

THE ARCHON

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Athenagoras Human Rights Award bestowed upon the Stavros Niarchos Foundation

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and the Order's National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Mr. Andreas Dracopoulos, director and co-president of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, accepted the Award on behalf of the Foundation on October 20.

Coverage of Archon Weekend begins on page 4 »

His All-Holiness addresses crowds at St. Peter's Square in Vatican City; holds private meeting with Pope Benedict XVI

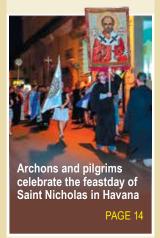
THE VATICAN

On the occasion of the celebration in Rome of the 50th anniversary since the opening of Vatican II, His All-Holiness delivered the following address at the invitation of Pope Benedict XVI on Thursday, October 11.

Read His All-Holiness' speech on page 2 »



L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO



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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As Christ prepared for His

Gethsemane experience, He

prayed a prayer for unity which

is recorded in the Gospel of Saint

John Chapter 17 verse 11: ". . .

keep through Your name those

whom You have given Me, that

they may be one as We are".[i]

Through the centuries we have,

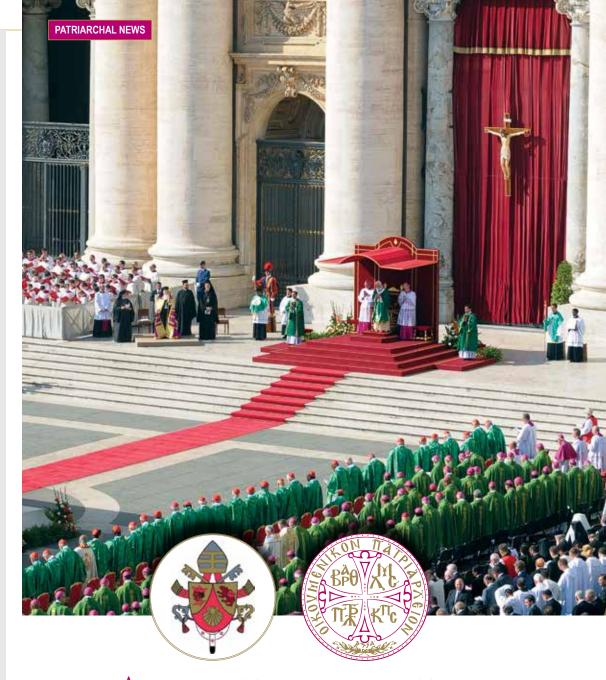
indeed, been kept in the power

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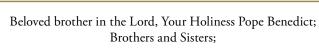
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Address on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council





and love of Christ, and in the proper moment in history the Holy Spirit moved upon us and we began the long journey towards the visible unity that Christ desires. This has been confirmed in

Everywhere large numbers have felt the impulse of this grace, and

Unitatis Redintegratio §1:

among our separated brethren also there increases from day to day the movement, fostered by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for the restoration of unity among all Christians.

Fifty years ago in this very square, a powerful and pivotal celebration captured the heart and mind of



His All-Holiness and members of the Patriarchal delegation with Pope Benedict XVI and members of the Roman Catholic delegation.

PHOTOS BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

the Roman Catholic Church, transporting it across the centuries into the contemporary world. This transforming milestone, the opening of the Second Vatican Council, was inspired by the fundamental reality that the Son and incarnate Logos of God is "... where two or three are gathered in his name" (Matt.18.20) and that the Spirit, who proceeds from the Father, "...will guide us into the whole truth." (John 16.13).

In the 50 years that have intervened, we recall with vividness and tenderness, but also with elation and enthusiasm, our personal discussions with episcopal members and theological periti during our formative time – then as a young student – at the Pontifical Oriental Institute, as well as our personal attendance at some special sessions of the Council. We witnessed firsthand how the bishops experienced a

renewed awareness of the validity – and a reinforced sense of the continuity – of the tradition and faith "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1.3). It was a period of promise and hope for your Church both internally and externally.

For the Orthodox Church, we have observed a time of exchange and expectation. For example, the convocation of the first Pan-Orthodox Conferences in Rhodes led to the Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conferences in preparation for the Great Council of the Orthodox Churches. These exchanges will demonstrate the unified witness of the Orthodox Church in the modern world. Moreover, it coincided with the "dialogue of love" and heralded the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox

Church, which was established by our venerable predecessors Pope John Paul II and Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios.

