



THE ARCHON

Defenders of the Faith

OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2011
www.archons.org



Admiral James G. Stavridis
Supreme Allied Commander
Europe receives
Athenagoras Award on
behalf of Armed Forces

PAGE 8



Regional Commander
Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas
and District 10 Archons
organize first Religious
Freedom Symposium

PAGE 14



Twenty-nine new
Archons invested
during Annual
Archon Weekend
in New York

PAGE 10



Archbishop Demetrios leads Archons in pilgrimage for twenty-year anniversary celebrations for His All-Holiness

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Led by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and with the participation of the entire Eparchial Synod of our Holy Archdiocese of America, over fifty Archons and other pilgrims traveled to Constantinople in order to honor the twentieth anniversary of the election and enthronement of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Upon their arrival in Constantinople on October 20, the pilgrims travelled to the historic Baloukli Monastery, where they visited the underground shrine and Holy Spring of Zoodochos Pege (Life-Giving Spring) and the adjacent cemetery, where an impromptu Trisagion was held at the burial site of Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I (1948-72), former Archbishop of North and South America (1930-48). Later that evening, a welcome dinner was

hosted at the Divan Hotel by Archbishop Demetrios.

The next day, October 21, the pilgrims participated in a full day of guided sight-seeing, beginning at the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora, now a museum, where they observed the stunning mosaics and frescoes. The pilgrims later moved on to the Hippodrome and the grand Hagia Sophia, the Church of Holy Wisdom, which was completed under Byzantine Emperor Justinian in 537 AD.

His All-Holiness presides, above, during the Patriarchal Chorastasia on Saturday, October 22, in Saint George Church, Istanbul. D. PANAGOS

Continued on page 3 »

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

John J. Mindala II
Editor & Graphic Designer

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

PJ 212 570 3550 FJ 212 774 0214
EJ archons@goarch.org

His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Rev. Alexander Karloutsos
Spiritual Advisor

Executive Committee

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Aktouarios, National Commander

Nicholas J. Bouras, Depoutatos
National Vice Commander

John Halecky, Jr., Ekdikos
Secretary

James C. Fountas, Depoutatos
Treasurer

Functionaries

Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Notarios
Legal Counselor

George Demacopoulos, PhD
Didaskalos Tou Genous, Historian

Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon
Sergeant-at-Arms

Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA
Dikaiphylax
Assistant Treasurer

Stay Connected!



www.patriarchate.org



www.goarch.org



www.archons.org



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



Become a Follower!
twitter.com/OrderStAndrew



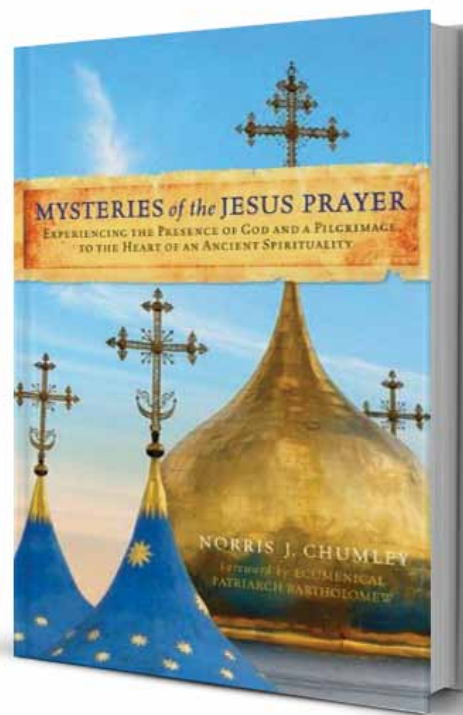
Watch our channel!
youtube.com/OrderStAndrew



View our Photostream!
flickr.com/OrderStAndrew

Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer

By Norris Chumley



Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer Experiencing the Presence of God and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Ancient Spirituality

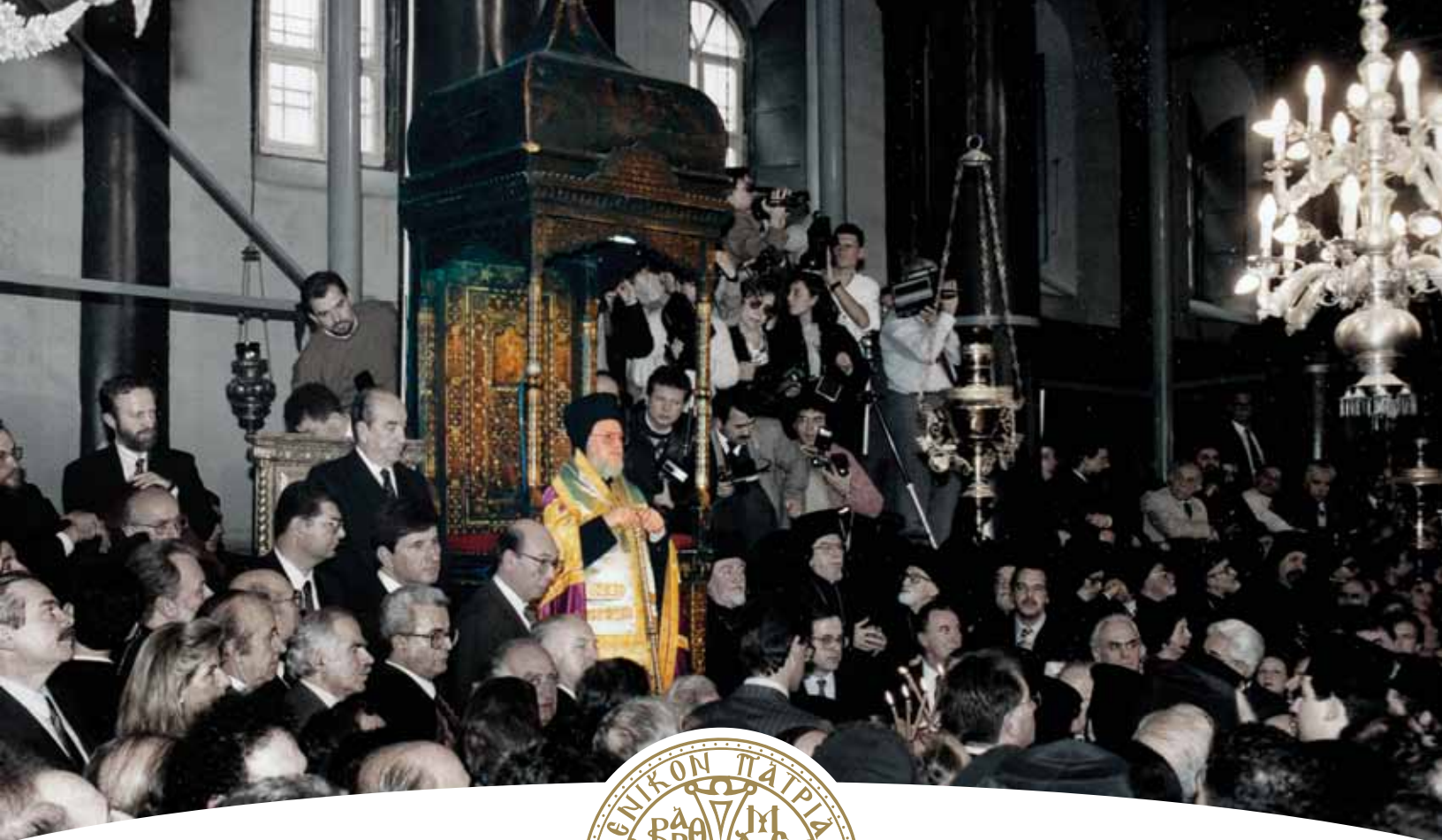
New York: Harper Collins, 2011, 195 pages.
Foreword by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Echoing the pious sentiments of many personal journals through the centuries, this book describes a private journey to monasteries in Egypt and Sinai, Mount Athos and Romania, the Ukraine and Russia. The spiritual thread that binds the entire expedition is how monks and nuns in these Coptic and Orthodox Christian communities experience the presence of God in their lives and, especially, how the traditional practice of Jesus Prayer itself has connected men and women for almost two millennia around the simple meditation and repetition of the name of Jesus.

