



THE ARCHON

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Turkish Foreign Minister Davutoglu makes historic visit to the Phanar

PAGE 4



Archbishop Ieronymos II of Athens and All Greece, The Constantinopolitan Society honor National Commander Limberakis

PAGE 18



N. MANGINAS

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew welcomes Vice President Biden to the Phanar

His All-Holiness Bartholomew welcomed the Vice President of the United States Joe Biden to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, December 3, 2011. This was the first visit of a sitting Vice President of the United States to the Phanar.

Read about Biden's visit on page 2 »



Archons make Religious Freedom Mission for the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the European Union

WARSAW

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a delegation of Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew, in a continuation of the Archons' Religious Freedom Mission, visited Warsaw, Poland, the current seat of the European Union Presidency, from November 30 to December 2, 2011. National Commander, Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D. led the delegation joined by Regional Commander Andrew E. Manatos and Regional Commander Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis.

Thereafter, on December 2 to December 3, 2011, the delegation traveled to the Phanar, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Spiritual Center of world Orthodoxy to conclude its mission. At the Phanar the delegation offered assistance and participated in meetings on the issue of Turkey's return of confiscated properties for the benefit of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. On December 3, 2011, the delegation, accompanied by Father Alexander Karloutsos, Spiritual Advisor to the Order, joined His Eminence Archbishop



National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., Regional Commander Andrew E. Manatos and Regional Commander Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis with The Honorable Lee Feinstein, the 25th U.S. Ambassador to Poland.

Demetrios for the historic, first ever visit of a sitting Vice President of the United States to the Ecumenical Patriarch, as Vice President Joe Biden visited the Phanar and met with His All-Holiness for more than two hours.

Continued on page 5 »



PAGE 12



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

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John J. Mindala II
Editor & Graphic Designer

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

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

His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Rev. Alexander Karloutsos
Spiritual Advisor

Executive Committee

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Aktouarios, National Commander

Nicholas J. Bouras, Depoutatos
National Vice Commander

John Halecky, Jr., Ekdikos
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VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN

visits the

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



ISTANBUL

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew welcomed the Honorable Joseph Biden, Vice President of the United States to the Sacred See of St. Andrew, First-called of the Apostles. The historical first visit of a sitting Vice President of the United States took place on Saturday, December 3, 2011, at the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey. The visitation extended for some two hours.

Vice President Biden was greeted at the entrance of the Patriarchate by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, together



Vice President Biden, above, is welcomed by His All-Holiness to the Phanar. His All-Holiness, together with Archon Spiritual Advisor Father Alex Karloutsos, below escorts the Vice President.

with the Chancellor, the Chief Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod, and the Patriarchal Court.

His All-Holiness met with the Vice President in his personal office for a private conversation. Among the issues discussed were religious freedom in Turkey,

the reopening of the Theological School of Halki, Turkey's accession to the European Union, and the ecological initiatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Afterward, the Vice President was introduced to members of the Holy and Sacred Synod, clergy and laity of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as well as prominent members of the Greek Orthodox community in Turkey and abroad, including Archons of the Order of St. Andrew in the United States. Finally, Vice President Biden was guided through the Patriarchal Church of St. George. ■



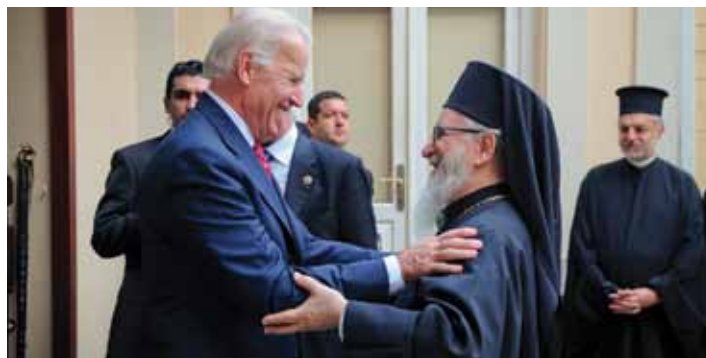


National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., Archon Regional Commanders Andrew E. Manatos, Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis, the Honorable Francis Ricciardone, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, and guests with His All-Holiness, the Vice President.



Vice President Biden greets clergy of the Patriarchate. The Honorable Francis Ricciardone, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, also visiting with the VP.

A. LIMBERAKIS



Vice President Biden is welcomed by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



The Halki Theological School was among the issues discussed in their two-hour long meeting.



National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D. speaks with the Vice President.



Archon Laki Vingas presents a book to Vice President Biden.



His All-Holiness shows the Vice President an ancient icon of the Theotokos inside Saint George Church.

PHOTOS BY N. MANGINAS



Turkish Foreign Minister Davutoglu makes historic visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate

First-time that the head of Turkish diplomacy has ever visited the Phanar

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu paid a visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and met His All-Holiness on Saturday, March 3, 2012.

This was the first time ever that the head of Turkish diplomacy has visited the seat of the head of the Orthodox Christian Church and

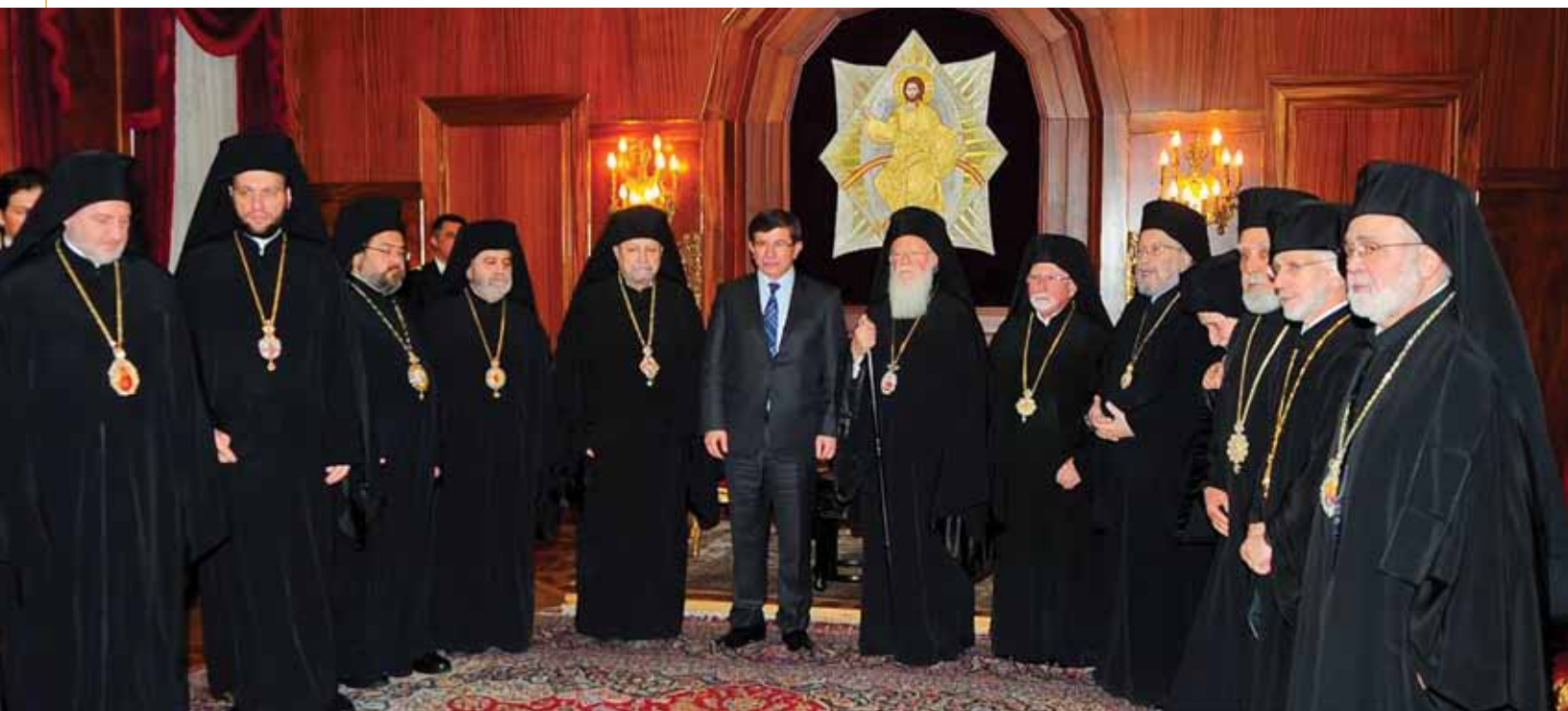
got an audience with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

"What the world, and especially this region, need more than everything is harmony, the will for cohabitation and the mutual trust among religious and national groups," said Davutoglu, adding that "there are certain worrying developments in the Middle East."