Over the last five decades, the achievements of this assembly have been diverse as evidenced through the series of important and influential constitutions, declarations, and decrees. We have contemplated the renewal of the spirit and "return to the sources" through liturgical study, biblical research, and patristic scholarship. We have appreciated the struggle toward gradual liberation from the limitation of rigid scholasticism to the openness of ecumenical encounter, which has led to the mutual rescinding of the excommunications of the year 1054, the exchange of greetings, returning of relics, entering into important dialogues, and visiting each other in our respective Sees.

Our journey has not always been easy or without pain and challenge, for as we know "narrow is the gate and difficult is the way" (Matthew 7.14). The essential theology and principal themes of the Second Vatican Council - the mystery of the Church, the sacredness of the liturgy, and the authority of the bishop - are difficult to apply in earnest practice, and constitute a life-long and churchwide labor to assimilate. The door, then, must remain open for deeper reception, pastoral engagement, and ecclesial interpretation of the Second Vatican Council.

As we move forward together, we offer thanks and glory to the living God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – that the same assembly of bishops has recognised the importance of reflection and sin-

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HONORING

JAMES C.
FOUNTAS

AND

JOHN

HALECKY, JR.

The National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew unanimously voted in 2010 to establish the Nicholas J. Bouras Award. The 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 National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras. Archon Depoutatos. who himself has demonstrated remarkable leadership as a faithful son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and exemplary steward of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



Archons Fountas and Halecky become recipients of the 'Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship'

NEW YORK

Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America together with His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey joined the Order of Saint Andrew in honoring James C. Fountas, National Treasurer and John Halecky, Jr., National Secretary on Friday, October 19, by bestowing upon them the "Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship." The Awards were presented during a special celebratory dinner dance held at the New York Hilton Hotel, which launched the Annual Archon Weekend.

Archons Fountas and Halecky have been involved in virtually all the major initiatives of the Archons for a quarter century. They have played significant roles as organizers in the ground-breaking International Archon Religious Freedom Conference held in November 2010 at the European Parliament in Brussels,

Belgium and are assisting in preparations for the 2013 Conference 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.

The evening began with introductory remarks offered by Archon Andrew E. Manatos followed by a welcome by Archon George Safiol, Award Committee Chairman. A toast was offered by Archon Regional Commander Dr. Nicholas G. Loutsion who spoke of the recipients personal accomplishments and work on the National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew.

The remarks of Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, who was unable to attend that evening, were delivered by the National Commander: "Dear Fellow Archons and Friends of our Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate, Once again, I have the honor to greet you on the occasion of this

Award named in my honor, even though it is still my preference to be anonymous. Nevertheless, I am a loval son of the Order of Saint Andrew and feel deeply privileged to have been of some measure of service to our Ecumenical Patriarchate and our Archdiocese. Therefore, to recognize my brother Archons, James C. Fountas and John Halecky, Jr. who share this honor this evening is truly a joy for me. Their tireless and exemplary service and stewardship to our Mother Church are truly examples for all of us. "I continue to pray that the Bouras Award, which is also the gift of my parents and my beloved wife Anna of blessed memory, will serve to perpetuate the tradition of Orthodoxy and Hellenism in the name of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, both here in America and around the world. Let us together keep the light of the Phanar burning brightly for the generations to come. Thank you and may God bless us all."

In recognition of the recipi-





Archons James C. Fountas, National Treasurer, and his wife Jean, left, and John Halecky, Jr., National Secretary, and his wife, Sonia, right, honored with the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship by Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Evangelos and National Commander Limberakis.

ents, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis said, "Just as Archon Nicholas through his extraordinary Archon Stewardship has empowered the Order to execute its worldwide religious freedom initiatives, it has been the work of Archons Jim and John who have executed the strategy, transformed the strategy from thought to deed and have done so with dignity, professionalism and great devotion to the Mother Church."

Dr. Limberakis was then joined by Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Evangelos who then presented the Award to each of the recipients, who were accompanied by their wives Jean Fountas and Sonia Halecky.

Archon Fountas graciously accepted the Award, saying, "Thirty-six years ago, I met

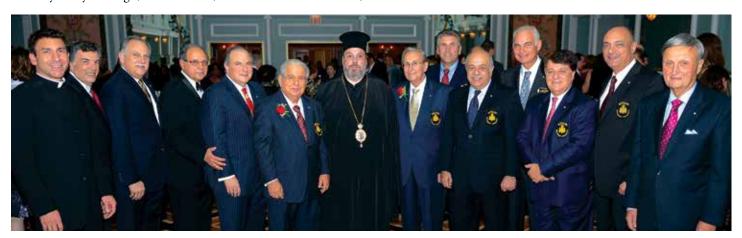
Nicholas J. Bouras and we have been serving together on the parish council of Holy Trinity in Westfield, NJ ever since. His devotion to the Patriarchate, the Archdiocese, the Metropolis of New Jersey and his generosity to many parishes is legendary, and makes all of us aware of what our role as human beings is and what we owe to each other and to future generations."

