



## 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



*Celebrating 20 Years of Patriarchal Ministry*



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.

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*With profound respect,  
the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America  
offer this Annual Report to our worldwide spiritual father,  
His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew  
on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of his election and enthronement;  
his Exarch in the United States, Archbishop Demetrios of America;  
the Metropolitans and Orthodox Hierarchy in America;  
the Clergy, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,  
all Orthodox Faithful and People of Goodwill  
with the pledge that The Order of Saint Andrew  
will continue the good fight  
for the full and complete religious freedom  
of the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople  
until the bells of freedom can be heard emanating from the Phanar!*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate*

*Anthony Limberakis, MD*

*Archon Aktouarios*

*National Commander*

*October 15, 2011*



ON THE COVER: His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew enthroned in Saint George Cathedral, Istanbul, on November 2, 1991. (Photo by Archon Dimitrios Panagos)



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America**

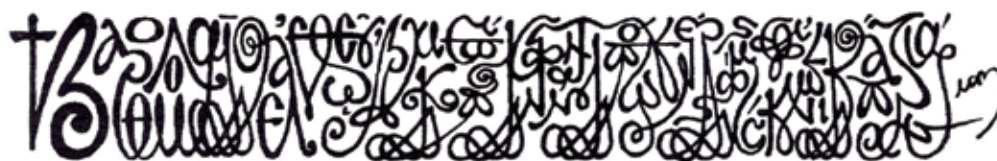
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## **A YEAR IN REVIEW**

The reader is offered a pictorial highlight and chronology of the educational, philanthropic and spiritual Archon initiatives of the past year including significant news regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate

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✠ BARTHOLOMEW, by the mercy of God, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

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

It is our paternal joy to address this Patriarchal Letter on the occasion of your Annual Meeting and the official presentation of the Annual Report of the Order of St. Andrew for the calendar year 2011.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincerest congratulations for all that you, as our beloved Archons, have achieved in support of the venerable Ecumenical Patriarchate. Most especially, we convey to you our fervent appreciation for your tireless service to the Holy Church of Christ through your exemplary devotion through the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Once more, during the past year, the Order of St. Andrew the First-Called of the Apostles has admirably defended religious rights of individuals and the ministry of freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. And God has truly blessed us to witness significant shifts in the mentality of people and governments as well as pledges for the restitution of historic religious properties belonging to our community. It is a seed that, with the grace of God, promises much fruit.

Therefore, beloved children, we warmly invoke upon all of you the strength of the Almighty in order that you might continue to serve the Great Church of Christ with your characteristic enthusiasm and commitment. May God bless you and your families with His abundant mercy and love.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2011

Prayerfully yours,

✠ BARTHOLOMEW

Archbishop of Constantinople-  
New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch



## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 21, 2011

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD  
National Commander  
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate  
The Order of Saint Andrew  
8 East 79<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10075

Dear National Commander and Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew,

In the grace and peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I extend to you my greetings and heartfelt best wishes as you convene the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Order of Saint Andrew.

Your steadfastness as *defenders of the faith* and your support of our Holy Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, are a vibrant witness and testimony to Orthodoxy and to our sacred work as Orthodox Christians.

I offer my deep appreciation to each of you as you contribute your God given talents and resources to further empower the Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate, our Mother Church, in proclaiming her apostolic message and persevering in her commitment to philanthropy, international mission, ecological stewardship, ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, and the preservation of religious freedom throughout the world.

With these deliberations, may you be renewed in your worthy aims while continually exhorting and encouraging each other in the ministry of the Church. I offer my best wishes and prayers for fruitful meeting deliberations and for God's infinite grace upon you and your sacred work.

With paternal love in Christ  
and high esteem in Him,

† DEMETRIOS  
Archbishop of America





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

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

***Religious freedom does not exist in Turkey, although the Order is optimistic that the atmosphere is changing and that there will be fundamental improvement in the very near future.***

—2010 ANNUAL REPORT



His All-Holiness with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on August 28, 2011, at Iftar Dinner announcing government decree to return confiscated properties of religious minorities.



Archbishop Demetrios of America meets with Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan on September 23, 2011 in New York, accompanied by Archon Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alexander Karloutsos; Archons Michael Jaharis, Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., John A. Catsimatidis and Dennis Mehiel.

Indeed by the Grace of God, **2011 was the breakout year** for the seedlings of religious freedom to emerge from the sacred ground of our spiritual forefathers. As a result of **the courageous and brilliant leadership of our worldwide spiritual father His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew**, the **government of Turkey** has taken bold, dramatic and politically unpopular initiatives to **finally begin to address** a number of concerns that have been asphyxiating the Spiritual Center of World Orthodoxy. The road to complete and unfettered religious freedom continues to be uphill, circuitous and challenging. However, the new policies of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan have established a foundation upon which the pillars of religious freedom and the institutional human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate will be rebuilt.

The Order of Saint Andrew empowered and inspired by the Exarch His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, relentlessly and tirelessly has executed a multifaceted domestic and international religious freedom strategy that may be beginning to bear fruit. Of significance was the meeting of Archbishop Demetrios with Prime Minister Erdoğan on September 23, 2011 in New York City, where we had the opportunity to “look into one another’s eyes” in the words of +Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras and witness a change in disposition, a change in attitude and the realization that there is still much work to accomplish.

Deserving of special acknowledgment in this Annual Report is the watershed event emblematic of the breadth of the Archon commitment to religious freedom: the **International Archon Religious Freedom Conference held at the**

**European Parliament** on November 16-17, 2010 **recommended by the Order's outstanding Legal Committee chaired by Archon Christopher Stratakis. The two-day Conference superbly chaired by Archon George C. Rockas** was transformational for all those who attended.

In the subsequent pages of this Report the religious freedom issues will be reviewed, including the specific advances which have been realized and a presentation of a chronology of Archon events that highlight the **educational, philanthropic and spiritual activities** of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle.

**The major issues of the Religious Freedom Deficit in Turkey accompanied by succinct description of recent government advances addressing those issues:**

#### Government interference in selection of Ecumenical Patriarch

- Requirement of Turkish Citizenship: **PM Erdoğan waived the five year residency requirement for Turkish Citizenship** and has granted citizenship to 20 hierarchs who have applied for such; as of October 9, 2011, 3 applications are still being evaluated and are pending without any decision
- **Three applicants rejected including Metropolitan Michael of Austria, Metropolitan Joseph of Proikonnisos and Metropolitan Emmanuel of France which poses a very serious compromise to the entire solution the government** has proposed; will the government arbitrarily reject other applicants?
- Open issues: 1970 Talimat granting Turkish authorities the right to arbitrarily remove from candidacy canonically eligible hierarchs must be revoked

#### Lack of Legal Personality

- **No action**; although the return of the Patriarchal Orphanage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate *implies* legal personality; this continues to be a *work in progress that has implications for the pledge of the Government to return confiscated properties*

#### Non-recognition of title Ecumenical

- Prime Minister Erdoğan stated in January 2009 that the use of **the title “ecumenical” should not be a matter on which the state should rule**; however, the government continues to refer to the Ecumenical Patriarchate as the “Greek Orthodox Patriarchate”

