



# THE ARCHON

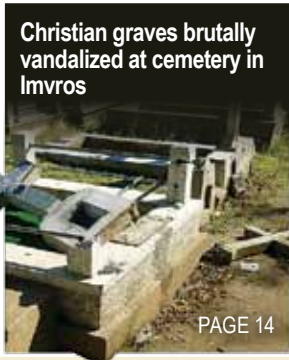
*Defenders of the Faith*

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER • JANUARY 2011  
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Theodore Cardinal McCarrick becomes recipient of 2010 Athenagoras Human Rights Award

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Christian graves brutally vandalized at cemetery in Imvros

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National Vice Commander Bouras honored by brother Archons

PAGE 15



## Confiscated Patriarchal orphanage returned on the feast day of Saint Andrew the Apostle

19th century wooden structure becomes first property to be returned to the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Following a unanimous decision by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, ruling that Turkey return the former Patriarchal orphanage on Buyukada Island to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on Monday, November 29, 2010, lawyers representing the Ecumenical Patriarchate finally obtained the formal property title (shown at left) for the confiscated building, which was once the largest wooden structure in Europe. *‘These are great blessings from St. Andrew,’* in the words of His All Holiness Bartholomew!

Read about the orphanage on page 3 »

## Renowned human rights advocates, scholars, diplomats, and parliamentarians focus on Turkey’s religious freedom concerns at International Archon conference in Brussels

**A**n historic international religious freedom conference held at the European Parliament, November 16-17, focused on common issues of minorities living in Turkey. The Conference proposed solutions in the hopes that Turkey will ultimately do what is in its own best interest in order to gain accession to the European Union by dramatically improving its religious freedom policies toward the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other religious minorities.

Continued on page 4 »



The Order's fundamental goal and mission is to promote the religious freedom, wellbeing and advancement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which is headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey.

*The Archon* is published bi-monthly by the Order of Saint Andrew Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Members are encouraged to submit material pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodoxy. All material should be typed, signed with name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. © 2010

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COVER ORPHANAGE PHOTO BY N. MANGINAS



# Turkey reaches out to Greek Christian minority

BELIEF BLOG

BY IVAN WATSON AND YESIM COMERT

Within the last 15 days, several Greek Orthodox bishops have crossed oceans and continents to travel to a police station in Istanbul where they picked up an unexpected gift: Turkish passports.

Since September, the Turkish government has granted passports and Turkish citizenship to at least 17 senior foreign clerics from the Greek Orthodox Church.

"This is a real surprise," said Father Dositheos Anagnostopoulos, a spokesman for the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, in an interview with CNN.

The Turkish passports may mark a turning point for the patriarchate, an ancient and beleaguered Christian institution based in Istanbul that some observers feared was on the verge of dying out.

Turkey is home to a dwindling community of fewer than 3,000 indigent Greek Orthodox Christians.

Granting citizenship to foreign clerics dramatically expands the pool of eligible candidates to succeed the current ecumenical patriarch, 70-year old Bartholomew, after he steps down.

"It is a significant change because at last the patriarchate can continue with its own norms and laws," Anagnostopoulos said.

The ecumenical patriarch's follow

ers believe he is the 270th spiritual descendant of the Apostle Andrew.

For decades, the Turkish government has refused to recognize the patriarch's title, which means "first among equals." The ethnic Greek minority in Turkey was long an object of suspicion as a result of ongoing tensions throughout the 20th century between Turkey and neighboring Greece.

Discriminatory government policies prompted tens of thousands of ethnic Greeks to flee Turkey in successive waves of emigration starting in the 1950s.

Recently, however, the Turkish government has quietly taken steps to ease restrictions on the patriarchate.

Last week, Turkish authorities returned ownership of a century-old orphanage that had been seized from the patriarchate in 1997.

Earlier this year, lawyers from the patriarchate won a legal battle over ownership of the historic wooden building before the European Court of Human Rights.

The court fined the Turkish government 26,000 euros and ordered it to return the property.

Finally last August, Ankara allowed Bartholomew to hold religious ceremonies in a cliffside Byzantine-era monastery near the Black Sea for the first time since the 1920s.

"A more tolerant society is emerging in Turkey," said Egemen Bagis, Turkey's top negotiator in its troubled bid to join the European Union.

"The situation in Turkey might not be perfect. But it is definitely better. And it is improving day by day," said Bagis, at a religious freedoms conference at the European Parliament in Brussels last month.

Bagis, Turkey's minister for European Union affairs, gave the speech after receiving an award for "his efforts on behalf of religious minorities in Turkey" from an American Greek Orthodox community leader.

Despite these strides forward, Patriarch Bartholomew, who is believed some to be the spiritual leader of the world's 250 million Orthodox Christians, has not dropped his demand that Ankara reopen the long-shuttered Halki Seminary.

Turkey ordered the theological school, which trained generations of Greek Orthodox priests, closed in 1971. ■



## Departed Archons

**Peter S. Demakos**  
*Archon Depoutatos*  
Stamford, CT  
October 2010

**Jeremiah A. Drake**  
*Archon Didaskalos Tou Genous*  
Deerfield Beach, FL  
February 2010

**John Schwika**  
*Archon Ekdikos*  
White Haven, PA  
December 2010

**Spero Theros**  
*Archon Ostiarios*  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI  
December 2010

*May Their Memory Be Eternal*

“How appropriate it is on the Feastday of Saint Andrew that we receive our confiscated property back and that legal personality for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Republic of Turkey is being established.” —NATIONAL COMMANDER LIMBERAKIS

Turkey complies with court order

# RETURNS CONFISCATED ORPHANAGE TO ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

## ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Turkey complied with a European Court of Human Rights ruling on Monday and returned a 19th-century orphanage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, the center of Orthodox Christianity around the world.

The move is likely to appease the European Union which also calls on the Turkish government to reopen a Greek Orthodox seminary and return dozens of other properties such as school buildings and churches seized from Jewish and Christian foundations decades ago.

“It is an important development to show respect for law, democracy and minorities,” said Cem

Murat Sofuoglu, an attorney for the patriarchate, after receiving the title deed. “A right has been taken back.”

Turkey took control of the 19th-century building in 1997, many years after it was abandoned, on the grounds that it belonged to another foundation and had fallen into disuse.

The Patriarchate, however, said the government had refused to issue the necessary permits for the maintenance and repair of the structure, one of the largest wooden buildings in the world.

The European court ruled in June that the land was registered to the patriarchate, giving it de facto legal status to the building.



His All Holiness with Archon Theofanis Economidis who visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate during a pilgrimage, led by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco (right).  
D. PANAGOS



Lawyers representing the Ecumenical Patriarchate speak with media outside the orphanage.  
N. MANGINAS

Turkey is also under pressure to reopen a theology school on an island outside Istanbul that trained generations of church leaders, including Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, until it was closed by Turkey in 1971. The official argument for the seminary’s closure is that a religious institution without government oversight is not compatible with the secular institutions of Turkey, a country where all Muslim clerics are trained and paid by the government.

The patriarchate says Ankara refuses to open the seminary because it wants to prevent the church from raising new leaders. The church’s leader has to be a

Turkish citizen, which makes it difficult for the dwindling Greek community of several thousand to produce any candidates.

But in a move to address that problem, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s government recently granted Turkish citizenship to 12 senior clerics at the Ecumenical Patriarchate, so that they could succeed the 70-year-old Bartholomew.

