore, I am both pleased and flattered that he is the first recipient of this Archon Award recognizing exemplary service and stewardship to our Mother Church.

"It is my prayer that the creation of the Bouras Award, which would have been impossible without my respected parents and beloved wife Anna of blessed memory, will serve to perpetuate the tradition of Orthodoxy and Hellenism in this great land. Perpetuating traditions, after all, is not about preserving the ashes, but keeping the flame alive. I sincerely hope that this Award helps keep the flame alive by passing on the unwaning light of our Faith and the Olympic torch of our heritage for generations to come."

National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis said, "We have often referred to Archon Nicholas as the Backbone of the Order who has em-



George has been an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, for 32 years. His service to the Mother Church and its Eparchy in America is as extensive as it is distinguished. He has served as president of his home parish of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Lowell, Massachusetts. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; was vice chairman of Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology; chairman of Leadership 100, a founder of Faith Endowment, and was the force behind the establishment of the of the Saint

Continued »



ARCHON GEORGE SAFIOL
 AWARD COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

"George is truly a man for all seasons and we salute him, his wife Margo and his entire family."

"(George) sets the highest standard and signaling this Award is a very significant recognition by the Archon community, the nobility of Orthodox Christian churchmen."



DR. ANTHONY J. LIMBERAKIS
 NATIONAL COMMANDER

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS



NICHOLAS J. BOURAS

ABOUT THE NICHOLAS J. BOURAS AWARD

The National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew unanimously voted in 2010 to establish the Nicholas J. Bouras Award. 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. The Award is named after National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, Archon Depoutatos, who himself has demonstrated remarkable leadership as a faithful son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and exemplary steward of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Churchman, World War II hero, devoted husband of his beloved late wife Anna, Philanthropist, sincere Christian, Archon par excellence and Industrialist are terms that have all described the life of Nicholas J. Bouras.



[Top] Family members of the honoree included [L-R] Thanasi C. Liakos, Joanna B. Yianopoulos, Stephanie B. Liakos, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Margo and George Behrakis, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Maria and Drake Behrakis, His Grace Bishop Philotheos of Meloa and National Commander Limberakis.

[Above, top] Archons Demetreos Limberakis, George Tsunis, Dr. George Korkis, John Catsimatidis, John Payiavlas and Michael and Anastasia Karloutsos, and Father Alex Karloutsos were among the many guests in attendance. [Above, bottom, L-R] National Secretary John Halecky, Father Nicholas Triantafilou, President of Holy Cross/Hellenic College, George Safiol, Presbyter Diane Triantafilou, Margo and George Behrakis, National Commander Limberakis, Archon George Danis and Anthony Pantazopoulos.

[Above, top] Guests commend Archon Behrakis as he is honored by the National Council members. [Above, bottom] George Behrakis graciously accepts becoming the first recipient of the Award as he addresses two hundred attendees inside The Metropolitan Club.

