

THE ARCHON

Defenders of the Faith

APRIL - OCTOBER 2012
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**HALKI
SUMMIT**

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew greets world-renowned British anthropologist Jane Goodall during first-ever Halki Summit

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Archon Pilgrimage to the historic sites of the Holy Land and Sacred Land of Cappadocia

Nearly 30 pilgrims participated in an historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Cappadocia, May 18-28, 2012 where they had the opportunity to join His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who celebrated Vespers and the Divine Liturgy with the relics of Saint Basil the Great in one of the historic churches in Cappadocia. The pilgrims were also honored to be received by His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem, above, and visit the Holy Shrines of the city.

[View photos of the Pilgrimage on page 2 »](#)

Archon delegation paves way for 2013 International Archon Religious Freedom Conference in Berlin

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, an Archon Delegation traveled to Berlin, Germany to begin detailed advance work in the planning of the second International Archon Religious Freedom Conference, scheduled for December 2013.

[Read the report on page 4 »](#)

The Hon. Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis, Archon George C. Rockas, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, and Father Alex Karloutsos with Professor Mehmet Gormez, Turkey's top Muslim cleric.



White House Deputy National Security Advisor speaks on International Religious Freedom

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ARCHON PILGRIMAGE
 CELEBRATE THE FEAST DAY OF



Join the Order of Saint Andrew as they celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker in Havana, Cuba

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

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ARCHON PILGRIMAGE



— THE HOLY LAND & SACRED LAND OF CAPPADOCIA —



On May 18-28, 2012, nearly 30 pilgrims participated in an historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land where they had the opportunity to visit the Holy Shrines of Jerusalem and Bethlehem and also pray before the relics of Saint Basil the Great in Cappadocia. The pilgrims were honored to be in the presence of His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem, All Palestine and Holy Zion. A banquet was held in his honor at the King David Hotel, with Archon Regional Commander Christopher J. Pappas, serving as master of ceremonies and welcoming all pilgrims, followed by a special toast offered by Archon Arthur C. Anton. The pilgrims, led by the Order's Spiritual Advisor Father Alex Karloutsos, was coordinated by Pilgrimage Chairman Archon Alex Pritsos. Pilgrims had the opportunity to pray together with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who presided over the Divine Liturgy, for the Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council. Their Eminences Metropolitan Tarasios of Buenos Aires and Amphilochios of Kisamos and Selinos also concelebrated in the Sts. Basil and Vlassios Church at the historic Misti in Cappadocia.

Pilgrims outside the Churches of the Goreme Monastery and Museum in Cappadocia.

D. PANAGOS



Pilgrims with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during a banquet held in his honor, held at the Hilton Hotel in Cappadocia. N. MANGINAS



Archon Alex Pritsos, Pilgrimage Chairman, reads a letter from the National Commander on behalf of all Archons to Patriarch Theophilos.



Father Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor, speaks with His All-Holiness in Prokopion, the place where St. John the Russian lived and was tortured. N. MANGINAS



Pilgrims venerate the site where our Lord was crucified at Golgatha, inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



Pilgrims pray at the rock where our Lord's body was laid after his crucifixion, inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



Archons with His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem, following a reception held at the King David Hotel. PHOTOS BY M. PAPPAS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Archons Pave the Way for the Second International Archon Religious Freedom Conference

TEARING DOWN WALLS

ARCHONS.ORG/CONFERENCE

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on September 9, 2012, a delegation of Archons of the Order of St. Andrew arrived in Berlin, Germany, the site of the Second International Archon Religious Freedom Conference. That conference will occur during the first week of December 2013 and its theme will be “Tearing Down Walls.” The purpose of the visit was to do advance work for the upcoming conference, including meeting with local religious leaders, politicians, diplomats and journalists and inspecting possible meeting venues. The delegation, pictured right, consisted of National Commander, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Conference Planning Chairman, George C. Rockas, Regional Commander and Conference Planning Co-chairman, Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis and Spiritual Advisor to the Order, Father Alexander Karloutsos. They were assisted by Father Emmanuel Sfiatkos, Archmandrite of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Rector in Berlin.



Thereafter, on September 12, 2012 the delegation left Berlin and traveled to Istanbul and Ankara for meetings with Turkish Government officials, diplomats and minority community members. While in Istanbul they paid their respects to His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and attended divine liturgy on the day of the Exaltation of Holy Cross at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George.



The Archon delegation, met with Jörg Lau, editor of “Die Zeit,” (The Times) which is one of the most widely read German weekly newspapers, who offered insight into religious freedom from a German perspective.

Berlin

Shortly after landing in Berlin on Sunday morning, September 9, 2012, the Archon delegation hit the ground running and set the pace for the ensuing week-long Religious Freedom Mission. They visited 11 hotels investigating potential conference venues and meeting rooms.

On their first full day in Berlin, Monday September 10, the delegation met with two journalists

– Jorg Law, Editor of Die Zeit and Karen Krüger, Editor of Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. Both reporters have a particular interest in religious freedom and both are well aware of the issues facing the Greek Orthodox community and other minority communities in Turkey. They each promised to work with the Order in developing the conference program and covering the conference in their respective publications.



On Tuesday, September 11, 2012, members of the Archon delegation met with Her Excellency Andreas Frygnas, Greece’s Ambassador to Germany, and diplomats Poulou and Radiopoulos. Later, they met with His Excellency Minas Hadjimichael, above, Ambassador of Cyprus to Germany, who offered poignant guidance on religious freedom from an EU perspective.

The delegation, top, met with His Excellency Cem Özdemir, Co-chair of the German Political Party Alliance ‘90/The Greens. The following day, a meeting was held, above, with His Excellency H Avni Karslioglu, Turkey’s ambassador to Germany, where extensive discussions were held on the Orthodox Theological Seminary of Halki.

On the political front, the delegation met with Cem Özdemir, co-chairman of the German Political Party Alliance ‘90/ The Greens, and a member of the German Parliament. Mr. Özdemir is not only a leading political figure in Germany but also a member of Germany’s Turkish community, which numbers approximately four million people and is the largest such community outside of Turkey. He is a strong supporter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and has often publicly expressed this support. During the meeting, he told the delegation that it is “in the interests of Turkey that multi – culturalism does not disappear and that all Minorities in Turkey should be granted respect.” He expressed support for the conference and agreed to participate personally in it.

delegation met with included (1) Provost Friederika von Kirchbach, Deputy Bishop of the Protestant Church in Berlin – Brandenburg – Silesian Upper Lusatia and Chairperson of the Ecumenical Council for Berlin and Bradenburg, (2) His Excellency Dr. Matthias Heinrich, Auxiliary Bishop of the Berlin Archdiocese of the Catholic Church and (3) representatives of the American Jewish Committee, including Director Deidre Burger. During each meeting, the delegation described plans for the conference and elicited ideas. Bishop von Kirchbach and Bishop Heinrich in particular expressed strong support and promised that their communities would participate in the conference.

The last category of individuals the delegation saw was diplomats. They met with (1) Andreas

Frygnas from the Greek Embassy, (2) Avni Karslioglu, Turkey’s Ambassador to Germany, (3) Minas A. Hadjimichael, Cyprus’ Ambassador to Germany and (4) Philip Murphy, the United States Ambassador to Germany. During each meeting, religious freedom issues associated with religious minorities in Turkey were discussed as well as plans for the upcoming conference. Ambassador Hadjimichael expressed the view that the conference should review and analyze proposed changes to the Turkish constitution in the context of European principles and ideals. He embraced the view that any changes to the Turkish Constitution must reflect those ideals. Ambassador Karslioglu started the meeting by saying that he believes in “diversity and unity” and that the “right balance” must be struck between these principles. Without ex-

PLICIT reference, he invoked the doctrine of reciprocity and called for solutions based on the concept of “realpolitik” and bilateral discussions between the Greek and Turkish Governments. He concluded the meeting by saying “freedom should be given to all” based upon a “holistic approach to each group’s problems.”

On the last day in Berlin – September 12, 2012 – the delegation visited Ambassador Philip Murphy, the United States Ambassador to Germany. He is a strong supporter of religious freedom and minority rights. He stated that the upcoming conference is “really important,” that he “wants to be on the side of minorities” and that religious freedom is “right in his wheel house.” He pledged the Embassy’s full support for the conference and volunteered to speak at it.

Religious leaders that the



 **Istanbul & Ankara**

The Archon delegation met with the President of Turkey’s Religious Affairs Directorate, Professor Mehmet Gormez, Turkey’s top Muslim cleric, where detailed discussions regarding religious freedom and the reopening of Halki Seminary were held.

After concluding the meeting with Ambassador Murphy, the delegation traveled from Berlin to Istanbul. Upon arrival in Istanbul, Judge Bozonelis and the delegation participated in a meeting concerning the return of foundation properties with lawyers and advisors to the foundations includes Archon Laki Vingas, Fr. Joachim Billis and Patriarchal Attorney Yannis Ktistakis.