In expressing his involvement in the International Archon Religious Freedom Conference and visits to member nations of the European Parliament, Archon Fountas concluded, "I am convinced the Patriarchate should never leave from its home and we should never separate ourselves from the Patriarchate. It is not a matter of writing a strong letter, or making a formal call, it necessitates well-founded.

persuasive and dynamic presentations. It is important to repeat the Conferences and meetings over and over again, with the same vibrant determination, until they come to the desirable conclusion. I thank my fellow Archons for this great honor, and to my wife Jean my everlasting appreciation for her understanding, unselfishness and support in allowing me to play a part in the history of the Order of Saint Andrew."

Upon receiving the Award, Archon Halecky responded: "In 1987 I was invited to join the National Council of the Order and was elected National Secretary in 1998. I consider these eleven years as my basic training in preparation for the administration of our National Commander, Dr. Anthony Limberakis. The new commander redefined the individual mission

of an Archon, from the popular theory, that the offikion was a reward for past service to the Church to the idea of a new beginning of service and commitment to the Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople." He concluded saying, "As an Archon it has been a blessing to befriend a truly unique human being a Roll Model for every Archon and all Orthodox Christians, Nicholas J. Bouras who attends every meeting of our National Council as well as special briefings from individual Council Members. It is a distinct privilege to be associated with our spiritual father, Archbishop Demetrios, spiritual advisor Fr. Alex and a group of laymen whose commitment to our Faith and the Mother Church is remarkable." ■

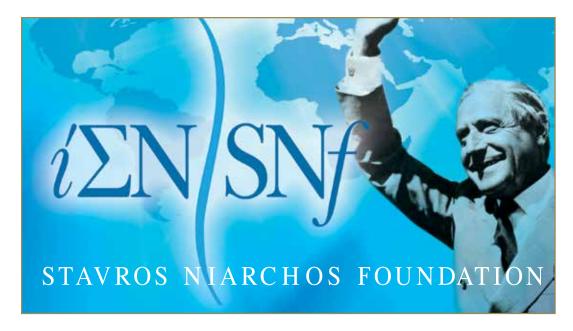


Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey with the Award recipients and Archons of the Metropolis of New Jersey. PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

The Stavros Niarchos
Foundation is
one of the world's
leading international
philanthropic
organizations, making
grants in the areas
of arts and culture,
education, health
and medicine, and
social welfare. The
Foundation funds
organizations and
projects that exhibit
strong leadership and
sound management
and are expected
to achieve a broad,
lasting and positive
social impact. The
Foundation also
seeks actively to
support projects
that facilitate the
formation of publicprivate partnerships
as effective means for
serving public welfare.



Athenagoras Human Rights Award bestowed upon the Stavros Niarchos Foundation; Twenty-one new Archons invested during annual Archon Weekend

NEW YORK

Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, together with the Order of Saint Andrew's National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Mr. Andreas Dracopoulos, director and co-president of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, accepted the Award on behalf of the Foundation. The Award was presented during the annual Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet held at the New York Hilton Hotel on October 20, 2012, with some 500 Archons and guests in attendance.

In presenting the Award, National Commander Limberakis, paid tribute to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, one of the world's leading international philanthropic organizations, for their extraordinary and positive impact on the public welfare. Dr.



[L-R] Prof. Andonios Trakatellis; Vasili Tsamis, Chief Operating Officer of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, and his wife, Donna; Congressman Archon Gus Bilirakis; Andreas Dracopoulos, Director and Co-President of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation; His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America; His Excellency Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos of Greece to the U.S.; Archon John A. and Margo Catsimatidis; Drs. Anthony J. and Maria A. Limberakis.

Limberakis enumerated the various activities of philanthropic giving of the Niarchos Foundation saying that the foundation in its 16 year history has provided over 2,000 grants to nonprofit organizations in 90 nations around the world, with over one billion dollars in humanitarian grants. He particularly pointed out the Foundation's \$130 million grant to the suffer-

ing citizens of Greece which he said "it exemplifies the ethos of philanthropy." Concluding his address Dr. Limberakis said that, "This Foundation, this institution of Philanthropy which is in the middle of the great Global Arena richly deserves our emulation, our deep admiration and our profound gratitude."

Established in 1986, the







Andrew E. Manatos



Ambassador Panagopoulos



Congressman Gus Bilirakis



Commander Limberakis



Andreas Dracopoulos



Archbishop Demetrios

Athenagoras Human Rights Award is given in honor of Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, who served as Archbishop of the Americas for 18 years before being elected Ecumenical Patriarch in 1948. He was universally acknowledged as a visionary leader and worked for peace among Churches and people throughout his life. As in the past 13 years, National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras again generously served as Banquet Underwriter, together with the Stavros Niarchos Fountation.