#### Property confiscation

- **Significant positive developments but challenges to implementation remain**
- **Return to Ecumenical Patriarchate by unanimous judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (July 7, 2008), the Patriarchal Orphanage located in Pringipos Island** (Büyükada Island, the largest of the Princes' Islands in the Sea of Marmara, near Istanbul) on November 30, 2010; the Ecumenical Patriarchate has announced that the Orphanage will be transformed into a **Global Center for Peace and the Environment**, a project **supported by the Brookings Institution and its Managing Director Archon William Antholis**
- August 27, 2011, the Turkish government signed historic decree to return confiscated property to religious minorities and to compensate the minorities for those properties that were sold to third parties; the Regulations to implement the decree were published on October 1, 2011 and there are a number of concerns voiced by human rights organizations and the religious minorities regarding such implementation

#### Closure of Halki School of Theology, forcibly closed 40 years ago

- **Little or no progress, but as Orthodox Christians, we remain hopeful and optimistic**
- The position of the Order of Saint Andrew and for human rights organizations in general is that **the issue of religious freedom and human rights is not one of reciprocity** and not of *quid pro quo* status

#### Celebration by His All-Holiness of Divine Liturgy of the Feastday of the Dormition of the Mother of God August 15, 2010 and again on August 15, 2011, at Soumela Monastery

- First time in more than 80 years, religious services allowed to be conducted by Government at the 1,600-year-old monastery on Turkey's Black Sea coast. Between 10,000 and 20,000 Christians from Greece, Georgia and Russia were present to witness this historic event, south of Trabzon.
- Turkish authorities reopened the Byzantine-era monastery - built nearly 300 meters (1000 feet) into the side of a mountain - for once yearly worship
- Open Issues: Does the church need “permission” to conduct religious services at its historic shrines?

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

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

### International Archon Religious Freedom Conference

Religious Freedom: Turkey's Bridge to the European Union

*European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium*

This milestone initiative under the **guidance of Archbishop Demetrios**, the coordination and cooperation of Metropolitan Emmanuel of France and the Patriarchal Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union and the chairmanship by Archon George C. Rockas was **transformational for all those who attended**. The two-day conference November 16 and 17, 2010 brought together scholars, religious freedom and human rights advocates, journalists, diplomats, parliamentarians, religious leaders, representatives of the Government of Turkey, lawyers and members of minority communities. **The chief negotiator for the Republic of Turkey to the European Union is Minister Egemen Bağış**, Secretariat General for EU Affairs, who was recognized and presented a plaque at the conference for his seminal efforts in promoting religious freedom for the minorities of Turkey. **Archon Laki Vingas, a faithful and dedicated son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate** who serves as the official elected representative of all religious minorities to the government of Turkey, offered invaluable assistance in organizing the presence of various minorities in Turkey and liaising with Minister Bağış. These minority members presented their concerns in the *first person*, dramatically offering testimony in human terms of the religious freedom crisis. In addition, the Conference served as an instrument to unite the Archons of America with the various religious minorities of Turkey including the Syriacs, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Alevi Muslims who share common concerns, as well as the majority Sunni Muslims.



### The Archon Washington Initiative

**Regional Commander Archon Andrew E. Manatos and his son Archon Mike Manatos** and their public policy team coordinate the Archon Washington Initiative.

It has been five years since the Manatos team on behalf of the Order secured a record number of signatures on letters to the President regarding religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. **Seventy-five of the 100 United States Senators** signed a letter (dated November 29, 2006) calling on the President to prevent the termination of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and allow it full religious freedom. Today reinvigorating that effort to educate our Members of Congress, new letters are being circulated since nearly one half of today's members were not in Congress five years ago. In the Senate the new letter has been signed by **78 of the 100 U.S. Senators** and the new letter in the House, which this time is now open to all members of the House of Representatives (not just those on the House Foreign Affairs Committee as it was in 2007), has been signed by **268 (or 62 percent) of the 435 members and is being circulated by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman and Ranking Member, Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Howard Berman (D-CA)**.

Regional Commander Manatos was essential in arranging meetings at the White House, State Department and in Congress and worked behind the scenes to coordinate the visit of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Senate confirmation of International Religious Freedom Ambassador Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook.

### The Archon 50-State Plan to Enact Religious Freedom Resolutions

**Archon Stephen Georgeson, Esq. is coordinating the Archon State Legislative Religious Freedom Resolution Initiative pro bono**. The Order has identified Archons, clergy and key Orthodox Christians in all 50 states and has asked them to participate in local campaigns to enact Religious Freedom Resolutions in their state legislatures under the coordination of Archon Georgeson. Thus far, **44 Religious Freedom Resolutions have been adopted in 37 states representing 85 percent of the American citizens**, including the most populous states in the Union, California, New York and Texas. Since the last Annual Report, five more states have been added to the list of those which have



enacted religious Freedom Resolutions, some of which required tremendous effort, especially in Texas where an organized opposition to the religious freedom resolution was encountered. By dint of the extraordinary determination and strength of purpose of **Archons Chris Pappas and John Zavitsanos of Houston and Archon-Elect Thomas Suehs of Austin, assisted by Chairman Georgeson and Archon Frank Mihalopoulos of Dallas and with the blessings of Metropolitan Isaiah and the clergy of Houston, Dallas and Austin** the Texas State House and Texas State Senate each passed the Resolutions. Please refer to page 24 of the Report regarding the details of the Archon Case Study in the Passage of the Texas Religious Freedom Resolutions. With great pride, **Archon John Catsimatidis, assisted by Archon Regional Commander Nikiforos Mathews, Archons John Kassimatis and Peter Skeadas secured 100 percent of the Members of the New York State Senate to sign a religious freedom letter, due to the efforts of Senate Majority Leader and Archon-Elect Dean Skelos. Senator Mike Gianaris and Assemblywomen Aravella Simotas and Nicole Malliotakis** were essential in the signing of the Religious Freedom Letter for the State, Senate and House of New York (see page 25 of this Report). The Order congratulates and expresses its appreciation to Archon Georgeson and his team as they proceed state by state to secure Religious Freedom Resolutions.

## The Archon European Union Initiative

The Order developed *The Archon European Union Initiative* because Turkey seeks entry to the EU and this venue provides an opportunity for Turkey to harmonize its existing laws to the standards of the European Union. By meeting with the rotating EU Presidency Nations which guide negotiations between the EU and Candidate States (i.e. Turkey), the Order has the opportunity to bring to the forefront the issues of religious freedom and institutional human rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and in cooperation with His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, director of the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union, a delegation from the Order of Saint Andrew, participated in a rigorous eight-day mission to the European Union in pursuit of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate from April 2 – 10, 2011. The Delegation met with officials of Hungary (EU Presidency), Germany (home to 4 million Turks), Ankara (seat of Turkish government) and concluded at the Phanar.

In preparation, the Archon leadership, through the efforts of Archons Andrew and Mike Manatos, met with officials in Washington, D.C., on March 9, 2011 to review the religious freedom issues affecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to seek the guidance and full support of the United States government for the Archon Mission. The Leadership met with **Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip H. Gordon, along with the State Department Director for**

**Southern European Affairs Jess Baily. They also met with Assistant to the President and Deputy National Secretary Advisor Denis McDonough in the West Wing of the White House.** In Hungary holding the rotating EU Presidency, the Archon Delegation met with Hungarian and EU Government leaders and with **U.S. Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis** who also hosted the delegation for dinner at the Ambassador's Residence and by invitation of the ambassador, the delegation attended The Duke Ellington Band Concert at the Budapest Concert Center.