The patriarchate in Istanbul dates from the Orthodox Greek Byzantine Empire, which collapsed when the Muslim Ottoman Turks conquered the city in 1453. ■

[Source: Associated Press]



**HIS EMINENCE  
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS  
OF AMERICA**

**Primate,  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate**

NEW YORK, NEW YORK



**HIS EMINENCE  
METROPOLITAN EMMANUEL  
OF FRANCE**

**Director, The Liaison Office of the  
Orthodox Church to the European Union**

PARIS, FRANCE



**HIS EXCELLENCY  
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## First-ever Archon conference focuses on human, religious freedom rights for Turkish minorities

The two-day meeting, entitled, “Religious Freedom: Turkey’s Bridge to the European Union,” was held at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, November 16-17, 2010. The symposium brought together over thirty renowned scholars, religious freedom and human rights advocates, journalists, diplomats, parliamentarians, religious leaders, representatives of the Government of Turkey, lawyers and members of minority communities. They presented complex, diverse and contrasting viewpoints and perspectives on the status of religious freedom in Turkey to nearly two-hundred participants from across the United States, Turkey and Europe.

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS AND J. MINDALA



[Top] His Excellency Egemen Bagis addresses speakers and participants. [Above] On behalf of the Archons, National Commander Limberakis, together with Pammakaristos President Sassayiannis, commend Egemen Bagis for his efforts to improve human rights and religious freedom in Turkey. [Right] His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France extends the Patriarchal Exhortation of His All Holiness Bartholomew.



A welcoming reception held at the Conrad Brussels Hotel on Nov. 15 provided an opportunity for speakers and participants to become acquainted with one another. George C. Rockas, Esq., conference chairman, greeted speakers and participants and recognized all those whose efforts made the conference possible.

saying, “The right of religious freedom, as a basic element of human rights, is more than tolerance. Any discrimination of people due to their religion, violates fundamental rights. Religious freedom doesn’t contradict the truth of religious conviction. It opens a peaceful way of living faith in our pluralistic world. Religious freedom doesn’t mean relativism or syncretism. It rather promotes relation and synergism. It underlines and recognizes the importance of religious faith for human

[Above, top] Laki Vingas represents the Greek Orthodox minority during a panel discussion of all religious minorities. [Above, bottom] Angela Wu Howard, International Law Director of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, (second from right) moderates a group of panelists discussing the legal and humanitarian perspectives of religious freedom. [Right] Archon John Zavitsanos delivers announcements during the conference.



Remarks were also given by Pammakaristos Brotherhood President Odysseus Sassayiannis,



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 Susan Young Gates University,  
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 Director, International Center for Law  
 & Religious Studies; J. Reuben Clark Law School,  
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 Senior Fellow  
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 PhD, Senior Counsel of the  
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA



**WILLY FAUTRE**  
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**DILEK KURBAN**  
 BA, MA, JD, Program Officer  
 Democratization Program, Turkish  
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[Top] Archbishop Demetrios delivers the keynote address at the Conrad Hotel during the opening reception. [Above] Mustafa Akyol; Archon Rockas and his wife, Evelyn; Orhan Kemal Cengiz; Archon Demetrios Limberakis and his wife, Mary; and Dr. Bican Sahin.

existence and coexistence.”

Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Archon Legal Counselor, introduced His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America as the Keynote speaker who delivered his address speaking about how this Conference can constitute an ‘open door’ for Turkey and can offer the example of St. Paul who at crucial times of his ministry was presented by God with an open door, explaining that “An open door is a new opportunity for entering into unknown areas of human experience, for discovering new possibilities for enhancing human relationships, for learning new ways of co-existence among religiously, culturally, and ethnically diversified people. An open door is an entryway into a

new era of understanding and mutual respect between the religious minorities and the state in which they live. An open door can also be viewed as a new opportunity for eliminating the unacceptable limitations of religious freedom unfairly imposed upon the religious minorities in Turkey and specifically on the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Under this perspective, the present International Conference so carefully and methodically organized by the Archons of our Ecumenical Patriarchate constitutes the open door for Turkey to demonstrate her willingness to build the bridge of connection with the European Union.”

Day one of the conference, entitled “The Bridge” commenced at



[Above] Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta speaking with Rabbi Arthur Schneier and Bishop Athenagoras of Sinope; [Right] Archon George C. Rockas, Esq. conference chairman, welcomes participants.

the European Parliament, coordinated by Archon Rockas and assisted by Archon John Zavitsanos. Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, director of the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union, delivered the salutations of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who emphasized that “for our part, the Ecumenical Patriarchate is committed to the cause of religious freedom for all peoples around the world, without exception and without prejudice. For if the freedom to express one’s faith in the Divine, even as respect for differing views is abrogated in any way, then we must assert that we are not truly free. Whether of the Abrahamic faiths



or the other great traditions of the world’s religions, it is only in our free and fully human response to God that the possibility to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) truly exists.”

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD addressed participants explaining how “religious freedom is experienced in reality only by a small minority of the world’s population, while so many people take it for granted.” Limberakis quoted various ex-



[Above, top] Archbishop Demetrios stands with Ambassador of Greece to Brussels Alexis Hadjimihalis (left) and Ambassador of Cyprus to Brussels Constantinos Eliades (right) as Metropolitan Panteleimon of Brussels (far right) offers the benediction. [Above, bottom L-R] Archons John Halecky, Judge Theodore Bozenelis and his wife, Helen, Theodore Klingos, and James C. Fountas. [Right] Pammakaristos Brotherhood President Odysseus Sassyianis.





**DR. ANTHONY J. LIMBERAKIS**

National Commander  
Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle  
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate  
in America

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



**JOHNY MESSO**

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HENGELO, NETHERLANDS



**FR. DR. CLAUDIO MONGE**

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ISTANBUL, TURKEY



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Director  
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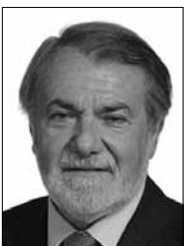
GERMANY



**DR. EMRE ÖKTEM**

Associate Professor  
Galatasaray University

ISTANBUL, TURKEY



**JAMIE MAYOR OREJA**

Member  
European Parliament

SPAIN



[Top] Dr. Steven Ealy, Senior Fellow of the Liberty Fund, (sixth from left) moderates a symposium composed of panelists (L-R): Dr. Otmar Oehring, Johnny Meso, Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou, Dilek Kurban, Orhan Kemal Cengiz, Mustafa Akyol, W. Cole Durham, Dr. Bican Sahin, Angela Wu Howard, and Muna B. Ndulo. The symposium allowed for an interactive exchange among panelists that focused on issues faced by religious minorities in Turkey. [Above] Turkish journalist Mustafa Akyol speaks on views from the Turkish side, referencing Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror officially recognizing Patriarch Gennadius II as leader of the Orthodox people following the Ottoman capture of Constantinople in 1453.

amples where religious freedom is enshrined in the Torah, the Great Gospels and Epistles and the Qur'an.

A series of speakers on a variety of topics relating to religious freedom and human rights ensued. Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, spoke about religious freedom as a fundamental human right stating, "the litmus test of democracy is how the majority treats the minority." Several speakers presented an overview of the issues and concerns of the Religious minorities in Turkey. A panel discussion that followed

featured representatives of the religious minorities of Alevi Muslims, Armenians, Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Protestants and Syriacs in Turkey. Other topics included the Turkish legal system as it pertains to the rights of religious minorities, the obligations of Turkey under treaties and conventions, the U.S. Policy vis-à-vis religious freedom and a second panel discussion offering legal and humanitarian perspectives on the issues.