Davutoglu's statement raises questions as to what may be the issues of international interest that Ankara wishes to discuss with the Ecumenical Patriarch as well as with other non-Muslim leaders.

For the time being the only issue that is burning in the Middle East, that also involves non-Muslim communities, is that of Syria, observers note. ■



Poland currently holds the EU presidency and coordinates negotiations with EU candidate nations, including Turkey.

Warsaw

POLAND

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION



FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE



DIPLOMAT CONTACTS

« Continued from page 1

In Warsaw, the delegation focused on the dual message of advocating religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Turkey's accession to the European Union, conditioned on its compliance with the European Union's strong support for religious freedom and human rights. Meetings first took place at the Greek, Turkish and United States Embassies. United States

Ambassador to Poland, Hon. Lee A. Feinstein and his staff provided essential guidance and assistance in arranging meetings with diplomats and religious and government leaders.

The delegation began the mission at the Greek Embassy hosted by His Excellency Gabriel Coptsidis, Ambassador of Greece to Poland. Specific areas of concern regarding religious freedom confronting the Ecumenical Patriarchate were

discussed in an open manner.

These frank discussions continued with His Excellency Resit Uman, Ambassador of Turkey to Poland, who graciously received the delegation at his private residence. The delegation raised

without compromise the reopening of Halki, the use of the word "Ecumenical" to recognize the rightful position of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as First among Equals among all Orthodox Christians and the return of confiscated properties

The Archon delegation met with Minister Michalowski and the Director of the Office of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Dorota Ostrowska-Cobas, above, at Poland's Presidential Palace. The Honorable Lee Feinstein, U.S. Ambassador to Poland also attended the meetings.

DIPLOMAT CONTACTS (CONTINUED...)



to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The delegation also noted the positive steps Turkey has taken toward religious freedom and human rights but that much more needs to be done. The meeting concluded with the delegation's support for Turkey's entry into the European Union conditioned on its total acceptance of religious freedom for all minority religions and enhancement of human rights. U.S. Ambassador Honorable

Lee A. Feinstein welcomed the delegation to the U.S. Embassy and later at his residence and at a private informal dinner. He offered complete support to the delegation's mission and was thoroughly briefed by Dr. Limberakis on the historical background of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Turkey's suppression of religious freedom for minorities. Ambassador Feinstein personally assisted the delegation in arrang-

ing meetings with Polish religious and government leaders and assured the delegation that the Embassy will have further discussions to request Poland to urge Turkey to allow religious freedom to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all minorities. Ambassador Feinstein is a longtime friend

and colleague of Archon William Antholis, Managing Director of the Brookings Institution, who introduced the ambassador to the Order of Saint Andrew in preparation of the religious freedom mission.

The Archon delegation meets with His Excellency Gabriel Coptsidis, Greek Ambassador to Poland, left. The delegation later met with Resit Uman, Turkey's Ambassador to Poland, right.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS



The majority of Polish citizens are Roman Catholic and the Church is led by Cardinal Archbishop of Warsaw, Kazimierz Nycz. The delegation was received by Cardinal Nycz at the Archdiocese of Warsaw. The Cardinal is known for his support of human rights and religious freedom issues and emphasizes contact with religious minorities in Poland. The delegation discussed its mission of religious freedom for all minorities in Turkey and its support for Turkey's entry to

the European Union conditioned on its full acceptance of religious freedom and human rights issues. The Cardinal understood the historical religious significance of these goals and expressed deep respect for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, whom he has met.

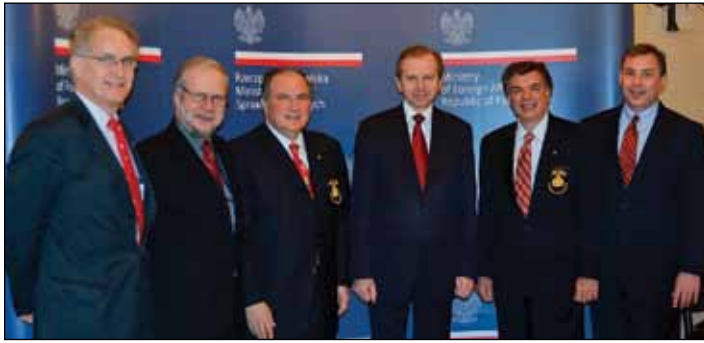
In further support for religious freedom for all religious minorities, the delegation met with the Presidium of the Polish Ecumenical Council comprised of the religious minorities in Poland represented

by Orthodox Christians, Baptists, Lutherans, Methodists, Reformed Protestants, Evangelical and Old Catholic Churches. The Council discussed their initiatives for interfaith cooperation and support for the delegation's mission and the delegation offered a historical perspective of religious issues in Turkey and support for the

Council's programs, recognizing how Poland has overcome the devastation of World War II and Communist rule to be a major proponent of religious freedom. The delegation had the opportunity at that time to meet with a representative of His Beatitude Metropolitan Savas of the Autocephalous Church of Poland.

The Archon delegation with His Eminence Cardinal Nycz, Archbishop of Warsaw, left. A meeting was held with members of the Polish Ecumenical Council, right. The Council was founded in 1946 and comprised of a community of Churches aimed at ecumenical dialogue.

GOVERNMENT LEADERS



The delegation was privileged to meet with Jan Borowski, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Poland has had a long and established relationship with Turkey and supports Turkey's entry into the European Union. Holding the current Presidency of the European Union Council, Poland has a unique role in promoting religious freedom and human rights. In this regard, the delegation acknowledged its support for Turkey to join the European Union conditioned on its adherence to reli-

gious freedom values, especially for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The delegation further urged the Polish government officials to consult with Turkish government officials on the delegation's mission based on their influence and good relationship with Turkey.

The mission in Warsaw concluded with a meeting at the Presidential Palace with Jacek Michalowski, Chief of Staff and Head of the Chancellery to the President of the Republic of Poland. The delegation

was accompanied at the meeting by U.S. Ambassador Lee A. Feinstein. The delegation summarized all of its meetings in Warsaw in explaining its mission. As a result and with the added significance of the presence of the U.S. Ambassador, the Chief of Staff indicated that his office would make every effort to consult with Turkey on the importance of religious freedom

for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all minorities and emphasized Poland's strong support for religious freedom and human rights issues. The delegation thanked the Chief of Staff for the warm welcomed it received in Poland and noted with gratitude the important role of the U.S. Ambassador to ensure a productive visit.

The delegation met with His Excellency Jan Borkowski, left, Secretary of State for Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and also Director Piotr Ogrodzinski. The delegation in front of a commemorative statue of President Ronald Reagan, following a meeting at the U.S. Embassy with Ambassador Feinstein.

THE PHANAR



Following the successful mission results in Warsaw, the delegation traveled to Istanbul on December 2, 2011, to meet with attorneys and Ecumenical Patriarchate representatives on Turkey's return of confiscated properties and to represent the Order of Saint Andrew in the historic visit of United States Vice President Joe Biden with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. The delegation was assisted and guided by Fr. Karloutsos.

The delegation met first with Laki Vingas, Council Member of the General Directorate of Foundations representing Non-Muslim Communities and Yannis Ktistakis, legal counsel to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to discuss the background and procedures for applying to Turkish authorities to return confiscated properties for the benefit of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The meeting was precipitated by the August 27, 2011, Decree announced by Prime Minister

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey to allow minority foundations to apply to regain religious properties confiscated by the Turkish authorities since 1936. It applies to the 163 minority foundations that by 1936 Turkish law registered all their properties

with the government's General Directorate of Foundations. Properties that have since been conveyed to third parties would be resolved by compensation pursuant to regulations adopted on October 1, 2011. Of the registered minority foundations, 67

Archon Regional Commander Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis, left, met with Patriarchal Attorney John Ktistakis and Deacon Joachim Billis of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Director of the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the EU, offers words during an Archon dinner to conclude their mission. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco was also in attendance.

THE PHANAR (CONTINUED...)



are Greek Orthodox involving over 1000 properties in issue.