The next day, the delegation traveled to Ankara where they had important meetings with Diyanet President Mehmet Görmez and Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arinç. Prior to meeting with Turkish officials, they met with Jess Bailey, Charge d’Affaires of the United States Embassy in Turkey at his official residence and reviewed issues of concern to religious minorities and the upcoming conference. Commander Limberakis expressed appreciation for the Embassy’s past support

for the Order’s work promoting religious freedom.

After the meeting with Charge de’Affaires Bailey, they traveled to the Diyanet or Presidency of Religious Affairs for the meeting with President Görmez, who is considered the leading muslim cleric in Turkey. In July, President Görmez visited the Patriarchate and while there expressed support for the reopening of Halki. The meeting received extensive press coverage with at least twenty five reporters and numerous cameramen and photographers present for the initial remarks made by President Görmez and Commander Limberakis.

President Görmez opened the meeting by expressing his sadness and condolences over the death of the United States Ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens and three employees. He stated that “no matter how provocative the mov-

ie [(i.e., the movie posted on You Tube mocking the Prophet Muhammad)], it is not an excuse for violent acts” and that you “cannot be explain such acts with human or Islamic reason.” He further said that “provocative acts do not belong with freedom of expression” and that “people of all cultures should live together in peace and comfort.” Commander Limberakis responded by thanking the President for receiving the Archons and expressing gratitude for the President’s support for the reopening of Halki. He then thanked the President for extending condolences for the “horrific acts” in Libya that cost four lives. He further said that the murders occurred on September 11, the anniversary of 9/11, when “innocents of all faiths – Christians, Jews, Muslims and non-believers – lost their lives.” He concluded his opening remarks by saying that “the connection of Orthodox in America to the Ecumenical

Patriarchate is a connection to our faith” and then said he was appreciative of the recent positive steps Prime Minister Erdoğan and other government officials have made with respect to minority rights.

President Görmez then talked about globalization and multiculturalism and stated that it is no longer appropriate to refer to people by the terms “minority” or “majority” and that he feels “offended” by the use of such terms. He addressed the issue of reciprocity and denied that it is a valid concept. He said “it is major mistake to use reciprocity in the fields of faith and culture” and that you “cannot deny Christians if Muslims are denied elsewhere.” Despite these facts, he said you cannot respond to “bad attitudes with bad attitudes.”

Commander Limberakis responded by pointing out the need to



The Archon delegation met with His Excellency Egemen Bagis, top, Minister for E.U. Affairs and Chief Negotiator. Later, the delegation met with U.S. Charge d’Affaires Jess Baily, above, at the official residence in Ankara.

Meetings were held, top, on the return of confiscated properties with Patriarchal attorneys Father Joakim Billis, Yannis Ktistakis and Archon Laki Vingas in Istanbul. The Archon delegation also met in Ankara with U.S. Government Accounting Office Senior Analyst Sushmita L. Srikanth, at the U.S. Embassy above.

reopen Halki and that 41 years is too long to keep the seminary closed. The President agreed and in an obvious reference to the upcoming conference theme said the “important thing is not tearing down the physical walls” but “tearing down the walls in the minds and hearts of people.”

On the subject of confiscated properties and the recent law allowing for their return to minority foundations, the President said that it is “sacrilegious to use property owned by others” and that his office “exerted pressure for the recent changes in the law.” He further said that many properties owned by majority foundations have been confiscated too and have still not been returned. He expressed hope that the new Constitution deals with this issue.

Toward the end of meeting, he again expressed his disdain for use of the term “reciprocity” but he

then said countries should abide by the principles of “equality” and “equal treatment,” effectively saying Muslims in other countries do not receive equal treatment. For example, he pointed out that Muslim communities living in Slavic countries face many of the same problems of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He urged the Archons to focus on religious freedom issues “from a broader perspective” and to advocate for equal treatment of all people, not just for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

After the meeting with the President, the delegation met for 1 ½ hours with Bülent Arınc, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey. He said he was “saddened by the loss of life of the Ambassador and three employees,” expressed his condolences, and described the deaths as “open brutality.” He also said that “all faiths should be respected “and neither Islam nor

humanity accepts the ending of life.” According to the Deputy Prime Minister, Turkey “wants all religious minorities to live in comfort and peace” and “minorities are no different than us, they are part of us.”

Commander Limberakis noted that the Deputy Prime Minister has been a strong advocate for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and thanked him for that support. In early 2011, he was the first Deputy Prime Minister to visit the Phanar since 1952. The Commander then raised with the Deputy Prime Minister specific issues of concern to the Ecumenical Patriarchate including (1) the rejection of five hierarchs’ applications for Turkish citizenship by the Turkish Government and (2) the continued closure of Halki. The Commander also said that the Archons were “grateful” for recent Government steps to return properties to minority foundations.

In response to these comments, the Deputy Prime Minister went into an extended and detailed response touching on a number of issues. He said that discussions about reopening Halki had gone on “far too long” and recognized that “most of the demands [of religious minorities] were right-ful.” However, he went to say that most demands “have not been met because of political and legal considerations.”

He concluded by saying the Government is aware of incidents in 1955 and 1964, but that “these sad incidents remain in the past” and that Turkey is a different country today. He invited people who left Turkey because of those incidents to return to Turkey where he said “they will be treated with respect.”

On the last day of the trip – Friday, September 14, 2012 – the delegation attended the Divine Liturgy



The Archon delegation, with V. Rev. Archimandrite Emmanuel Sfiatkos outside of the Budenstag, the national parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany.

at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George to celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. After the liturgy, the delegation went to a meeting with Egemen Bağış, Minister of EU Affairs and Turkey's chief negotiator in accession talks with the European Union. An Archon delegation first met Minister Bağış in 2007 in Ankara when he was Vice Chairman of the AK Party. Minister Bağış noted that "things are much better" since that time.

Commander Limberakis opened the meeting by saying that a "crime committed in the name of religion is a crime against religion" (alluding to the Bosphorus Declaration of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew) and that "religious freedom is a fundamental human right that cannot be compromised." He thanked the Minister for supporting the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He then condemned the anti-Islamic movie that caused recent riots and he condemned disrespect against all religions. The Minister



The Archon delegation met with religious minorities at Holy Trinity Church near Taksim Square in Istanbul, led by Archon Laki Vingas, the official government representative of the religious minority foundations in Turkey.

responded by saying the person who made the movie has a "sick mind."

He went on to say that he fully supports the reopening of Halki along with Prime Minister Erdoğan. But he said that before Halki is reopened "the Government must show it received something in exchange." He said Prime Minister Erdoğan and Prime Minister Samaras should "cut a deal" when they meet later in the fall. He denied this was "reciprocity" but instead called it "mutual gestures."

Father Karloutsos said hopefully both prime ministers will have "the glory of being responsible for Halki being reopened."

After the meeting with Minister Bağış, the delegation met with representatives of minority communities, including Armenians, Syriacs, Jews, Protestants, Catholics, Alevi Muslims and Greek Orthodox. Minority representatives exchanged ideas for the upcoming conference with the Archon delegation. After that meeting, the Conference

Planning Committee was able to further refine the program. The Conference focus will be on (1) the concept of equality from a legal, religious, political and ethical perspective and (2) the proposed new constitution.

The trip proved to be invaluable with respect to conference planning. The 2013 International Religious Freedom Conference will be an historic one bringing together scholars, politicians, diplomats, journalists, religious leaders and members of minority communities. In addition, the meetings with Turkish Government officials highlighted the fact that the principles of equal treatment and reciprocity are an important component of any debate on the rights of religious minorities in Turkey. Those principles will be addressed in detail at the 2013 International Religious Freedom Conference. All Archons and their families should plan to attend the conference during the first week of December 2013. ■

the WHITE HOUSE. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: A Human Right, A National Security Issue, A Foreign Policy Priority

By Denis McDonough, Deputy National Security Advisor

As Americans, we draw strength from the fact that freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly are among first rights protected in our Constitution's Bill of Rights. And we are not alone in cherishing these rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that every person, in every corner of the globe, has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This includes the freedom of every person to change his or her religion or beliefs, and -- either alone or in community with others, publicly or privately -- to manifest his or her religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Yet far too many people, in far too many places around the world, still live without the protection of these fundamental freedoms. Yesterday, the Department of State released its annual report on the state of international religious freedom around the world, which documents that in nearly half of the world's countries, governments either abuse religious minorities or fail to intervene in societal abuse. The report describes how, in many countries, individuals live under oppressive laws restricting their religious practice or attire, or in fear that they

will be targeted by blasphemy, apostasy, and dissent laws. Repressive governments use these laws to curb their citizens' religious freedom, and imprison them for their beliefs. This abuse concerns us not just because of what it means on a personal level for millions of individuals around the world, but also because religious freedom is a key feature of stable, secure and peaceful societies.