Among the speakers was Egemen Bağış, Minister for European Union Affairs and Chief Negotiator of the Republic of





[Above] Dr. Andrew Ekonomou, Senior Counsel of the ACLJ and ECLJ, focused on the topic, "Finding Answers in International Forums, including the European Court of Human Rights." [Right] Dr. Emre Oktem, Associate Professor of Galatasaray University, discusses interfaith understanding and dialogue.



Turkey. The Archons, commending him for his efforts on behalf of religious minorities in Turkey, presented him with a commemorative plaque.

The first day concluded with a VIP reception at the U.S. Embassy hosted by Ambassador to Belgium Howard Gutman and his wife. Day two of the conference entitled "Crossing Over," was held at the Conrad Brussels Hotel and included views from the Turkish side, from the European Parliamentarian's side and from the side of the European Court of Human Rights. It explored issues of interfaith understanding

and of compatibility of religious freedom and the secular Turkish state. A final panel discussed all the questions previously raised and attempted to propose answers and a framework for the dialogue going forward.

National Commander Limberakis in his closing remarks said, "... it was an extraordinary event of lasting significance... a civil, respectful and spiritual discourse" noting the diversity of the religious communities included in

[Above, top] Florida Regional Commander Dr. Ted Vlahos and Archon Stephen Georgeson speak with Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou, Vice Chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and German European Parliamentarian Dr. Renate Sommer. [Above, bottom] Archbishop Demetrios thanks the Archons of America and Archons of Europe for organizing their first-ever conference. [Right] Archon Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alex Karloutsos listens to sessions with Metin Tarhan, President of the AVF Federation of Alevi Muslim Foundations.





**DR. ELIZABETH PRODRAMOU**

Vice Chair  
United States Commission  
on International Religious Freedom

WASHINGTON, D.C.



**GRÉGOR PUPPINCK**

PhD, Director  
European Centre of Law and Justice

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**GEORGE C. ROCKAS, ESQ.**

Chairman  
Conference Planning Committee

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Human Rights Clinic  
Executive Director, Orville H. Schell Jr. Center  
for International Human Rights

YALE LAW SCHOOL

# TODAY'S ZAMAN

## Bartholomew, Muslims in Greece, defending human rights

ORHAN KEMAL CENGİZ



A couple of weeks ago I was in Brussels attending a conference on freedom of religion. Egemen Bağış, state minister for negotiations with the EU, delivered a speech in the morning session. It was an important conference; his attendance was meaningful and important because it was the first time in history a Turkish minister was attending an event organized by religious minorities in Turkey. Mr. Bağış referred to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate as the Greek Fener Patriarchate. In the afternoon session, I was one of the speakers and opened my speech with criticism of Bağış's way of addressing the patriarchate. I said the pope is the pope, Muhammad is the Prophet (s.a.w.), Hocaefendi is Hocaefendi and so on, and we all should refer to religious leaders by their proper names. So Bağış should have said Ecumenical Patriarchate. After this, I engaged in rather harsh criticism of Turkey's official policies on minorities. Regular readers of my column know my opinion on this topic very well.

The second day I was also a speaker on the panel and this time I wanted to discuss the topic from a different angle. I said, "As a human rights defender I really would like to see good examples in Greece in the treatment of Muslim minorities so that I could use it to force my government to do the same thing for non-Muslims in Turkey." I did not say that the Muslims' situation in Greece is as bad as that of non-Muslims in Turkey, but that Greece has a lot of problems and that

these problems are used by Turkish nationalists to prevent reforms for the improvement of the situation of the Greek minority in Turkey. At the end of the panel discussion, the participants started to ask questions and make comments about our presentations. Then I heard the emotionally charged, hysterical voice of a Greek diplomat criticizing me. She said she never thought that she had to defend Greece, but after hearing me... For two days, we kept criticizing Turkey for every kind of wrongdoing, but just a couple of sentences about Greece caused that lady to lose her temper.

I am really sick and tired of confronting this kind of nationalistic rubbish. As I said in the second day of the conference, being a human rights defender requires confronting the status quo in your home first. No one can be a human rights defender without confronting, questioning his/her own country, their nation, their people and so on. I would be defending the rights of indigenous people if I were a citizen of the US. I would be fighting for the rights of Muslims if I were Greek. I would stand against atrocities in Darfur if I was Sudanese and against China for its terrible treatment of Uyghurs if I was Chinese. This is exactly why I am fighting for the rights of non-Muslims in Turkey.

On this occasion I would like to congratulate His All Holiness Bartholomew. Bartholomew is a man of wisdom and passion. He suffered a lot in Turkey. His stance in support of the rights of other religious minorities is extremely important and meaningful. I hope his love and passion reaches some Greeks whose hearts have been sealed and vision narrowed by nationalistic fervor. ■



[Above, top] The Honorable Howard W. Gutman, US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, hosted a reception at the US Embassy for all conference speakers and participants. [Above, bottom] Archbishop Demetrios and National Commander Limberakis with members of the Assyrian Orthodox delegation, led by Johny Messo, president of the Syriac Universal Alliance. [Right] Metropolitan Polycarpus of Spain and Portugal offers the invocation at the Grand Banquet.



the Conference. He concluded saying, "It seems only fitting that such bridges should be built, not merely over the Bosphorus to join Europe and Asia, but between hearts and minds, between kindred and diverse spirits, beginning with us."

The conference concluded with a grand banquet at the Hilton Brussels Hotel. Archbishop Demetrios of America made a special presentation, on behalf of the Archons, to their Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alex Karloutsos on the occasion of his 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, and also to His Eminence

Metropolitan Panteleimon of Brussels, who hosted the conference in his diocese. Special recognition was given to His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Sinope for leading participants to various places of historical significance in Bruges and Ghent.

The conference was sponsored by the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America and the Pammakaristos Brotherhood of Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Europe, in cooperation with the Patriarchal Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union. ■



[Above, top] Participants had the opportunity to visit the Monastery of Chevtagne, founded in 1925. [Above, bottom] Participants celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel upon arrival. [Right] Archbishop Aram Atashian of the Armenian community offers the benediction to conclude the Grand Banquet.





**DR. RENATE SOMMER**

Member  
European Parliament

GERMANY



**KONRAD SZYMANSKI**

Member  
European Parliament

POLAND



**RODI KRATSA TSAGAROPOULOU**

Vice President of the European Parliament

GREECE



**RIZA TÜRMEŒ**

Former Judge  
European Court of Human Rights

TURKEY



**LAKIS VINGAS**

Council Member  
General Directorate of Foundations  
Representative of the  
Non Muslim Foundations

ISTANBUL, TURKEY



**ANGELA WU HOWARD**

International Law Director  
Becket Fund for Religious Liberty

WASHINGTON, D.C.



**MINE YILDIRIM**

Member  
Committee of Religious and Legal Affairs  
Association of Protestant Churches

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

**OCN**  
TRAVEL BLOG COVERAGE

The Orthodox Christian Network (OCN), an agency of SCOBA, has been established to create a national, sustainable and effective media witness for the Orthodox Christian Church in North America. OCN produces high-quality programs and media tools for local parishes that reach people for Christ 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. OCN offered daily coverage on the International Conference at [myocn.net](http://myocn.net). Below is an excerpt from one of their blogs:

**“I will walk in freedom,  
for I have devoted myself  
to your commandments.”**

**-Psalm 119:45**

SIXTH DAY BLOG: As I board the plane for our long trip home I cannot stop thinking about all of the incredible individuals I met this week and the interviews taken. It was a truly historic trip. I hope the world will have the opportunity to learn about the plight of our sacred faith through our coverage and the future things that will be done with the proceedings of the conference.