J. MINDALA

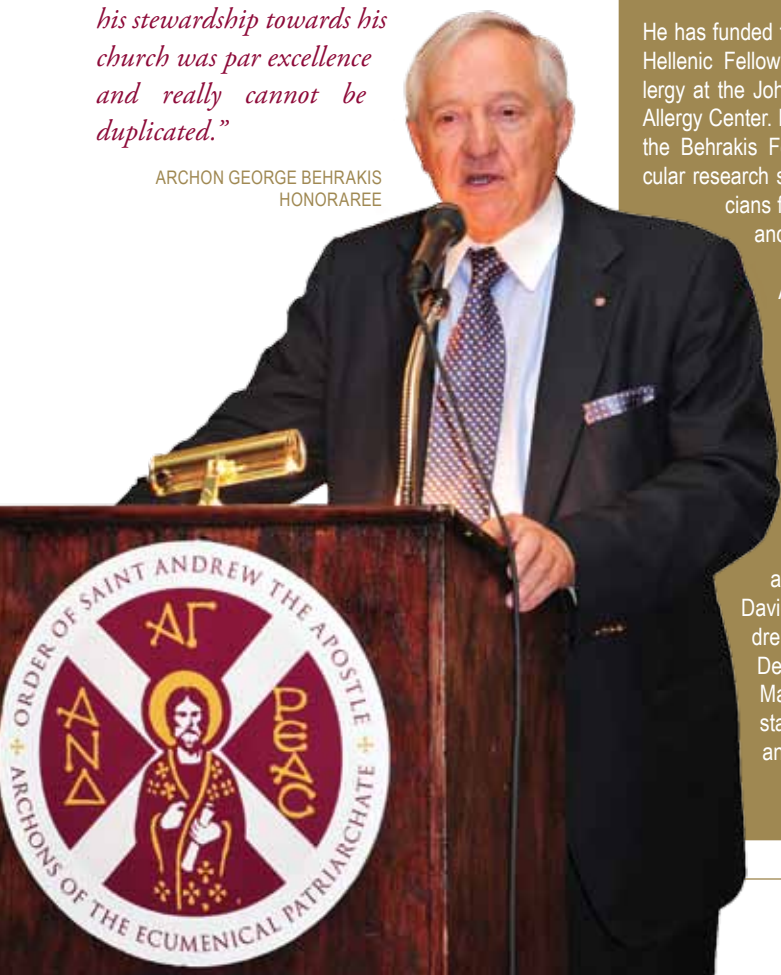


[Top] Sergeant of Arms Alexander Pritsos escorts National Commander Limberakis, Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Methodios and Archon Behrakis. [Above] Speeches and reflections were offered during the banquet by [L-R] Metropolitan Methodios, Archbishop Demetrios and Drake Behrakis, son of Archon George.

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS

"We should all take a page out of Mr. Bouras: his life, his successes. Nicholas Bouras had the character, the integrity, his Christian faith, his stewardship towards his church was par excellence and really cannot be duplicated."

ARCHON GEORGE BEHRAKIS
HONORAREE



Methodios Faith and Heritage Center, Metropolis of Boston Camp and Retreat Center in New Hampshire.

Archon George was essential in coordinating the arrangements for President Mikhail Gorbachev receiving the 2005 Athenagoras Human Rights Award in his capacity as a founding director of the Gorbachev Foundation of North America. Archon George has continuously answered the call for Archon Stewardship of his Time, Talent and Treasure putting into action the words of our Lord, Savior and God in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

In the business world, Archon George is chairman of Gainsborough Investments, has distinguished himself in the pharmaceutical industry as a researcher and marketer of asthma and allergy products and is the founder of successful companies: Dooner Laboratories and Muro Pharmaceutical, Inc.

Among George's generous gifts, his philanthropy includes The George D. and Margo Behrakis \$25 million Wing for Greek and Roman Art at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the George D. Behrakis Chair in the Field of Targeted Pharmaceuticals at Northeastern University.

He has funded the George D. Behrakis Hellenic Fellowship in Respiratory Allergy at the John Hopkins Asthma and Allergy Center. He has also established the Behrakis Fellowship in cardiovascular research supporting Greek physicians from Greece at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Archon George and his wife Margo of fifty years, reside in North Tewksbury, Massachusetts. The couple has four married children, Drake married to Maria, Joanna married to Peter, Stephanie married to Thanasi, and Elena married to David, and nine grandchildren: George, Zoe, and Demetri; Christian and Marissa; Margo and Constantine; and Sebastian and Kaliope. ■

powered the Archons under the leadership of His Eminence to develop a worldwide strategy seeking the complete religious freedom of our worldwide spiritual father Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, a strategy I might add that seems to be bearing fruit."

Dr. Limberakis was then joined by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, and members of the Executive Committee, who then presented the Award, saying, "After months of careful deliberation the committee, chaired by Archon George Safiol, unanimously recommended Archon Depoutatos George D. Behrakis to be the very first recipient, thereby setting the highest standard and signaling this Award is a very significant recognition by the Archon community, the nobility of Orthodox Christian churchmen."

The Commander concluded his remarks by referencing the day's Epistle reading that was heard in all Orthodox Churches around the world: It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35) and after reciting that passage he stated, "I know of no one, more worthy of those words of our Lord and Savior, than Nicholas J. Bouras and George D. Behrakis."

Humbled by the recognition, Archon Behrakis graciously accepted saying, "We should all take a page out of Mr. Bouras: his life, his successes. We all try to exemplify someone. Nicholas Bouras had the character, the integrity, his Christian faith, his stewardship towards his church was par excellence and really cannot be duplicated. I truly accept this award on behalf of my wife and my family."

Metropolitan Methodios commended the generosity of Archon Behrakis, addressing the gathering, saying, "He is always there when the church needs him. This family is deserving of the love and the respect of all of us that are in this room and hundreds upon hundreds throughout the country and throughout the world, who when they hear the names George and Margo Behrakis, they stop and thank God for them."