Accompanied by his professor, Fr. John McGuckin of Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary, Norris Chumley traveled to the monastery of St. Anthony, the legendary founder of monasticism, in the desert of Egypt and to the monastery of St. Catherine, the historical imperial establishment in the heart of the desert and at the foot of Mount Sinai. He also visited the Patriarchal Monastery of Vatopedi on Mount Athos and the spectacular painted monasteries of Romania. Finally, he journeyed to the Ukrainian caves of spiritual direction in Kiev and the majestic establishments of monastic life in Russia.

Chumley himself moves comfortably between an intricate account about the long preparations and complicated execution of the journey and an intimate narrative on the moving encounters and universal application of unceasing prayer. Through friendly local interpreters, he communicates with monks and nuns, with abbots and abbesses, with bishops and patriarchs. They speak to him about prayer and liturgy, sharing monastic stories and historic legacies spanning generations dating back to early and byzantine Christianity's holiest saints and sites.

In the words of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch, whose foreword provides a brief overview of the central importance of the Jesus Prayer in Orthodox Christian spiritual life: "The Jesus Prayer can be used by everyone ... When prayer culminates in silence, we awaken to new awareness. Then, prayer becomes a way of noticing more clearly and responding more effectively to the world within us and around us." ■



Elected October 22

Enthroned November 2



HIS ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW

ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

« Continued from page 1

That evening, a reception and banquet was hosted for His All-Holiness at the elegant Four Seasons Bosphorous Hotel. Over 400 guests attended the banquet. In his welcome remarks, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, noted that “the twenty-year Patriarchal Ministry of His All-Holiness is one of a few unparalleled diakonias in the 1700 year history of the Sacred See of Saint Andrew not only in terms of longevity, for His All-Holiness is one of only

nine Ecumenical Patriarchs who have served for more than twenty years, but more importantly in substantive accomplishment.” Dr. Limberakis highlighted many of the extraordinary accomplishments of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, from the ecclesiastical, global, political, inter-Orthodox, environmental and ecumenical perspectives. Among other things, Dr. Limberakis emphasized the breakthrough initiatives pioneered by His All-Holiness, including the luminary sessions of the Synaxis of the Heads of all Autocephalous

Churches; the Tolerance and Peace Conferences and post 9-11 international conferences seeking greater interfaith understanding through dialogue with Jews, Christians and Muslims; the strengthening of bonds with other confessions; and the tireless efforts to promote Pan-Orthodox



cooperation. Dr. Limberakis further noted His All-Holiness’s devotion to the environment, for which he has been recognized as one of the leading conservation-



"TWENTY YEARS
IN THIS MINISTRY
ARE NEITHER
MANY NOR FEW.
THEY ARE FEW
BEFORE ETERNITY;
BUT THEY ARE
MANY WHEN ONE
CONSCIENTIOUSLY
LABORS TO
ACHIEVE
SOMETHING."

BANQUET SPEECH
EXCERPT OF
HIS ALL-HOLINESS
CITING
THE LATE
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
ATHENAGORAS



Archon Constantine G. Caras, offers greetings on behalf of Leadership 100 which co-sponsored the twentieth anniversary tribute dinner.

ists of our time, earning the title "Green Patriarch."

In his banquet toast, Archon Constantine G. Caras, Chairman of Leadership 100, noted the tireless devotion and steady guidance of His All-Holiness: "You have been a good shepherd for your flock, always ready, as you promised in your address on the day of your enthronement, to sacrifice your soul for your sheep." Archon Caras then made his toast, based on Psalm 20, asking that the Lord protect His All-Holiness, remember his offerings and fulfill all of his petitions.

His Excellency Francis Ricciardone, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, echoed these sentiments and praised His All-Holiness's inspirational leadership, stating: "With his deep love for God, for His Creation, and for all mankind, and with his tireless commitment to interfaith dialogue

J. MINDALA





His Excellency Francis Ricciardone, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, delivers greetings, left, on behalf of President Barack Obama and other U.S. diplomats. Archon Laki Vingas, right, reads congratulatory messages from the President and Prime Minister of Turkey. Through the hands of Archbishop Demetrios of America, Archons Alexander Pritsos and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., assist in presenting a hand crafted American Chelsea clock, right, to His All-Holiness.

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS

and the protection of the environment for future generations, His All-Holiness Bartholomew has inspired millions around the world, no matter whom they recognize as their Prophet. I feel blessed to have first met him 16 years ago with then-First Lady Clinton, and many times since then; and deeply honored to join in celebrating the 20th anniversary of his accession to the Ecumenical Patriarchate." The Ambassador later delivered remarks offered by President Barack Obama, former President George Herbert Walker Bush and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Archon Laki Vingas, the official representative of all the religious minority foundations in Turkey, also read a letter of congratulations from President Abdullah Gul of Turkey and mentioned that he also had official greetings from Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the foreign minister of Turkey.

In his remarks, Archbishop Demetrios of America recognized His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as the "Serving Patriarch" by making reference to the Gospel of Luke when the Lord, during a dispute amongst His disciples, said to them, but I am among you as one who serves (Luke 22:27). His Eminence continued saying that "Our Most Holy and beloved Patriarch is a true servant of God who, through his intense, eloquent and continuous offering of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, serves and ministers the people in every part of the Earth while seeking peace and reconciliation for all mankind... Under not the best conditions, he is serving in spite of obstacles and sometimes insurmountable difficulties. He has elevated the image and the spiri-

tual authority of the Ecumenical Patriarch in a level unheard of before... This 'Serving Patriarch' we honor tonight for the 20th anniversary of his Enthronement. We pray that the Lord gives him plenty of years to continue His truly wonderful work teaching with love and truth the Gospel to our wounded, troubled and confused world."

In his address, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew told the guests that the past twenty years had been "filled with numerous and diverse blessings for all of us and for our Church throughout the world. Unexpected and unimagined gifts have been showered upon the Great Church of Christ and its faithful children." His All-Holiness gave thanks for these gifts and expressed grati-

tude towards his predecessors on the Throne of Constantinople, emphasizing that "we are beholden to all those who have preserved our Church - often under difficult, if not impossible conditions - for the future generations." He concluded his remarks with heartfelt appreciation to the Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew for their exemplary devotion, efforts and achievements "in order to uphold and honor the venerable Ecumenical Patriarchate and our Modesty, soothing our pain and lightening our burden over these years."

At the conclusion of the banquet, Archbishop Demetrios, assisted by National Commander Limberakis and Sergeant of Arms Alex Pritsos, presented a hand crafted American Chelsea

Archbishop Iakovos, below far left, with His All-Holiness and Father Alex Karloutsos. Next, Archon Andrew Athens, Archbishop Iakovos, His All-Holiness, Metropolitan Symeon, Archons Michael Jaharis, Michael Cantonis, and James Moshovitis. His All-Holiness embraces his mother, Meropi, below, surrounded by family and friends.