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

of the heroic members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

In accepting the award Mr. Andreas Dracopoulos expressed his gratitude for the honor, both personally and on behalf of the Niarchos Foundation. He spoke of the Foundation's ideals in support of basic freedoms, such as the freedom of speech, the freedom of religion and worship, and the freedoms from want and from fear. He also outlined an ideal of a society of social welfare, which provides for its citizens the basic needs for life, decency, dignity, civility, the opportunity to dream and the hope for a better tomorrow and expressed the need to collaborate towards this end.

Mr. Dracopoulos, said that philanthropy can be expressed in many ways and financial support is an effective one while volunteerism is another important such expression, saying, "Philanthropy is one of the few areas nowadays that should not, and does

not thankfully, polarize people. Foundations, the institutionalized form of philanthropy, get the moral satisfaction that comes from having played, hopefully, a productive role in complementing the State's efforts in providing for a better society for all. Philanthropy, however, cannot and should never, anyway, replace the State. Philanthropy, however, does not just happen by itself, and it is not a 'divine' force of good. It needs time and financial resources, it needs a certain commitment, and in a larger scale it is not unlike running any other successful for-profit enterprise." He said that the Niarchos Foundation through their philanthropic giving wants to sustain the basic pillars of society and democracy. Mr. Dracopoulos finally quoted a Greek philosopher, Emmanouil Kriaras, who said that true love can only be achieved by being able to constantly seek your ideals and urged all present "to seek your ideals, do your best to help the needy and in doing so stay

in love."

Archbishop Demetrios, who offered the Archepiscopal response, congratulated Mr. Dracopoulos and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for their work worldwide, saying "their work is a very differentiated and diversified giving activity," and outlined with many examples in the 16 years of life of the Foundation. His Eminence pointed out that unlike other foundations and organizations the Niarchos Foundation only gives, it does not collect and it does fundraise. His Eminence outlined the many qualities of courage, compassion and reconciliation of Patriarch Athenagoras and pointed out that the recipients of this Award are indeed worthy of the honor. His Eminence said that Mr. Dracopoulos in leading the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, has demonstrated an ethos of compassion which through philanthropy helps overcome human suffering, promotes community vitality, the enrichment





Members of the Stavros Niarchons Foundation, left, and Archons with spouses and friends, right, during the Grand Banquet.

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS AND J. MINDALA



INVESTITURE OF THE ARCHON CLASS OF 2012

An Archon is an honoree by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community.

It is by the grace of God that the Archon has been able to offer his good works and deeds of faith. Further, it is the sworn oath of the Archon to defend and promote the Orthodox Christian faith and tradition. His special concern and interest is to serve as a bulwark to protect and promote the Sacred See of St. Andrew the Apostle and its mission.



Aristides P. Assimacopoulos, M.D., Aktouarios Holy Trinity Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Gerald J. Biernacki, Ed. D., Hieromnimon Holy Trinity Church, Toledo, Ohio

Jon J. Couchell, Dikaiophylax St. Nicholas Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina

George N. Donkar, Orphanotrofos St. Paul Church, Savannah, Georgia

George Frangiadakis, Depoutatos St. Nectarios Church, Roslindale, Massachussetts St. John Church, Boston, Massachussetts

George G. Horiates, Notarios St. Thomas Church, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Stephen S. Kalivas, R. Ph., Ostiarios St. Vasilios Church, Peabody, Massachussetts

Tom Karas, Hartoularios Holy Trinity Church, San Francisco, California Nativity of Christ Church, Novato, California

Theodore Xenophon Koinis, Ekdikos Annunciation Church, Houston, Texas Michael Kusturiss, Jr., Hypomnematografos All Saints Church, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania

Theodore A. Laliotis, Hartophylax St. Nicholas Church, San Jose, California

Eleftherios Maggos, Maestor Holy Trinity Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Anthony Palmieri, Depoutatos Saint Luke Church, Broomall, Pennsylvania

James Pantelidis, Notarios

Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New York, New York Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Brooklyn, New York

John Megris Psaltos, Hartophylax Annunciation Church, Stamford, Connecticut

Michael G. Rallis, M.D., Referendarios St. Nicholas Church, Wilmington, North Carolina

Peter S. Vlitas, Hartoularios Saints Constantine and Helen Church, Brooklyn, New York

Philip G. Yamalis, Proto Ekdikos Holy Cross Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Aliqippa, Pennsylvania

of quality of life, the sustainable advancement of our Hellenic cultural heritage and the continued achievement of Hellenes and people around the world.