Archbishop Demetrios conveyed the warm wishes and blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, saying, "His All-Holiness is always cognizant and deeply grateful for the tremendous work and assistance offered by the Archons of the United States." He concluded the evening by acknowledged the outstanding stewardship and generosity of Archons Bouras and Behrakis to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and its ministries, their contributions towards their local Metropolises and to Hellenism. ■



NY Legislators present religious freedom letters to Archbishop Demetrios

RESOLUTION
ADOPTED!

44 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN **37** STATES
REPRESENTING **85%** OF THE UNITED STATES POPULATION

UPDATE



New York Legislators Malliotakis, Gianaris and Skelos are welcomed to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese by National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis and Father Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor.

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS

NEW YORK

In an exceptional action, both chambers of the New York State Legislature have signed letters urging the government of a foreign country to practice greater religious tolerance within its borders. The documents were presented on May 12 to Archbishop Demetrios of America, spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, by the Orthodox legislators who spearheaded the signature drive, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Senator Mike Gianaris and Assemblywomen Aravella Simotas and Nicole Malliotakis.

All 62 members of the New York

State Senate and 144 members of the New York State Assembly have endorsed the respective letters, urging the government of Turkey to allow greater freedom to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey and to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians throughout the world. The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, an organization whose mission is to defend and support the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has mounted a nationwide effort to have the legislative bodies of all 50 states sign similar Religious Freedom letters or pass Religious Freedom have a similar effect. Thus far, 37 state legislatures, now including New York, have done so.

In accepting the letters, Archbishop Demetrios of America stated, "this is an important moment for our Church as we receive a copy of these letters. We are proud that the almost unanimous acceptance of these letters by the New York State Legislature was spearheaded by our four honorable Greek-American representatives to the State Government," he said and at a later point added: "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 Malliotakis, have borne a powerful witness to the rights of all by underscoring the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate."

John Catsimatidis, New York businessman and National Coordinator of Religious Freedom for the Order of St. Andrew, said, "This is an important day for our Church. The leader of our faith, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, lies under siege from an abusive, hostile foreign government. The letters signed by the New York State Senate and Assembly send a clear message across continents that religious persecution affects the world and cannot be tolerated. I am proud of our Legislature and especially

proud of the Orthodox Christians who headed the signature drive."

Among other things, the letters from the New York State Legislature call on the Turkish government to:

- Cease discrimination of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;
- Grant the Ecumenical Patriarchate international recognition, ecclesiastic succession, and the right to train its clergy;
- Respect of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's property rights; and
- Re-open the Halki Theological School located on an island off Istanbul which was forced to close in 1971, when Turkey passed a law forbidding the establishment of private schools of higher learning.

Others on hand to witness the presentation were Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis of Philadelphia, John Catsimatidis of New York, leader of the National Religious Freedom Task Force and members of the Archon National Council and Archon Regional Commanders, including Nikiforos Mathews, Peter Skeadas and John Kassimatis, all of New York. ■

[Top, L-R] Koula Sofianou, Consul General of Cyprus in New York; Archon John Catsimatidis, National Coordinator of Religious Freedom; Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos; Archbishop Demetrios; Aravella Simotas; National Commander Limberakis; Nicole Malliotakis; Senator Mike Gianaris; Archon Regional Commander Nikiforos Mathews; and Consul General Aglaia Balta, upon presentation of the Religious Freedom Letters.

Why Turkey's Prime Minister is Good for Christians

By Owen Matthews

Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan is redrawing the Constitution.

Why the devout Muslim is good for the Christians.

As a teenager growing up in a tough Istanbul neighborhood, Recep Tayyip Erdogan studied to be an Islamic cleric. His dream, though, was to become a professional player on the local Kasimpasa football team. In the end, neither ambition worked out: he became Turkey's prime minister instead. Now, after nine years in power, Erdogan has just pulled off his third—and biggest—general-election win on an ambitious program that includes a radical redrawing of Turkey's Constitution. The theology student from Kasimpasa now wants to remake the hard-wiring of the Turkish state by scrapping restrictions on religious freedom; creating a powerful French-style presidency (presumably with himself as the first incumbent); and by making the country's judges, universities, and Army more accountable to Parliament: a to-do list that rings loud alarm bells for many Turks—and friends of Turkey. The country's old secular elite fears that allowing Erdogan's Islamist-rooted AK Party a say in the appointment of judges, school principals, and university rectors will make the country more Muslim and more conservative. Pundits and politicians in America and Israel aren't thrilled with the idea of giving Erdogan more power—especially after he railed about a Jewish press conspiracy against him during the campaign. And Turkey's chattering classes are increasingly concerned about Erdogan's intolerance of criticism. One hostile newspaper magnate has been landed with crippling tax bills, while more than 60 Turkish journalists languish in jail—more than in China.