An all-day meeting on substantive issues for the return of confiscated properties took place the next day at the Phanar between local Turkish counsel representing minority foundations, Regional Commander, Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis, Yannis Ktistakis and Deacon Joachim Billis, Deputy Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod representing His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Dr. Limberakis joined the meeting to offer support and continued assistance from the Order of Saint Andrew. The meeting was productive and

resulted in an understanding of the course of action and policies to be followed in seeking the return of confiscated properties.

The delegation then joined the reception for Vice President Biden, after the historic private meeting between the Vice President and His All-Holiness accompanied by Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The delegation also participated in a private tour of the Patriarchal Church of Saint George for the Vice President led by His All-Holiness and Archbishop Demetrios.

The mission of the Order of Saint Andrew concluded with a dinner hosted by Archbishop Demetrios and the Order for His All-Holiness to acknowledge and celebrate the 20th anniversary of His All-Holiness as our loving and worldwide Spiritual Father and to join in fellowship for the conclusion of a successful mission. At the dinner, Dr. Limberakis recognized the extraordinary effort of the Order's Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, in coordinating the day's events and spoke for all Archons by stating

“the paternal love and guidance of His All-Holiness and Archbishop Demetrios empowers the Archons to execute their sacred ministry of defending the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople.” ■

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew thanks Archons for their work during a dinner held in his honor.

ARCHON MICHAEL PARLAMIS

PLANTING THE PATRIARCHAL FLAG THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Written by Jim Golding
Orthodox Observer

"We have to show the flag in order to make some noise. We have to stand up for the Patriarchate; and to make it known to the world that we exist."

NEW YORK

Parishes around the country received an unexpected gift over the summer, thanks to Archon Michael Parlamis of New Jersey.

Archon Parlamis, a member of St. John the Theologian Cathedral in Tenafly, had the idea of distributing the flag of the Ecumenical Patriarchate throughout the Archdiocese after viewing last spring's Greek Independence Day Parade on Fifth Avenue in New York. "All the churches were marching with Greek and American flags and I thought 'Why aren't they flying the patriarchal flag?'"

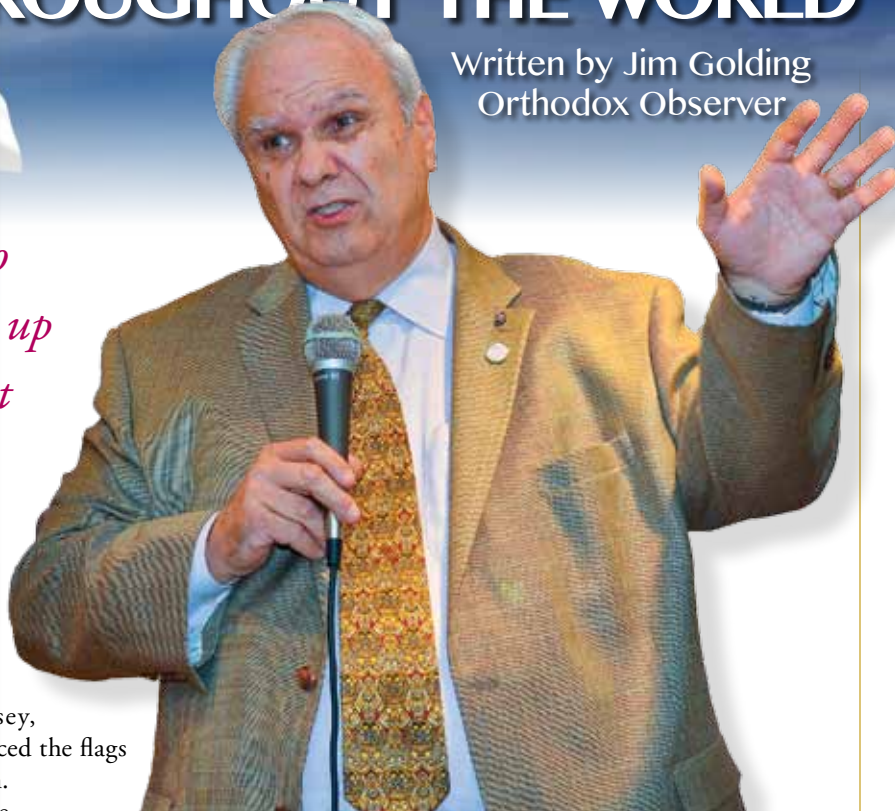
His idea was to donate full-sized patriarchal flags to each metropolis for display in the churches. The flags come with a pole, base, cross and tassel.

"It's a nice way to commemorate the Patriarch's anniversary," he said, and the flag "projects the image and authority of the Ecumenical Patriarchate around the world."

Archon Parlamis contacted the Annin Flag Co. in New Jersey, which produced the flags for \$200 each. "They made a perfect match," he said. A total of 750 flags were initially manufactured, which he distributed to the metropolises over several weeks.

Archon Parlamis, an Archon since 1987 and commander of the Order of St. Andrew's Northern District of New Jersey, said that he decided to expand the project to all metropolises of the Ecumenical Patriarchate around the world.

Thus far, he has sent 315 in Britain, Germany, Spain, Korea, Crete, Mexico and Canada.



750 Flags distributed to Metropolises
315 Flags distributed Internationally

He persists in his efforts to distribute the flag globally.

"The flag of the patriarchate is flying throughout the world," he said. "We have to show the flag in order to make some noise. We have to stand up for the Patriarchate; and to make it known to the world that we exist."

He added, "I feel good doing it. It is something positive, something lasting." ■

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew makes historic appearance before Turkish Parliamentary Constitution Commission

ANKARA

The spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians said Monday that Turkey's new constitution should grant equal rights to minorities in the country and safeguard religious freedoms.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I met with members of a parliamentary subcommittee seeking an all-party consensus in drawing up a new constitution, which will replace the one ratified in 1982 while Turkey was under military rule. The subcommittee is meeting with non-governmental organizations and representatives of minority groups for input on the drafting of the new laws.

Mostly Muslim Turkey, which is seeking to join the European Union, has small Christian and Jewish communities. The EU has made improved rights for the religious groups a condition for membership.

Turkey's existing constitution guarantees religious freedom, but when it comes to minority religions the country has long been criticized for restricting the training of clergy and the ownership of places of worship, and for interfering with the selection of church leaders. It also has recognized Bartholomew I as the leader of the local church in Turkey, but not as ecumenical patriarch of all Orthodox Christians.

For decades, Turkey has mostly ignored demands of the Patriarchate, mainly due to mistrust stemming from a rivalry with Greece. However, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has pledged to address the problems of religious minorities and said he hopes the new constitution will correct democratic shortfalls.

Bartholomew sounded optimistic about the new constitution.

"Unfortunately there have been injustices toward minorities until



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew speaks to the members of a subcommittee of Turkey's parliament seeking all-party consensus for a new constitution.

now," Bartholomew said. "These are slowly being corrected and changed. A new Turkey is being born."

Bartholomew told reporters he favors a constitution that promotes equal rights and religious freedoms, including the reopening of a Greek Orthodox seminary that trained generations of patriarchs.

"We asked for equality," Bartholomew said after the meeting. "In education, we asked that the seminary be reopened. We asked for freedom of religion and conscious, for freedom of worship."

Bartholomew, who is based in Istanbul, is the spiritual leader of hundreds of millions of Orthodox Christians worldwide.

An 18-page report presented to the subcommittee also demands government funds for minority schools and places of worship, Bartholomew said.

"Until now there has been no state aid for any churches or minority schools," Bartholomew said. "If we are talking of equality, this equality should be present in all fields."

The subcommittee on Monday also heard the demands of Turkey's tiny Assyrian Christian community.

A community leader, Kuryalos Ergun, said the Assyrians — one of the world's oldest Christian communities — want religious minorities to be represented in a government agency that regulates mosques and imams in Turkey, and

Announcement from the Office of the Chief Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, in response to an official invitation by the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, His Excellency Cemil Çiçek, travelled to Ankara where he deliberated for an hour with its Inter-Party Committee for the revision of the country's Constitution under the chairmanship of His Excellency Atilla Kart, parliamentary member for Konya for the Turkish Opposition Party.