The Archon visits in the international arena make a very powerful statement in the advocacy of religious freedom when volunteers leave their families, businesses and security of the United States to travel abroad to seek fundamental human rights and religious freedom for the Spiritual Center of our deep seated Orthodox faith.

## Archons Honor Amb. Vassilis Kaskarelis of the Hellenic Republic

His Excellency Vassilis Kaskarelis, Ambassador of Greece to the United States, was honored for his extraordinary support of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate by the Order of Saint Andrew. The event was held on Thursday, February 17, 2011, at the Carlyle Hotel in New York and hosted by National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras. The Order has worked closely with Ambassador Kaskarelis during his many years as Greece's ambassador to the EU and currently during his diplomatic post in the United States. In



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

his remarks, the ambassador stated, “It goes without saying that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is of profound importance to Orthodox believers everywhere. It is our common point of reference. It is the lighthouse that guides our journey.”

### The Archon OSCE Religious Freedom Initiative

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is the world’s largest regional security organization whose 56 participating States, and 12 Partner States including the United States and Turkey, span the geographical area of North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. Every year the OSCE, whose Human Rights Division is headquartered in Warsaw, Poland, conducts annual human rights meetings (called the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting), where representatives from Member States, Partner States and NGO’s (non-governmental organizations) gather to discuss human rights issues. Since 2005 the Order has sent representatives to these meetings where Archons have offered compelling Religious Freedom presentations. The highly effective and informative presentations in September and October 2011 by Archon Theofanis V. Economidis and Archon Achilles G. Adamantiades, Ph.D. in Warsaw resulted in positive reactions from other Member States, including Turkey.

### The Archon Legal Initiative

Despite the ongoing domestic and international diplomatic and political initiatives that are being conducted, it may take actual judicial action to force Turkey to change its asphyxiating policies that threaten the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. **Archon Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis leads a team of top Archon attorneys in the United States, including Emanuel G. Demos, John Zavitsanos, George C. Rockas and Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis.** The charge of the Archon Legal Committee is to develop a juridical strategy to redress the religious free-

dom and human rights issues confronting the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Legal Committee was called to serve the needs of the Church in other matters, as **Archon-Elect George Tsougarakis offered extensive and prodigious *pro bono* legal services.**

The unanimous, 7-0 decision (July 2008) of the European Court of Human Rights and the June 15, 2010 decision requiring Turkey to return the illegally confiscated Patriarchal Orphanage in Büyükada was a major victory in the struggle for religious freedom. Finally, on November 30, 2010, the Feastday of St. Andrew the First Called Apostle, the actual Property Title was transmitted to the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Inaugural Recipient of the  
Nicholas J. Bouras Award for  
Extraordinary Archon Stewardship:  
Archon Depoutatos George D. Behrakis  
*Axios!*

In honor of the extraordinary and incomparable Archon Stewardship Vice Commander Archon Depoutatos Nicholas J. Bouras has demonstrated over the many years economically and spiritually empowering the Order to execute its sacred mission to Defend the Mother Church of Constantinople, the National Council established an award in his name. The inaugural recipient of the *Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship* was Archon Depoutatos George D. Behrakis, who received the recognition on June 5, 2011 at the Metropolitan Club in New York at an elegant celebratory gala dinner dance. His exemplary accomplishments and stewardship in the Orthodox Church as a devoted son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Academia, the Fine Arts, the Business World and Society at Large are laudatory and deserving of this distinguished Award. The Award Committee chaired most ably by Archon George Safiol is currently reviewing Archon nominations for the 2012 Bouras Award. ■

Respectfully Submitted,  
In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



Archon Aktouarios  
National Commander  
October 15, 2011



# Theodore Cardinal McCarrick becomes recipient of Athenagoras Human Rights Award

NEW YORK



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



Father Joseph McShane, President of Fordham University.

Approximately 600 Archons, diplomatic, ecclesiastical dignitaries and guests, including, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Rabbi Arthur Schneier and Senator Paul Sarbanes graced the event. ■







# Forty-two new Archons invested at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

NEW YORK



The solemn Archon Investiture service was held on October 31, 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 offikion 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, Presbyteria Xanthi marking their fortieth wedding anniversary and his fortieth anniversary 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. ■



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



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 [L-R] Michael Karloutsos; William John Antholis, PhD; Demosthenes Vasiliou; Aristotle Papanikolaou, PhD; Andrew Liveris; and Theodore Pedas.



# Publications focus on religious freedom issues

## NEW YORK



In conjunction with the International Archon Religious Freedom Conference at the European Parliament held in Brussels, Belgium, the *New Europe* newspaper published a thirty-eight page insert regarding religious freedom as a fundamental principle for human life.

*New Europe* - the European weekly, published since 1993, is a unique product carrying news and analyses from 49 countries with a particular emphasis on the EU institutions and EU-World relations.

Its print edition is distributed to 66,000 readers in Europe and beyond.

In addition *New Europe's* website has approximately 150,000 visitors per month.

*New Europe* is an on-going project; apart from the International Edition, *New Europe* has launched the first of a string of Regional Editions with the Bulgarian Edition and has recently launched its European Careers Portal.



Furthermore, *New Europe* has served as a quality partner with main European conferences, media, think tanks and academia in the field of EU Affairs.

*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 Threat or Under Threat: Legal and Social Problems of Protestants in Turkey* was prepared by the Association of Protestant Churches Committee for Religious Freedom and Legal Affairs. ■



## TODAYS 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. ■

# The European Parliament—site of the first International Archon Religious Freedom conference

BRUSSELS



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. ■



[Right, Top] On behalf of the Archons, National Commander Limberakis, together with European Archon Pammakaristos President Sassayiannis, commend Egemen Bagis for his efforts to improve human rights and religious freedom in Turkey. [Left, Bottom] His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France extends the Patriarchal Exhortation of His All Holiness Bartholomew, left, and Archon George C. Rockas, Esq. conference chairman, makes announcements, right. [Below] His Excellency Egemen Bagis addresses speakers and participants.







[Left, Top] Archbishop Demetrios thanks the Archons of America and Archons of Europe for organizing their first-ever conference. [Left, Middle] Archon Laki Vingas represents the Greek Orthodox minority during a panel discussion of all religious minorities. [Left, bottom] Archon John Zavitsanos, left, and Pammakaristos Brotherhood President Odysseus Sassayiannis, right. [Above] Participants had the opportunity to visit the Monastery of Chevtogne, founded in 1925.







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.



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.



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 offering unique insight to the Turkish perspective.



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."



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.



Archbishop Demetrios, Ambassador Gutman and National Commander Limberakis with members of the Syriac Orthodox delegation, led by Johnny Messo, president of the Syriac Universal Alliance.



Dr. Steven Ealy, Senior Fellow of the Liberty Fund, (sixth from left) moderates a symposium composed of religious freedom experts from around the world (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.

## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



- 1 His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America**  
Primate, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
- 2 His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France**  
Director, The Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union  
PARIS, FRANCE
- 3 His Excellency Egemen Bagis**  
Minister for E.U. Affairs and Chief Negotiator  
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
- 4 Mustafa Akyol**  
Journalist and Political Commentator  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY
- 5 His Eminence Archbishop Aram Ateshian**  
Representative of the Armenian Community  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY
- 6 Dogan Bermek**  
President, AVF Federation of Alevi Foundations  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY
- 7 Orhan Kemal Cengiz**  
Lawyer, Human Rights Defender and Newspaper Columnist  
IZMIR, TURKEY
- 8 W. Cole Durham, Jr.**  
Susan Young Gates University, Professor of Law; Director, International Center for Law & Religious Studies; J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University  
PROVO, UTAH
- 9 Dr. Steven Ealy**  
Senior Fellow, Liberty Fund  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
- 10 Andrew Ekonomou**  
PhD, Senior Counsel of the American Center for Law & Justice & the European Centre for Law and Justice  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
- 11 Willy Fautre**  
Director, Human Rights Without Frontiers International  
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
- 12 Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Hatemi**  
Professor Istanbul University School of Law and Maltepe University  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY
- 13 Kezban Hatemi**  
Attorney  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY
- 14 Dilek Kurban**  
BA, MA, JD, Program Officer Democratization Program, Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY
- 15 Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis**  
National Commander, Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
- 16 Johny Messo**  
President, Syriac Universal Alliance  
HENGELO, NETHERLANDS
- 17 Fr. Dr. Claudio Monge**  
President, Union of Religions in Turkey  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY
- 18 Muna B. Ndulo**  
Professor of Law, Cornell Law School; Director, Cornell's Institute for African Development; Human Rights Advocate and Humanitarian  
ITHACA, NEW YORK
- 19 Dr. Otmar Oehring**  
Director, Human Rights Office Pontifical Mission Society  
GERMANY
- 20 Dr. Emre Öktem**  
Associate Professor, Galatasaray University  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY
- 21 Jamie Mayor Oreja**  
Member, European Parliament  
SPAIN
- 22 Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou**  
Vice Chair, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom  
WASHINGTON, D.C.
- 23 Grégor Puppink**  
PhD, Director, European Centre of Law and Justice  
STRASBOURG, FRANCE
- 24 George C. Rockas, Esq.**  
Chairman, Conference Planning Committee  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
- 25 Dr. Bican Sahin**  
Assistant Professor, Hacettepe University  
Vice President, Association of Liberal Thinking  
ANKARA, TURKEY
- 26 Odysseus F. Sassayiannis**  
President, Brotherhood of Pammakaristos, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Europe  
GREECE
- 27 Rabbi Arthur Schneier**  
President and Founder  
Appeal of Conscience Foundation  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
- 28 James J. Silk**  
Clinical Professor of Law, Allard K. Lowenstein International; Human Rights Clinic Executive Director, Orville H. Schell Jr. Center for International Human Rights  
YALE LAW SCHOOL
- 29 Dr. Renate Sommer**  
Member, European Parliament  
GERMANY
- 30 Konrad Szymanski**  
Member, European Parliament  
POLAND
- 31 Rodi Kratsa Tsagaropoulou**  
Vice President of the European Parliament  
GREECE
- 32 Riza Türmen**  
Former Judge, European Court of Human Rights  
TURKEY
- 33 Lakis Vingas**  
Council Member, General Directorate of Foundations  
Representative of the Non Muslim Foundations  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY
- 34 Angela Wu Howard**  
International Law Director, Becket Fund for Religious Liberty  
WASHINGTON, D.C.
- 35 Mine Yildirim**  
Member, Committee of Religious and Legal Affairs  
Association of Protestant Churches  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY



# Confiscated Patriarchal Orphanage returned on the Feastday of Saint Andrew the Apostle

ISTANBUL



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. 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.



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).

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]





# National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras honored by brother Archons

## SUMMIT



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:

*"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."* ■



# 79 Christian Graves desecrated Turkish Foreign Ministry quick to "strongly condemn"

## IMVROS



On October 28, 2010, seventy-nine Christian graves were brutally desecrated in the graveyard of Panagia (Merkez or Imvros), 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." ■







BELIEF BLOG

# Turkey reaches out to Greek Christian minority

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 Anagnostopulos, 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 indigenous 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," Anagnostopulos said. The ecumenical patriarch's followers 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 eth-

nic 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. ■

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

NEW YORK



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. ■



# Archons honor Ambassador Kaskarelis of Greece during tribute dinner

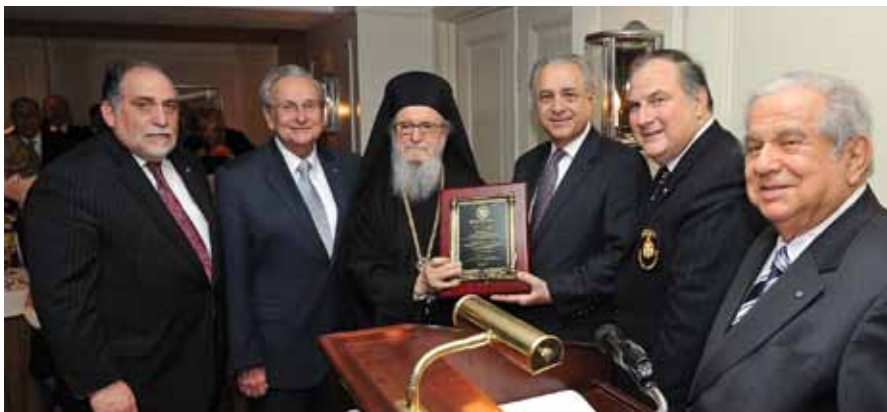
NEW YORK



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

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

Following the presentation, the Ambassador thanked the Order and reflected on the importance of the institution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, saying, "It goes without saying that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is of profound importance to Orthodox believers every-



where. It is our common point of reference. It is the lighthouse that guides our journey." His Excellency continued, "This Sacred institution has endured for more than seventeen centuries, always envisioning the future, evolving in accordance with the spiritual needs of its faithful, navigating the contemporary world." His Excellency also commended the Archons on organizing their first-ever International Religious Freedom Conference held at the European Parliament in Brussels. He spoke about how he witnessed the Archons "diligence and dedication" in securing religious freedom rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as he served as Ambassador to the European Union in Brussels. ■



[L-R] Ambassador Kaskarelis greets Archons Andrew Athens; Constantine Caras and Andrew Manatos; Christopher Stratakis, legal counselor; and poses with Dr. Cary Limberakis and his wife, Alexis, Dr. Maria Limberakis, Anna Kaskarelis, Ambassador Kaskarelis, National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas, National Commander Dr. Limberakis, Peter Skeadas, and Stephen Cherpelis.

## Archon Mathews appointed District One Regional Commander

NEW YORK



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. ■



# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE



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



## BERLIN, GERMANY

Leading EU State  
and home to 4 million Turks



## BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Holds current EU presidency



## ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Audience with  
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



## ANKARA, TURKEY

Capital of Turkey  
2nd largest city after Istanbul



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



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





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



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



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



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



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



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



2011: Nine years later, National Commander Dr. Limberakis stands with Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone, at the commemorative 9/11 memorial orchard, at Embassy Ankara.