Unexpectedly, though, Turkey's tiny but ancient Christian community has welcomed the AK Party's most recent landslide. Erdogan may be a deeply devout Muslim, and his party dominated by nondrinking, headscarf-wearing Sunni Muslims. But despite his Islamic grassroots, Erdogan advocates a historic softening of Turkey's 80-year-old anti-Christian rules. Most significantly, he has helped save the 1,700-year old patriarchate of Constantinople. The current Patriarch Bartholomew, as senior bishop of the Orthodox Church, is spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox faithful around the world. But a 1923 Turkish law insists that the patriarch and all members of the Synod—the Orthodox equivalent of the Catholic College of Cardinals—be Turkish citizens drawn from Turkey's tiny ethnic-Greek community, now just 2,500 strong. With Bartholomew already 71, and most of the Synod not much younger, it looked as though the end of the institution was nigh. But by granting Turkish citizenship to a new crop of younger Orthodox bishops from around the world, Erdogan likely saved the institution by ensuring Bartholomew's succession.

Father Dositheos Anagnostopoulos of the patriarchate calls the move the “most positive thing I have heard from the Turkish government in my lifetime.” Erdogan's government has also passed a new law that will allow Christians to reclaim land and property illegally confiscated over recent decades. An ancient Armenian church in eastern Turkey, derelict since the massacres of hundreds of thou-

sands of Ottoman Armenians in 1915, has been restored at state expense, and Armenian priests have been allowed to hold services there; a mass was also recently allowed at the ancient Greek Orthodox Sumela Monastery.

Erdogan's motivation is simple: giving Christians more control over their property and religious education will pave the way for Islamic institutions to have more freedom, too. And Turkey's leading clerics have made a point of speaking out in defense of Christian rights. “The freedom of the religious minorities is our freedom,” Mehmet Görmez, the AK Party's recent appointee as head of the Turkish Religious Affairs Directorate, told a conference recently. “We feel the same pressures that they do.” It's a nice interfaith solidarity statement but not the full picture. True, ultranationalist Turks are equally suspicious of Islamists and Christians. But the AK Party has used its power to give Islam a huge boost by sponsoring mosque building all over the country. Turkey's tiny Christian minorities, on the other hand, still face intense prejudice and discrimination from bureaucrats who believe that Christians are undermining Turkishness. The root of the problem is that Turkey's Greek, Armenian, and Syrian Orthodox communities highlight what French writer Sébastien de Courtois calls “Turkey's identity problem.” Turks are fiercely proud of their homeland—yet Turks have been in Istanbul for not much longer than Europeans have been in America. “The true question is, how can you be a Muslim in a land where you still have repre-

sentatives of an earlier culture?” says de Courtois. And Turkey's founding narrative, taught in all schools, is how Christian armies from Greece attempted to strangle the Turkish republic in its cradle in 1923. They are also taught that it was treacherous Armenians who massacred Turks in 1915, not the other way around. Turks are still “poisoning themselves with lies,” says Rakil Dink, widow of Hrant Dink, the editor of the Istanbul-based Armenian-language Agos newspaper who was gunned down by ultranationalists in 2007. “Fears, anger, rage, jealousies, hatreds, prejudices, and insecurity belittle all of us.”

Money plays a part, too. Plenty of Turks have benefited from the plunder of Christian properties—and aren't too happy about new laws that help the Greeks reclaim their holdings. Still, there are signs that attitudes are softening toward Turkish Christians. In 2007, after Dink's murder, an estimated 50,000 people protested, some carrying placards saying, “We Are All Armenians Now.”

It seems the Christians of Istanbul have found an unlikely ally in the AK Party—not just because of its reforms, but more because Erdogan has attacked the ultranationalists who have always been the Christians' biggest enemy. “Change is going to be painful and frightening,” says Dink. No doubt—but the Kasimpasa kid who almost became an imam is making the first moves to heal a century of nationalist hatred. ■



Fordham University Professor & National Commander speak at symposium

BROOMALL, PA

The Philadelphia region hosted its third annual symposium, May 7. The symposium was held at Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall, PA. Aristotle Papanikolaou, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology and co-founder of the Orthodox Christian Studies program at Fordham University, lectured on "Saint John Chrysostom on Fasting: What's the Point?" National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis later spoke on "The Ecumenical Patriarchate: What's the Latest?" The symposium was organized by Regional Commander Dr. Cary Limberakis and was open to all Archons, their spouses, and other Orthodox faithful interested in the religious freedom pursuit for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■

[Top] Father Christ Kontos, pastor of Saint Luke Orthodox Church, seated with Archons and participants. [Above, right] The National Commander discusses the latest developments in the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Welcome Participants

Regional Commander Limberakis delivers introductory remarks



Spiritual Fasting

Theology Professor Papanikolaou lectures on Saint John Chrysostom's fasting disciplines



Religious Freedom Now!