Archon John Halecky, Jr., National Secretary welcomed to the Banquet those in attendance on behalf of the Order. His Excellency Christos Panagopoulos, the Ambassador of Greece to the United States, presented congratulatory remarks on the accomplishments of the Foundation.

Archon Congressman Gus Bilirakis served as Master of Ceremonies and Archon Andrew Manatos offered the introduction of the dais guests. Archons Theodore Demetriou and Dean Poll served as co-chairs, while National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras together with the Niarchos Foundation were the underwriters of the event. The new Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic Christos Panagopoulos also offered congratulatory remarks to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Earlier in the weekend, the Annual Archon Weekend commenced on Friday, October 19, with a joint meeting of the National Council and Regional Commanders. That evening, Archons James C. Fountas and John Halecky, Jr. were honored at a dinner dance as this years recipients of the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. An Archon orientation breakfast was held the following morning for Archons-elect and their spouses. His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, National Council and Regional Commanders also participated in the breakfast. The National Commander Limberakis extended a warm welcome and offered a dynamic multimedia presentation on the history of The Order, its role as advocate for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the 'humbling recognition and awesome responsibility' the Archon-elect members will now assume.

Later that morning, the Annual Archon Assembly convened in which several religious freedom reports and presentations were offered that morning outlining the Order's latest progress. The Archon Class of 2012 was formally presented to the Exarch by Archons Constantine G. Caras and the Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas, chairs of the new Archon selection committee. His Eminence also led a memorial service for Archons who departed this past year.





During a special luncheon, Dr. Maria A. Limberakis, together with the spouses of National Council members and Regional Commander presented Archbishop Demetrios with a special gfit. That afternoon, Mr. Stelios Vasilakis, Senior Program Officer for Strategy and Initiatives, Co-Chief of Public Affairs for the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, delivered a presentation on the Foundation's Cultural Center in Athens, slated to be completed in 2015.

Dr. Maria A. Limberakis, wife of the National Commander, hosted a luncheon that afternoon on behalf of the wives of the National Council members and Regional Commanders, and welcomed Archons, Archons-elect and their families. Mr. Stelios Vasilakis, Senior Program Officer for Strategy and Initiatives and Co-Chief for Public Affairs, later spoke on the current development of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC) in Athens. The Cultural Center is the Foundation's largest individual gift as the Foundation funds, in full, the Center's construction and equipping. The SNFCC includes new, state-of-the-art premises for the National Library of Greece and the Greek National Opera, as well as the Stavros Niarchos Park, which spans 42 acres. Upon its completion in 2015, the SNFCC will be donated to the Greek State, which will be exclusively responsible for its management and operation.

The annual Archon Weekend concluded on Sunday morn-

ing, October 21, with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Archbishop Demetrios presided at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City with Metropolitans Methodios, Alexios of Atlanta and Dimitrios of Xanthos concelebrating, with Evangelos of New Jersey also attending. Following the Divine Liturgy the ceremony of investiture of the new Archons took place.

Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, below, top left, invests an Archon. Archons stand with candles during the solemn investiture ceremony, top right. Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, bottom left, stand with newly-invested Archon Stephen S. Kalivas. Regional Commander Lazaros Kircos with newly-invested Archon Gerald J. Biernacki, middle, and Archons El Maggos and John Tangelos of the Metropolis of Detroit. Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, bottom right, with newly-invested Archon George G. Horiates and his family.

PHOTOS BY D. PANAGOS AND J. MINDALA

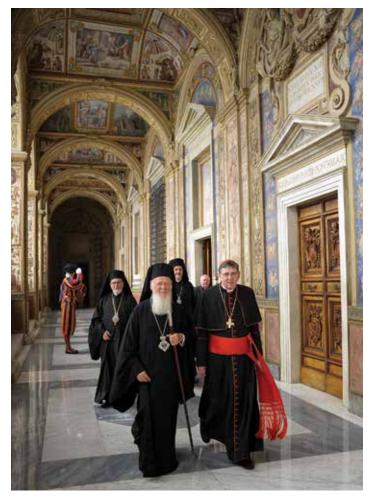














His All-Holiness is escorted, left, through the halls of the Vatican. While visiting, he received an exact replica of an ancient Byzantine Cross from Pope Benedict, right.

His All-Holiness at the Vatican

« Continued from page 3

cere dialogue between our "sister churches". We join in the "... hope that the barrier dividing the Eastern Church and the Western Church will be removed, and that – at last – there may be but the one dwelling, firmly established on Christ Jesus, the cornerstone, who will make both one" (Unitatis Redintegratio §18).