As Secretary Clinton noted in her remarks yesterday at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, right now many countries with diverse faith communities are in the process of navigating transitions toward democracy. The United States will continue to urge transitioning countries -- like Egypt -- to recognize faith diversity as a source of strength, and to embrace the promotion and protection of religious freedom as part of the foundation for building a stable, prosperous, and peaceful future. History bears us out in demonstrating that a lack of religious freedom weakens social cohesion and alienates citizens from their government, fomenting internal unrest, breeding extremism, and inhibiting national unity and progress.

More generally, the United States will continue to make

the promotion of international religious freedom a key national security and foreign policy priority for the United States, to advocate forcefully for these issues publicly and privately, in both multilateral and bilateral settings. An example of our success comes from the United Nations Human Rights Council, where we worked closely with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to pass Resolution 16/18 on "Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence and Violence Against, Persons Based on Religion or Belief" which focuses on concrete, positive steps that states can take to combat religious intolerance rather than relying on "anti-blasphemy measures" that are inconsistent with freedom of expression. After it passed, we then hosted subject matter representatives from 26 governments and four international organizations in Washington to begin discussion on implementation. As for our bilateral efforts, these are



Archons at the White House, March 9, 2011, with Denis McDonough, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor.

focused both on the countries designated by the Secretary of State as Country of Particular Concern for particularly severe violations of religious freedom -- Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Uzbekistan -- and on other countries struggling with this issue as well.

While these discussions are sometimes difficult, they are necessary. As the President's 2012 Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day stated, this Administration will continue to stand with all who are denied the ability to choose, express, or live their faith freely, and we remain dedicated to protecting this universal human right and the vital role it plays in ensuring peace and stability for all nations. ■

Stavros Niarchos Foundation named 2012 Athenagoras Human Rights Award recipient, October 20

ΣΝ SNF STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION



NEW YORK, NY

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America is pleased to announce that the Stavros Niarchos Foundation will be the recipient of this year's Athenagoras Human Rights Award. Andreas Dracopoulos, Director and Co-President, will accept the award on behalf of the Niarchos Foundation.

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award will be presented to the Niarchos Foundation on Saturday, October 20th, during the Grand Banquet of the Order of Saint Andrew, which will be held as part of the Order's annual three-day assembly, Friday, Oct. 19 through Sunday, Oct. 21, at the Hilton Hotel in New York City.

The Niarchos Foundation is one of the world's leading international philanthropic organizations, and makes grants in the areas of the arts and culture, education, health and medicine, and social welfare. Its central mission is to fund organizations and projects that exhibit strong leadership and sound management and are expected to achieve a broad, lasting and positive social impact.

Since its founding in 1996,

the Niarchos Foundation has approved grant commitments for a staggering \$1.275 billion through 2,262 grants to nonprofit organizations in 109 nations around the world. Most recently, it has made tremendous efforts to bring awareness to and address the continuing socio-economic crisis in Greece. As part of these efforts, it has announced a grant initiative of \$130 million over the next three years to help ease the adverse effects of the deepening crisis.

The Niarchos Foundation was established by the late Stavros Spyros Niarchos with a significant part of his estate at his death. Mr. Niarchos was best known for his shipping business, although his diversified financial activities were at the core of global industry from the time he formed the Niarchos Group in 1939 until his death in 1996. He was considered one of the most innovative and successful businessmen of the twentieth century. Through the Niarchos Foundation, he created an enduring vehicle that has enriched the lives of others worldwide.



Andreas Dracopoulos, Director and Co-President, will accept the Athenagoras Award on behalf of the Niarchos Foundation.

Andreas Dracopoulos, grand-nephew of Stavros Niarchos, was born and raised in Athens, Greece, and is a graduate of the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. Mr. Dracopoulos is a Trustee of The Rockefeller University and a member of the Board of the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, D.C. He is also a member of the Board and of the International Council of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., and a member of the Advisory Board of the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics. He is an Honorary Trustee of the New York Public Library, where he also served as a Trustee from 2003 to 2010. Among other honors, Mr. Dracopoulos was awarded by The Hellenic Republic the Grand Commander of the Order of the Phoenix.

Commenting on the selection of the Niarchos Foundation as the 2012 Athenagoras

Human Rights Award recipient, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD stated, "Emblematic of the Foundation's commitment to fundamental human rights was its recent grant of \$130 million to the People of the Hellenic Republic to ease the social, medical and humanitarian adverse effects created by the unprecedented socioeconomic crisis. With its commitment to health, medicine, social welfare and education since its inception in 1996 having contributed over \$1.2 billion in grants, the Archons of America are most proud of the human rights accomplishments of the Foundation and we look forward to presenting the 2012 Athenagoras Human Rights Award to such a most worthy recipient."

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award is presented annually by the Order to a person or organization, which has consistently exemplified by action, purpose and dedication, concern for the basic rights and religious freedom of all people. Past recipients have included Mother Teresa, President Jimmy Carter, President George H.W. Bush and Former First Lady Barbara Bush, Elie Wiesel, Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu, Mikhail Gorbachev and the United States Armed Services through the person of Admiral James G. Stavridis Supreme Allied Commander Europe. ■



**ANNUAL
ARCHON
WEEKEND
OCT 19-21**

The annual Archon Weekend and Assembly of the Order of Saint Andrew will be held October 19-21 at the Hilton Hotel in New York. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation will be the recipient of this year's Athenagoras Human Rights Award. Andreas Dracopoulos, Director and Co-President, will accept the Award on behalf of the Niarchos Foundation at the Archon Grand Banquet, Saturday, October 20.

The Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship Dinner Dance will be held on Friday evening, October 19. James C. Fountas, National Treasurer and John Halecky, Jr., National Secretary have been nominated as this year's Award recipients.

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Investiture of new Archons by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios will take place at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity to conclude the week-ends ceremonies on Sunday. A complete schedule of events is listed below:

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19
New York Hilton**

4:00 – 5:30 PM
Joint Meeting of National Council
and Regional Commanders
[Concourse G]

6:00 PM
Nicholas J.
Bouras Award
for Extraordinary
Archon Stewardship
honoring Archons James C. Fountas
and John Halecky, Jr.
[Rotunda & Mercury Ballroom, 3rd Floor]



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20
New York Hilton**

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Archons-Elect Orientation Breakfast
for all National Council members, Regional
Commanders, Archons-Elect and Spouses
[Concourse G]

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Annual Archon General Assembly Meeting
for all Archons, Archons-Elect
and Spouses
[Mercury Suite, 3rd Floor]

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

1:00 – 2:30 PM
Archon Fellowship Luncheon
for all Archons, Archons-Elect
and Spouses
[Trianon Ballroom, 3rd Floor]

6:00 - 7:00 PM
Reception (Black Tie)
for all Archons and Banquet guests
[Grand Ballroom Foyer, 3rd Floor]

7:00 – 10:00 PM
Grand Banquet (Black Tie)
Presentation of 2012 Athenagoras
Human Rights Award to
The Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Andreas
Dracopoulos accepting on its behalf
[Grand Ballroom Foyer, 3rd Floor]

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21
Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity**

9:00 AM
Matins

9:00 AM
Procession of Archons and Archons-Elect

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

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

10:00 AM
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated
by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios,
assisted by Metropolitans, Bishops
and visiting Clergy

12:00 PM
Investiture of New Archons of the
Ecumenical Patriarchate by Archbishop
Demetrios, Exarch of Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew (Presentation of Offikia and
Cross of St. Andrew)

1:00 PM
Reception – Cathedral Ballroom

Venue Locations & Room Rates

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20
New York Hilton**

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

The Order has secured a special room
rate of **\$349**. Call 212-586-7000 or
1-800-Hiltons with code **"OSA"**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21
Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity**