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

# U.S. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTION

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

**UPDATE**

<b>ALABAMA</b> SJR 73 <b>Adopted</b> by House and Senate on 5/2007	<b>ALASKA</b> SJR 28 - Introduced on 2/18/2010 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 4/5/2010 <b>Adopted</b> by House 4/11/2010 HR 15 - Introduced on 2/23/2010 <b>Adoption Pending</b>	<b>ARIZONA</b> HCM 2009 Introduced on 1/17/2008 <b>Adopted</b> by House 3/18/2008 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 5/22/2008	<b>ARKANSAS</b> SCR 3 Introduced on 1/22/2009 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate on 2/18/09 <b>Adopted</b> by House 3/12/2009	<b>CALIFORNIA</b> SJR 17 Introduced on 9/10/2007 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 2/28/2008 <b>Adopted</b> by Assembly 8/30/2008
<b>COLORADO</b> HJR 1014 <b>Adopted</b> by House and Senate on 4/7/2011	<b>CONNECTICUT</b> <b>Adopted</b> on 4/30/2010	<b>DELAWARE</b> HR 9 Introduced on 3/10/2009 <b>Adopted</b> on 3/19/2009	<b>FLORIDA</b> HM 191 Introduced on 3/2/2010 <b>Adopted</b> on 4/23/2010 SM 314 Introduced on 3/1/2010 <b>Adopted</b> on 4/28/2010	<b>GEORGIA</b> HR 415 <b>Adopted</b> by House 4/2007 SR 1038 Introduced on 2/27/2008 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 3/6/2008
<b>HAWAII</b> SCR 57 and SR 31 Introduced on 3/4/2011 <b>Adoption Pending</b>	<b>IDAHO</b> <b>No resolution has been introduced at this time.</b>	<b>ILLINOIS</b> HR 666 Introduced on 8/10/2007 <b>Adopted</b> on 10/4/2007 SR 100 Introduced on 2/25/2009 <b>Adoption Pending</b>	<b>INDIANA</b> SR 4 Introduced on 1/5/2011 <b>Adoption Pending</b>	<b>IOWA</b> HR 27 Introduced on 3/12/2009 <b>Adopted</b> on 3/23/2009
<b>KANSAS</b> SR 1807 Introduced on 1/6/2011 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 2/3/2011	<b>KENTUCKY</b> HR 244 <b>Adopted</b> on 3/26/2008	<b>LOUISIANA</b> SR 109 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 6/2007	<b>MAINE</b> HP 924 Introduced on 3/25/2009 <b>Adopted</b> by House 3/31/2009 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 4/2/2009	<b>MARYLAND</b> HJR 5 Introduced on 3/14/2008 <b>Adoption Pending</b>
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b> <b>Adopted</b> on 4/16/2008	<b>MICHIGAN</b> SCR 6 Introduced on 3/19/2009 <b>Adopted</b> by House 3/19/2009 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 3/25/2009	<b>MINNESOTA</b> SR 178 Introduced on 4/2/2008 <b>Adoption Pending</b>	<b>MISSISSIPPI</b> Introduced on 3/19/2008 <b>Adopted</b> by House 3/31/2008 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 4/16/2008	<b>MISSOURI</b> <b>No resolution has been introduced at this time.</b>
<b>MONTANA</b> <b>No resolution has been introduced at this time.</b>	<b>NEBRASKA</b> LR 273 Introduced 1/6/2010 <b>Adopted</b> on 4/13/2010	<b>NEVADA</b> ACR 31 <b>Adopted</b> by Assembly and Senate on 5/6/2009	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b> <b>No resolution has been introduced at this time.</b>	<b>NEW JERSEY</b> SJR 11 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate and House 6/2006
<b>NEW MEXICO</b> HM 39 Introduced on 2/2/2010 <b>Adopted</b> by House 2/13/2010	<b>NEW YORK</b> <b>Adopted</b> by Senate and House 4/1/2011	<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b> <b>Adopted</b> on 6/28/2010	<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b> SCR 4014 Introduced 1/26/2010 <b>Adopted</b> on 3/24/2011	<b>OHIO</b> SCR 3 Introduced on 2/1/2011 <b>Adoption Pending</b>

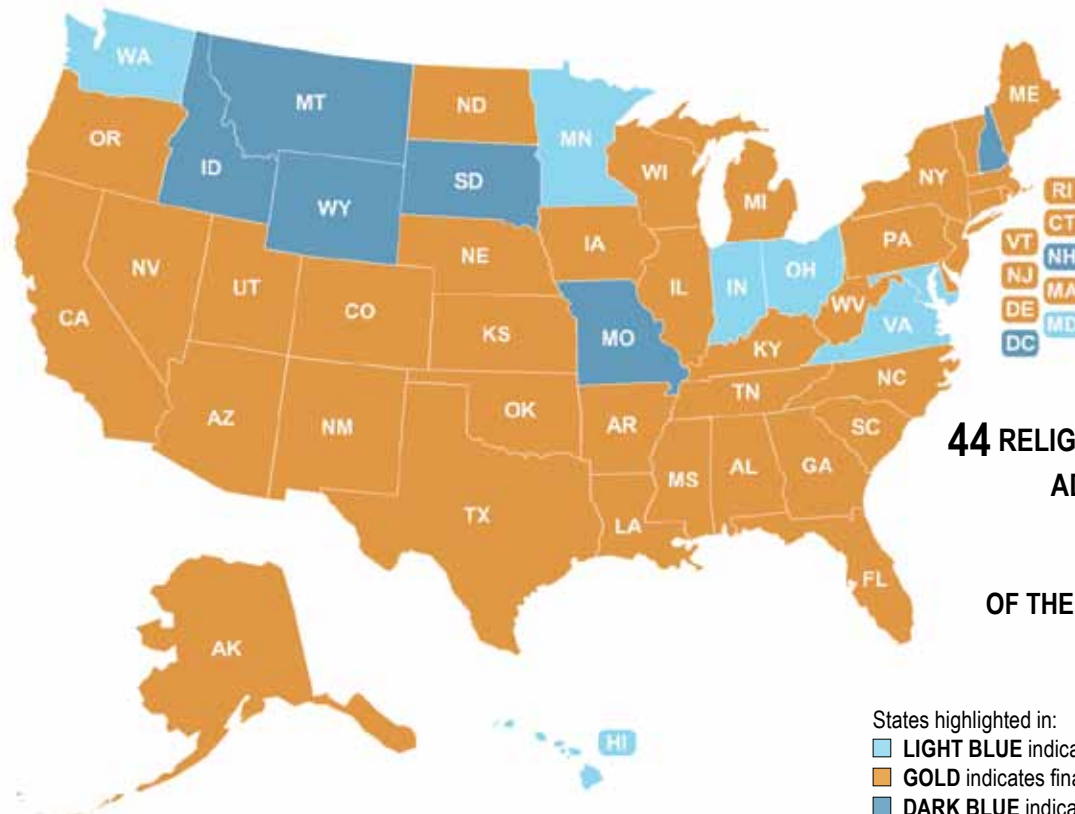


# TAKE ACTION *for your State to pass a Resolution for Religious Freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate!*

Contact Archon Stephen Georgeson, National Coordinator for the State Resolutions Project  
spgeorgeson@yahoo.com