His All-Holiness delivering his proclamation, below right, on the day of his enthronement as Ecumenical Patriarch, November 2, 1991.





His Excellency Egemen Bagis, Turkish Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator held a meeting with Archons Constantine G. Caras, John Zavitsanos, Alex Pritsos, Nicholas Karacostas, Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., Peter Skeadas, Father Alex Karloutsos, the Hon. Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis, Stephen Cherpelis, Harry Cavalaris and Nikiforos Mathews.

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

clock, depicting the Patriarchal 20th anniversary emblem, to His All-Holiness. The gift was presented on behalf of the Order and the delegation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

On Saturday, October 22, the pilgrims attended the Divine Liturgy with a Patriarchal Chorostasia in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the enthronement of His All-Holiness at Saint George Cathedral at the Phanar. A great number of hierarchs were in attendance for this service. Following the service, a delegation comprised of the Archon National Council members and Regional Commanders participating in the pilgrimage, as well as Archon Nicholas A. Karacostas, Chairman of the Board of AHEPA, met with His Excellency Egemen Bağış,

Turkish Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator, at the offices of the Ministry. The delegation, led by Dr. Limberakis and Archon Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, thanked Minister Bağış for his ongoing efforts in support of religious freedom. The meeting participants also discussed numerous matters of importance to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including the recent decree by Prime Minister Erdoğan regarding the return of confiscated properties to minority communities in Turkey, which the Archon leadership recognized as a “dramatic and courageous move” and “a bold gesture.” The delegation also brought to Minister Bağış’ attention the action of the Turkish Government rejecting certain hierarchs for Turkish citizenship, thereby undermining the government’s effort to im-



prove religious freedom. During the meeting, Minister Bağış expressed his deep admiration for His All-Holiness, calling him a good citizen and asset of the Turkish State.

That evening, the pilgrims attended a reception hosted by the Orthodox Christian Community of Istanbul at the newly renovated Assembly Hall of the Galata Primary School.

On Sunday, October 23, the Feast Day of St. Iakovos, the pilgrims attended the Divine Liturgy at St. George Cathedral, which was concelebrated by

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, His Beatitude Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, who was visiting the Ecumenical Patriarchate, four Metropolitans of the Serbian Church and four Hierarchs of the Ecumenical Throne including our own Archbishop Demetrios of America.

The pilgrimage was a celebration marking a major milestone for a unique personality in our Church, honoring a man who has transcended all boundaries to become a true “world-wide father,” and a truly servant Patriarch in imitation of our serving God. ■

Watch Video Clips of the 20th Anniversary on [YouTube.com/OrderStAndrew](https://www.youtube.com/OrderStAndrew)

More photos at archons.org/photos



Hierarchs visiting from around the world included, L-R, Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, Patriarch Irinej of Serbia and Patriarch Ilia of Georgia.



National Commander Limberakis greets hierarchs and pilgrims during a welcoming dinner held at the Divan Hotel.



Archon Stephen Cherpelis receives antidoron following the Patriarchal Chorastasia.



Pilgrims in the underground Sacred Spring of Zoodochos Peghe at the historic Baloukli Monastery.



The Orthodox Christian Community hosted a reception in honor of His All-Holiness at the newly renovated Assembly Hall of the Galata Primary School.



Archon Basil Mossaidis receives antidoron from His All-Holiness following the Patriarchal Chorastasia.



Archon B. Theodore Bozonelis receives antidoron following the Patriarchal Chorastasia. PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



Fr. Nicholas Triantafyllou, President of Hellenic College/ Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, holds a memorial service at the grave of Patriarch Athenagoras, former Archbishop of America. D. PANAGOS

2011 ARCHON WEEKEND

Honoring

ADMIRAL JAMES G.
STAVRIDIS

AND THE
HEROIC MEMBERS
OF THE

UNITED STATES
ARMED FORCES

THERE ARE
THOSE AMONG
WHO LOBBY FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS.

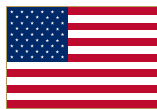
THERE ARE
THOSE AMONG
US WHO PRAY FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS.

BUT NO ONE
AMONG US
IS CALLED UPON
TO LAY DOWN
THEIR OWN LIVES
AND MAKE THE
ULTIMATE SACRIFICE
TO SAFEGUARD
THOSE VERY
FUNDAMENTAL
HUMAN RIGHTS,
OTHER THAN
THE MEMBERS
OF OUR ARMED
SERVICES.

NATIONAL COMMANDER
ANTHONY J. LIMBERAKIS, M.D.



Admiral Stavridis and U.S. Armed Forces, become recipient of Athenagoras Award Twenty-nine new Archons invested at Holy Trinity Cathedral



NEW YORK

Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, together with Archons' National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to Admiral James G. Stavridis,

Supreme Allied Commander Europe, who accepted on behalf of the heroic members of the United States Armed Forces. Admiral Stavridis is the highest-ranking Greek American in the history of the United States military. The Award was presented during the annual Human Rights Banquet held at the New York Hilton on October



Archon Mike Emanuel, Admiral James G. Stavridis with his daughter Christina (left) and wife, Laura, Archbishop Demetrios, National Commander Limberakis and his wife, Dr. Maria, Margo and John Catsimatidis.

15, 2011, with over 600 Archons and guests in attendance.

In presenting the Award, Dr. Limberakis paid tribute to Admiral Stavridis and the members of our Armed Forces, stating: "The three million heroes of America's men and women in uniform who defend our way of

life each singularly, and together collectively, share in the 2011 Athenagoras Human Rights Award.

"There are those among who lobby for human rights. There are those among us who pray for human rights. But no one among us

is called upon to lay down their own lives and make the ultimate sacrifice to safeguard those very fundamental human rights, other than the members of our Armed Services, the recipients of the 2011 Athenagoras Human Rights Award."

Established in 1986, the Athenagoras

“Freedom, in the end, is the right to be human.”

*–Admiral James G. Stavridis
Speech excerpt at Grand Banquet*

Pictured left, the Honorable Dr. Susan Johnson Cook, U.S. Ambassador for Religious Freedom, Archon John Halecky, National Secretary, Archbishop Demetrios, Archon James C. Fountas, National Treasurer, Admiral Stavridis, Archon George Stephanopoulos, Master of Ceremonies, National Commander Dr. Limberakis.

Human Rights Award is given in honor of Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, who served as Archbishop of the Americas for 18 years before being elected Ecumenical Patriarch in 1948. He was universally acknowledged as a visionary leader and worked for peace among Churches and people throughout his life. As in the past 12 years, National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras again generously served as Banquet Underwriter.

Previous recipients of this prestigious Award have included President Jimmy Carter, President George H.W. Bush, President Mikhail Gorbachev, Elie Wiesel, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mother Teresa, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Archbishop Iakovos and last year's recipient, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick.

In accepting the Award, Admiral Stavridis spoke about his family and the values that were instilled in him and particularly about his father who left Asia Minor in the early 20th Century and conveyed his pride for his Hellenic heritage. Admiral Stavridis also emphasized the humanitarian role of the Armed Forces and highlighted that “it is the duty of the strong to protect those who are weak,” adding that “might does not make right” and explaining that “we

live in an imperfect world [in which] human rights sadly are not the norm.”