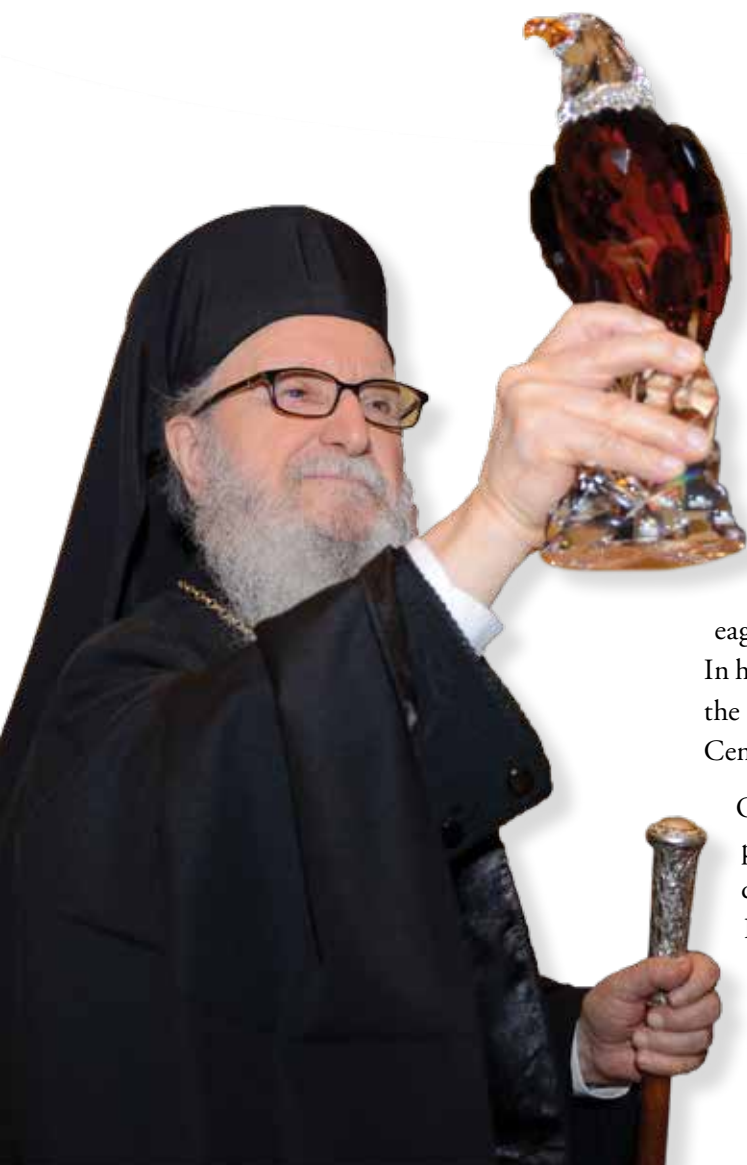
319 - 337 East 74th Street
(Between 1st and 2nd Avenues)
New York, NY 10021
212-288-3215



41st Biennial CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

July 1-5, 2012 · Phoenix, Arizona

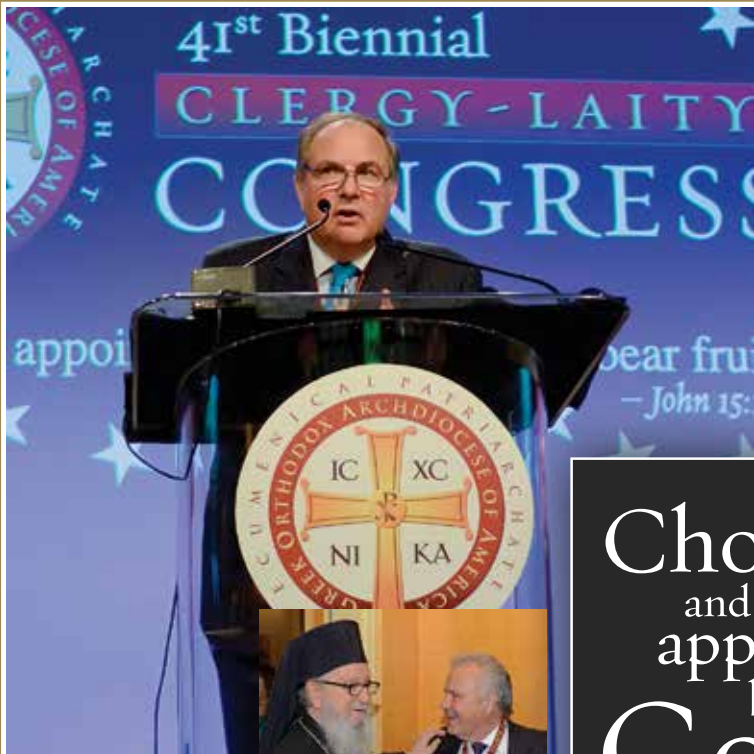
Archon Family Reception



On Sunday, July 1, 2012, the Order of Saint Andrew held their Archon Family Reception during the 41st Biennial Clergy Laity Congress at the JW Marriott Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. Archon Regional Commander Theofanis Economidis offered welcoming remarks. National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD also offered remarks and introduced His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios of Toronto, representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Later, a gift presentation was made by the Archons, through the hands of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America to Metropolitan Sotirios. The National Council members and Regional Commanders concluded by presenting Archbishop Demetrios with a crystal bald eagle on the occasion of the upcoming celebration of Independence Day. In his remarks, National Commander Limberakis expressed the interest of the Order to synergistically work with brother Archons in Canada and in Central and South America in support of the needs of the Mother Church.

On Wednesday, July 4, National Commander Limberakis delivered a presentation on the work of the Order of Saint Andrew and offered updates on the five main religious freedom issues effecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to the hierarchs, clergy, delegates and faithful attending the Congress.

National Council members, together with Regional Commanders, make a special presentation, above, to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America. His Eminence received an American crystal bald eagle, left, on the occasion of Independence Day. PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



Chosen
and
appointed
by
God
and
to go
and
bear
fruit.
—John 15:16





RELIGION, DEMOCRACY, & THE NEW TURKEY

An interview with Mustafa Akyol, by Krista Tippett



While in Istanbul for the Halki Summit, Krista Tippett, a widely listened to public radio correspondent for the weekly show “On Being,” interviewed Mustafa Akyol, a Turkish columnist for Hurriyet Daily News. Their conversation is a wonderfully rich discussion, including histories of religious toleration and secularism in the Ottoman Empire, Ataturk’s Turkey, and policies of the recent AKP government. Akyol spends considerable time speaking, favorably, about His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Halki Seminary, and the Greek Orthodox Church and its community in Istanbul. Below are a few excerpts:

Tippett

Another fascinating thing about Turkey is, as you say, I mean, you’ve written that Turkish identity is synonymous with Muslim-ness. But here we are also in what was, and still is, the center of Eastern Orthodox Christianity, 300 million Christians worldwide. We’re going to see Bartholomew, the Patriarch, later in the week. So Turkey is also an experiment in Muslim-Christian encounter.

Akyol

Certainly the Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew is actually an asset for Turkey. I respect him as a religious leader, a Christian leader. I think he is very wise and he’s, I think, very constructive when it comes to religious dialogue and international issues. I have great respect for the institution. Unfortunately, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has been demonized by some Turks in the 20th century — and not out of Islam most of the time, but out of nationalism.

Turkey’s political tensions with Greece, which were mostly focused on Cyprus, became a reason in Turkey to persecute or demonize the Greeks within Turkey. Although they were Turkish citizens, many people here perceived them as the fifth column of the neighboring Greece. And the fact that Turkish Muslims in Greece did not have full religious freedom became a reason to not give full religious freedom to our Greek citizens, including the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

So this was a vicious cycle that really traumatized Turkish Christians, partly Jews, in the 20th century. But actually in the new 21st century, we are moving away from that doomed legacy and AKP still has a lot of reasons to be criticized for on freedom of speech. One thing that the Erdogan government did was to get rid of some of these limitations on Turkish Christians and Jews.

I think Patriarch Bartholomew has said that he feels more openness within an Islamic government than he did with the secular government.

Exactly. Exactly. Because, while Turkey’s secularists did not like religion and religion included Christianity as well. So sometimes you see religious people standing together in the face of an authoritarian secularist regime, and that was the case in Turkey. There have been important Muslim religious leaders in Turkey who have defended the patriarchates or Turkish Jewish community against nationalists who demonize these groups, these minority groups. And I’m happy to see more and more of that. Of course, there are still steps to be taken.

U.S. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTION

51 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN 42 STATES
Representing 90% of U.S. Citizens

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> MISSOURI</p> <p>SR 1762 - Adopted on 5/17/2012 HR 1365 - Adopted on 5/7/2012</p> <p>Senator Eric Schmitt Rep. Kurt Bahr</p>	<p>With the invaluable support, encouragement and guidance from His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, Chancellor of the Chicago Metropolis, a team led by Father Doug Papulis, Father Michael Arbanas, Tom Antoniou, Nicky Antoniou, Vanessa Antoniou, Keith Maib, Bill Kartsonis and Michael Angelides was responsible for this successful result.</p> <p>The Order especially wants to thank Attorney General Chris Koster for his strong support and the sponsor of the resolutions, Senator Eric Schmitt and Rep. Kurt Bahr, for their invaluable leadership in this effort.</p>
<p> WASHINGTON</p> <p>Adopted on 2/26/2012</p> <p>Senator Mike Padden Rep. Bill Hinkle</p>	<p>This result was almost 5 years in the making as our effort there has been actively opposed by the Turkish Consul, the Turkish-American community and Boeing, which has several substantial contracts with branches of Turkey's military.</p> <p>Leading the effort over the years and showing tremendous commitment and perseverance were Stefanos Vertopoulos, Isidoros Garifalakis, Cliff Argue, Bob Dingethal and Rep. Bill Hinkle, a devoted Orthodox Christian and the Minority Whip in the House of Representatives. The Order thanks each of them for never tiring in this effort!</p>
<p> WYOMING</p> <p>Adopted on 6/20/2012</p> <p>Governor Matthew Mead</p>	<p>Dr. Louis Roussalis, Tim Joannides and Stephan Pappas led the effort to secure this resolution. Under their leadership, the Archons will also pursue resolutions from the Wyoming legislature when it convenes the 2013 session in January.</p>

The seminary still has not been opened.