OKLAHOMA	OREGON	PENNSYLVANIA	RHODE ISLAND	SOUTH CAROLINA
SR 54 Introduced on 2/19/2008 <b>Adopted</b> on 3/24/2008	SJR 16 Introduced on 5/4/2009 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate on 5/6/2009 <b>Adopted</b> by House on 6/1/2009	HR 876 <b>Adopted</b> by House 11/2006 SR 188 Introduced on 10/24/2007 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 3/10/2008	SR 895 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 3/2007	HR 4727 Introduced on 2/20/2008 <b>Adopted</b> by House on 4/9/2008 SR 735 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 5/2007
SOUTH DAKOTA	TENNESSEE	TEXAS	UTAH	VERMONT
<b>No resolution has been introduced at this time.</b>	SJR 535 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 6/2007 <b>Adopted</b> by House on 4/17/2008	HCR 1670 Introduced on 5/1/2011 <b>Adopted</b> on 5/5/2011  SR 1006 <b>Adopted</b> on 5/16/2011	SR 1 Introduced on 1/23/2009 <b>Adopted</b> on 2/5/2009 HR 2 Introduced on 2/3/2009 <b>Adopted</b> on 2/19/2009	JRS 47 Introduced on 2/9/2010 <b>Adopted</b> on 5/12/2010
VIRGINIA	WASHINGTON	WEST VIRGINIA	WISCONSIN	WYOMING
HJ 126 Introduced on 1/9/2008 <b>Adoption Pending</b>	HJM 4003 Introduced on 1/15/2009 <b>Adoption Pending</b>	HCR 37 Introduced on 2/11/2008 <b>Adopted</b> by House 3/3/2008 <b>Adopted</b> by Senate 3/8/2008	SR 10 Introduced on 3/4/2010 <b>Adopted</b> on 4/22/2010	<b>No resolution has been introduced at this time.</b>

Learn more about the Archons efforts toward the Religious Freedom Project ► [archons.org/resolutions](http://archons.org/resolutions)



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

**REPRESENTING 85%  
OF THE UNITED STATES POPULATION**

States highlighted in:

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

# 1,000 Letters in support of Religious Freedom sent to Texas State Representatives

Extraordinary Archon efforts lead to adopted resolution in the face of strong opposition

## AUSTIN



The Order of Saint Andrew is proud to announce that while in the face of strong opposition by Turkish-Americans fighting to counter our state resolution efforts, nearly 1,000 Orthodox Christians from the Houston, Dallas and Austin parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America rallied together and wrote letters to their state representatives call-



Chris Pappas  
Archon Prostatas Ton Grammaton



John Zavitsanos  
Archon Ekdikos



Thomas Suehs  
Archon-elect



Frank Mihalopoulos  
Archon Deputatos

- In 2009, Senator Joan Huffman (Houston) introduces a joint Religious Freedom Resolution in the Senate. Shortly thereafter, this resolution passes in the Senate.
- Representative Dennis Bonnen then introduces Resolution in House—which adjourns one week early—and therefore kills the resolution.
- In 2010, Archons Chris Pappas and John Zavitsanos mobilize and work behind the scenes to reintroduce this resolution.
- Early in the year 2011, Senator Huffman reintroduces a separate Senate Resolution and Representative Bonnen introduces a separate House Resolution. However, the Turkish American community organizes and counters our efforts.
- Senator Huffman then withdraws the Resolution which in 99 times out of 100 would signal the 'death knell' for any withdrawn legislation. Archon Pappas



ing for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Their persuasive letters lead to the adoption of HCR 1670 and SR 1006. We congratulate His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, Representative Bonnen, Archons Chris Pappas, John Zavitsanos, Frank Mihalopoulos, Stephen Georgeson, Mike Manatos, Bill Miller, Thomas Suehs and all the clergy and laity responsible for this huge accomplishment! Below is a recap of events that led to the passage of these important resolutions:

refuses to take 'no' for an answer and Archons begin to redouble their efforts in coordination with Metropolitan Isaiah, clergy and Orthodox Christian faithful in the Houston, Dallas and Austin areas. Over 1,000 letters are sent from parishioners of Annunciation Cathedral in Houston, Holy Trinity Cathedral in Dallas and Holy Transfiguration Church in Austin—an unprecedented milestone!

- Archon Tom Suehs (then Archon-candidate), along with other Archons in the area, work ceaselessly to reintroduce the withdrawn resolution before legislation adjourns.
- In May 2011, Senator John Whitmire reintroduces the Religious Freedom Resolution in the Senate and along with Representative Bonnen in the House, despite alleged pressure from Dallas based Lockheed Martin.
- Finally, in June 2011, both the Senate and House pass Religious Freedom Resolutions! ■

## BISMARCK



The North Dakota state Senate has adopted a resolution in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

With this action, the North Dakota Senate joins 33 other states that have adopted similar resolutions of support.

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

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



## NORTH DAKOTA

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

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

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

## DENVER



The Colorado state Senate and House of Representatives unanimously adopted

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

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

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

Representative Kefalas stated, "As



## COLORADO

the only Greek-American in the Colorado General Assembly, I am honored to support the Greek-Orthodox community and this legislative resolution that speaks to the

importance of upholding religious freedom."

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

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





# NY Legislators present religious freedom letters to Archbishop Demetrios



NEW YORK



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

All 62 members of the New York State Senate and 144 members of the New York State Assembly have endorsed the respective letters, urging the government of Turkey to allow greater freedom to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey and to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians throughout the world. The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, an organization whose mission is to defend and support the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has mounted a nationwide effort to have the legislative bodies of all 50 states sign similar Religious Freedom letters or pass Religious Freedom have a similar effect. Thus far, 37 state legislatures, now including New York, have done so.

In accepting the letters, Archbishop Demetrios of America stated, "this is an important moment for our Church as we receive a copy of these letters. We are proud that the almost unanimous acceptance of these letters by the New York State Legislature was spearheaded by our four honorable Greek-American representatives to the State Government," he said and at a later point added: "The cause of religious liberty is fundamental to the American way of life, and the State legislature of New York, under the leadership of Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Senator Michael Gianaris, and Assembly-

women Aravella Simotas and Nicole Malliotakis, have borne a powerful witness to the rights of all by underscoring the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate."

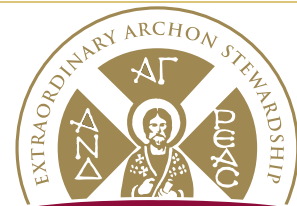
John Catsimatidis, New York businessman and National Coordinator of Religious Freedom for the Order of St. Andrew, said, "This is an important day for our Church. The leader of our faith, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, lies under siege from an abusive, hostile foreign government. The letters signed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

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

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

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

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



**NICHOLAS J. BOURAS  
AWARD**

**About the  
NICHOLAS J. BOURAS AWARD**

The National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew unanimously voted in 2010 to establish the Nicholas J. Bouras Award. The



Award will be presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary and incomparable stewardship to the Order, enabling Archons to vigorously pursue securing religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople. The Award is named after National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, Archon Depoutatos, who himself has demonstrated remarkable leadership as a faithful son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and exemplary steward of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

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

## Archon Behrakis becomes first recipient of 'Bouras Stewardship Award'

NEW YORK



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



After opening remarks, and an intermission of dinner and dancing, the remarks of Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, who was unable to attend that evening, were delivered: "Although I prefer the honor of being anonymous, I am deeply honored that the Order of Saint Andrew established the Nicholas J. Bouras Award in recognition of my humble service to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and our Archdiocese. I believe that my friend, George D. Behrakis, is worthy of any tribute given him. Therefore, I am both pleased and flattered that he is the first recipient of this Archon Award recognizing exemplary service and stewardship to our Mother Church.

"It is my prayer that the creation of the Bouras Award, which would have been impossible without my respected parents and beloved wife Anna of blessed memory,

will serve to perpetuate the tradition of Orthodoxy and Hellenism in this great land. Perpetuating traditions, after all, is not about preserving the ashes, but keeping the flame alive. I sincerely hope that this Award helps keep the flame alive by passing on the unwaning light of our Faith and the Olympic torch of our heritage for generations to come."