His All-Holiness conveyed the greetings and gratitude for the invitation on behalf both of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek community in Turkey, whose challenges and demands in the field of human rights he discussed. These issues especially encompass religious freedom and freedom of conscience, education, including religious education, property, and so on. Furthermore, he presented an 18-page document prepared by all the Minorities in Turkey, describing their common sentiments that emphasize their equality as citizens of the country without the discriminations and injustices of the past.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and his entourage, the very reverend Deacon Joachim, Deputy Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod, the honorable Mr. Panteleimon Vingas, Archon Grand Hartophylax and elected representative of the Minorities in the Council of the General Directorate of Foundations, and the honorable professor of law, Mr. Emre Öktem, addressed the specific subject of the revision of the Constitution and responded to questions of the committee chairman and members, while expounding on particular issues.

Afterward, His All-Holiness offered statements and responded to questions from the assembled numerous representatives of the mass media.

want minority clergy to be paid and employed by the state the same way imams are.

The Orthodox Christians want their Halki Theological School reopened in Turkey. Located, on Heybeliada Island, near Istanbul, it stopped admitting new students in 1971 under a Turkish law that put religious and military training under state control. The school closed its doors in 1985, when its last students graduated.

The patriarch has long complained that Halki's closure has prevented raising new leaders for the church, and that Turkish laws that require

a patriarch to be a Turkish citizen make it difficult for the nation's dwindling Greek community of several thousand to produce candidates.

In 2010, the government granted Turkish citizenship to more than a dozen senior clerics from North and South America as well as Hong Kong, to help address the issue.

In August, the government agreed to return hundreds of properties that were confiscated from Christian and Jewish minorities over the past 75 years. ■

[Source: AP News, by Susan Fraser]

The Ecumenical Patriarch IS RIGHT

by Mustafa Akyol



Mr. Akyol is a journalist and political commentator, especially on issues relating to religion and public life in Turkey. He was also one of the distinguished speakers at the 2010 International Archon Religious Freedom Conference in Brussels, Belgium.

ANKARA

Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, visited the Turkish Parliament the other day. This was a first, for His All-Holiness had visited the Turkish Parliament only once before, and only to attend the funeral of the late President Turgut Özal. But this time, he was invited by the Parliament's Constitution Conciliation Commission, in which deputies from all parties work together to draft a new charter for Turkey.

After his meeting at the commission, where he expressed his expectations from the new constitution, His All-Holiness said the following to journalists:

"It is the first official invitation to non-Muslim minorities in Republican history. We don't want to be second-class citizens. Unfortunately there have been injustices in the past. These are all slowly being rectified. A new Turkey is being born. We are leaving the meeting with hope and are extremely grateful."

What a great summary that was. It underlined the bitter fact that throughout the history of the "secular" Turkish Republic, non-Muslims were seen as second-class citizens, if not enemies within. It

also heralded that "a new Turkey is being born," in which the anti-Muslim prejudices of the past were being abandoned "slowly." (I, too, wish the change were faster.) The Ecumenical Patriarch also noted that this current transformation in Turkey made him, and his fellow Christians, hopeful and grateful.

Now, if you are among those who believe that Turkey is being drawn away from its bright secular past to an Islamist "darkness," you might find these hard to believe. But please do believe the Ecumenical Patriarch, and let me explain to you why he is right.

His All-Holiness is right, because the main threat to Turkey's Christians and Jews has not been Islam, but Turkish nationalism. In fact Islam respects the religious rights of "the people of the book" – Jews and Christians – and that is why non-Muslims had freedom of worship throughout the Ottoman centuries. In the mid-19th cen-

tury, the Ottoman Empire also gave equal citizenship rights to non-Muslims, leading to the appearance of many Christians and Jews in the Ottoman bureaucracy and Parliament.

In the 20th century, however, both the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the nation-state model imported from continental Europe led to the emergence of Turkish nationalism. This secular yet illiberal ideology had little respect for "the people of the book" and wanted to create a non-Muslim-free Turkey – not for its love of Muslimness, but Turkishness. Hence came the ethnic cleansing of the Armenians, Greeks or the Assyrians, or the "Wealth Tax" on all non-Muslims including the Jews.

Kemalism, the official ideology of the Turkish Republic, was the embodiment of this nationalist paradigm. Clueless Westerners often praised Kemalism for its "secularism" and "modernism,"

but little they noticed that the persecution of Turkey's Christians (and Kurds, for that matter), from which they rightfully complained, was carried out by none other than the Kemalist Jacobins and their sans-culottes. (By the latter, I refer to the vulgar ultra-nationalists of Turkey, whose ideology is a crude but natural reflection of that of the more sophisticated Kemalist elite.)

That is why post-Kemalist Turkey, just like the pre-Kemalist (Ottoman) one, will be more amiable to non-Muslims. And we are seeing the evidence of that day by day.

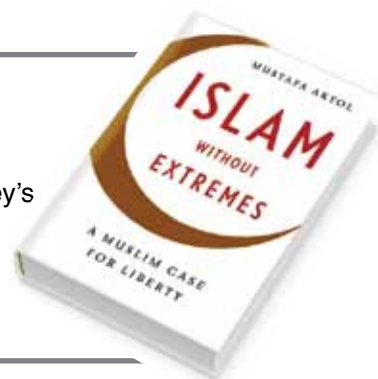
P.S.: You might have noted that I did not call the Ecumenical Patriarchate "Fener Rum Orthodox Patriarchate" as the Turkish state and mainstream media does. For I believe that every religious institution has a right to define itself, a right that should be respected by others. ■

Islam without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty

BY MUSTAFA AKYOL

"His All-Holiness is right, because the main threat to Turkey's Christians and Jews has not been Islam, but Turkish nationalism." –Amazon.com Book Review

Available in Hardcover and Kindle edition on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)





The Enthronement of

HIS EMINENCE
**METROPOLITAN
SAVAS**
of
PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH

His Eminence Metropolitan Savas was enthroned December 8, 2011, as Metropolitan of Pittsburgh during a magnificent and traditional ceremony at the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, presided over the ceremony which was attended by more than 600 faithful of the Metropolis, more than 60 clergymen of the Metropolis and many visitors from across the country, including Archons from the neighboring area. ■



Archon Nicholas Loutsion, National Council Member, and Archon Peter C. Papadakos, Pittsburgh Regional Commander, make a special presentation to His Eminence at a reception following his enthronement.



Archons Steve Poulis, Theodore Klingos, Stephen Cherpelis, Lou Pappan, Steve Sellas, and Angelo Koukoulis, were among many of the Archons in attendance.

PHOTOS BY ARCHON D. PANAGOS

Top, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh stands before His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and His Eminence Maximos, former Metropolitan of Pittsburgh, in Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Archons honor newly-elected Bishop Sevastianos of Zela

NEW YORK



The ordination of His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela took place at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, December 17, 2011. Following the ordination ceremony, Archon John Halecky, National Secretary, was joined by Archons and presented an engolpion to His Grace, marking the occasion. His Grace became the first Cypriot bishop in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese's history. ■

PHOTO BY ARCHON D. PANAGOS

U.S. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTION

46 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN 39 STATES **UPDATE**



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

States highlighted in:

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

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

<p>SOUTH DAKOTA</p> <p>SCR 6 - Adopted on 2/21/2011</p> <p>Senator Phyllis Heineman Senator Stanford Adelstein</p>	<p>The Order of Saint Andrew owes this successful conclusion to legislative sponsors, Senator Phyllis Heineman and Senator Stanford Adelstein, and to South Dakota state leaders, Dr. Aris Assimacopoulos, Father Sava Leida, Father Thomas Williams and Mrs. Susi Schuchard.</p> <p>We also received invaluable support from representatives of the Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches.</p> <p>The extraordinary work of Archon Stephen Georgeson and the brilliant father-son Manatos team is not only felt in Washington, DC, but has tremendous ramifications worldwide, from Istanbul, Turkey to Pierre, South Dakota!</p>
<p>VIRGINIA</p> <p>HR 35 - Adopted on 3/1/2011</p> <p>Delegate Johnny Joannou Delegate Manoli Loupassi</p>	<p>Special thanks to legislative sponsors, Delegates Johnny Joannou and Manoli Loupassi, for their work in getting this passed in the face of opposition from the Turkish-American community.</p> <p>Father Nicholas Bacalis led our effort there with the assistance of John Farmakides and many others.</p>

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM NEWS

Turkey's Greek minority to open school on Gökçeada

The Ministry of Education has given permission to the Greek community to open a primary school on Gökçeada (Imbros), an island in the Aegean Sea off the coast of Çanakkale province

IMVROS

Laki Vingas, elected representative of non-Muslim foundations at the Council of the General Assembly of the Directorate General for Foundations (VGM), was quoted in the Milliyet daily as saying that the ministry gave permission verbally and that the Greeks of Gökçeada can start the process of opening a Greek school on the island.