With Christ as our cornerstone and the tradition we share, we shall be able – or, rather, we shall be enabled by the gift and grace of God – to reach a better appreciation and fuller expression of the Body of Christ. With our continued efforts in accordance with the spirit of the tradition of

the early Church, and in the light of the Church of the Councils of the first millennium, we will experience the visible unity that lies just beyond us today.

The Church always excels in its uniquely prophetic and pastoral dimension, embraces its characteristic meekness and spirituality, and serves with humble sensitivity the "least of these My brethren" (Matt. 25.40).

Beloved brother, our presence here signifies and seals our commitment to witness together to the Gospel message of salvation and healing for the least of our brethren: the poor, the oppressed, the forgotten in God's world. Let us begin with prayers for peace and healing for our Christian brothers

and sisters living in the Middle East. In the current turmoil of violence, separation, and brokenness that is escalating between peoples and nations, may the love and desire for harmony we profess here, and the understanding we seek through dialogue and mutual respect, serve as a model for our world. Indeed, may all humanity reach out to 'the other' and work together to overcome the suffering of people everywhere, particularly in the face of famine, natural disasters, disease, and war that ultimately touches all of our lives.

In light of all that has yet to be accomplished by the Church on earth, and with great appreciation for all the progress we have shared, we are, therefore, honored to be invited to attend – and humbled to be called to address – this solemn and festive commemoration of the Second Vatican Council. It is fitting that this occasion also marks for your Church the formal inauguration of the "Year of Faith", as it is faith that provides a visible sign of the journey we have traveled together along the path of reconciliation and visible unity.

In closing, Your Holiness, Beloved Brother, we wholeheartedly congratulate you − together with the blessed multitude assembled here today − and we fraternally embrace you on the joyous occasion of this anniversary celebration. May God bless you all. ■

[i] All scriptural citations from the New King James Version, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982.



Orthodox Leader Deepens Progressive Stance on Environment

By Marlise Simons

At a conference near Istanbul last June, the chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall spoke about the endangered habitat of what she called "our closest relatives." Underlining the evolutionary link, she described her encounter with a senior male ape who had a "beautiful white beard."

With a smile, she turned to the 72-year-old man in the front row and added, "Very much like yours."

The man with the long white beard was Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians. Fortunately, he is known for his easy, affable manner, and he joined the laughter that followed.

But his commitment to environmental activism is deeply serious, earning him the nickname the Green Patriarch. He has preached that caring for the environment is a religious imperative, and for more than a decade, he has made a point of bringing together theologians and scientists like Dr. Goodall for debates and briefings.

This year's reports of record melting of the earth's ice sheets and extreme droughts have given a new urgency to Bartholomew's messages about the degrading natural world. While economists and politicians prescribe more growth and consumption to overcome economic crises,

the patriarch insists that the real crisis is cultural and spiritual, and can be overcome only by moving away from rampant materialism.

All human beings, he has said, should draw a distinction "between what we want and what we need."

In September, he published a strongly worded encyclical calling on all Orthodox Christians to repent "for our sinfulness" in not doing enough to protect the planet. Biodiversity, "the work of divine wisdom," was not granted to humanity to abuse it, he wrote; human dominion over the earth does not mean the right to greedily acquire and destroy its resources. He singled out "the powerful of this world," saying they need a new mind-set to stop destroying the planet for profit or short-term interest.

Other religious leaders, including Pope Benedict XVI, the Dalai Lama and the archbishop of Canterbury, have also called for responsible stewardship of the environment. But Bartholomew has gone further than most; some theologians call his stance revolutionary.

"Traditionally in Christianity, sin was what you did to other humans," said Kallistos Ware, a prominent Orthodox theologian based in Britain, "but Bartholomew insisted that what you do to the animals, the air, the water, the land can be sinful, not just folly, and that was quite a change."

Aides say that Bartholomew's embrace of environmental issues is part of his agenda to modernize a deeply conservative church that can seem distant and insular, with its focus on long Byzantine rituals and mysticism. Speaking in defense of nature as a creation of God fits church teachings, and perhaps just as crucial, his aides say, it can also transcend the rivalries and nationalist rifts of the Eastern Orthodox Church. As a federation of 15 independent national churches, it lacks the central authority of, say, the Vatican.

Still, Bartholomew's seat, established 1,700 years ago, holds primacy among the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians. As "first among equals" in the church, he acts as convener and can set the agenda for discussion.

Not all church prelates are inspired by his efforts to enlighten the faithful on the environment. "The patriarch is going against the current in much of Orthodoxy," said the Rev. John Chryssavgis, an archdeacon of the church and adviser on environmental issues. "He has to preach and promote this constantly."