As Orthodox Christians we number over 350 Million worldwide and it is time we all band together and take our rightful and historic position given to us. Our Ecumenical Patriarchate must be free to operate as the First See of Orthodox Christianity. Our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is a true leader of God. Recently in an interview with 60 Minutes His All Holiness stated he felt personally crucified in his apostolic ministry. This is because he is not able to fully function as the First Amongst Equals throughout the Orthodox world.

Let us all assist in the sacred mission of freeing our Mother Church from the chains that restrain her. We were all created by God and of course our mother and fathers, to be free and free we shall remain. It is only in freedom that we can live out our God given mission of salvation. We have devoted our selves to His Commandments and we will walk in freedom again soon.

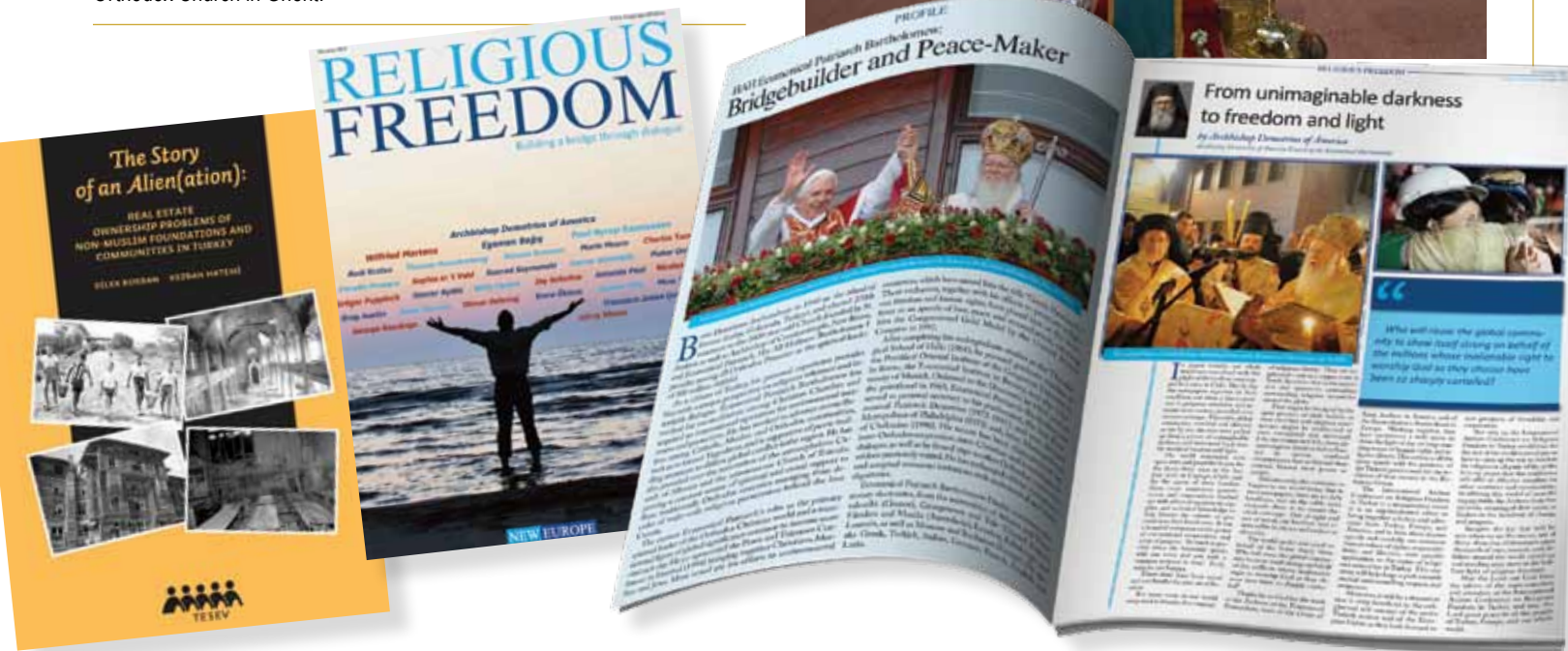
I want to thank the Archon's for inviting OCN to cover this sacred trip and I pray you have enjoyed reading this blog and listening to our coverage. By all means share this coverage with as many people as you can. Good bye from Brussels Belgium the Capital of Europe.

God bless and Keep you. The least worthy of all priests,

Father Christopher Metropulos



[Above, top] Archons gather by a statue of St. Andrew the First Apostle inside a cathedral in Ghent. [Above, bottom] Archon Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis venerates a phial said to contain a cloth with the blood of Jesus Christ inside the 12th century Holy Blood Chapel in Bruges. [Right] Participants visit St. Andrew's Orthodox Church in Ghent.



Two publications are currently featured on archons.org: *The Story of Alien(ation)*, by Dilek Kurban and Kezman Hatemi is featured by TESEV and reports on real estate ownership problems of non-muslim foundations and communities in Turkey. A special 38-page publication on *Religious Freedom*, published by NEWEUROPE, reports on religious freedom issues of various minorities.

News, speeches, speaker biographies & photos > [archons.org/conference](http://archons.org/conference)



N. MANGINAS

# 79 CHRISTIAN GRAVES DESECRATED

## Turkish Foreign Ministry quick to “strongly condemn”

### IMVROS, TURKEY

**O**n October 28, 2010, seventy-eight Christian graves were brutally desecrated in the graveyard of Panagia (Merkez or Imroz), the capital of the island of Imvros (Gokceada), in Turkey. Imvros is home to approximately 200 Greek Orthodox Christians and the birthplace of both His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the late Archbishop Iakovos of America.

The Greek Orthodox populations of Imvros and nearby Tenedos were largely forced to abandon the islands in the 1960's and 1970's due to a policy of systematic ethnic cleansing by the Turkish State. Despite recent improvement in the situation for the few indigenous inhabitants remaining, acts such as this one serve as a stark reminder of the

intolerance and intimidation by certain individuals and groups that persists on the islands.

The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs quickly condemned the desecration in a statement issued on October 31st, stating “we regret that many grave-stones in a cemetery belonging to our Greek Orthodox citizens in Imvros were damaged on the night of October 28, 2010. We strongly condemn it.” The Ministry statement further noted the following, “Upon notification of the incident by the Imvros Metropolitan to the Public Prosecutor’s Office, an immediate investigation was launched in order to catch the perpetrators and bring them before justice. Necessary measures to prevent any recurrence of such an event are being taken by the relevant authorities.” ■

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

*Exarch’s Appeal  
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*National Vice Commander*  
**Nicholas J. Bouras**  
HONORED BY BROTHER ARCHONS

SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY

Prior to their monthly National Council meeting on Thursday, December 9, 2010, National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras was honored by the Order of St. Andrew on the occasion of his nameday and his 90th birthday. On behalf of the Order, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America together with His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, presented Bouras with a commemorative plaque which read:



PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

“With profound gratitude to Nicholas J. Bouras, Archon Depoutatos, for continuously empowering the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle to fight for the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with your extraordinary stewardship, sage counsel and steel-like steadfast devotion to the great Church of Christ. Axios! Axios! Axios! Your brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America.”