Turkey's Greek schools are on the verge of closure because the Greek community's population is close to the point of extinction. There are estimated to be only 180-200 Turkish citizens of Greek origin on Gökçeada, and the number of Greek students expected to attend a Greek school on the island is expected to be low. But Vingas said that even if

there are 10 students, the initiative would be important because it gives hopes for the future of the Greek community in Turkey.

Even though the Greek population in Turkey was no less than 100,000 in the 1930s, tension between Turkey and Greece has greatly affected their survival in Turkey. Following the Istanbul Riots of Sept. 6-7, 1955 and the 1964 deportation of roughly 12,000 ethnic Greeks without Turkish citizenship, the Greek population has been in constant decline. By 1966, the Greek population in Istanbul was reduced to less than 30,000 and it has been diminishing ever since. The population of Turkey's Greek community is estimated to be around 3,000 today.

In total, there are 250 ethnic Greek

students in Turkey attending the few Greek schools left in Istanbul. One of these schools is Zografyon Greek High School, established in 1893. It has only 40 students.

Another one is the Zapyon Greek Primary and High School of Istanbul. A long time ago, when it was established in 1875, it was a lively school with 1,500 students; now, it only has 110 students. It remains the only Greek school in Turkey comprising a kindergarten, a primary and a high school. There are only eight students in the first grade this year.

There were about 80 Greek schools in Istanbul, in comparison to today's handful.

Nikos Kefalas, the representative of the founder of Zapyon, told Today's

Zaman that the Greek schools and the Greek community should have been strengthened in Turkey to save them from extinction.

According to the report in Milliyet, the Association of Gökçeada Residents in Greece was pleased with the news that there are plans for a new Greek school on Gökçeada.

"Some Greek families who live in Istanbul and some Greek families who live in Athens are ready to return to the island if a school is opened," said Kostas Hristoforidis, who chairs the association, as quoted by Milliyet.

The Greek community of Gökçeada is expected to apply to the Çanakkale Governor's Office seeking to open a school on the island. ■



2012 HISTORIC ARCHON PILGRIMAGE HOLY LAND & CAPPADOCIA

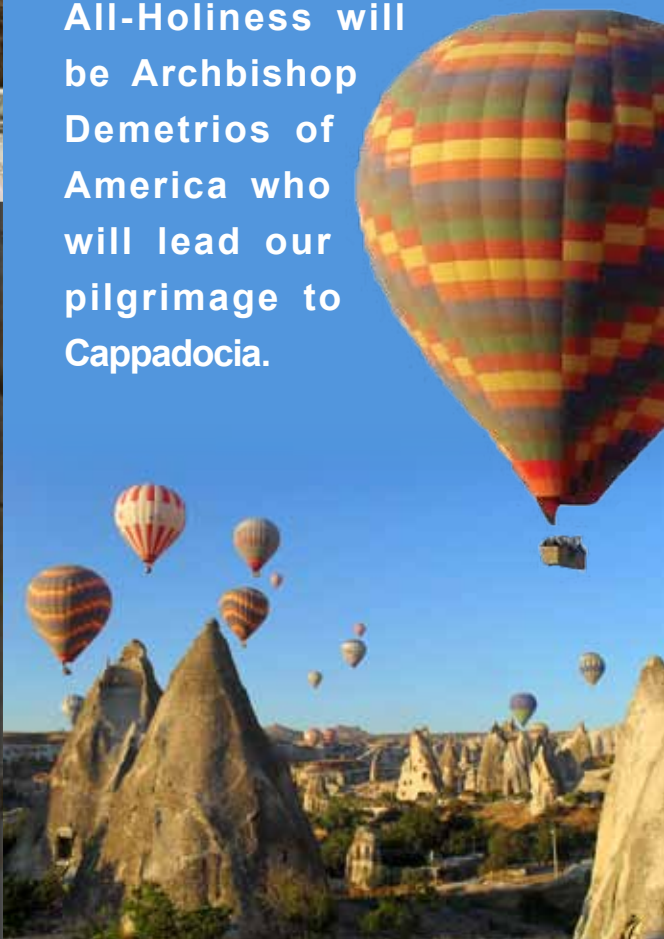
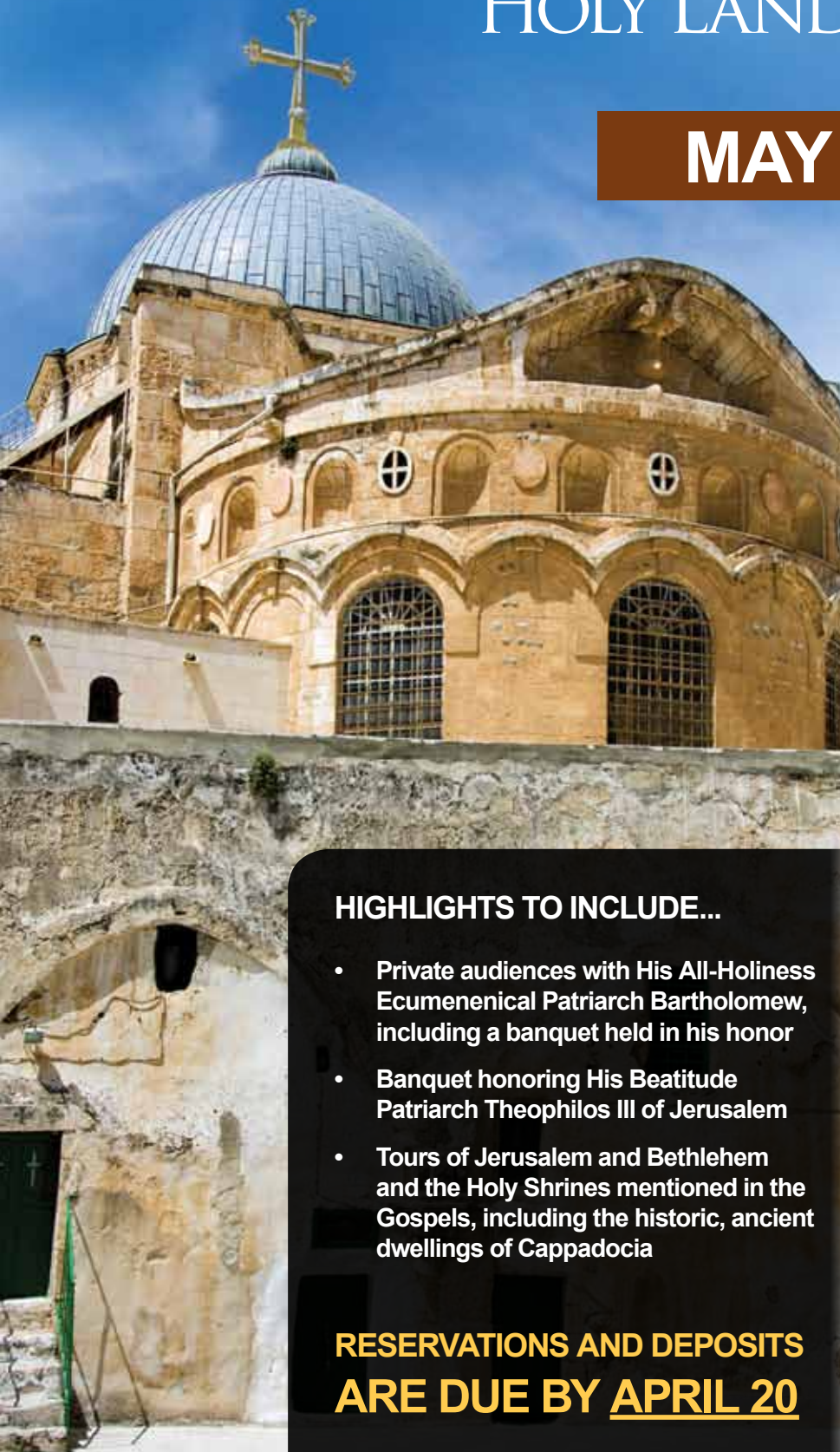
MAY 18 - 28 11 DAYS, 9 NIGHTS
ALL INCLUSIVE

Join the Order of Saint Andrew on an historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Cappadocia. Join Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who will celebrate Vespers and Divine Liturgy with the relics of Saint Basil the Great in one of the historic churches in Cappadocia. Joining His All-Holiness will be Archbishop Demetrios of America who will lead our pilgrimage to Cappadocia.