Aboard a ferry steaming toward Istanbul, Father Chryssavgis pointed out a sprawling church-owned building perched atop of the island of Buyukada. A former orphanage, it was seized by the Turkish government but returned to the church recently. Now empty and in disrepair, it will become an interfaith

study center for the environment if Bartholomew has his way.

"He wants a permanent institution," Father Chryssavgis said. "When he passes on, there may not be the same concern for the environment."

The impact of the patriarch's many sermons and conferences is difficult to gauge. There has been wide interest in a new book, "Greening the Orthodox Parish," said Frederick Krueger, its American editor. Subtitled "A Handbook for Christian Ecological Practice" and with a preface by Bartholomew, it covers theology, special liturgies and prayers as well as science papers and practical advice.

Numerous Orthodox monasteries and churches in Eastern Europe and the United States have switched to solar energy in recent years.

Among them is the Chrysopegi monastery on the Greek island of Crete, where the nuns use the environmental texts of the patriarch and other theologians in their teachings.

"More and more young people are coming to our courses," Mother Theocheni, the abbess of the monastery, said at the conference at Halki, near Istanbul. "They come to find meaning. Many seem to find inspiration in ecology. It's been growing fast for the last 10 years."



HANAC honors the Order of Saint Andrew and National Commander Limberakis

NEW YORK

The Hellenic-American Neighborhood Action Committee (HANAC) recognized The Order of Saint Andrew and its National Commander during their 40th Annual Dinner Dance Gala, Friday, October 26. Some 300 guests and Archons attended the black tie affair held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in New York.

Father Alexander Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor, offered the invocation followed by welcoming remarks by Mrs. Margo Catsimatidis, dinner chair. Mrs. Evangeline Douris, General Chair together with Archon Nikitas Drakotos, President, then presented the "Humanitarian Award" to Archon Alex Pritsos, Sergeant of Arms, who was joined by Archons in attendance who accepted the Award.

Archon John A. Catsimatidis, introducing HANAC's "Man of the Year," National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, said, "I have known Anthony for almost 25 years and he is one of the hardest working people I know. He works hard for his family, his company, and his church. Dr. Limberakis works day and night protecting our church in Constantinople and our Patriarch who resides there. He holds the title of National Commander of the Archons and leads an army of 700

Archons who work in various ways to accomplish this."

Speaking on the U.S. State Religious Freedom Resolutions Project of the Order, Archon Catsimatidis said, "With Anthony's leadership, the Archons have pushed through a "Resolution of Religious Tolerance" in almost every state (51 resolutions in 42 states so far). This resolution has greatly strengthened the safety of our Patriarch in Turkey and it is all due to the driving force of HANAC's man of the year, Dr. Anthony Limberakis."

Dr. Limberakis then accepted and dedicated the Award to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, and the 750 Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, and most specifically Fr. Alex, the Officers, National Council and Regional Commanders.

He stated, "Whether the Archons are in Washington, DC at the White House, or in Congress or at the State Department, or in each of the 50 State Capitals in the United States seeking religious freedom resolutions from their state legislatures, or in the Capital Cities of Europe's Rotating European Union Presidency, or in Warsaw, Poland at Europe's largest human rights meetings, or in Strasbourg, France arguing before the European Court of Human



Mrs. Evangeline Douris, General Chair, Archon Nikitas Drakotos, President and Archon John A. Catsimatidis, present the "Man of the Year Award" to National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis.

Rights or in Ankara, Turkey meeting with the leaders of Turkey or in Constantinople receiving the blessings of His All-Holiness and meeting with the religious minorities of Turkey, I pledge to each and every one of you here this evening that the Archons of America will not stop one millisecond in our pursuit of religious freedom for the Holy and Great Mother Church until the bells of freedom can be heard emanating from the Phanar. Only then will we pause, reflect and thank God that our prayers have been answered."

HANAC is a New York based multifaceted social services organization founded in 1972, by the late George T. Douris, Archon and past recipient of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award, to serve the needs of vulnerable populations throughout New York City. Their mission is to develop and administer the operation of essential social services including youth, senior and immigrant services, employment and education programs, counseling and affordable housing for the betterment of the community. HANAC presently sponsors over 40 programs located in twelve sites in four boroughs, serving over 25,000 clients annually.

Mrs. Evangeline Douris presents Alex Pritsos, Sergeant of Arms, with the "Humanitarian Award," who is joined by Archons at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



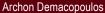


FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Archons Demacopoulos and Papanikolaou, co-founders, help secure Fordham's first ever challenge grant to Orthodox Christian Studies Center







Archon Papanikolaou

Professor Archon George Demacopoulos and Professor Archon Aristotle Papanikolaou, co-founders of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University, have just been awarded a National Endowment of the Humanities Matching Grant to the tune of \$500,000. Even more significant than the amount, is that this is the most prestigious award available for humanities-based scholarship in the United States.