The Halki Seminary, the important teaching institution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, it should be opened. Why it is not still opened, I don't know. But the problems are coming from Turkey's educational laws. No private education is allowed in Turkey, everything has to be under state tutelage, including Islamic education, and so on. So there are problems coming from there. But Erdogan should do this reform as soon as possible. And show to the world that "New Turkey," which is more democratic and more Muslim than the past, is also more free. There are some reasons to say, Yes, that's the case. There are some still problems which, you know, make that answer not perfect. But I hope, my hope is that the Erdogan government will keep on reforming and those reforms will include reforms that will further help the Christians of Turkey.



Visit www.onbeing.org to read the full transcript, or watch a video of the interview.



JAMES C. FOUNTAS



JOHN HALECKY, JR.

Archons Fountas and Halecky named 2012 recipients of Bouras Award

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle is pleased to announce that Archons James C. Fountas, National Treasurer, and John Halecky, Jr., National Secretary, have been nominated as recipients of this year's Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. A special tribute dinner dance will be held at the New York Hilton Hotel, Friday evening, Oct. 19, 2012, as part of the Order's annual three-day assembly, Oct. 19-21.

Archon George Safiol, Award Committee chairman, said, "Archons Fountas and Halecky have exemplified tremendous stewardship of time, talent and resources in support of the Mother Church of Constantinople, the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the United States, and to the mission of the Order of Saint Andrew in which all Christians should be granted religious freedom rights. Our committee deemed it appropriate to recognize their efforts and name them as recipients of this prestigious Award in recognition of the extraordinary service exemplified by National Vice Commander Bouras."

Archon James C. Fountas of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, NJ, was invested as an Archon in 1981 and conferred with the offikion, Depoutatos. He has served on the National Council and as Treasurer of the Order for the last 15 years.

Serving the Church locally and nationally, he has been a member of the Parish Council since 1977 and

served two terms as Parish President and eight years as Parish Secretary and Treasurer. Archon Fountas was awarded the Archdiocesan Medal of Saint Paul in 1980. He co-chairs the annual Holy Trinity Golf Classic since its inception, which will celebrate its 30th anniversary this year, in which proceeds are donated to local charities and philanthropic institutions. He has served as Vice-Chairman of the Council of the Metropolis of New Jersey for the past eight years and as a member of the Archdiocesan Council since 2000. He was also appointed a member of the New Jersey Hellenic American Heritage Commission by the Governor of New Jersey in 2009.

Archon Fountas is retired from the United States Gypsum Company in 1998 after serving 45 years as an executive, managing manufacturing facilities on the East Coast after service at the Corporate offices in Chicago and Division offices in New York.

He was activated for military service during his employment and served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army with service in Korea.

He and his wife Jean will be celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary in November and have a son, Christopher.

Archon John Halecky, Jr. of Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church (Carpatho-Russian Diocese) in Elizabeth, NJ was invested as an Archon in 1982 and conferred with the offikion, Ekdikos. He has also served on the National Council of the Order for the last 15 years and

as National Secretary since 1998. He was chosen by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, as a member of the official delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for the reception of the relics of Saint Gregory the Theologian and Saint John Chrysostom from the Vatican during the Thronal Feast of Saint Andrew in 2004.

For 25 years, he served as a member of the Diocesan Board of Trustees and Financial Secretary of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese and as a Trustee of Christ the Savior Seminary, in Johnstown, PA. He has served as a Trustee and President of his Parish Council, and previously as Parish Council President and Choir Director of Saint Mary's Orthodox Church in Bayonne, NJ. Archon Halecky was on the Advisory Committee of the Monastery of the Annunciation in Tuxedo Park, NY and is a recipient of the "Bohorodica" (Theotokos) Award for outstanding service to the Carpatho-Russian Diocese by laymen. He is also an active member of Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in North Wildwood, NJ.

During his business career, Archon Halecky's focus has been in finance having served as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and a Director of Comstock Group, an industrial services company; President of Elkom Leasing; Chief Operating Officer of Fischbach Corporation and Principal of Peninsula Associates, a management consulting firm. He is a graduate of Rutgers University.

Archon Halecky and his wife, Sonia, have been married for 53 years and reside in Avalon and Summit, NJ. They are parents of John Halecky, III and Nadine, wife of Silvio Quaglia, M.D., and have four grandchildren: Justin, Amanda, Jennifer and Cassandra.

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order, stated, "These two men have been intimately involved in virtually all the major initiatives of the Archons for a quarter century. They have played major roles as organizers and participants in the groundbreaking International Archon Religious Freedom Symposium held in November 2010 at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium and are assisting in preparations for the 2013 Symposium slated to be held in Berlin. Their contributions of time, talent and treasure for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Order of Saint Andrew have earned them as worthy recipients of this prestigious Award. Axios! Axios! Axios!"

The Nicholas J. Bouras Award is 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 Nicholas J. Bouras, current National Vice Commander, who himself has demonstrated remarkable leadership as a faithful son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archon George D. Behrakis was the recipient of the inaugural Bouras Award in 2011. ■



His All-Holiness meets with Jane Goodall during Halki Summit

On June 18, His All-Holiness attended and addressed the opening session of the Halki Summit on Global Responsibility and Environmental Sustainability co-organized by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the University of Southern New Hampshire under the auspices of the Ecumenical Patriarch at the Theological School of Halki. His All-Holiness met with Jane Goodall, who is considered to be the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees and who has worked extensively on conservation and animal welfare issues. N. MANGINAS



Departed Archons

William Boykas

Archon Architekton
Coopersburg, PA

3/15/2012

Frank Cockinos

Archon Architekton
Charlotte, NC

8/6/2012

Michael J. Katos

Archon Depoutatos
Beechhurst, NY

6/1/2012

Constantine G. Pappas

Archon Architekton
Solana Beach, CA

4/29/2012

Carl G. Cantonis

Archon Primikirios
Fullerton, CA

5/6/2012

James Counelis

Archon Hartouliarios
Orinda, CA

July 25, 2012

Prof. Dimitrios G. Kousoulas

Archon Depoutatos
Bethesda, MD

7/3/2012

Steve Terris

Archon Depoutatos
Murrieta, CA

3/3/2012

Nick D. Christy

Archon Depoutatos
Newport Coast, CA

3/24/2012

Peter Karagines

Archon Maestor
Yorba Linda, CA

7/1/2012

Dr. Stavros Meimaridis

Archon Ekdikos
Columbus, OH

4/3/2012

James Youlios

Archon Depoutatos
West Paterson, NJ

4/10/2012



May Their Memory Be Eternal

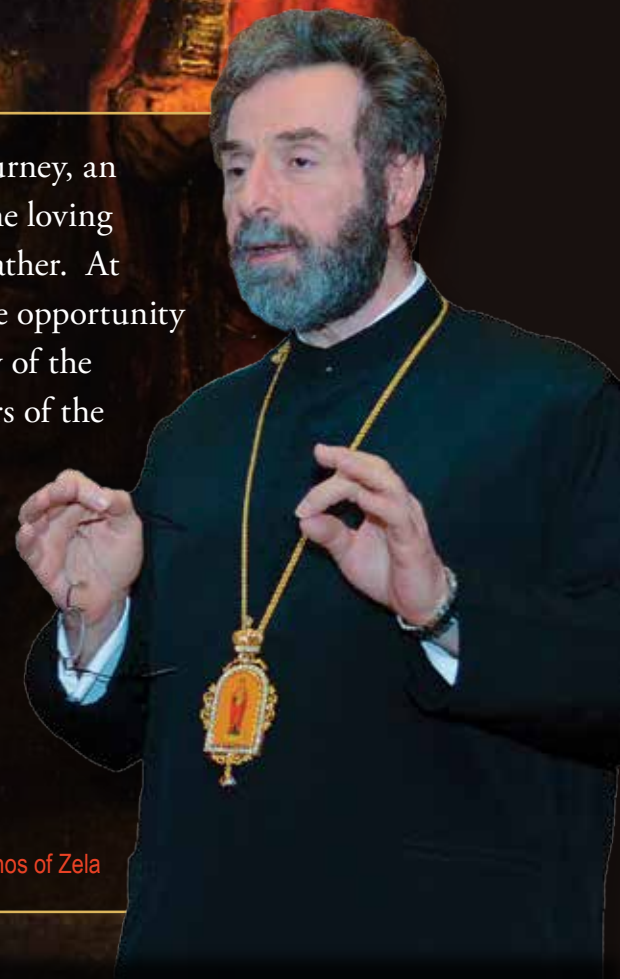
Homecoming

with Retreat Master
His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela

“

Great Lent is a spiritual journey, an opportunity to return to the loving embrace of our heavenly Father. At this retreat we will have the opportunity to explore the biblical story of the Prodigal Son, the characters of the elder brother and father as they are depicted in Rembrandt's famous painting *The Return of the Prodigal Son* and draw from the reflections of Henri Nouwen and our Church's rich Tradition.”