HIGHLIGHTS TO INCLUDE...

- Private audiences with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, including a banquet held in his honor
- Banquet honoring His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem
- Tours of Jerusalem and Bethlehem and the Holy Shrines mentioned in the Gospels, including the historic, ancient dwellings of Cappadocia

**RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS
ARE DUE BY APRIL 20**





HOLY LAND

In the Holy Land, visit the most important sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho and Tiberias.

Included are:

- The Church and Tomb of Saint George in Lydda
- The River Jordan for Agiasmos and Spiritual Baptism
- Capernaum
- Boat-ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Holy Apostles Church in Galilee
- The Mount of Beatitudes
- The Church of Tabgha
- The Church of Transfiguration on Mount Tabor
- Nazareth, Virgin Mary's Well
- Cana - The Site of Our Lord's First Miracle
- Jericho
- The Zacchaeus Tree
- The Tomb of Lazarus in Bethany
- The Church of Saint Anna, Birthplace of the Virgin Mary
- The Western Wall
- Walk along the 'Way of the Cross'
- The Prison of Christ—The Praetorium
- The Church of the Holy Sepulcher at Golgotha
- The Upper Room of the Last Supper
- The Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem
- Shepherd's Field
- Mount of Olives
- Gethsemane and the Garden of Agony
- The Tomb of the Virgin Mary
- Jericho

... and much more!

CAPPADOCIA

Cappadocia is a moonscape of rock carved cities and surrealistic shapes where nature has scoured and sculpted the earth into cones, capped pinacles and fretted ravines.



For a thousand years, persecuted Christians dug secret underground cities and left a remarkable legacy of Byzantine frescoes in hidden caves. One of the included sites is the Goreme Open Air Museum where religious education began. This moon-scape volcanic valley is filled with richly painted monastic churches hollowed from the soft volcanic stone. It houses 30 of the finest rock churches in the area. The churches date from approximately 9th-11th centuries.

Rates

Double Occupancy: \$8300 per person

Single Supplement: \$1950 per person

Rates indicated above include air and fuel surcharges, gratuities and Israeli departure taxes.

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS ARE DUE BY APRIL 20.

RATES INCLUDE...

AIR

- International air JFK / TEL AVIV
- Private air charter TEL AVIV / KAYSERI
- International air KAYSERI / JFK

ISRAEL (May 18–25, 7 Nights)

- Three nights hotel accommodation at the Ramot Hotel in Tiberias
- Four nights deluxe hotel accommodation at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem
- Seven days of sightseeing in an air conditioned motorcoach with English speaking guide per the above itinerary including entrance fees
- Banquet in honor of Patriarch Theophilos with round trip transportation
- Private arrival and departure transfers in air conditioned motorcoach with English speaking escort and security
- Saint Peter's fish lunch in Tiberias
- All meals included

CAPPADOCIA (May 26–28, 2 Nights)

- Two nights deluxe hotel accommodations in Urgup, Cappadocia at the Dinler Hotel
- Banquet in honor of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with round trip transportation
- All private transfers in air conditioned motorcoach and English speaking guide
- Private sightseeing tours in air conditioned motorcoach and English speaking guide
- All meals included

For More Information, Contact...



Protravel International

515 Madison Avenue, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10022

Tel. + 1 212 409 9562

Fax. + 1 646 792 4536

Nathalie@protravelinc.com

Vingas: Turkey's non-Muslims, government getting closer

by Yonca Poyraz Dogan

Today's Zaman newspaper interviewed Laki Vingas, who resides in Istanbul and is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He serves as the official elected representative of the non-Muslim Foundations in the Government of Turkey. Archon Vingas is the first non-Muslim citizen of Turkey to be elected as a representative of non-Muslim foundations in the Council of the General Assembly of the VGM, and has said that the government and the non-Muslim community have been establishing closer relations after years of mistrust and distance.

In a more recent move, the government issued a decree to return properties confiscated from religious minorities since 1936, and in cases where property belonging to such organizations has been sold by the state to third parties, the religious foundation will be paid the market value of the property by the Ministry of Finance.

The decision was announced before an iftar (fast-breaking dinner) on Aug. 28, attended by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and representatives of non-Muslim communities in İstanbul, and non-Muslim groups in Turkey have highly praised the government's move.

The law on foundations in 1936 aimed to control non-Muslim foundations by placing them under the guardianship of the VGM. Since then government relations with non-Muslims have become even more troubled than before. The laws on foundations have been altered a few times, with new amendments following each other; new laws granting some rights, which were then rescinded by other regulations.

Turkey's population of nearly 75 million, mostly Muslim, includes about 65,000 Armenian Orthodox Christians, 20,000 Jews, 15,000 Assyrians and about 3,500 Greek Orthodox Christians. While Armenian groups have 52 and Jewish groups have 17 foundations, Greeks have 75. Some of the properties seized from those foundations include hospitals, schools and cemeteries.

Answering questions from *Today's Zaman*, Vingas said that the government's relations with non-Muslims are changing for the better.

Here are a few questions from this interview:

If we go back three years ago, when you were first elected to the post to represent non-Muslim foundations, what would you tell us about it?

► Let me tell you about how I feel as a person living in this country. First of all, I've always felt like a full-fledged citizen in this country -- even at times when I faced troubles that made me think that I should not feel that way. In my opinion, I had only one way to go: to live as a full-fledged citizen while I protected my identity without being ashamed of it. I knew that I was not a person who could act in a different way. When I speak like this, some people might say: "Laki never had to endure any hardships. How would he know the difficulties and pains that the non-Muslim community has had to suffer from?" But even though I had my own difficult stories, I still felt like I am either a full-fledged citizen or not; I would not change my name or act as if I am not from a certain, different background than the majority. Before I was first elected for the post three years ago, I was dealing with the cultural events of the Greek community, and in the process I've been trying to establish bridges between and among different cultures. So recently, when there was an opportunity for non-Muslims to be representatives of their community in the VGM, I asked in the community what they were planning to do.

How were you received in Ankara?

► It was an unusual coming together as both sides have had reservations toward each other, but we had to take risks. Non-Muslim cultures belong to this land, and they enrich this land. We are realities in this country. Approaching each other has not been very easy as it requires patience, analysis and compromise. If you are not sincere, if you are not at peace with yourself, if you are not there to find solutions to problems and if you don't believe that you can claim your future in your native land, you cannot be successful. My duty was to further develop relations between state authorities and non-Muslim foundations as well as try to develop relations among non-Muslim communities. Of course this needed to be done with actions to compensate for past injustices -- to give back what had been taken unjustly before. Another duty of mine has been making the non-Muslim communities more participatory as they have started to feel more relaxed and at ease. Seeing and acting on that reality is possible through laws; it is not enough to be aware of it in one's conscious and religion. It is certain that the non-Muslim communities do not have much political power since they are few in number. They are not an economic power anymore, either. They don't have the power to lead socially. However, Turkey has a major responsibility to keep their legacy and culture alive since it could enrich and positively contribute the young generations of Turkey. Turkey has a responsibility not only to preserve them but also to provide opportunities for them to flourish.

Do you think that the great distance between the VGM and the non-Muslim communities has been narrowed in recent years?

- There was a huge distance between them. First, that distance should be reduced before doing anything else. Giving presents or even rights to non-Muslims communities without establishing a trusting environment would do no good; and for trust to develop there must be a dialogue. Since we had a new law, we had a new chance. We are finally seeing the results of the 2009 meeting of VGM officials with non-Muslim community leaders. There were about 200 people during that meeting, which seemed so impossible before it happened. Until that time, relations between the VGM and the non-Muslim community has been through the assistance of certain people. Only those people were able to establish relations with VGM officials. But we supported a more open relationship, more open dialogue in which each citizen would be able approach his or her representative. After that meeting, we had more gatherings together. And what seemed so unattainable has become attainable. Here, I have to underline the importance of the government's positive approach to the issue. A few years ago, our foundations were regarded as "foreign" by some in Turkey, but today the highest-level officials of the country come together with non-Muslim community representatives.

Why is the Halki Seminary on Heybeliada still closed?