Admiral Stavridis closed his speech with the valedictory words of Nikos Kazantzakis, the author of *Report to Greco* and *Zorba the Greek*, saying, “‘I want nothing. I fear nothing. I am free.’ If we can help create a world without want, a world without fear ... we will have created a world where we are free. That is the most important, undeniable, and central human right of all – freedom. Freedom, in the end, is the right to be human.

I thank you for this Award, and I humbly accept it on behalf of the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, volunteers all, who defend our freedom every day.”

Archbishop Demetrios, in his response, congratulated “the admirable Admiral” for a “well deserved honor,” and conveyed the blessings of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the Order of Saint Andrew, to the honoree and the all those present at the banquet. The Archbishop said that from the days of Marathon and Salamis to the days of World War II and the invasion of Greece by the Axis armies, the Greek example of military conflict is one of people, small in numbers, who resist submitting themselves and their country to much



1. Archon George Stephanopoulos, ABC Chief Political Correspondent and Co-Anchor, *Good Morning America*, served as Master of Ceremonies. 2. Archon Mike Emanuel, Chief Congressional Correspondent, *FOX News*, makes introductions. 3. Archon Dennis Mehiel greets Admiral Stavridis. 4. Archon George Tsunis greets the Admiral following the Banquet. 5. Admiral Stavridis is greeted by The Honorable Dimitris Avramopoulos, Vice President of the New Democracy Party and current Minister of Defense of the Hellenic Republic, Archon Andrew A. Athens, and Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Founder and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and 2008 recipient of the Athenagoras Award.

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS AND J. MINDALA



THE INVESTITURE OF THE ARCHON CLASS OF 2011

... IS COMPOSED
OF SEVERAL
LAWFUL ARCHONS
... AND ITS
NAME IS CALLED
ARISTOCRACY,
THAT IS, THE RULE
OF THE BEST;
ON TOP OF THIS,
THE VARIOUS
CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE PEOPLE
TO THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE CHURCH
HAS BEEN TERMED
DEMOCRACY.

MICHAEL VII
ROMAN EMPEROR, 1081



Archons-elect bear candles during the solemn Archon Investiture at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

larger foreign threats and occupation. His Eminence also noted that when Admiral Stavridis' parents were leaving their ancestral land for America they were carrying with them two important and symbolic items: the father, his academic college diploma and the mother, a treasured icon of Saint George, items representative of education and faith. Archbishop Demetrios added that in Admiral Stavridis, as a person, there is a convergence of the ancient Greek traditions and the Hellenic ideals with

the witnessing of Christianity and the Orthodox tradition and martyrdom exemplified by many of our Saints and Martyrs, who served in the military service in their time.

The Banquet Program commenced with a welcome from National Secretary John Halecky, Jr. and greetings were offered by Hon. Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook, Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom. ABC Chief Political Correspondent

and Co-Anchor of Good Morning America Archon George Stephanopoulos served as Master of Ceremonies and Fox News Chief Congressional Correspondent Archon Mike Emanuel offered the introduction of the dais guests. Chaplains John Kalantzis and Matthews J. Streett assisted, respectively, in the invocation and benediction.

Once again, Archon Theodore D. Demetriou superbly coordinated the Archon weekend activities as banquet chairman, assisted by Archon Konstantine L. Vellios, who donated the beautiful patriotic floral arrangements.

Archbishop Demetrios with National Secretary John Halecky, Archon Harry Oryhon, and his wife.



Archon-elect Senator Dean Skelos.



Archbishop Demetrios invests Archon Markos K. Marinakis.



Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey invests Archon John Sakellaris.



The National Commander extended a surprise birthday tribute, above, to his brother Regional Commander Dr. Cary J. Limberakis, following the Orientation Dinner. Dr. Maria Limberakis, joined by spouses of National Council members, above right, make a special presentation to Archbishop Demetrios at the luncheon. Earlier, Dr. Maria delivered remarks focusing on the "The Archon Family Perspective." Archon Congressman Gus Bilirakis, left, offered the keynote address at the fellowship luncheon, highlighting his efforts in Congress promoting religious freedom and institutional human rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archon John Catsimatidis, far right, speaks during the Assembly.



Earlier in the weekend, the Annual Archon Weekend commenced with a new Archon orientation dinner held on Friday, Oct. 14 beginning with an invocation by His Grace Bishop Savas of Troas, assisted by Chaplain Fr. Milton Gianulis. Members of the National Council and Regional Commanders of the Order of Saint Andrew joined Archons-elect and their spouses for an evening of fellowship and introductions.

Dr. Limberakis extended a warm welcome to all of the Archons and Archon-elect members and offered a dynamic multimedia presentation on the history of The Order, its role as advocate for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the 'humbling recognition and awesome responsibility' the Archon-elect members will now assume. Following his presentation, Dr. Limberakis, extended a sur-

prise birthday tribute to his brother Regional Commander Dr. Cary J. Limberakis who was observing his 60th birthday.

On Saturday morning, the Annual Archon Assembly convened during which the Archon Class of 2011 was formally presented to the Exarch, Archbishop Demetrios of America. During the course of the meeting, various reports were offered. Archon Religious Freedom Chairman John A. Catsimatidis noted the significant advances that have been realized by the Mother Church in advancing its religious freedom as the Archons continued their rigorous domestic and international religious freedom initiatives. A memorial service was also held for departed Archons.

Archbishop Demetrios with Archon Theo Nicolakis with his family, right.

The Saturday afternoon luncheon attended by hierarchs, clergy, Archons, Archons-elect and their families was hosted by Dr. Maria A. Limberakis, wife of the National Commander and the wives of the National Council. Dr. Maria Limberakis offered remarks focusing on the "The Archon Family Perspective" noting that the Archon Offikion is shared by the entire family, along with the serious responsibilities that accompany the oldest honor in Christendom. Archon Congressman Gus Bilirakis offered the keynote address highlight-

ing his efforts in Congress promoting religious freedom and institutional human rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

On Sunday morning, October 16, Archbishop Demetrios presided at the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City with Metropolitans Methodios of Boston, Isaiah of Denver and Evangelos of New Jersey concelebrating. Following the Divine Liturgy the ceremony of investiture of the new Archons took place. ■



Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey invests Archon George Tsougarakis.



Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver invests Archon Tom Suehs.



Metropolitan Methodios of Boston invests Archon Drake G. Behrakis.



Archon-elect Reince Priebus.

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS AND J. MINDALA

The ARCHON CLASS of 2011

Mark Adam
Depoutatos
St. George Cathedral
Manchester, NH

Harry Oryhon, D.D.S.
Aktouarios
Sts. Peter and Paul Church
Palos Park, IL

Kostandinos M. Arger, M.D.
Aktouarios
St. Anthony Church
Reno, NV

Paul J. Plumis
Nomophylax
St. Demetrios Church
Seattle, WA

John Avdoulos
Maestor
St. Catherine Church
Westland, MI

Reince Priebus
Nomophylax
Dormition of the Theotokos Church
Racine, WI

Drake G. Behrakis
Maestor
Taxiarchae Church
Watertown, MA

John C. Rouman, PhD
Prostatis Ton Grammaton
Annunciation Church
Dover, NH

Jon J. Couchell
Dikaiophylax
St. Nicholas Church
Spartanburg, SC

John Sakellaris
Hypomnematografos
St. Demetrios Church
Jersey City, NJ

George M. Gazis
Ostiarios
Annunciation Cathedral
Houston, TX

Dean G. Skelos
Hieromnimon
St. Paul Cathedral
Hempstead, NY

George Gritsonis
Ekdikos
St. Nectarios Church
Palatine, IL

Harry W. Spell
Notarios
St. Mary Church
Minneapolis, MN

Constantine Kaganis
Referendarios
Zoodohos Peghe
Bronx, NY

Christopher J. Spiliotis
Eftaxias
St. Demetrios Church
Weston, MA

Chris Karamanos
Eftaxias
St. Barbara Church
Toms River, NJ

Gregory J. Stamos
Proto Ekdikos
St. Barbara Church, Orange, CT
Holy Trinity Church, Ansonia, CT