—His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela



SOMERSET, NJ

His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela led the ninth Archon Lenten Retreat on the theme “Homecoming”—a reflection on the scriptural narrative of the Prodigal Son. The retreat was held on March 30-31 at the Consistory (headquarters) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in Somerset, NJ.

His Grace addressed fifty participants at the two day retreat. Using as resources Rembrandt's painting, Return of the Prodigal



Above left, Archon Peter Skeadas, Spirituality Committee Chairman, (far left) along with members of the Executive Committee, make a presentation to His Eminence Archbishop Antony of Ierapolis of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, who hosted the ninth annual Archon Lenten Retreat. Father Taras Chubenko presents the Cross for veneration, above middle, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Bishop Sevastianos entertains questions, above right, from retreat participants. His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey addresses the participants, right. PHOTOS BY A. LIMBERAKIS AND J. MINDALA



Son, Henri Nouwen's book, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, and the Orthodox Faith and Tradition, His Grace Bishop Sevastianos elaborated on how the characters of the two sons, the younger and older, can be found in each person, and how we need to become like the Father. His Grace emphasized that what the younger and older sons were running from, was the love of God, and entering into the joy of their Father (the Lord).

It was further discussed that it is harder to accept forgiveness and love than to offer them. That we need to allow God to find us and love us, but also to

share in the life of God—to be in communion with Him and sit at His table. Finally, that we need to adhere the Lord's saying to be compassionate and merciful as our Father in Heaven is merciful, loving and forgiving others unconditionally.

Archon Peter Skeadas, Committee Chairman on Spirituality, was the retreat's organizer. Archons John Halecky, Jr. and James C. Fountas assisted in coordinating the event with the Ukrainian Center. In expressing the participants' thanks to Bishop Sevastianos, 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. His Grace eloquently and effectively referenced important teachings from the *Prodigal Son* that we should implement with the ultimate goal of becoming more Christ-like in our daily lives. His use of the Rembrandt painting was as innovative as it was captivating."

The weekend opened with a service of thanksgiving and welcoming remarks in the chapel offered by His Eminence Archbishop Antony of Ierapolis of

the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in America. The following morning, Father Taras Chubenko celebrated the Divine Liturgy. Throughout the weekend, participants were blessed with the generous hospitality of the Ukrainian Center at the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (under the Ecumenical Patriarchate) in New Jersey. His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos graced the participants by His attendance during lunch and the final session of the retreat and also addressed the gathering with spiritual exhortations. ■





Department of Religious Education Director and Archon National Commander speak at Philadelphia Symposium

VALLEY FORGE, PA

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, the Order of Saint Andrew's Philadelphia region hosted its fourth annual symposium held on April 21 at Saint Sophia, Ss Faith, Hope and Agape Greek Orthodox Church in Valley Forge, PA.



Some 100 participants listened to updates, delivered by National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, during his presentation on "The Ecumenical Patriarchate: The Quest for Religious Freedom." Dr. Limberakis touched on developments

ments from meetings with government officials and religious leaders in Warsaw during the Order's 'Religious Freedom Mission' to the European Union. He also highlighted the historic visit of Vice President Joseph Biden to the Phanar, the International Archon Religious Freedom Conference in Brussels, Belgium, and developments surrounding President Barack Obama's public call to reopen Halki Seminary.

Later that morning, Dr. Anton C. Vrame, Director of the Department of Religious Education for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and Associate Professor at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, spoke on "Paschal Iconography: Pascha to Pentecost, Visions of Renewed Faith and Renewed Life" were the guest speakers. He focused on the images of the Resurrection and the Sundays after Easter, and explored the meaning and implications of the Resurrection for the Orthodox Christian. Dr. Vrame offered statements about faith, healing, and life and connected the Paschal season

to the Sacrament of Baptism. In addition, Dr. Vrame explained the "visual language" of icons and how their details reveal the experience and teachings of the Church.

His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey concluded the afternoon with his personal reflections on icons pertaining to the Paschal season and provided his perspective to conclude the day. The symposium was open to all Archons, their spouses, clergy and other Orthodox faithful and organized by Regional Commander Dr. Cary J. Limberakis. ■

Dr. Anton C. Vrame, Director of the Department of Religious Education, left and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., right.



His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, Father Peter J. Thornberg, Proistamenos at Saint Sophia, Ss. Faith, Hope and Agape Greek Orthodox Church in Valley Forge, PA, along with Archon Regional Commander Dr. Cary J. Limberakis stand with symposium participants of the Greater Philadelphia region.

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



Fordham University Professor and National Commander address Metropolis of NJ Symposium

WESTFIELD, NJ

His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos blessed the New Jersey Archons to host a religious freedom symposium, Saturday, June 16, 2012, at the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey in Westfield.

Dr. George Demacopoulos, the

Order's Historian and Associate Professor, Co-Director and Co-Founder of the Orthodox Christian Studies Program and Center at Fordham University delivered a presentation on the history behind the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order, spoke on recent Archon developments

on the pursuit of religious freedom.

The symposium opened with a Service of Thanksgiving in the Chapel, followed by introductory remarks by Regional Commander Hon B. Theodore Bozonelis. Following the presentations, a special mosaic icon of Christ was presented to Metropolitan Evangelos who

thanked the Archons and offered concluding remarks.

The symposium was open to all Archons, their spouses, and to all Orthodox faithful interested in the pursuit of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey thanks Archons John Halecky, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Regional Commander Hon B. Theodore Bozonelis, and James C. Fountas, top left, for the mosaic icon of Christ that was presented to the Metropolis. Dr. George Demacopoulos, Professor at Fordham University and Historian for the Order of Saint Andrew, top right, speaks on the history of the Creed. His Eminence with Archons of the Metropolis of New Jersey, below.



New Regional Commanders Appointed

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and pursuant to the Archon governing Bylaws, three new Regional Commanders have been appointed.

HOUSTON, TX

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and in consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis has appointed Christopher J. Pappas, Archon Prostatos Ton Grammaton, Regional Commander of the Metropolis of Denver for the Archons of the South Central United States region.

Archon Pappas joins fellow Regional Commander Archon Dr. Gregory Papadeas in serving the Archons of the Metropolis of Denver.

“Archon Pappas has been an active member of the Order of Saint Andrew since 2008 and was indispensable in securing the passage of the religious freedom resolutions for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Texas State Senate and Texas State House of Representatives,” National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis said. “His commitment to his local parish of Annunciation Cathedral in Houston, Texas and to the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople is exemplary. AXIOS!”

Archon Chris, a member of Leadership 100, has over 30 years of operational management experience in the restaurant industry and is actively involved both in the general operations of all of the Pappas restaurants and in the development of new sites and concepts.



**REGIONAL COMMANDER
CHRISTOPHER J. PAPPAS**

Archon Prostatos Ton Grammaton
Houston, TX

Archon Chris serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Houston Partnership and is also a member of the Dean’s Advisory Board at the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management at the University of Houston. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Restaurant Association, the Texas Restaurant Association, and the Greater Houston Restaurant Association and is an Advisory Board member of Amegy Bank. In 2001, he was inducted into the Texas Restaurant Association Hall of Honor.

Archon Chris received his Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife, Maria, have been married 30 years and have five grown children. ■

SUDBURY, MA

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and in consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis has appointed Drake G. Behrakis, Archon Maestros, Regional Commander for the Archons of the Metropolis of Boston.

Archon Behrakis joins fellow Regional Commander Archon Gregory G. Demetrakas in serving the Archons of the Metropolis of Boston.

“Archon Behrakis will infuse energy and dynamism to the Archons of New England in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archon Drake possesses the extraordinary commitment to the Orthodox Faith, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and our Hellenic Heritage that is emblematic of his beloved father and first recipient of the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship, Archon George D. Behrakis,” National Commander Limberakis said.

Archon Behrakis is President of Marwick Associates, a real estate investment and development company located in Lexington, Massachusetts. Marwick is the real estate arm of a family owned privately held investment company. He is also active in the Behrakis Foundation, the family’s philanthropic vehicle.

Prior to establishing Marwick, Archon Behrakis held various positions with Muro Pharmaceutical, Inc. and the Gillette Company.



**REGIONAL COMMANDER
DRAKE BEHRAKIS**

Archon Maestros
Sudbury, MA

Archon Behrakis has a Bachelor’s degree in Finance from Boston College and an MBA from Northeastern University. He serves on the Board of Trustees, Boston College; Leadership 100 Endowment Fund and is a volunteer for Sudbury Youth Basketball. He is also a Board of Overseer at Brigham & Woman’s Hospital; serves on the Orthodox Studies Advisory Council at Fordham University and in 2011 was invested into the Order of St. Andrew. In 2001, he established the Maria E. and Drake G. Behrakis Endowment Funds at Boston College; in 2007 sponsored the Behrakis Family Classical Studies Symposium; and in 2011 The Behrakis Family Professorship in Hellenic Political Studies.