- The Halki Seminary has been closed for years as a result of political speculation. It has been the Patriarchate that has been paying dearly for it. Currently, Turkey is in the process of preparing a new constitution. It's been a good process since we are all debating what should and shouldn't be in that new constitution. This is quite different than the process of the 1980s when a military-designed constitution was imposed on people. The new constitution is supposed to grant equal citizenship for all people in Turkey; it is supposed to provide religious freedom, freedom of expression and the right to assembly. It is supposed to prohibit hate speech and discrimination. If those are granted in the new constitution, the seminary will automatically be opened because opening the seminary falls under the freedom of religion issue. When there is freedom of religion, then adherents of a religion should be able to educate their religious people.

Archon Laki Vingas



Elected to the Council of the General Assembly of the VGM – attached to the Prime Minister's Office in Ankara – as the Representative of Non-Muslim

Foundations at the end of 2008, he will serve his second term in the position following elections on Dec. 25. A Turkish citizen of Greek descent, living in Yeniköy, İstanbul, Vingas is a businessman. He actually studied marine engineering. He is the elected representative of 164 non-Muslim foundations in the council of the VGM.

In his words:

"I never practiced my engineering profession. My father died when I graduated from high school. We did not have connections in society, which was typical for a non-Muslim family at the time. We were living in our own, isolated world. I had applied, through an intermediary, to some companies to find a job. But I found that companies had some non-Muslim employees and did not want to hire more non-Muslims. I gave up looking for a job in engineering thinking that the situation was out of my hands, and I was not going to be able to find a job in that field. I graduated from university in 1983. These were tough years, really tough [following the Sept. 12, 1980, military coup]. Every day, we would enter the university after identification checks; there were military policemen everywhere. Sometimes we were not even allowed to use bathrooms. Once I was sitting next to a student who asked me if I was Greek. I said, yes, but I was uneasy; we were already dealing with the issues of being leftist and rightist at the time and now this! He sensed my anxiety, then smiled and said, 'Don't worry, I am an Armenian.' Unfortunately, we grew up with such anxieties."

Read Vinga's full interview with Today's Zaman at ► archons.org/news

National Commander Limberakis honored by The Constantinopolitan Society

The Constantinopolitan Society paid special tribute to Dr. Limberakis' efforts of informing the international community on the violations of religious freedoms and the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate during a special ceremony at the Great Hall in Kallithea in Athens, Greece.

ATHENS

The Constantinopolitan Society honored Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew, in recognition for his dedication and commitment to the Mother Church of Constantinople, January 29, 2012. The Society paid special tribute to his efforts of informing the international community on the violations of religious freedoms and the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate during a special ceremony at the Great Hall in Kallithea in Athens, Greece.

The ceremony opened with greetings by the Society's President, Mr. Anthony Lambidis, who presented an honorary diploma and commemorative plaque to Dr. Limberakis in front of a crowd of over three hundred diplomats, university professors, representatives of Greek State, Civic and Armed Forces authorities and religious leaders, which included His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos II of Athens and All Greece.



Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew, honored by The Constantinopolitan Society's President, Mr. Anthony Lambidis, during a special ceremony in Athens.

Dr. Limberakis, accompanied by his wife, Dr. Maria A. Limberakis, and Archon Spiritual Advisor Father Alex Karloutsos and his wife, Presbytera Xanthi, remarked, "I am deeply honored to accept this recognition on behalf of my brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America under the inspired leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, the Exarch of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. The 800 Archons of the Sacred See of Saint Andrew

who reside in the United States maintain our awesome responsibility to serve the needs of His All Holiness and the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople with extraordinary focus, tenacity and seriousness of purpose. We consider the Patriarchal Offikion bestowed upon us as the highest of all honors calling us to a personal ministry, a personal diakonia of our Time, Talent and Financial Resources to serve the Great Church of Christ at a time when its worldwide ministry is threat-

ened by oppressive policies of the government of Turkey."

Dr. Limberakis elaborated on the five main issues affecting the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He continued by addressing the Order's strategies and initiatives in assuring basic human rights and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, through the Archon Washington Initiative and the State Religious Freedom Resolution Project. He spoke on the tremendous efforts in securing the most prominent meetings for His All-Holiness' Apostolic Visit to the United States in 2009, most notably with President Barack Obama, Vice President Joseph Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and audiences with the world's top think-tank, The Brookings Institution and His All-Holiness' address to students and scholars at Georgetown University.

Dr. Limberakis spoke about the first-ever International Archon Religious Freedom Conference—a two-day conference held in

November 2009 which 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 that focused on religious freedom. Dr. Limberakis referred to the Conference as a “watershed event in the overall strategy to secure religious freedom for the Great Church of Christ.”

The National Commander spoke on the Archon international initiatives with yearly meetings with various diplomats, their annual Religious Freedom Mission to the European Union and sending representatives to annual conferences of the OSCE.

He concluded by recognizing that these efforts are beginning to become realized with recent confiscated properties returned by the Turkish Government and the waiving of residency requirements—both of which have been problematic for the Ecumenical Patriarchate for decades.

Forcibly expatriated members of the Greek minority in Constantinople founded the Constantinopolitan Society in 1928. The Society’s mission is to protect the spiritual heritage of Byzantium, the promotion and defense of the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and those of the Greek Orthodox minority in Turkey, demonstrating charitable activities, seminars and lectures. ■

His Eminence Archbishop Ieronymos II of Athens and All Greece, top, welcomes Archon Spiritual Advisor Father Alex Karloutsos and his wife Presbyteria Xanthi, along with National Commander Limberakis and his wife, Dr. Maria A. Limberakis. Members of the Archon delegation, middle, meet with Dimitris Avramopoulos, Minister of Defense in Athens. The delegation meets with Antonis Samaras, right, and his wife Georgia. Over 300 diplomats, university professors, representatives of Greek State, Civic and Armed Forces authorities and religious leaders gathered for the ceremony, below.



“We consider the Patriarchal Offikion bestowed upon us as the highest of all honors calling us to a personal ministry, a personal Diakonia of our Time, Talent and Financial Resources to serve the Great Church of Christ at a time when its worldwide ministry is threatened by oppressive policies of the government of Turkey. Every year, the Order of Saint Andrew dedicates over a million dollars to underwrite the prodigious religious freedom program on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.”



Archons of the Metropolis of San Francisco honor Archbishop Demetrios of America during FDF celebrations

ANAHEIM

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, together with Regional Commanders Theofanis Economidis, Dr. James G. Kallins and Archons of the Metropolis of San Francisco honored His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, during celebrations coinciding with the 36th annual Folk Dance and Choral Festival, February 17-19. National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, accompanied by his wife, Dr. Maria A. Limberakis, also participated in the weekend long celebrations and delivered a presentation to the Archons of the Metropolis focusing on religious freedom issues.

Archon Regional Commander Dr. James Kallins hosted a welcome dinner on Friday evening for Archbishop



Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew, delivers a religious freedom presentation to the clergy and Archons of the Metropolis of San Francisco. PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

Demetrios, Metropolitan Gerasimos and visiting guests. Archon Kallins was grateful for His Eminence's involvement during the weekend and offered his personal thanks for his leadership.

The following afternoon, President Jeannie Ranglas and board members of the Greek Orthodox

Ladies Philoptochos Society hosted Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Gerasimos and National Commander Limberakis at a luncheon. Father Gary Kyriacou, Chairman of the FDF Board of Trustees, offered a toast to His Eminence on behalf of the Philoptochos. Later, a special gift was presented to the

Archbishop along with an embroidered framed cross on behalf of the Society.

That evening, Archon Regional Commander Theofanis Economidis welcomed National Commander Limberakis who addressed over 150 clergy, Archons and their spouses on the religious freedom deficit in Turkey and the continuing plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He spoke of the recent progress made by Turkish authorities with a promise to return properties previously owned by 135 minority foundations, in which the Ecumenical Patriarchate has begun to petition to be returned. He also commended the Archons of the Metropolis for their continued support of the Order, acknowledging their leadership to pass religious freedom resolutions for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in states such as California, Oregon and Nevada, but reminded them of states still in need of pursuit, such as Washington and Hawaii.

Following his presentation, Archon Economidis bestowed a special gift on behalf of the Archons of the Metropolis to Archbishop Demetrios to assist with the ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.





Sotira Theophanous; The Honorable Nicolaos Theophanous, Honorary Consul of Cyprus for Northern California; Patricia Kamages; Dr. Michael and Susan Patzakis; Archon Christ J. Kamages; Dr. Maria A. and Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis; The Honorable Andreas Kyprianides, Honorary Consul General of Cyprus for Los Angeles, and his wife, Mika.