Pavlos Kymisis, M.D.
Hartoularios
St. Paul Cathedral, Hempstead, NY
Holy Cross Church, Stroudsburg, PA

Thomas M. Suehs
Skevophylax
Transfiguration Church
Austin, TX

Steven Lukac
Depoutatos
St. John the Baptist Church
Sharon, PA

George A. Tsougarakis
Dikaiophylax
St. John the Theologian Cathedral
Tenafly, NJ

Christopher D. Mandalieris
Hartophylax
Dormition of the Theotokos Church
Greensboro, NC

Argyris Vassiliou
Notarios
Church of the Archangels, Stamford, CT
Assumption Church, Windham, NY

Markos K. Marinakis
Depoutatos
Holy Trinity Cathedral
New York, NY

Peter N. Vatsures
Kastrinsios
Annunciation Cathedral
Columbus, OH

Thomas N. Mitrakos
Ostiarios
Holy Cross Church
Mt. Lebanon, PA

George P. Zaharas
Myrepsos
Sts. Constantine and Helen Church
Cheyenne, WY

Theo Nicolakis
Kastrinsios
St. Barbara Church
Orange, CT



Axios! Αξιός! Axios!

2011 ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD SPONSORS

BANQUET UNDERWRITER

Nicholas J. Bouras

GRAND BENEFACTOR

George and Margo Behrakis
Michael and Mary Jaharis
Mr. and Mrs. George J. Tsunis

BENEFACTOR

John and Margo Catsimatidis
Dow Chemical Company
John and Mary Pappajohn
James Pedas and Theodore Pedas
George and Demetra Safil
Chris and Stella Spyropoulos
Theodore and Ann Zampetis

PATRON

Thomas and Elizabeth Cappas
Thomas E. Constance
c/o Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Peter T. Kikis
Drs. Anthony and Maria Limberakis
Mr. and Mrs. Markos Marinakis
Dennis and Karen Mehiel
Dean and Marianne Metropoulos
Prof. John C. Rouman
Ann and Argyris Vassiliou
Konstantinos L. Vellios
Xenophon and Smaragda Zapis

SUPPORTER

Dr. and Mrs. Kostandinos Arger
Anthony J. Andrikopoulos
Mr. Drake Behrakis
Mr. Constantine and Dr. Maria Caras
Mr. and Mrs. Isidoros Garifalakis
Valine and Stephen Apostolos Georgeson
Constantine Kaganis
Dr. Stamatios and Anita Kartalopoulos
Steven M. Laduzinsky
Mr. and Mrs. George Makris
Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Ranglas
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Sakellaris
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Skeadas
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spell
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher J. Spiliou

DONOR

Mark and Elaine Adam & Family
Mr. and Mrs. John Alahouzos
American Hellenic Institute
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Anton
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Arakas
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Theodore Arbes
George P. Argerakis, D.D.S., M.S.D.
Dr. Lewis A. Assaley
Peter, Olga and Alexandra Basset
Mr. John J. Blazakis
Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis
and Helen Bozonelis
Dr. John Brademas
Mr. and Mrs. Tykye G. Camaras
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Arete Cherpelis
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Collias
Andreas and Anna D. Comodromos
Jon James and Kiki Couchell
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick R. Crosson
John and Eleftheria Dallas
Mr. Theodore D. Demetriou
Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel G. Demos
Steve & Helen Doulaveris
Mr. and Mrs. Nikitas Drakotos
Theofanis Economidis
Dr. John P. and Betty C. Eliopoulos
James and Jean Fountas
Mr. and Mrs. Renos Georgiou
John and Margarita Gianakouras
George Gritsonis
Gary Grysiak
John and Sonia Halecky
Larry and Irene Hotzoglou
Timothy and Kathy Joannides
Joanne and Peter Kakoyiannis
The Kallins Family
Dr. and Mrs. George Kaludis
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Karamanos
Nicholas J. and Celeste Karamatsoukas
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Karloutsos
Theodore P. and Linda A. Klingos
Mr. & Mrs. Kontos and Family
Notis and Theresa Kotsolios
Drs. Pavlos and Effie Kymissis
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Kyrus
Georgios and Sally Kyvernitis
Arthur and Chrys Labros
John and Starla Limberakis
Dakota and Anthony
Anthony Constantine Limberakis
Elizabeth Lillian Limberakis
Alexis and Cary J. Limberakis, D.M.D.
Mr. and Mrs. Demetrios A. Limberakis
Mr. and Mrs. Demetrios Logothetis
Costas and Christina Los

Dr. Nicholas and Suzan Loutsion
Steven J. Lukac
Spiro Macris
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher D. Mandaleris
Peter J. G. Maris, M.D.
Demetrios G. Melis, J.D., Ph.D.
Spiros and Andonia Milonas
Stratton and Maria Nicolaides
Onassis Foundation (USA)
Order of AHEPA
Dr. and Mrs. Gregory G. Papadeas and Family
Anastasios Parafestas
Dr. and Mrs. Michael J. Patzakis
Harold and Aphrodite Peponis
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Poll
Capt. Mark and Koula Poneris
Attorney and Mrs. George C. Rockas, Mary
and James
Nicholas C. Sarris
John C. Scurtis and Family,
Regional Commander of S. Florida
Mr. & Mrs. Paul P. Sogotis
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Spanos
James and Noreen Speros
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Stratakis
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Suehs
Mr. and Mrs. John Tangelos
Tim and Maria Tassopoulos
George S. Tsandikos
Mr. and Mrs. N. Tsapatsaris
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Tsoucalas
The Tsougarakis Family
Haralambos Tzanetatos
Consul General of Panama,
Republic of Panama
Dr. Sotirios and Aspasia Vahaviolos
Dr. Nick and Nancy Vidalakis
and Family
Theodore P. Vlahos, M.D.
George and Fay Zaharas
Leonard Zangas
John and Joni Zavitsanos

Sponsor list complete as of December 20, 2011

District 10 Archons host first-ever Religious Freedom Symposium

DENVER, CO

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, the Archons of the 10th District hosted their first ever Religious Freedom Symposium at the Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral in Denver, Saturday, September 17. Nearly 125 Archons, local clergy, Metropolis Council members, members of the Ladies Philoptochos and Orthodox faithful attended the symposium, which was organized and moderated by Regional Commander Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas.

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD was the featured speaker, who presented a dynamic multimedia program that reviewed the religious freedom deficit of Turkey which is constricting the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the domestic and international initiatives of the Order of Saint Andrew promoting religious freedom for the Mother Church and recent positive steps the government of Turkey has announced in addressing the reli-

gious freedom crisis that affects all religious minorities in Turkey.