Mr. Behrakis resides with his wife, Maria, and three children, George, Zoe, and Demetri, in Sudbury, Massachusetts. His personal interests include traveling, golf, skiing, wine collecting and Greek culture. ■

DETROIT, MI

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and in consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis has appointed Lazaros Evangelos Kircos, Archon Orphanotrofos, Regional Commander for the Archons of the Metropolis of Detroit.

Archon Kircos joins fellow Regional Commander Archon Mark D. Stavropoulos in serving the Archons of the Metropolis of Detroit.

“Archon Kircos has been an exceptional member of the Order of Saint Andrew offering his time, talent and treasure to his local parishes, the Metropolis of Detroit, and to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.” National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis said. “His commitment to the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople is exemplary, and has demonstrated ongoing leadership in support of the sacred mission of the Order of Saint Andrew.”

Archon Kircos, who was born in Florina Greece, came to Michigan as a two year old. He grew up in the Detroit area and graduated from the University of Michigan with a BBA. He became a CPA while working for the then named Coopers & Lybrand and left to join NYSE traded Handleman Company. There he rose through the financial ranks to become Chief Financial Officer at age 34 and then President of a major division overseeing multinational operations. In an attempted turnaround situation, he served as CEO of Toronto based Quality Dino Entertainment, a NASDAQ traded company before a brief stint as the President of an internet based company in 2000-01.

After a reflection of what the future may hold, he decided to work “full time” in a business he jointly owned with his brother since 1981 - Sophia’s Bakery, a wholesale bakery that produces pocket pita, Greek flat bread and pita chips for major food retailers and restaurants in the Midwest. This choice allowed him to devote more time to volunteer activities of the church. His service to administrative affairs of the church began when he was 23 years old on the parish council of St. George Greek Orthodox Church Southgate, Michigan where he was

elected president at the age of 28 and has served almost continuously since that time as an officer or committee chair. His father, Angelo, has served there as a chanter since 1970. Archon Kircos has served as President of the Deaconess Senior Citizens Housing Corp for 22 of the last 30 years, a position he continues now. Deaconess is a low income HUD subsidized housing project sponsored by St. George Church. He also is a member of two



**REGIONAL COMMANDER
LOUIS A. KIRCOS**

Archon Orphanotrofos
Grosse Pointe, MI

other churches, Assumption Church in St. Clair Shores, Michigan and Sts. Constantine & Helen Church in Westland, Michigan where he currently serves on the Parish Council and as Chairman of two of its committees. Archon Kircos is a member of Leadership 100 as well as AHEPA Chapter 374. He is a member of the Metropolis of Detroit Metropolis council since 2002 and is Secretary/Treasurer of its Missions and Scholarship Endowment Fund. Archon Kircos also serves on the finance committee of the Archdiocesan Council as well as Chairman of the Planned Giving subcommittee.

His wife, Paula, teases him by saying Church committees are his “work” and the business is his “hobby”. They like to travel, having recently returned from an unforgettable Archon sponsored trip to the Holy Land and have two children, their twins David and Catherine who are now attending universities. They have lived in Grosse Pointe Michigan since their marriage in 1986 where Archon Kircos has served as a member of the city foundation for over 10 years. ■



University of Southern California recognizes Archon Michael J. Patzakis, M.D.

PASADENA, CA

More than 470 dignitaries, residents and friends gathered together on Saturday, May 19, 2012, from most of the United States of America and 3 continents, to pay tribute to Archon Dr. Michael J. Patzakis’ 21 years as chairman of the University of California’s Department of Orthopaedics. Dr. Patzakis has been a member of the USC Keck School of Medicine’s Orthopaedic Department for 43 years. The dinner was held at the Langham Huntington Hotel’s ballroom in Pasadena, California.

Speakers that evening included Archon Max C.L. Nikias, President of the University of Southern California; Carmen Puliafito, M.D., Dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC; His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas, Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in Berkeley, and Father John Bakas, Dean of Saint Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles, among many others. Speakers throughout the evening commented how Dr. Patzakis was a legend and visionary in Orthopaedic Surgery, a man of integrity and honesty, and always did what was right. A Battle Ensign that had flown over NATO Role 3 Medical Treatment Facility in Kandahar, Afghanistan, was personally escorted to Pasadena, encased, and presented to Dr. Patzakis in recognition of his support of the U.S. Navy, mentorship and friendship shown to the crew of the Navy Trauma center at the LAC+USC Medical Center.

Dr. Patzakis’ children, Michele, Theresa, John and Peter, also spoke very touchingly and humorously about their father. A video presentation depicting his early life and culmination as chairman of the department, was also shown that evening.

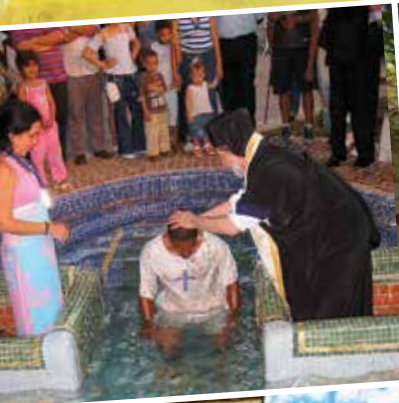
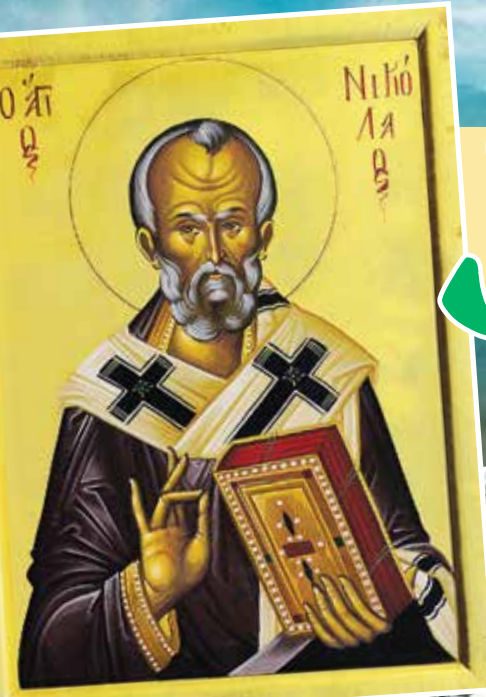
Dr. Patzakis, who received his B.A. and M.D. degrees from The Ohio State University, has been a principal investigator on 65 research studies made possible from more than 40 grants and gifts from private industry, foundations, and grateful patients. He has authored more than 160 scientific papers, abstracts and book chapters and has lectured throughout the United States and the world. ■

Above, Archon Dr. Michael J. Patzakis, his wife Susan G. Patzakis, First Lady of USC Niki Nikias and Archon C.L. “Max” Nikias, President of the University of Southern California.

JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW AND CELEBRATE THE FEAST DAY OF

Saint Nicholas Dec 5-10

HAVANA, CUBA 6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS



The Order of Saint Andrew
 Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
 in America
 with the blessings of
 His Eminence
 Archbishop Demetrios
 announce their
 2012 Orthodox Christian Pilgrimage
 to Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Havana, Cuba
 under the auspices of
 His Eminence
 Metropolitan Athenagoras
 led by Father Alexander Karloutsos
 Archon Spiritual Advisor and Protopresbyter of
 Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church
 Southampton, New York

RATES:

Double Occupancy: \$3,185 per person

Single Occupancy: \$3,735 per person

A deposit of \$600 per person is requested by September 28, 2012. A late booking fee of \$200 will apply for reservations and deposits received September 29 and onwards.

Rates reflect a 4% check discount which does not apply if payment is made with any other means. The air/fuel tax is not guaranteed for the flight MIA / HAVANA / MIA and is subject to increase. Please contact Cloud Tours Inc for additional information and to register. Space is limited.

FOR INFORMATION:

PLEASE CONTACT: CLOUD TOURS at 31-09 Newtown Ave. Suite 311, Long Island City, NY 11102

Tel: 718-721-3808 / 800-223-7880 or Email: Stephen Soterakis, Tour Coordinator at Stephen@cloudtours.com or Cally Papas, President at: Cally@cloudtours.com.

PLEASE NOTE:

Our religious visit will be arranged through a legally licensed TSP or Travel Service Provider License CUBA TOURS & TRAVEL (CU-077926-b) located in Long Beach, California and authorized by OFAC, CST 2073790-40.