Archon Isidoros and Maria Garifalakis, Father John Kariotakis, with Archon Gerry Ranglas and his wife, Jeannie, President of the Metropolis of San Francisco Ladies Philoptochos Society.



Paul Gikas and his wife Meltem, Father Luke Palumbis and Archon Paul Sogotis and his wife Evangelia.



Regional Commanders Theofanis Economidis with his wife, Cynthia, and Dr. James Kallins with his wife, Virginia, their daughter Barbara Kallins Matty, their son George, with his wife Bettina and family members during the FDF celebration.



Regional Commander Theofanis Economidis presents a special gift to Archbishop Demetrios at the conclusion of the dinner.



Regional Commander Kallins welcomes Archbishop Demetrios and National Commander Limberakis, on behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.



FDF (Folk Dance and Choral Festival) is a ministry of the Metropolis of San Francisco that is dedicated, through Orthodox Christian Fellowship and committed leadership, to promoting, encouraging and perpetuating the Orthodox faith, Greek heritage and culture among individuals, families and communities by expressing it through folk dance, folk art, music and language. Ninety-three dance

and choral groups from the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington were featured in this years festival. Over 1,100 dancers and singers registered this year, with an additional 1,100 directors, parents and chaperones. The Archons of the Metropolis helped to promote and sponsor various activities and workshops throughout the gala, which this year was appropriately themed, "Believe."



Archons participate in Saint Photios Shrine 30th anniversary celebrations

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, together with His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and Archons throughout the Archdiocese participated in celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of Saint Photios National Shrine, February 4-5 held in St. Augustine, Florida.

A Trustees dinner, held on Saturday evening was presided over by Archbishop Demetrios, Chairman and Metropolitan Alexios, President, along with His Grace Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, Director Emeritus. Archon Dr. Manuel Tissura, 1st Vice President served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Archon Regional Commander John C. Scurtis and Dr. Theodore Vlahos, who could not be present, arranged to have Dr. Andrew Ekonomou, Senior Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice and the European Centre for Law and Justice, serve as the featured guest speaker.

The celebration of the Divine Liturgy took place the following morning in the Shrine Chapel. A luncheon celebration followed with Archon Nick Furriss serving as Toastmaster. Metropolitan

Alexios offered greetings and Archon Ted Johnson later presented an overview of "Glimpses of the Past." Archbishop Demetrios offered the keynote address and at the conclusion of the luncheon, bestowed the Saint Paul Medal upon Archon Tissura, honoring him for his many years of leadership and service with the Saint Photios National Shrine, as Archon Regional Commander and for his many services to the Metropolis and Church for the past thirty-five years.

Honored guests in attendance that weekend also included Archon Constantine G. Caras, Chairman of Leadership 100; Paulette Poulos, Director of Leadership 100; John Grossomanides, Supreme President of the Order of Ahepa; Sandy Papadopoulos, Supreme Governor of the Order of Ahepa; Archon Regional Commander Harry Cavalaris, 1st Vice President Emeritus of the Saint Photios Shrine; Presvytera Cindy Paleologos, National Sisterhood of Presvyteres; Laura Nixon, President Atlanta Metropolis Philoptochos Society, and Grand Benefactors Archon Charles Masterpolis and Eula Carlos in the person of her daughter who was representing her, Helen Carlos. ■



Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Alexios with Archons, top, for the Saint Photios National Shrine celebrations. Archbishop Demetrios bestows the Medal of Saint Paul upon Archon Regional Commander Dr. Manuel Tissura, top. Archon Regional Commander John C. Scurtis of South Florida, middle, with the featured guest speaker Dr. Andrew Ekonomou, Mrs. Evangeline Scurtis, Vannette Carousis and Archon Dr. and Mrs. George Zazanis. Bishop Dimitrios, above, with Archons Dr. Andreas Tzakis, John C. Scurtis, Dr George Zazanis and Christos Daphnides.

PHOTOS BY ORTHODOX OBSERVER

Second Annual Project Generation Symposium engages Teens on Religion and the Environment

by Archon Jim Gabriel

"There is no doubt in our mind that the only way forward is through the concerted effort of our younger generations. Ultimately it is you that need to address this issue; ultimately, it is you that will be faced with the consequences of this crisis; and, ultimately, it is you that will oblige us to assume responsibility for the way we treat the earth and its resources, encouraging us to do so in a manner that dignifies both creation and our Creator."

—ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

BROOKVILLE, NY

On Saturday, February 4th, youth from across the Direct Archdiocesan District joined together for the Second Annual Project Generation environmental symposium.

Thirty-one teens gathered at the Church of the Holy Resurrection in Brookville, NY for a three hour event that featured four presentations from their peers about environmental issues; a viewing of "Living Waters," a video about the Religion, Science & Environment

(RSE) Symposia organized by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew; and culminating in a group discussion led by Fr. Evagoras Constantinides and Fr. John Vlahos. The participants in the discussion were engaged in breakout sessions and debate, and concluded with a brainstorming session, led by co-chairs Callie Catacosinos and Chris Gabriel, to recommend next steps for all of our teens.

In the winter months preceding this week's symposium, project organizers were busy educating their peers on the efforts of His



On Thursday, February 23, the Project Generation leadership team, led by Archon Jim Gabriel, met with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios to provide him with an update of the Second Annual Youth Environmental Symposium, as well as outreach efforts within the Direct Archdiocesan District and the Metropolis of Boston.

PHOTO BY FR. E. CONSTANTANIDES

All-Holiness by attending five inter-GOYA retreats, at which they spoke to more than 600 youth from across the Direct Archdiocesan District, and visiting numerous parishes, speaking at GOYA meetings and Teen Seminars. By the day of the event, five parishes sent a total of 31 teens to participate. Team Generation will continue to work with GOYAN's from across the DAD, rolling out the recommendations of this year's symposium. In addition, project founder Chris Gabriel has been invited to attend the Boston Metropolis Winter Camp, where he will introduce Generation to the campers on

President's Day weekend. Planning sessions with the Metropolis of Pittsburgh are expected to begin by early March.

Project Generation was initiated in 2009, responding to the call of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for the younger generation to lead the way forward on environment issues. Following more than a year of planning, organizing and recruiting, the inaugural symposium was held in February 2011, in conjunction with the Direct Archdiocesan District Youth Office. ■

Departed Archons

Emmanuel A. Gianakakos

Archon Depoutatos
Lincolnwood, IL

11/6/2011

John Gigounas

Archon Ekdikos
Tiburon, CA

12/15/2011

Demetrios S. Kotsakis

Archon Ostiarios
Park Ridge, IL

1/26/2012

Steve Pavlis

Archon Depoutatos
Langhorne, PA

12/12/2011

May Their Memory Be Eternal



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



PHOTO BRIEFS



On January 10, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D. and his wife Dr. Maria, prepared a special, homemade Makaronada appreciation dinner in honor of the Archon Stewardship of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, the Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alexander Karloutsos and the Archon Leadership of the Order. At the conclusion of the dinner, His Eminence cut a celebratory cake adorned with photographs of Archon leadership and activities of the Order throughout the year. His Eminence later distributed the Vasilopita with Archons Michael Jaharis and Dimitrios Panagos receiving the good luck nomisma coins.

PHOTO BY J. MINDALA



On February 24, on the occasion of the 68th Meeting of the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Hon. Georgios Koumoutsakos, the Vice President of the Committee, visited the Phanar where he was received by His All-Holiness.



On February 20, the President of the Center for Interfaith Dialogue in Iran, Hodja Bahman Akberi, accompanied by the Cultural Attache of the Consulate General of Iran in Istanbul, Mr. Huseyin Moktederi, visited the Phanar where he was received by His All-Holiness.



On February 12, His Eminence Metropolitan Constantine of Singapore and South Asia was formally enthroned during a magnificent, traditional ceremony at the Chijmes Hall in Singapore.



On January 27, His All-Holiness took the opportunity to enjoy nature with clergy of the Patriarchal Court in the snowy Emirgian grove of the Bosphorus.



On January 21, in his traditional custom of honoring former patriarchs, His All-Holiness held a Trisagion Service in memory of the late Patriarch Neophytos VIII at the cemetery of Holy Trinity Monastery beside the Theological School of Halki.



On January 9, His All-Holiness received Patriarch Ignatius Joseph III Yonan of Antioch and All the East of the Syriac Catholic Church.

PHOTOS BY N. MANGINAS

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