As a Case Study exemplifying the religious freedom efforts of the Archons, Dr. Limberakis presented in detail the process by which the Religious Freedom Resolutions were passed in the State of Texas in the face of strong opposition by the Turkish American community. The resolutions were passed as a direct result of the extraordinary efforts of Archons Chris Pappas, John Zavitsanos and Archon-candidate Thomas Suehs, assisted by Archons Frank Mihalopoulos, Chairman Stephen Georgeson, Mike Manatos; Bill Miller, and all the Orthodox clergy and laity of Texas. The unprecedented 1,000 letters written by Orthodox Christians from the Houston, Dallas and Austin parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese sent to their Texas state representatives calling for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was the final act convincing the Texas State Legislature to pass the Religious Freedom Resolutions:



Archon Thomas Suehs presents His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, above, with the official, signed Texas State House and Senate Religious Freedom Resolutions. PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

HCR 1670 and SR 1006.

Dr. Limberakis enthusiastically congratulated Metropolitan Isaiah, Representative Dennis Bonnen and Senator John Whitmire who sponsored the resolutions after the original joint resolution it was withdrawn by Senator Joan Huffman. In concluding that section of Dr. Limberakis' presentation, Archon-candidate Suehs presented the official, signed Texas State House of Representative and Texas State Senate Religious Freedom Resolutions to Metropolitan Isaiah to a rousing ovation.

The symposium concluded with a question and answer session and with a sumptuous luncheon hosted

by the Archons of the 10th District.

That evening, Regional Commander Papadeas, together with his wife Stelée, hosted an elegant dinner reception in their home overlooking the Rocky Mountains in honor of "Religious Freedom For All Peoples." Metropolitan Isaiah, Colorado State Representative John Kefalas (who sponsored the Colorado Religious Freedom Resolution), Leadership 100 Chairman Archon Constantine and Dr. Maria Caras, Metropolis of Denver Vice Chair, Dr. Lou and Mrs. Roussalis, President of the Denver Metropolis Philoptochos Board, Mrs. Marian Catechis, members of the Metropolis of Denver Council and Orthodox Faithful of Denver were in attendance. ■

Regional Commander Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas, and his wife Stelée, hosted a dinner reception at their home, left, in honor of "Religious Freedom For All Peoples." Metropolitan Isaiah together with clergy, Archons and their spouses.





Archons join in the celebration of the thirty-two year ministry of Metropolitan Maximos

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with his own blood”

—ACTS 20:28

PITTSBURGH, PA

On a crisp, cool bright sunny Saturday, November 5, hundreds flocked to the St. Nicholas Cathedral to pay tribute to His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos on his retirement after 32 years of devoted service to the Metropolis of Pittsburgh.

They came from all corners of the tri-state area that encompass the Metropolis of Pittsburgh and beyond. The Orthodox faithful young and the old, Ecumenical leaders from the other Christian Communions, Political Leaders, as well as many friends, all to

thank His Eminence for his leadership, his love and to wish him many more years.

The Archons of the Metropolis were very well represented at the reception. They each had the opportunity to personally share their thoughts with the Metropolitan. The Archon leadership of the Metropolis was intimately involved in the event as Archon National Council member Dr. Nicholas Loutsion served as the Chairman of the event. Archon Regional Commander Peter Papadakos not only served on the event committee along with Archons Steve

Sellas, Steven Poulos, Nicholas Chakos, Tom Mitrakos, and Angelo Koukoulis, but lead one of the four choirs that performed for the Metropolitan that day.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios traveled from New York to honor Metropolitan Maximos and to share the feelings of everyone on his many years of service and devotion to God, to His church, and to His people. Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, locum tenens of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh, added his appreciation in a most eloquent manner.

With great humility, Metropolitan Maximos, thanked everyone for coming and for their support and love throughout the years and stated that it has been an honor to serve the people of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh.

The reception ended with the Holy Cross Seminarians leading the guests in chanting “Ton Despoti.”

Metropolitan Maximos has truly been an “image of the Good Shepherd, Christ, and has laid down his life in the service of the Church.” *John 10:1-21* ■

Ecumenical Patriarch's religious freedom is one of U.S. Congress' most highly supported issues

90 Senators and 291 Members express concern to President Obama

WASHINGTON, D.C.

"With overwhelming numbers of Republicans and Democrats, the US Senate and the US House of Representatives separately expressed themselves to President Barack Obama regarding religious freedom for the spiritual head of the second largest Christian Church in the world, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. In total, 90 of the 100 Senators and 291 of the 435 Members of the House signed a letter urging support for the head of the Sacred See that has flourished for over 2,000 years since it was established by the Apostle Andrew, in what is today the country of Turkey," said Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew.

A veteran, senior House Foreign Affairs Committee staff member indicated that he could not think of any letters in the House that received more than 291 signers in the 112th Congress and the only letters that may have come close involved Israel or Iran. The Staff Director of the House Foreign Affairs Committee,

Yleem Poblete, said, "It is rare to witness this level of bipartisan support for a letter addressing a particular policy item. It is a testament to the importance that Members place on this issue."

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and Ranking Member, Howard Berman (D-CA), initiated the letter signed by 291 Members and sent to President Obama on November 22. Senators Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), authored and circulated for signature the letter signed by 90 Senators, including the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Chairman, John Kerry (D-MA) and Ranking Member, Richard Lugar (R-IN) and it was sent to President Obama on November 21.

"Since the formation of the modern Republic of Turkey, the government has interfered in the canonical election of

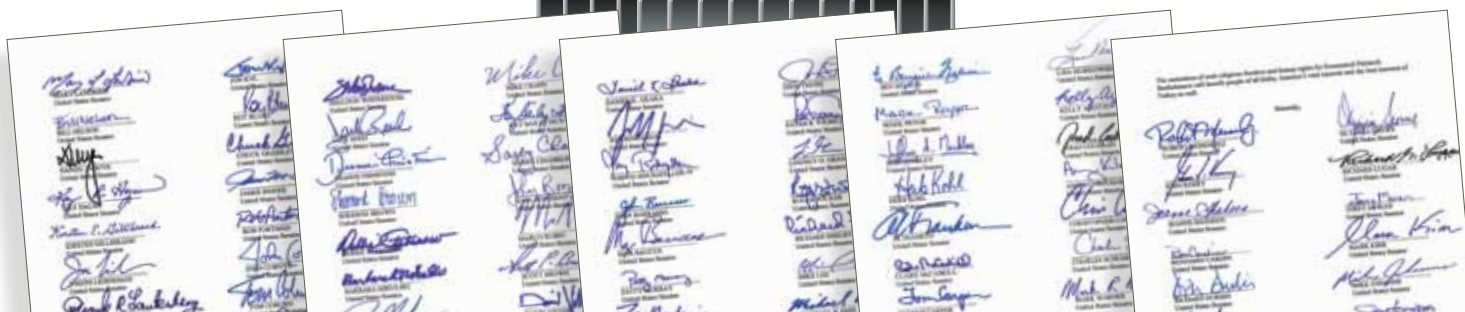
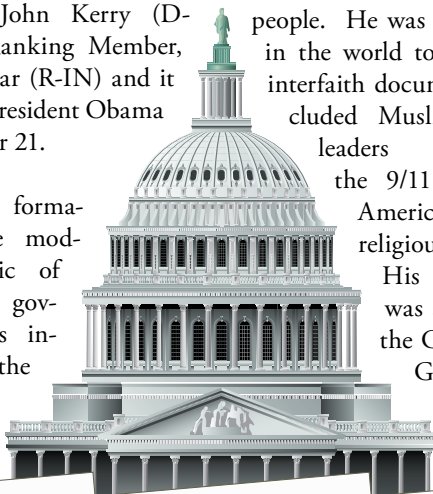
the Ecumenical Patriarch, confiscated 90% of its properties and forcibly closed its only local seminary, the Halki School of Theology, actions and policies which have constrained the religious freedom of the Spiritual Center of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, located in Istanbul," said Limberakis. On a positive note, Dr. Limberakis expressed gratitude to the government which has very recently taken positive steps to address the longstanding religious freedom deficit by announcing the return of confiscated properties, among several other policies shifts.