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

2010  
ARCHON  
WEEKEND

*Honoring*  
HIS EMINENCE  
THEODORE  
CARDINAL  
McCARRICK



# Cardinal McCarrick becomes recipient of Athenagoras Human Rights Award

## Forty-two new Archons invested at Holy Trinity Cathedral

NEW YORK, NY

**H**is Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, PhD, D.D., became the twenty-fifth recipient of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award for his leadership in interfaith understanding, the pursuit of peace and reconciliation, and his constant support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Cardinal McCarrick is the former Archbishop of Newark

and the Archbishop Emeritus of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. His interfaith leadership has been recognized not only by the interfaith community globally, but also by the State Department of the United States of America. He is a prominent leader in efforts for peace in the Middle East, a distinguished bridge-builder in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim relations, and a constant sojourner for peace, reconciliation and un-

derstanding around the world. The Award was presented October 30th during the Grand Banquet of the Order's annual three-day assembly held at the Hilton Hotel in New York City.

Approximately 600 Archons and guests attended the annual Archon Grand Banquet held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton. Diplomatic and ecclesiastical dignitaries and guests, including, among others, His

[Above] Archbishop Demetrios, together with the officers of the Order, present the 2010 Athenagoras Human Rights Award to Cardinal McCarrick. [Below, L-R] Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, and Bishop Savas of Troas invested forty-two Archons on Sunday, October 31, including Michael Karloutsos; Aristotle Papanikolaou, PhD, Associate Professor of Theology at Fordham University; Anderw Liveris; William John Antholis, PhD, Managing Director, Brookings Institution; Demosthenes Vasiliou and Theodore Pedas.

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS AND J. MINDALA



A  
LONGTIME  
BROTHER ALLY  
OF ECUMENICAL  
PATRIARCH  
BARTHOLOMEW,  
AND A TRUSTED  
FRIEND OF THE  
ECUMENICAL  
PATRIARCHATE  
AND THE GREEK  
ORTHODOX  
ARCHDIOCESE  
OF AMERICA,  
AS WELL AS AN  
INTERNATIONALLY  
KNOWN ADVOCATE  
OF RELIGIOUS  
FREEDOM AND  
INTERFAITH  
UNDERSTANDING.





Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Rabbi Arthur Schneider and Senator Paul Sarbanes graced the event.

In his remarks, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis said, “Archons have served in key societal roles since the 8th century BC in Ancient Athens, and later in the Imperial Court of Byzantium, at the Ecumenical Patriarchate during and subsequent to the Byzantine Empire and now, 3,000 years later, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America are demonstrating the leadership of commitment and zeal in defending the Sacred Apostolic See of Saint Andrew and promoting religious freedom.”

After a special tribute video, Dr. Limberakis introduced Cardinal McCarrick, the 2010 Athenagoras Human Rights Award Recipient. In accepting the award, His Eminence said it was “an extraordinary honor,” noting how he had read the works of Ecumenical



On behalf of the Archons, Archbishop Demetrios presented two pectoral crosses to Fr. Karloutsos and his wife, Presbytera Xanthi, which marked their fortieth wedding anniversary and his fortieth anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

Patriarch Athenagoras. “He really was the man who introduced ecumenism to the world.” The cardinal also praised “the courage displayed by Patriarch Athenagoras in his meeting with Pope Paul VI in 1966 when the two leaders lifted the mutual excommunications from 1054.”

“It was a courageous statement,” said Cardinal McCarrick. “Raising the excommunications was not easy. They put love over theology.” He called it a “pure celebration of the mystery of God.”

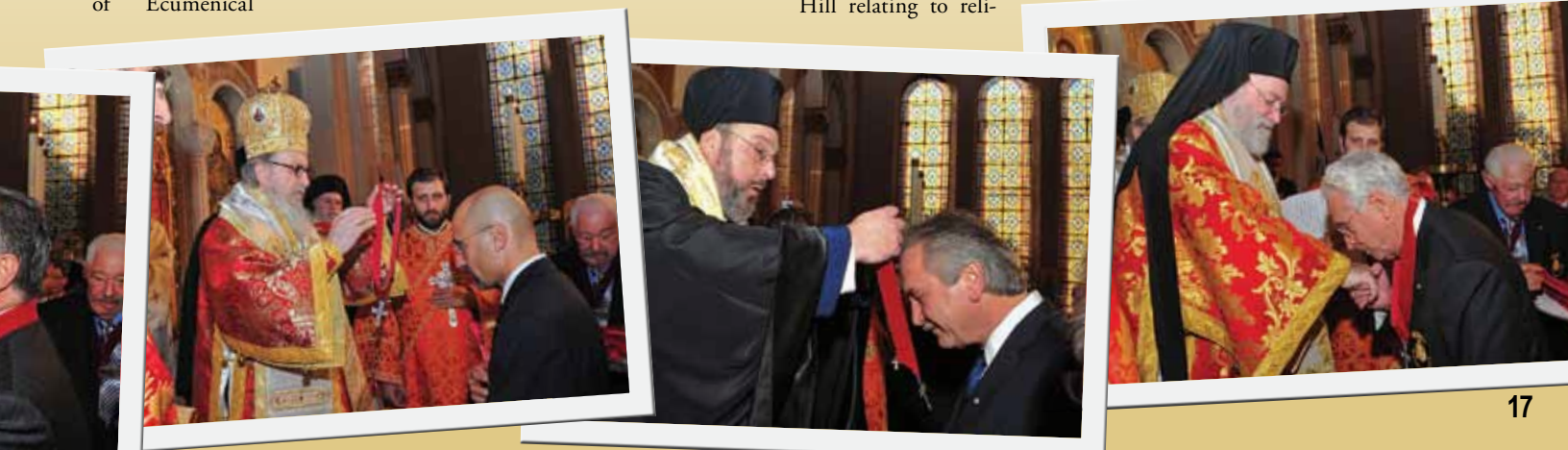
His Eminence also recalled hearings held on Capitol Hill relating to reli-

gious freedom at which the cardinal testified under adverse conditions. “With broken arm he came to Congress to testify on behalf of religious freedom for the patriarchate,” he said.

Following the cardinal’s remarks, Archbishop Demetrios noted that Cardinal McCarrick’s career has been “a ministry of consistency with a powerful insistence on values.”

Established in 1986, the Award honors Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, who served as Archbishop of the Americas for 18 years before being elected Ecumenical Patriarch in 1948. He was universally recognized as a visionary leader of the world’s more than 300 million Orthodox Christians and worked for peace among churches and people throughout his life and ministry.

Previous recipients of the Award



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include President Jimmy Carter, President George H.W. Bush, Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mother Teresa, Elie Wiesel, Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Rabbi Arthur Schneier and, last year's recipient, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew, Dr. Anthony Limberakis.

During the solemn Archon Investiture service the following day at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Archbishop Demetrios presented each Archon

with the Cross of St. Andrew, along with the official Patriarchal Certificate specifying the offi-  
 tion designated for each Archon. Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey and Bishop Savas of Troas also participated in the investiture ceremony.