OFAC: http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba_tr_app.pdf

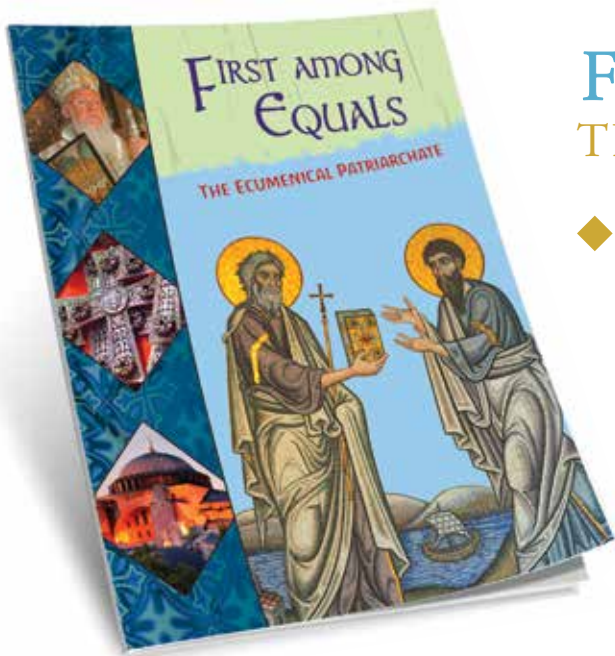
INCLUDED SERVICES:

- Round trip air from Miami to Havana & departure tax from Miami
- Five nights at the deluxe Melia Habana Hotel in sea view or pool view rooms including daily breakfast, service fees & taxes
- Motorcoach & guide for 4½ days with visits to religious & cultural sites including Old Havana,
- Two meals daily: breakfast and lunch or dinner. Two of the dinners will be welcome and farewell banquets including cocktail receptions in historic venues. Other lunches or dinners include two beverages.
- Special program including music and lunch on the grounds of St Nicholas.
- Concert hosted in honor of the Order of St Andrew (subject to final confirmation)
- Breakfast hosted by Greek Ambassador (subject to final confirmation)
- Reception hosted by Cypriot Ambassador (subject to final confirmation)
- Processing assistance for general license and other required documents to travel to Cuba
- Medical insurance in Cuba

NOT INCLUDED:

- Round trip air fare from home city to Miami
- Cuban visa & processing fees
- Cuban departure tax of approximately \$30 per person
- Gratuities
- Travel insurance

This pilgrimage will operate under the United States Department of Treasury Office Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) under 31 C.F.R. 515.566 (a) general license provision for religious activities. Our visit includes a full schedule of religious activities consistent with U.S Regulations.



FIRST AMONG EQUALS

THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



New Zine from Department of Religious Education collaboration with Order of Saint Andrew

NEW YORK, NY

The Department of Religious Education in April published *First Among Equals: The Ecumenical Patriarchate*. This new zine is the newest in a series of materials that have been developed by the Department for parish religious education programs. *First Among Equals* was a collaborative project of the Department and the Order of St. Andrew. Each contributed their respective expertise and experience to produce this resource. Education is an important key to unlocking the many chains that prevent the Ecumenical Patriarchate from fulfilling its global mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and shepherding the Orthodox Church.

Through the stewardship of Dr. Stephen and Dr. Anna Yallourakis of Kingsport, Tennessee, the Order of St. Andrew was also able to underwrite the production costs of the publication. Dr. Yallourakis chairs the Patriarchal Education Initiative Committee for the Archons. Dr. Yallourakis expressed the importance of the new publication saying, “The Ecumenical Patriarchate is the

sacred holy land of Orthodoxy. We need to recognize the importance of educating the Orthodox faithful to gain an understanding of our spiritual, apostolic, and hierarchical heritage and to reorient ourselves to Constantinople as the center of Orthodoxy. Through education we gain knowledge and thus the passion that develops into action to preserve, protect, and defend the Ecumenical Patriarchate.”

First Among Equals presents history, theology, the present ministry of the His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and the daily challenges the Ecumenical Patriarchate faces. It offers snapshots of Byzantine and Orthodox Church history, especially related to the role of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople within the life of Christianity. It explains basic topics, such as the vestments of a bishop, but also looks at the organization of the global Orthodox Church. Filled with photos and

written for an eighth or ninth grader, the zine will sometimes use language and imagery aimed at them, but all members of the community will find this piece informative and beneficial to broadening awareness about the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

“This fills an important gap in our religious education resources,” said Dr. Anton Vrame, Director of the Department of Religious Education. “Our resources focus mostly on the immediate world of the learner, the local parish, the local Metropolis. *First Among Equals* exposes them to the global Orthodox Church and the leadership of the Patriarchate.”

The Order of St. Andrew mailed a sample copy to all the clergy and religious education directors of the Archdiocese, all Archons, and the members of Leadership 100. Additional copies are available for purchase from the Department of Religious Education.

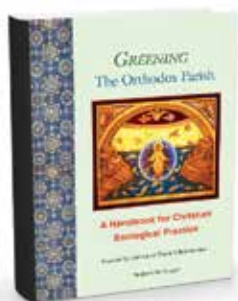
The Department of Religious Education is completing a teacher’s guide with lesson material. The Department also carries other products about the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including the “60 Minutes” DVD and *A Brief Guide to the Ecumenical Patriarchate* that parishes may also want to obtain. ■



GREENING

The Orthodox Parish

By Frederick W. Krueger



GREENING THE ORTHODOX PARISH: A Handbook for Christian Ecological Practice

*The Orthodox Fellowship of the Transfiguration
Santa Rosa, California (2012), 498 pages
Foreword by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.*

For the last two decades, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has led the way toward a more rigorous examination and responsible commitment of our relationship to creation as God's gift, addressing climate change as a moral calling of the highest order. While his message has resonated deeply and globally with those working in public affairs, politics, policy-making, diplomacy, science, theology and journalism, the truth is that Orthodox Christians and parishes throughout the world have been the most reluctant and resistant to any related "conversion" or "transformation" experience. This has been a source of regret and frustration for His All-Holiness, who has repeatedly called for a "greening" of our clergy, parishes and seminaries.

The handbook compiled by Frederick Krueger is a direct and clear response to this call. Having worked for decades in leadership roles coordinating and connecting ecological concerns and

religious principles, Mr. Krueger is the executive director of the Fellowship of the Transfiguration, an unparalleled organization here in the United States, spiritually affiliated to and endorsed by the Orthodox Episcopal Assembly of North America. OFT is a pan-Orthodox group seeking to relate the teachings of Orthodox Christian tradition and practice to current environmental needs and concerns in North America. The Fellowship supports conferences, workshops, retreats and publications. It seeks prayerfully to help Orthodox Christians and parishes grow in their understanding and experience of Christian teachings and practice on Creation, so that we all may contribute to more balanced ways of living and community amid current environmental challenges.

The handbook provides extraordinary insights into the theological foundations of environmental awareness and action, including mandates from the Bible and witnesses from the Fathers. It also offers invaluable information into the various dimensions of climate change, including energy, air and water

pollution. However, most importantly, it contains practical guidelines for an ecologically conscious ministry by Orthodox Christians in the parish and in the home. There is also an anthology of articles by leading Orthodox thinkers on the subject, as well as official statements by Orthodox Churches. Finally, the book closes with liturgical and bibliographical resources.

The publication appears in honor of the 20th anniversary since the election of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, whose foreword states: "This book is precisely what is needed in our parishes to encourage and guide our faithful to understand not only the theological and spiritual vision behind ecological awareness, but also the practical and tangible ways which can realistically and readily be adopted by all Orthodox Christians in larger and smaller parishes alike, in both more comfortable and struggling communities."

This book should be on the shelves of every Orthodox Christian and every Orthodox parish. ■



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



PHOTO BRIEFS



With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, the theme for the Metropolis of Atlanta's spring meeting was Religious Freedom. The activities during March 17–18 focused on the critical issue of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, featuring Dr. Jay A. Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice. A special forum, moderated by Dr. Manuel Tissura, was held at the Metropolis Chapel of the Archangel Michael where Dr. Andrew Ekonomou, Senior Council of the European Center for Law and Justice, fielded questions with along with Dr. Sekulow on issues surrounding the plight of the Mother Church of Constantinople. M. TISSURA



On July 5, the President of Turkey's Religious Affairs Directorate, Professor Mehmet Görmez, accompanied by Istanbul Chief Mufti Rahmi Yaran, visited the Phanar, where he was received by His All-Holiness. Prof. Görmez expressed support for the reopening the Theological School of Halki, saying that it is a fundamental right of non-Muslims living in Turkey to educate their own leaders and teachers.



On July 27, His All-Holiness met with Turkish President Abdullah Gül at a dinner (iftar) in Istanbul, where the issue of the peaceful co-existence of Muslims and non-Muslim citizens was highlighted. President Gül stated that Turkey "belongs to us all and we should live together respectfully and peacefully." Other guests included the U.S. Consul General, other consuls, mayors, and religious leaders from Turkey and other countries.



On July 30, United States assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon visited the holy monastery and theological school of Halki. In conversation with Metropolitan Elpidophoros of Bursa, Mr. Gordon expressed the interest of the United States in the seminary's re-opening. Furthermore, he conveyed Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's warm greetings toward His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. PHOTOS BY N. MANGINAS