"Despite these oppressive conditions, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who speaks eight languages, was recognized by Time Magazine as one of the world's 100 most influential people. He was also the first in the world to produce an interfaith document that included Muslim religious leaders condemning the 9/11 attacks on America as anti-religious actions. His All-Holiness was also awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, an honor given pre-

viously to George Washington, Winston Churchill, Pope John Paul, and relatively few other leaders," said Limberakis.

"The extraordinary esteem with which Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is held in Washington is reflected in these record numbers. Of the thousands of letters sent from Capitol Hill in the 112th Congress to the Obama Administration, regarding any subject, virtually none received this overwhelming bi-partisan Congressional support," said the coordinators of this Order of Saint Andrew effort, Andy Manatos and Mike Manatos.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the 270th direct successor of the Apostle Andrew. The Apostle Andrew's brother, the Apostle Peter, has as his 265th direct successor Pope Benedict XVI. The Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch were bishops in the same Christian Church until the great schism in 1054 when the State Church of the Roman Empire was divided into the Eastern (Greek) and Western (Latin) Churches, which later became the Orthodox Christian and Catholic Churches, respectively. ■



For more information, please contact Archon Mike Manatos at 202-393-0091.



The National Council honors Archon James D. Speros

NEW YORK, NY

The National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew honored one of its most dedicated members on September 8, James D. Speros, Archon Kastrinsios, who retired from the National Council.

Archon Speros worked to develop the template and protocol of the Order of Saint Andrew's communication, newsletter and website. He also served as Spirituality Committee Chairman and executed the first of seven annual Archon Lenten Retreats with 'excellence and brilliance.'

Members of the National Council presented Archon Speros with a commemorative plaque at the conclusion of their monthly meeting at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America on September 8. The plaque acknowledged his efforts and accomplishments in promoting religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, stating:

"In grateful acknowledgment to James D. Speros, Archon Kastrinsios for your exemplary National Council service. God grant you many years, good health, abundant blessings and continued commitment to our Orthodox Faith through the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its Apostolates. Axios! Axios! Axios!"

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D. recalling his first encounters meeting Archon Speros



Archon Speros addresses members of the National Council.

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

Watch a Video Clip on [YouTube.com/OrderStAndrew](https://www.youtube.com/OrderStAndrew)

at an Archdiocesan Council meeting in New York, said, "He showed great courage in his discussions, standing up saying what he felt was right and appropriate and I said to myself, 'He's a leader.'"

He later recognized his dedication to his professional life and his contributions in the Metropolis of New Jersey and especially in his beloved home parish of Holy Trinity in Westfield, New Jersey, as catechism school teacher, Byzantine cantor and parish council member.

In response, Archon Speros began thanking the members of the National Council, saying, "There's a saying, that 'Service is the rent we pay, for the space we occupy, while we are here.'" He continued, "What I do, I always do for the love of the Church. It's always been in my heart and I try to give back."

He acknowledged the hard work and determination of National Commander Limberakis, who 'never took no for an answer' and believes 'we could be better and do more.' He concluded with a story, saying:

"When I was 8 years old, my father (who was a very mild mannered man) sat me on his lap and began screaming at me saying, 'The most important thing I've given you in life is your name-Speros-and DON'T YOU EVER FORGET IT!! Since I had not done anything wrong, I ran off his lap into my room and began crying. I came out an hour later still sobbing and timidly entered the room where my father was sitting. He said nothing to me and just continued reading his newspaper and didn't bring it up again that day.

"Ten years went past and I was about to start college. As we walked down the street together in Manhattan, my dad put his arm around me and told me how proud he was that I was going into college (I was the first Speros to ever go to college). He embraced me and gave me a big hug then said-'Do you remember ten years ago, I yelled at you about our name?' I told him I did and that he had completed scared me to the point of being too frightened to bring it up again. Then he told me why he did what he did -- it's something that has guided me my entire life.

"He said, 'Now that you're going into college, I know you are going to be a big man one day. Any time you sign our family name to a document, I want it to be the best it can possibly be because it reflects on me, my father and all the generations of Speros who have come before us. Always bring pride and honor to the Speros name.' His message has set the bar very high for me in life and made me realize the importance of our reputation and the value of taking personal pride in everything we do. As an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and a past member of the National Council for 10 years, I have been very proud to serve and to give back toward preserving our faith and fighting for religious freedom. As an Archon, it has been my privilege to serve the Holy Mother Church in a way that I know would most certainly have made my father smile and say, 'Well done my son, you have brought pride and honor to the Speros name.'"

Archons deliver religious freedom presentations for the Ecumenical Patriarchate to OSCE

*Submitted by
Archons Theofanis Economidis
and Achilles Adamantiades, Ph.D.*



Archon Theofanis Economidis, Ambassador of Greece to Poland Gabriel Coptsidis, and Archon Achilles Adamantiades.

WARSAW

On behalf of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons Theofanis Economidis and Achilles Adamantiades, Ph.D., presented two papers at the 2011 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, Poland, of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). OSCE is the world's largest security organization whose fifty-six participating states and eleven partner states span the globe.

The topics for the presentations were: (a) "The Problems of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul" and (b) "The Greek Orthodox Minority in Turkey." The dialogue and interaction with other delegates at these meetings was very informative, personable, candid, and useful. It was interesting to note that

many complaints were leveled again members of OSCE that continue to violate its basic principles as well as not provide full cooperation with the Helsinki Final Act, the Copenhagen Document, the Charter of Paris, the Corfu Process, and the Astana Declaration. While some countries have not been compliant, they have been duly criticized for their violations, they continue to defend their actions even though they have been strongly denounced. OSCE—a widely respected organization—is a forum to voice grievances and work to effect positive change; however it does not have any mechanisms for the imposition of its rules and no penalties for breaches.

Archons Economidis and Adamantiades had the opportunity to meet with Ambassador Ian Kelly, head of the U.S. delegation, and Dr. Susan Johnson-Cook, Ambassador of the U.S.

Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). The issues of democracy, human rights and the rule of law were discussed by both Ambassador Kelly and Dr. Cook. During their remarks, they used Russia and many of the countries of the Former Soviet Union as examples of violations to these core issues. They included positive reference to Turkey with regard to the recently announced reforms on property and the return of the Orphanage of Buyukada, and emphasized the request of the U.S. Government for the re-opening of the School of Halki.

The presentation made by Archon Economidis focused on the core concerns of the Order regarding the free exercise of religion by the Ecumenical Patriarchate:

- Government interference in Patriarchal elections

- The "Ecumenical" title
- Denial of legal personality
- Restriction on free religious education
- Property confiscations

The presentation by Archon Adamantiades addressed the issues of human rights regarding the Greek minority in Turkey, with a particular focus on the return of the confiscated properties since 1936. The Government of Turkey was rightfully recognized for their recent positive actions but requested that OSCE urge Turkey to fully implement their statements and Decree with concrete action.