Following the investiture, Archbishop Demetrios, on behalf of the Archons, presented two pectoral crosses to Fr. Karloutsos and his wife, Presbytera Xanthi marking their fortieth wedding anniversary and his fortieth anni-



Father Joseph McShane, President of Fordham University.

versary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Pamela James, beloved niece of Vice Commander Bouras, created the crosses which

were crafted in silver and gold and replicated to the crosses Archons are bestowed at their investiture. ■



William John Antholis, PhD Prostatis Ton Grammaton	St. Sophia Washington, DC	Andrew Nicholas Liveris Protonotarios	St. Dimitrios, Saginaw, MI and Kimisis, Southampton, NY
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Charles Leonard Beck, Jr., MD Aktouarios	Prophet Elias Holladay, UT	Frank Mihalopoulos Depoutatos	Holy Trinity Dallas, TX
John Joseph Bilanin Referendarios	Holy Ghost Phoenixville, PA	Basil Nicholas Mossaidis Maestoros	St. Catherine Falls Church, VA
John J. Blazakis Dikaiophylax	St. George Piscataway, NJ	Nicholas Nichols Orphanotrofios	St. Barbara Toms River, NJ
Ronald Emanuel Canakaris Ekdikos	Annunciation Atlanta, GA	Dimitrios S. Panagos Kastrinsios	Holy Trinity Church Hicksville, NY
Nicholas John Chakos Protonotarios	Holy Cross Pittsburgh, PA	Aristotle Papanikolaou, PhD Prostatis Ton Grammaton	Sts. Constantine and Helen Andover, MA
Paul G. Chiligiris Nomophylax	Annuciation Decatur, IL	Peter J. Pappas, Jr. Notarios	Holy Resurrection Brookville, NY
Elias Damianakis Maestoros	Sts. Raphael, Nicholas and Irene Palm Harbor, FL	James Pedas Hypomnimatografatos	St. Sophia Cathedral Washington, DC
Jimmy Daskalos Ostarios	St. George Albuquerque, NM	Theodore Pedas Exarchos	St. Sophia Cathedral Washington, DC
George Demacopoulos, PhD Didaskalos Tou Genous	St. Paraskevi Greenlawn, NY	John Psaras Eftaxias	Holy Cross Bay Ridge, NY
Andre C. Dimitriadis, PhD Referendarios	St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA and Kimisis, Southampton, NY	Anargyros P. Sakellaris Orphanotrofios	St. Catherine Braintree, MA
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David P. Gdovin Depoutatos	St. Michael Binghamton, NY	Spiridon Spireas, PhD Aktouarios	St. George Trenton, NJ
Thomas G. Jordan Notarios	Assumption St. Claire, MI	William S. Stavropoulos Skevophylax	St. Demetrios, Saginaw, MI and St. Katherine, Naples, FL
George James Kallins, MD Eftaxias	St. George Downey, CA	John Tangelos Dierminefs	St. John the Baptist Sterling Heights, MI
Michael Kapeluck Maestoros	Sts. Peter and Paul Carnegie, PA	James Tasios Kastrinsios	Annuciation Winston Salem, NC
Michael A. Karloutsos Eftaxias	St. George Philadelphia, PA and St. Luke Broomall, PA	Anthony Thomopoulos Laosynaktis	St. Sophia Los Angeles, CA
Emanuel G. Katsoulis Ostarios	Archangel Michael Port Washington, NY	Demosthenes Vasiliou Depoutatos	St. Demetrios, Upper Darby, PA and St. Luke, Broomall, PA
Arthur Labros Nomophylax	Annuciation, Milwaukee, WI and Sts. Constantine and Helen, Wauwatosa, WI	James B. Zafiros Hypomnimatografatos	Holy Trinity New Rochelle, NY
Demetrios Anthony Limberakis Hartoularios	St. Vasilios Peabody, MA	Leonard Zangas Hieromnimon	Archangel Michael Port Washington, NY



*Axios! Αξιός! Axios!*

# Order of St. Andrew condemns religious freedom violations in the northern Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus

NEW YORK, NY

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle strongly condemns the interruption of Christmas Day Divine Liturgy at the church of Agios Synesios at Rizokarpaso, located in the northern Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus, by so-called “police officers” of the illegal Turkish Cypriot regime.

This deplorable action carried out on one of the most holy days for all Christians is a blatant violation of the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in

particular, the religious freedoms of the Greek Orthodox Christians who continue to live in the northern occupied part of Cyprus.

Coupled with the policy of pillage, destruction and desecration of the cultural heritage of Cyprus that the occupation regime has been following since 1974, which has led to the destruction or desecration of more than 500 Greek Orthodox churches and chapels in the occupied areas of Cyprus and the illegal transfer of more than 60,000 ancient artifacts to third countries, the continuous

violation of the religious freedoms of the enclaved Greek Cypriots is regrettably an unacceptable reality. This latest action manifests complete and utter disrespect for the religious freedoms of the enclaved Greek Orthodox Christian Cypriots and violated in clear and unambiguous terms, amongst others, the Third Vienna Agreement of August 1975, which continues to be the only agreement providing for the treatment of Greek Cypriots living in the occupied areas of Cyprus, the European Convention on Human Rights and the United Nations

Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Order of Saint Andrew calls upon Turkey to fully respect the religious freedoms of the Greek Orthodox Christians who continue to live in the northern occupied part of Cyprus and urge the United States Government to condemn this unacceptable act and work towards truly safeguarding the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the religious freedoms, of the enclaved Orthodox Christians who reside there. ■

REGIONAL NEWS

## Regional Archons attend prayer service at Ground Zero

NEW YORK, NY

On Sunday, December 5, 2010, on the eve of the Feast Day of St. Nicholas, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, led a special prayer service at Ground Zero—the site where St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church once stood before it was destroyed on September 11, 2001. Regional Archons, together with their spiritual advisor, Fr. Alex Karloutsos, prayed with parishioners and other faithful Orthodox Christians in support of the rebuilding of the church.



Archons John Blazakis, Theodore Klingos, Larry Hotzoglou, Stephen Cherpelis, Nicholas A. Karacostas, and Jim Gabriel were among several members who attended the service.

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



# Archons represented at OSCE Review Conference

## WARSAW, POLAND

As in the previous few years, the Order of St. Andrew was represented in this year's Review Conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), an international body with 52 members, which was convened in Warsaw, 30 September to 8 October 2010, to review progress of the member states in fulfilling the OSCE Charter. The Order's leadership appointed two of its members, Mr. Theofanis Economidis, Archon Ekdikos, and Dr. Achilles G. Adamantiades, Archon Prostatistion Grammaton, to represent the Order in two of its sessions: the first, Working Session 2, on Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion or Belief (to which Archon Theofanis made the first presentation) and the second, Working Session 3, on National Human Rights

Institutions and the Role of Civil Society in the Protection of Human Rights (in which Archon Achilles made the presentation). The presence of a number of observer nations from North Africa, Asia, Australia and other regions (e.g., Egypt, Morocco, Israel, Afghanistan, Japan, Korea, Australia, and others) gave the Archons' presentations a wider exposure.

The main purpose of the delegation and their papers was to highlight the violations of the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as well as of other religious minorities in Turkey, especially (i) the denial of its Ecumenical title, (ii) interference in the process of electing a new Ecumenical Patriarch, (iii) non-recognition of its legal personality, (iv) interference with free religious education (the 1971 closure of the Theological School of Halki); and (v) massive, illegal and arbitrary confis-



The Archons delegates to the OSCE meeting of October 2010, Mr. Theofanis Economides and Dr. Achilles G. Adamantiades during their visit to the Honorable Ambassador of Greece to Poland, Mr. Gabriel Coptsidis. The Ambassador, having served as a Greek Consul in Constantinople, showed deep knowledge and sharp judgment of the problems confronting the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Greek minority in Turkey.

cation of properties of its institutions and foundations.

During the conference, it became clear that a large number of countries, including Turkey, that have acceded to the basic principles of the OSCE Charter and related documents continue to tolerate or instigate violations of these principles. However, attendance by a large number of Non-Governmental Organizations-NGOs creates an open forum for exposing undemocratic systems and human rights violators and, eventually, brings about some, albeit slow, change for the better.