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

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





**His Eminence  
Metropolitan Nicholas**  
*Carpatho-Russian Diocese*  
1936–2011

Metropolitan Nicholas poses with newly-invested Carpatho-Russian Archons in 2009 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York.



**This past year,  
26 Archons of the Great Church of Christ  
fell asleep unto the Lord.**

**Dr. Dino Anagnost**  
*Archon Exarchos*  
New York, NY  
3/30/2011

**Peter G. Calomiris**  
*Archon Lambadarios*  
Washington, D.C.  
7/22/2011

**Dr. Constantine P. Cavarnos**  
*Archon Depoutatos*  
Belmont, MA  
3/3/2011

**Sam Constant**  
*Archon Orphanotrofos*  
Daytona Beach, FL  
1/29/2011

**Peter S. Demakos**  
*Archon Depoutatos*  
Stamford, CT  
10/21/2010

**Jeremiah A. Drake**  
*Archon Didaskalos Tou Genous*  
Deerfield Beach, FL  
2/28/2010

**John N. Economou**  
*Archon Ekdikos*  
Akron, OH  
2/25/2011

**Emmanuel Fellouzis**  
*Archon Exarchos*  
Largo, FL  
5/31/2011

**Frank Finui**  
*Archon Hartophylax*  
Carlisle, PA  
2/10/2011

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

**Dr. Vasilios S. Lambros**  
*Archon Aktouarios*  
San Marino, CA  
3/4/2011

**Peter C. Latsis**  
*Archon Depoutatos*  
Culver City, CA  
5/13/2011

**Dr. Nicholas D. Mamalis**  
*Regional Commander*  
*Archon Aktouarios*  
Tulsa, OK  
6/30/2011

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

**William H. Oldknow**  
*Archon Depoutatos*  
Pasadena, CA  
7/19/2011

**Dr. Basil J. Photos**  
*Archon Aktouarios*  
Glenview, IL  
2/13/2011

**James W. Pihos**  
*Archon Skevophylax*  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
5/13/2011

**Charles L. Poulos**  
*Archon Depoutatos*  
Lincoln, MA  
3/9/2011

**Spiros G. Raftis**  
*Archon Skevophylax*  
Pittsburgh, PA  
6/1/2011

**Stephen J. Redding**  
*Archon Hieromnimon*  
Santa Barbara, CA  
1/11/2011

**John Schwika**  
*Archon Ekdikos*  
White Haven, PA  
12/3/2010

**Edward Sedor**  
*Archons Ostiarios*  
Johnson City, NY  
9/3/2011

**James W. Shenas**  
*Archon Depoutatos*  
Stuart, FL  
1/31/2011

**Spero Theros**  
*Archon Ostiarios*  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI  
12/14/2010

**James Tsairis**  
*Archon Exarchos*  
Westbury, NY  
4/03/2011

**Harry C. Vournas**  
*Archon Hartoularios*  
San Gabriel, CA  
6/27/2011

*May Their Memory Be Eternal*

# Rev. John Chryssavgis leads Eighth Archon Lenten Retreat on 'An Ancient Faith for a Modern World'

**SOUTH BOUND BROOK, NJ**



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

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



[Left] Spirituality committee chairman Peter Skeadas welcomes Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey. [Right] Fr. John speaks with National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas and other retreat participants during a short break.

and we must implement these teachings into our personal and professional lives." ■



## '40 years of silence are enough for the School' U.S. Diplomat calls for immediate opening of Halki Seminary



SECRETARY OF STATE  
**HILLARY CLINTON**  
*visits the*  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



**ISTANBUL**



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

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

Secretary of State Clinton also referred to other activities and initiatives of the Ecumenical Patriarch, referencing His All-Holiness as the "Green Patriarch" -- an epithet bestowed on him for his tireless leadership and pioneering work in raising environmental awareness and underlining spiritual values in addressing the ecological crisis.

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





Metropolitan Evangelos and Father Chrysavgis with retreat participants at the Ukrainian Center in South Bound Brook, NJ.



Father Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor, greets the Secretary of State, top left, outside the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Mrs. Clinton was then welcomed by His All-Holiness, top right, to the Phanar. The Honorable Susan Cook, Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, Assistant Secretary Philip Gordon and Ambassador Francis Ricciardone light candles, above left, in the Patriarchal Church of Saint George. Archbishop Demetrios speaks about the return of the relics of Saints John Chrysostom and Gregory the Theologian, above right.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Religious Freedom lectures and symposiums bring further awareness to issues throughout the country



BROOMALL, PA



WESTFIELD, NJ



The Philadelphia region

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



With the blessing of His Eminence

Metropolitan Evangelos, the NJ Archons met



and celebrated a service of thanksgiving for the name day of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, June 11. Following the name day service, a religious freedom symposium was held. National Secretary John Halecky opened the symposium and addressed the participants on the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Dr. Thomas Papademetriou, the Constantine and Georgian Georgiou Endowed Professor of Greek History and Executive Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, was the guest speaker for the second half of the symposium. ■



PHILADELPHIA, PA



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







## NEW YORK, NY



The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle co-sponsored a lecture on May 3, with the Hellenic Lawyers



Association on religious freedom issues faced by minorities in Turkey, including those that plague the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The lecture, titled "More than Freedom of Worship: Deconstructing the Legal Deficits in Religious Freedom Problems in Turkey," was delivered by Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou of the Department of International Relations, Boston University. Dr. Prodromou is also the vice chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. The lecture was organized by Regional Commander Archon Nikiforos Mathews, Esq., and held at the New York Public Library. It was attended by several Archons in the area, along with National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis. ■



## BOSTON, MA



On May 4, National Commander Dr. Anthony



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



## DENVER, CO



With the blessings of Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, the Archons of the 10th District hosted their first ever Religious Freedom Symposium at the Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral, September 17. Nearly 125 Archons, local clergy, Metropolitan 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 Limberakis 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 promoting religious freedom

for the Mother Church and recent positive steps the government of Turkey has announced in addressing the religious freedom crisis that affects all religious minorities in Turkey. That morning, Archon-candidate Thomas Suehs presented Metropolitan Isaiah with the official, signed Texas State House and Senate Religious Freedom Resolutions, depicted above. ■



# Why Turkey's Prime Minister is Good for Christians

By Owen Matthews

*Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan is redrawing the Constitution.*

*Why the devout Muslim is good for the Christians.*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





## Archbishop Demetrios of America meets with Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

ISTANBUL



On September 23, 2011 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; Archons Michael Jaharis, Vice Chair of the Archdiocesan Council; Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, National Commander, Order of Saint Andrew; John A. Catsimatidis, Order of St. Andrew Religious Freedom Chairman and Archon Dennis Mehiel, member of the Religious Freedom Committee. ■

## Archons Deliver Religious Freedom Presentations for the Ecumenical Patriarchate to OSCE

WARSAW



On behalf of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons Theofanis Economidis and Achilles Adamantiades, Ph.D. presented two papers at the 2011 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, Poland to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The OSCE is the world's largest security organization whose 56 participating States and 11 partner states span the globe. The topics for the presentations were: "The Problems of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul," and "The Greek Orthodox Minority in Turkey."