Ambassador Tacan Ildem offered the official statements as the permanent Representative of Turkey to OSCE. He reiterated Turkey's adherence to the OSCE principles and emphasized the recent reforms and the return of properties. Ambassador Ildem com-

Departed Archons

George J. Kevgas
Archon Depoutatos
Methuen, MA
9/22/2011

Thomas Kress
Archon Notarios
Edison, NJ
12/4/2011

Eleftherios Moussas
Archon Ostiarios
Annapoles, MD
5/21/2011

Gregory C. Papalexis
Archon Exarchos
Norwood, NJ
11/18/2011

Edward Sedor
Archon Ostiarios
Johnson City, NY
9/13/2011

May Their Memory Be Eternal



The Archons with Tufan Hübek, Legal Counsel of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, left, and Ilham Atuş, Deputy Directorate General of Turkey for the Council of Europe and Human Rights.

mented on Archon Economidis' presentation by saying that: Turkey's refusal to use the title "Ecumenical" has been "accepted by the Venice Commission" while Turkey's actions have shown that others can use this title in a totally unobstructed manner.

A lengthy discussion resulted with two Turkish delegates: Mr. Tufan Hübek, Legal Counsel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey; and Ilham Atuş, Third Secretary, Deputy Directorate General of Turkey for the Council of Europe and Human Rights. The conversation was congenial but no progress was made in changing their convictions, specifically:

- The Turkish Government does not feel obligated and does not intend to use the title

"Ecumenical," however, they do not object to the use of the title by the Patriarch himself and others. They also stated that no legal impediment exists that makes the use of this title a legal, punishable violation. We feel their remarks should be further researched by a legal expert and appropriately clarified.

- Legal personality cannot be granted by Turkey to religious leaders and religious bodies because it may set a precedent and create problems with other religious groups, including the Turkish Muslims. Property rights, including those requiring court action, can be handled either by individuals or foundations in the context of the exiting Foundation Law, as amended by the recent Decree of August 27, 2011. We responded

vigorously that the denial of legal identity cannot be justified, as further endorsed by the Venice Commission and the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) which have clearly stated that the denial of legal identity cannot be justified, is a serious impediment of religious freedom, and must be reversed. This is an important issue which must be legally resolved.

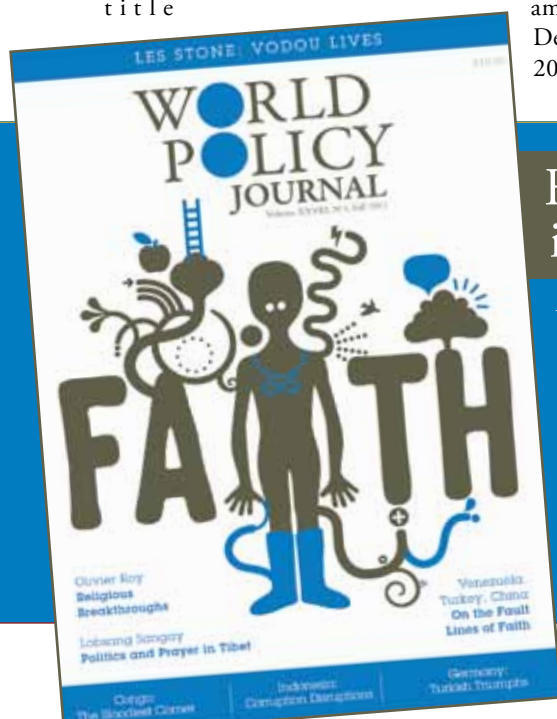
- They agreed that the School of Halki must be reopened but that the Government of Turkey must still determine the best and most proper way to accomplish this.

Regarding the recent Decree on the return of Properties, they emphasized Turkey's commitment to follow through on this matter for which we expressed our expectation for full implementation.

Each time the Order of Saint Andrew has been represented at the meetings of the OSCE, it has been important to forge new relationships with delegates and fortify existing support for the causes of our Ecumenical Patriarchate. Some of the people with whom the Archons met included: Monsignor Marinco Antolovič, Second Secretary of the Holy See at the Permanent Mission of OSCE-Vienna; Mr. Gabriel Coptsidis, Ambassador of Greece to Poland; Mr. Ilias Kastanas,

Legal Counsel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece; Ms. Tania Falierou, Second Secretary of the Embassy at the Greek delegation at OSCE in Vienna; Mr. Willy Fautré, Director of Human Rights Without Frontiers International; and Mr. Douglas Wake, First Deputy Director of OSCE-ODIHR, based in Warsaw.

The continued presence of the Order of Saint Andrew in the OSCE meetings is important to our concerns, as these meetings afford an international forum for the airing of issues on religious freedom, democratic institutions and the rule of law. This gathering continues to grow both in numbers and in stature, heightening the awareness of other significant leaders from around the world with regard to the challenges faced by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Turkish delegation appreciated the acknowledgment given to them for their recent reforms; seizing on this occasion, we intensified our strong demands for implementation and more future progress. They offered the following important statement: "although the announced reforms are difficult to implement, Prime Minister Erdoğan is the one to make them happen." We commend their candor and believe that we should continue to persevere in our pursuits until we have obtained fulfillment of their commitments to our Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■



Feature article on the Ecumenical Patriarchate in prominent policy publication

World Policy Journal, the journal of international relations published by the World Policy Institute, will feature an article by Fr. John Chrysavgis on the experience of a Christian minority in a Muslim land.

The article will appear in the December 15th issue and may be found on:

worldpolicy.org/journal



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



PHOTO BRIEFS



On September 23, Archbishop Demetrios of America met with Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to discuss matters regarding religious freedom and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Included in the discussion was an expression of appreciation offered by the Archbishop to the Prime Minister for recent positive initiatives of the government of Turkey regarding the religious freedom and institutional human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as well as the pressing need to reopen Halki Seminary which was forcibly closed 40 years ago. Accompanying the Archbishop were Archon Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alexander Karloutsos; Archon Michael Jaharis, Vice Chair of the Archdiocesan Council; National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D.; Archon John A. Catsimatidis, Religious Freedom Chairman and Archon Dennis Mehiel, member of the Religious Freedom Committee.



On November 29, His All-Holiness received an official delegation of the Roman Catholic Church headed by Kurt Cardinal Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Also in attendance were Metropolitan John of Pergamon, Co-President of the Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches, as well as Metropolitan Gennadios of Sassima, Orthodox co-secretary of the dialogue.



On November 25, His All-Holiness received the President of the European Parliament, the Hon. Jerzy Buzek, at the Phanar. Issues discussed during their meeting included religious freedom, minorities and environmental protection. Also in attendance were the European Union Ambassador to Turkey, the Hon. Mark Perini, members of the Turkish President's office and the representative of Minority Foundations in Ankara, Archon Lakis Vingas.



On November 17, His All-Holiness received the President of Hungary, the Hon. Paul Schmidt at the Phanar. Discussion included the recent election of the new Metropolitan of Austria and Hungary.



On September 17, the U.S. Ambassador to Ankara, His Excellency Francis Ricciardone and his wife were welcomed by Metropolitan Geron Apostolos of Derkoi and Metropolitan Elpidophoros of Proussa at the Holy Theological School of Halki.



On October 27, His All-Holiness attended and addressed the Assisi Meeting, a global inter-religious "pilgrimage of truth and peace" organized by Pope Benedict XVI in the city of St. Francis. In attendance were some 300 religious leaders from around the world – including Christians, Jews, Muslims, and many others.



On October 27, His All-Holiness was interviewed by journalist Okan Konouralp from the Turkish Newspaper Hürriyet on his 20 years as Patriarch, issues related to the Patriarchate and the Diaspora, and relations with political leadership.

PHOTOS BY N. MANGINAS

More photos at archons.org/photos