In Session 2, dedicated to Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion or Belief (to which Fanis made the first presentation), Ms. Felice Gaer, a member of the U.S. delegation and an appointee of President Obama as Commissioner to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), made a cogent statement on the issues. The candor, objectivity, moderation, and courage of the presentation given by Ms. Gaer were impressive. From the Archons point of view, her statement was noteworthy because it included, among other items, the following phrase:

## REGIONAL NEWS

# Archon Mathews appointed District One Regional Commander

## NEW YORK, NY



Nikiforos Mathews, Archon Ekdikos, was appointed Regional Commander for District One. "We are looking forward to working with Nikiforos as we seek to advance our religious freedom mission on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in NY," stated National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD.

Archon Mathews, who is of Imvrian background, is married with two children. He is a member of the community and parish council of the Annunciation in Stamford, Connecticut, where his father, Fr. Constantine Mathews, serves as the parish priest.

Archon Mathews practices as a finance attorney in Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP's New York office and once served as a law clerk to the Hon. Archon Nicholas Tsoucalas in the United States Court of International Trade. From 1999 to 2007, Archon Mathews held a commission as a Captain in the United States Army Reserve, where he was qualified to practice as a Judge Advocate. A veteran of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, he served as an Operational and Administrative Law attorney in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. Among other honors, Archon Mathews was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in connection with his military service. ■



The Archons delegates during their visit to Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich, in front of the reconstructed Warsaw Synagogue. The Chief Rabbi showed keen interest in the issues presented by the Archons delegates and expressed strong support.

“On a positive note, the U.S. welcomes steps by Turkey to allow the liturgical celebration of Orthodox believers, led by the Ecumenical Patriarch, at the historic Sümela Monastery and renews President Obama’s call for the Turkish authorities to reopen the Halki Seminary without further delay.”

The Archons oral presentations emphasized the main issues of the Patriarchate, noted the recent positive actions and favorable statements of Turkish officials, including by the Prime Minister of Turkey, and urged continued reform and the need to follow words with concrete action. The response to the Archons presentations was generally favorable.

The full papers are accessible on the OSCE web site as well as on the Archons home page under “OSCE Activities/2010.”

At the end of Session 2, Mr. Tufan Höbek, legal advisor and Turkish delegate, made brief remarks in response to Fanis’ presentation. His tone was markedly different than last year’s and more pragmatic and conciliatory. Mr. Höbek made the following important points:

- (i) “the title Ecumenical is not an issue; the Turkish Government does not feel obligated to use it but does not object to the use of the title by the Patriarch himself and others.”

- (ii) “the reopening of the School of Halki will certainly take place but the Government is looking to find a way that is consistent with Turkish law and the Constitution.”

As to the legal personality issue, he said that the problem affects 70 million Muslims in Turkey, not just religious minorities. On the process of election of a new Ecumenical Patriarch, there exists an approved application process for Turkish citizenship to metropolitans who apply for it. Twelve metropolitans have applied. A favorable side-effect of the conference is that the Archons’ delegates made a number of important contacts that are to be followed-up and are expected to bring additional benefits to the Archons cause.

The main conclusions from the Conference are: (i) the Archons’ voice, raised in defense of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its rights, found a receptive audience and raised once again the awareness of the international community to its problem and issues; (ii) points raised by other speakers offered a deeper understanding and awareness that other religious groups and faiths face similar problems; (iii) the Conference offered an excellent

and, perhaps, unique opportunity for the Order to make important and potentially useful contacts; (iv) the changed tone in the Archons’ presentations of this year served well the Archons’ purpose; (v) it was remarkable that Turkey, along with a number of other candidate countries for EU membership, explicitly associated themselves with statements strongly advocating human rights, made by a number of official delegates, primarily from the EU – it is hoped that concrete actions will follow.

Based on the observations above, the Order of St. Andrew should be constantly vigilant on the changes affecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate and be on top of developments, well ahead of time, for the OSCE Conference of next year. The Archons delegates came away from the conference with the conviction that the Archons voice was heard, Archons papers were posted on the internet for many to read and a sharper light was shed on the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Order of St. Andrew will continue in its steadfast support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including a strong advocacy in the fora of the OSCE. ■

## Regional Archons of Philadelphia offer prayers on Feastday of St. Andrew

### BROOMALL, PA

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 28, 2010, Father Chris Kontos of St. Luke Church in Broomall, PA, offered an artoklasia prayer service for the health of the members and families of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, on the occasion of the feastday of St. Andrew, the first called Apostle.

Regional Commander Dr. Cary Limberakis later addressed the congregation on religious freedom issues confronting the Ecumenical Patriarchate. National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD then spoke on the recent International Archon Religious Freedom Conference held at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. ■



# The Patriarchate is ecumenical

MUSTAFA AKYOL



What brought me to the European capital this time is an international conference organized by the Archons.

Never heard of the Archons before? I, at least, had not heard about them until a few months ago, when they invited me to speak at the "Religious Freedom: Turkey's Bridge to the European Union" conference, which was held this week right at the European Parliament.

In the time between, I learned that the term "archon," which originated in Byzantium and stands for pious Orthodox Christian believers who dedicate themselves to the service, and the defense, of their "mother church" – the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Most contemporary Archons are members of the American Greek community who support the Patriarchate by diplomacy and dialogue, besides donations and prayers.

## Toying with treason

Besides the Archons themselves, the conference was joined by prominent Orthodox clerics, including Archbishop Demetrios and dozens of Western experts who focus on issues of religious freedom in Turkey. On the Turkish side, there

was EU minister Egemen Bağış, who represented the Turkish government, members of various minority groups in Turkey and several Turkish lawyers and journalists.

The take-away message was that religious freedom needs to be enhanced in Turkey for all minority groups – and also for the Muslim majority, as several speakers, including myself, have underlined. As for the specific case of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, two crucial steps are urgently needed: the Halki Seminary, which was tyrannically closed down in 1971 during one of Turkey's customary military coups, needs to be reopened. And the Turkish authorities simply need to respect the name of the institution.

I am sure some of my fellow Turks will denounce me as a "traitor" for saying that. So be it. But let me at least explain why.

First, I believe that no state, including mine, should have the power to decide how individuals and civil institutions should define themselves. States should exist to respect and protect our freedoms – not to violate them. Therefore it is utterly unacceptable to me that any state can dare to define the name of a religious institution – especially one that has existed for almost two millennia.

Second, Turks actually had no problem with the title "ecumenical" for centuries. Under the Ottoman Empire, the Patriarchate was given full amnesty and autonomy,

and no Ottoman authority ever thought of interfering with its name. Even under the Turkish Republic, which has been less liberal than the Ottoman Empire in many aspects, the title of the Patriarchate did not become an issue for a long time.

It was only in the 1990s that some ultra-nationalist ideologues noticed that "ecumenical" means "universal." This, they furiously noted, implies an authority that surpasses that of the Turkish state. And since worshipping the Turkish state is their *raison d'être*, they saw a big insult here. Soon, they even manufactured conspiracy theories about the "hidden agenda" of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which is, supposedly, to build a "new Byzantium" in Istanbul.

My response to this is that the real insult to Turkey is to make it look so paranoid and senseless. The Ecumenical Patriarchate claims a spiritual authority, not a political one. (As Jesus said to Pilate: "my Kingdom is not of this world.") We Turks should have nothing to say in this spiritual realm, which is simply none of our business.

## Bad reciprocity

The third issue at stake is the age-old principle of "reciprocity" between Turkey and Greece in regards to their respective Greek and Turkish minorities. I don't like that principle, for it regards human rights as a bargaining chip. But even when we take that as a given, why are we fol-

lowing it on a lose-lose basis, by which both the Greek Orthodox in Turkey and the Muslim Turks in Greece get deprived of their freedoms?