National Commander Limberakis discusses the five main issues affecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate



NJ Archons celebrate name day of His All-Holiness; conduct religious freedom symposium

WESTFIELD, NJ

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos, the New Jersey Archons met and celebrated a service of thanksgiving for the name day of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, June 11. Following the name day service, a religious freedom symposium was held. National Secretary John Halecky opened the symposium and addressed the participants on the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Dr. Thomas Papademetriou, the Constantine and Georgian Georgiou Endowed Professor of Greek History and Executive Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, was the guest speaker for the second half of the symposium. A working luncheon was also held to discuss the day's events, the organization and structure of the New Jersey Archons, and further efforts to be made for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■

[Top] His Eminence with New Jersey Archons. [Above, right] Metropolitan Evangelos holds a service of thanksgiving for the name day of His All-Holiness in the chapel at the Metropolis headquarters.



Symposium In Session

Regional Commander Judge Theodore Bozonelis



Brussels Breakdown

National Secretary John Halecky highlights the speakers at last November's International Conference



History Lesson

Dr. Thomas Papademetriou of Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



Lawyers attend religious freedom lecture at New York Public Library

NEW YORK, NY

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle co-sponsored a lecture on May 3, with the Hellenic Lawyers Association on religious freedom issues faced by minorities in Turkey, including those that plague the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The lecture, titled “More than Freedom of Worship: Deconstructing the Legal Deficits in Religious Freedom Problems in Turkey,” was delivered by Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou of the Department of International Relations, Boston University. Dr. Prodromou is also the vice chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The lecture was organized by Archon Nikiforos Mathews and held at the New York Public Library. It was attended by several Archons in the area, along with National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis. ■

[Top] Dr. Prodromou delivers her presentation. [Above, right] National Commander Limberakis together with Archons and lawyers.



Introductions

Regional Commander Nikiforos Mathews offers introductions



Turkey's Unlawful Actions

Dr. Prodromou of Boston University addresses the religious freedom deficits in Turkey



Strong Archon Presence

Archons John Blazakis, Stephen Cherpelis, Theodore Klingos and Alex Pritsos



National Commander delivers lecture to Holy Cross seminarians

BOSTON, MA

On May 4, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis delivered a religious freedom lecture to the seminarians of Holy Cross Orthodox Theological Seminary in Brookline, MA. Dr. Limberakis was welcomed by Dr. Timothy Patitsas, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics, and later entertained questions by students. ■

[Top] National Commander Limberakis lectures to students on the activities and responsibilities of the Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew. [Right] Holy Cross seminarians ask questions following the lecture.



Welcome to Holy Cross

Dr. Patitsas, Professor of Christian Ethics introduces Dr. Limberakis before students



Bringing Awareness

The National Commander informs students on the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



Open Halki Seminary!

Seminarians can become educated in the U.S., but in Turkey Halki remains closed

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



ANNUAL ARCHON WEEKEND OCT 14-16

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

New York Hilton

4:00 – 5:30 PM

Joint Meeting of National Council
and Regional Commanders

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Welcome Reception

7:30 – 9:30 PM

Orientation Dinner
with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios
Archons-Elect, National Council
and Regional Commanders
with their Spouses

*Archons-Elect: Please confirm your
attendance expeditiously by calling the
office at 212-570-3550 or by e-mail to
archons@goarch.org*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

New York Hilton

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Annual Archon General Assembly Meeting
for all Archons, Archons-Elect
and Spouses

12:30 – 2:00 PM

Archon Fellowship Luncheon
for all Archons, Archons-Elect
and Spouses

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Reception (Black Tie)
for all Archons and Banquet guests

7:00 – 10:00 PM

Grand Banquet (Black Tie)
Presentation of 2011 Athenagoras
Human Rights Award to
Admiral James G. Stavridis
Supreme Allied Commander Europe