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

The continued presence of the Order of Saint Andrew in the OSCE meetings is an important forum for the airing of issues on religious freedom, democratic institutions and the rule of law. ■



[Top] Archon Theofanis Economidis, Ambassador of Greece to Poland Gabriel Coptsidis, and Archon Achilles Adamantiades. [Bottom] The Archons with Tufan Hübek, Legal Counsel of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, left, and İlham Atus, Deputy Directorate General of Turkey for the Council of Europe and Human Rights.

# THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



## VISITATIONS TO THE PHANAR



OCT 2010  
16 John Podesta, President of the Washington Center for ITS Progress



OCT 2010  
18 George Roman  
Former Public Order Minister of Greece



OCT 2010  
22 Christian Wulff  
President of Germany



OCT 2010  
31 Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights for the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly



NOV 2010  
26 Admiral Dimitrios Elefsiniotis  
Greece's Chief of Naval Staff



DEC 2010  
9 Lieutenant Frangos Frangoulis  
Chief of Army Staff of Greece



JAN 2011  
3 Hon. Bülent Arınc, State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey



JAN 2011  
18 His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece



JAN 2011  
24 Hon. Noel A. Kinsella  
Speaker of the Canadian Senate



JAN 2011  
31 Hon. Kevin Rudd  
Foreign Minister of Australia



FEB 2011  
17 Francis Ricciardone  
U.S. Ambassador to Ankara



FEB 2011  
28 Archbishop Leo of Karelia and All Finland  
and religious leaders of various denominations of Finland





MAR 2011  
12 Mirko Cvetkovic  
Prime Minister of Serbia



MAR 2011  
13 His Excellency Mikola Yanovich Azarov  
Ukrainian Prime Minister



MAR 2011  
16 Hon. Vicente Fox, Former President of  
the Republic of Mexico and his wife,  
Marta Sahagun



MAR 2011  
17 British Author, Victoria Hislop  
writer of *The Island*, published in over  
twenty languages



APR 2011  
1 Patriarch Ignatios Zakka of Antioch  
and All the East



APR 2011  
1 French Senators Robert Del Picchia,  
Charles Gautier, and Bernadette Bourzai



APR 2011  
2 His Beatitude Metropolitan Christopher  
of Prague, the Czech Lands and Slovakia



MAY 2011  
10 Bihlun Tamayligil, Osman Korutürk and  
Mari Gormezano, Turkish Republican  
Popular Party



JUN 2011  
7 Hon. Dimitris Avramopoulos  
Vice-President of the Greek Political  
Party "New Democracy"



JUN 2011  
20 Simeon II  
Former King and Prime Minister  
of Bulgaria



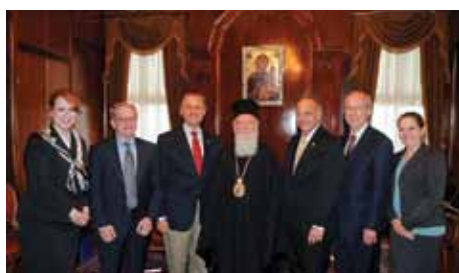
JUN 2011  
21 Athletes of the Special Olympics World  
Summer Games, bearing the Flame of  
Hope



JUN 2011  
16 Hon. John Baird  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada



JUL 2011  
22 Hon. Stefano Sannino  
General Director of the European  
Commission for Expansion



JUL 2011  
22 U.S. Congressmen Wally Herger and  
Steve King and U.S. Consul General,  
the Hon. Scott Kilner



OCT 2011  
4 Olympiakos Basketball Team and its  
President, Mr. George Angelopoulos

# Turkey: Making Room for Religious Minorities

by Dorian Jones

With the opening of Turkey's parliament on October 1 and the start of work on replacing the country's constitution, members of the country's religious minority groups are hoping that years of institutional and legal discrimination will come to an end in the not-too-distant future.

"We are expecting to contribute ... our ideas and our support to this process," said Laki Vingas, a Greek-Turkish businessman and the elected representative for 161 non-Muslim minority foundations in their dealings with the Turkish state. "We have seen a big change in the way the government is cooperating with us."

Over its nine-year tenure in power, the Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party (AKP) has tried to distinguish itself from its predecessors by addressing some of the grievances of Turkey's non-Muslim religious minorities. Reforms, many of which were demanded by the European Union, have included the easing of controls on non-Muslim foundations, the renovation of places of worship and the ending of rhetoric that termed non-Muslims as "yabancı" or foreigners.

"The times when a citizen of ours would be oppressed due to his religious, ethnic origin or a different way of life are over," Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan declared this September at a Ramadan dinner attended by non-Muslim minority leaders. "This is not about doing a favor; this is about rectifying an injustice."

The state's confiscation of property owned by non-Muslim religious communities, a practice that dates back to 1936, is one of the most contentious issues for Turkey's Christian and Jewish minorities. "It was a way of stealing, of plundering the wealth of these minorities," charged Ishak Alaton, a leading industrialist and prominent figure among Turkey's estimated 25,000-strong Jewish community.

For decades, foundations have been battling in the courts, seeking the return of schools, cemeteries, churches and other properties. "This land was taken from the Armenian Yedikule Surp Pirgic hospital in 1952 because of the old mentality," said Melkon Karakose, an Armenian community activist, pointing to a sports field run by an Istanbul district government. "Now we are fighting to get it back."

Karakose has been working on behalf of various foundations in the courts for 25 years. He's more optimistic now than ever about the chances for change. "Thanks to the new mindset, the government will make sure we get back our lands," he said.

Justice is likely to come at a substantial cost to the government. "We are talking about huge [real estate] values. Each case will be an independent case that will be taken court," warned Alaton, the Jewish community activist.

Vingas, who represents the non-Muslim foundations in their dealings with the state, says there are around 150 properties and buildings that have been identified as eligible for restitution. Many occupy prime locations in Istanbul's red-hot property market.

Vingas added that Turkey's non-Muslim minorities would welcome any windfall in valuable property holdings, but cautioned that the issue went beyond money. "It is a right and it is a cultural heritage," he underlined. "It's not a matter of how rich the minority foundations will become. But it's a necessity to [bring] back what belong[s] to your family. The minorities, for almost the [entire] 20th century, have suffered."

Cengiz Aktar, a political scientist at Istanbul's Bahcesehir University, touted the significance of the government's rhetoric. "This is a total reversal of this attitude whereby the non-Muslims were considered, sometimes openly, as foreigners," Aktar said.

The government's willingness to explore restitution does not yet cover the hundreds, if not thousands, of property seizures from individuals, or the takeovers that occurred before 1936. An even more contentious point is confiscation that occurred prior to the formation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, especially during the World War I-era massacre of ethnic Armenians.

The restitution of property would only be the start of a process that ensures religious freedom for minorities. Both Armenian and Greek churches, for example, have reopened. Yet, the leaders of the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Greek Orthodox Church in Istanbul still lack legal status in Turkey. The training of priests also is shaping up as a contentious issue.

The Greek Orthodox Church is pressing for the reopening of the Halki Seminary, which the government closed in 1974. International pressure, including from US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, is growing for the reopening. But the Turkish government so far steadfastly refuses, arguing that Greece must make reciprocal concessions to its Turkish minority.

On a day-to-day level, non-Muslim minorities complain that they face discrimination in government employment, including de facto exclusion from the judiciary system, police or military; non-Muslims generally do not hold senior positions in such professions. "The problems would finish when my son can be a ranking soldier, or my niece becomes a police officer," said Karakose, the Armenian community activist. "After all this happen[s], then the problems can be solved. And I believe this will happen." ■