Why don't we rather use Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's famous win-win formula, by setting our Christians free and then asking the Greeks to do the same for their Muslims?

Perhaps, then, Greece can retreat from some of its shameful policies, too – such as not allowing even a single mosque in Athens.

This last point brings me to what I also said at the Archons Conference on Religious Freedom: Turkey, despite all the positive developments in the past decade, still has lots of shortcomings with regards to religious freedom. But this is not an exclusively Turkish problem. The neighboring Greece is hardly any better when it comes to the rights of the Turks in Western Thrace. Bulgaria is fine now, but it carried out a horrible policy of forced assimilation on its Turks in the 1980s. For all these countries, and others in this part of the world, have been haunted by similar fears and poisoned by similarly nationalistic ideologies.

But now is the time to move on, and let freedom reign in the whole region. On the Turkish side, I suggest we start by simply acknowledging that His All Holiness Bartholomew I is the ecumenical patriarch. That will affirm a much-needed respect not just to him and his church – but also to our very selves. ■



# Turkey considering demand to reopen Orthodox seminary

ANKARA

Turkey is considering a demand by the Istanbul-based Greek Orthodox Patriarchate to reopen a seminary that trained generations of patriarchs, Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç said Monday.

"We will try to meet them from a legal point of view," Arınç said following the meeting with Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I. "As the government, we consider it a duty to meet the rightful demands of our citizens who have been living on this land for centuries."

The Halki seminary on Heybeliada, an island near Istanbul, was a major center of theological learning for more than a century until it was closed in 1971 by a law designed to bring all universities under state control.

The move deprived the Orthodox Church, seated in Istanbul since Byzantine times, of its only facility to train clergy in Turkey. The European Union and the United States have long pressed Ankara to reopen the school.

"We have entered a new year. I came here to extend best wishes for 2011 and to wish health and happiness in this new year," said Arınç in explaining the reason for his patriarchal visit, his first. "During our meeting with [Patriarch] Bartholomew last August, I told him I would visit him. I wish this visit to be a beneficial start."

Arınç became the highest-level Turkish official to visit the patriarchate since a 1952 visit by then-Prime Minister Adnan Menderes, Anatolia news agency said.

Patriarch Bartholomew thanked the government for recent measures to improve the rights of Turkey's non-Muslim minorities but stressed that more must be done.

"We expect further steps. Naturally, we expect the reopening of our seminary," the patriarch said in televised remarks, Agence France-Presse reported. "Hopefully, the government will realize its goodwill on the issue."

Patriarch Bartholomew hailed Turkey's overtures toward minorities as "openings for democracy and Westernization," saying he hoped the seminary could be reopened this year, 40 years after its closure.

Patriarch Bartholomew said he also thanked Arınç for initiatives made to their community and other communities. "There are not the initiatives for the Armenians, Jews or Greek Orthodox but initiatives for democracy. These are initiatives made to make Turkey more modern."

[Government working to improve minorities' lot](#)

Arınç said he was accepting responsibility to ensure that different belief groups live in peace and happiness in Turkey.

"The community foundations and the patriarchate may have many needs and demands. From time to time, we have talks with the patriarch and his colleagues to meet the demands within the scope of law," Arınç said.

"New arrangements were made with the new Law on Foundations. We should grant the rights within the scope of those arrangements. Our political will is strong in this respect. The application made by Republican People's Party [the main opposition party, CHP] for the new Foundations Law was rejected by the Constitutional Court. We are the caretaker of a civilization complying with the rights, beliefs and cultures of others. We are obliged to establish and maintain good relations with all our citizens," Arınç said.

"We take into consideration the problems of foundations, communities, the patriarchate and the peoples with respect to laws. We have not granted anything regarding the seminary on our own," the deputy prime minister said, adding that a recent decision from both the European Court of Human Rights and a local Turkish court had turned over control of an old orphanage building on Istanbul's Büyükdada Island to the Greek Orthodox Church. The orphanage was confiscated from the church in 1997.

"Works on other issues are continuing. There are the decisions of the Constitutional Court. There are some other legal impediments and issues that we consider as an obstacle stemming from some international agreements. We will overcome all of them. As a requirement of law, those should be restituted to right holders. We will do what the laws order us to do," Arınç said.

Patriarch Bartholomew said the new Law on Foundations provided new opportunities to minority communities even if the law was not completely satisfactory.

Turkish officials have said they are willing to reopen the seminary but have cited procedural snags because the school does not fit into existing categories in the country's education system. Without the seminary, the church has no means of training clergy, making it difficult to find a successor for Bartholomew I.

To make up for the shortage, Ankara has granted Turkish citizenship to several senior clerics at the church – a requirement for the aging Patriarch Bartholomew's successor.

Despite the recent steps, Ankara has refused to recognize the patriarch's "ecumenical" title, considering him only the spiritual head of Turkey's tiny Greek Orthodox minority. ■

# 2010 Archon Honor Roll

## THE 2010 EXARCH'S APPEAL ALONE RAISED \$576,320

The following list of names are all participants who have made a contribution in 2010 in support of religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople. Their contribution will enable the Order of Saint Andrew to continue its advocacy for religious freedom for the Apostolic See of Saint Andrew so that the guilding light of the Phanar will forever enlighten God's oikoumene. *(List complete as of January 11, 2011)*

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 Daniel Breno  
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\*\* Non-Archons



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## PHOTO BRIEFS



On Thursday, January 6, 2010, His All Holiness celebrated the Divine Liturgy on the occasion of the feast of the Lord's Theophany at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George in Istanbul, Turkey, in the presence of a large crowd of faithful pilgrims and visitors from all over the world. Afterward, the Ecumenical Patriarch led the traditional service for the blessing of waters and cast the cross into the waters of the Golden Horn of the Bosphorus Sea.



On Monday, January 3, 2011, His All Holiness met at the Ecumenical Patriarchate with the Hon. Bülent Arınc, State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey. Mr. Arınc is also the former House Speaker of the Turkish Parliament (2002-2007). The Deputy Prime Minister held private conversations with the Ecumenical Patriarch, attended a reception with leading representatives of the Greek community and its institutions in Turkey, and addressed the media with the Patriarch. This is the highest dignity at the Ministerial level of the Turkish Government to visit the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the last sixty years.

A. ROMBOPOULOS



On Friday, Christmas Eve, 2010, His All Holiness attended Vespers at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George. After the service, he was greeted at the Phanar by children of the Youth Culture and Arts Association as well as students of the various community schools in Istanbul, who sang traditional Christmas carols. Prof. Christos Yannaras addressed the gathering.

N. MANGINAS



On Thursday, December 9, 2010, Lieutenant Frangos Frangoulis, Chief of Army Staff of Greece, on an official visit to Turkey, was also received by His All Holiness at the Phanar. Mr. Frangoulis was accompanied by his wife, Captain-Adjutant Vasilios Tsarouchas and the Military Attache at the Greek Embassy in Ankara, Colonel Polychronis Terezakis, and other colleagues.

N. MANGINAS



On Tuesday, November 30, 2010, His All Holiness presided over the Divine Liturgy for the celebration of the Patronal Feast of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on the occasion of the feastday of St. Andrew, the First-Called of the Apostles. In accordance with established practice since the 1960s, an official delegation from His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, headed by Kurt Cardinal Koch as president of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, was in attendance.

N. MANGINAS

More photos at ► [archons.org/photos](http://archons.org/photos)