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

9:00 AM

Matins

9:15 AM

Procession of Archons and Archons-Elect

*Archons and Archons-Elect assemble in
Cathedral undercroft in lower level for
instructions, photos and procession into
Cathedral. Archons wear emblems!*

*Archons-Elect: Be sure you have reserved
your Archon emblems and Cross of St.
Andrew by contacting the National office at
212-570-3550*

10:00 AM

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated
by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios,
assisted by Metropolitans, Bishops
and visiting Clergy

12:00 Noon

Investiture of New Archons of the
Ecumenical Patriarchate by Archbishop
Demetrios, Exarch of the Ecumenical
Patriarchate (Presentation of Offikia and
Cross of St. Andrew)

1:00 PM

Reception – Cathedral Ballroom



ADMIRAL JAMES G. STAVRIDIS SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE

TO RECEIVE THE ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD ON BEHALF OF



THE HEROIC MEMBERS OF OUR ARMED FORCES

Venue Locations & Room Rates

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

New York Hilton

1335 Avenue of the Americas
(Between 53rd and 54th Streets)
New York, NY 10019

The Order has secured a special room
rate of **\$299**. Call 212-586-7000 or
1-800-Hiltons with code **"OSTA"**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

319 - 337 East 74th Street
(Between 1st and 2nd Avenues)
New York, NY 10021

212-288-3215



On August 24, His All-Holiness blessed and officially opened the site which will become a new ecological park on the island of Imvros, to be named in honor of Saints Theodores. Metropolitan Kyrillos of Imvros and Tenedos welcomed the Ecumenical Patriarch to his native island.



On August 21, His All-Holiness and His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department of External Affairs, visited the island of Imvros on the occasion of the leave-taking of the Feast of the Dormition where they celebrated the Divine Liturgy the following day.



On August 5, the National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew held their monthly meeting at the offices of Nicholas J. Bouras in Summit, New Jersey. J. MINDALA



On June 26, His All-Holiness visited the Hon. Karolos Papoulias, President of Greece (far right), at the Presidential Palace, where they had the opportunity to greet athletes participating in the Special Olympics.



On July 16, His All-Holiness met with Hon. John Baird, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Phanar. The Minister, accompanied by Mark Bailey, the Canadian Ambassador in Ankara, was in Istanbul for the Fourth Summit Convocation for Libya.



On July 2, Guido Westerwelle, German Foreign Minister, was welcomed by Metropolitan Apostolos of Moschonissia at the Holy Theological School of Halki. The Minister was accompanied by 40 colleagues, diplomats and officials from the German Foreign Ministry.

On August 15, His All-Holiness celebrated the Feast of Dormition of the Theotokos at Soumela Monastery in Trabzon for the second time ever since its closure nine decades ago. Hundreds of pilgrims from all over the world, including Greece, Russia, Georgia, America and Australia, attended the Divine Liturgy. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was among the hierarchs concelebrating in the services. PHOTOS BY N. MANGINAS





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



CONSTANTINOPLE



THE HOLY LANDS



ARCHON PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 19-30

*Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Election and Enthronement of
His All-Holiness Bartholomew as Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch*

Join the Order of Saint Andrew on a historic pilgrimage to Constantinople and Jerusalem, October 19-30, 2011 for the twentieth anniversary jubilee of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

OCTOBER 19-23: CONSTANTINOPLE

- Private dinner in honor of His All-Holiness
- Anniversary Concert in Ayia Eirene Church followed by an official Patriarchal Banquet
- Visits to Ayia Sofia, the Church of Chora, Grand Bazaar and other holy and historical sites

OCTOBER 23-30: JERUSALEM

- Private dinner and audience with His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III
- Experience the life of Jesus Christ, beginning in Bethlehem and Nazareth and culminating in Jerusalem, as we share in the Lord's Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection.

We are pleased to have Cloud Tours Inc. and Protravel International coordinate this exclusive trip and pilgrimage for us. For more information on traveling to Constantinople with optional excursion to Greece, please contact Cloud Tours Ron Donohue at ciaran@cloudtours.com or 718-721-3808 / 800-223-7880 or Cally Papas at cally@cloudtours.com. For more information on traveling to both Constantinople and Jerusalem, please contact Protravel, Nathalie Nagy at Nagy@protravelinc.com or 212 409-9562 or Peter Vlitats at Peterv@protravelinc.com or Father Alex at the Archon Office.

Although the Anniversary Celebration to the Mother Church of Constantinople has many seats available, the pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Holy Land has limited capacity. Please make your reservations immediately.