Archon Demacopoulos said, "In short, an arm of the Federal Government has decided that Orthodox Christian Studies is a field worthy of significant investment so that all Americans will have a better understanding of Orthodox thought, history, and culture. We were one of only five institutions to be awarded the maximum amount."

In response to the news, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis said, "On behalf of the entire Archon family we extend our heartfelt congratulations! Indeed, this is a most extraordinary and prestigious recognition of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center founded by such worthy and devoted sons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. AXIOS!"

Founded by 2007, the Orthodox Christian Studies Center is the first university-based site for Orthodox Christian Studies in the western hemisphere.

THE BRONX

he Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University has received a prestigious challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), an independent federal agency and one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States.

The three-to-one matching grant requires the center to raise \$1.5 million, which will be matched by a \$500,000 award from the NEH. This sum will create a \$2 million endowment to fund to the center's Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence program and Dissertation Completion Fellowship program.

"The NEH grant is the strongest possible endorsement that the work of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center is unique, valuable, and necessary not simply for Orthodox Christianity or Catholic-Orthodox relations, but for the humanities writ at large," said Aristotle Papanikolaou, Ph.D., professor of theology and co-founding director of the center.

The two programs will provide a unique opportunity for scholars and doctoral students of Orthodox studies. The Scholar-in-Residence program is unprecedented for the discipline, while the Dissertation Completion Fellowship program will become one of only two nationwide.

"Years ago, when we had first started thinking about the center, we realized that we could have the greatest long-term impact by sponsoring research, books, and conferences," said George Demacopoulos, Ph.D., associate professor of theology and cofounding director of the center. "Now we want to create a space

where scholars who are studying Orthodox Christian studies can have access to the resources they need to pursue their scholarship." This is the first challenge grant earned by Fordham, which was one of only five institutions nationwide this year to receive the maximum award of \$500,000.

"I cannot think of a finer endorsement of Fordham's Orthodox Christian Studies Center than this prestigious NEH grant. The grant speaks volumes about the quality of scholarship produced in the program," said Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of the University. "In this, much credit is due to George Demacopoulos and Telly Papanikolaou, who have brought tremendous energy and new scholarship to Orthodox Studies at Fordham."

Founded by the two theology professors in 2007, the Orthodox Christian Studies Center is the first university-based site for Orthodox Christian Studies in the western hemisphere.

"This is great for our center, it's great for the Department of Theology, and it's great for the University," Demacopoulos said. "It reflects Father McShane's vision that this kind of center is truly important, and that its importance can be recognized outside of church-affiliated institutions."

Founded in 1841, Fordham is the Jesuit University of New York, offering exceptional education distinguished by the Jesuit tradition to more than 15,100 students in its four undergraduate colleges and its six graduate and professional schools. It has residential campuses in the Bronx and Manhattan, a campus in West Harrison, N.Y., the Louis Calder Center Biological Field Station in Armonk, N.Y., and the London Centre at Heythrop College in the United Kingdom.



Archons and pilgrims celebrate the feastday of Saint Nicholas in Havana, Cuba

HAVANA

nder the auspices of His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras and led by Father Alexander Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor, a group of over 80 Archons and Greek Orthodox faithful journeyed to Havana, Cuba for a six-day pilgrimage to visit Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The pilgrimage, in celebration of the Feast of Saint Nicholas, lasted from December 5-10 and was sponsored by the Order of Saint Andrew.

The beautiful Byzantine-style Cathedral is decorated with Greek mosaics, icons and candelabras and has a handcarved wooden altar. It was built in a garden of the Basilica Minor of Saint Francis of Assisi, at the port side in Colonial Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon the official invitation of former President Fidel Castro in January 2004, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew made a five-day official visit to Cuba. consecrating the new St. Nicholas Cathedral. Former President Fidel Castro presented the key of the Cathedral to the spiritual leader of the world's 250 million Orthodox Christians. His All-Holiness invited Archbishop Demetrios of America to accompany him on his historic, first-ever visit to a Latin American nation.

The group enjoyed many memorable moments in the church. One of the highlights was the baptisms of five Cubans to the Orthodox Christian faith. The happiness and enthusiasm on their faces was heartwarming to all of the pilgrims from the USA.

On Sunday, December 9, after Divine Liturgy, members of the Cuban parish—both children and adults—impressed the group with a wonderful performance which included songs in Spanish, English and Greek and a rendition of "The Old Man and the Sea," a novel written by Ernest Hemingway. The group was hosted for lunch by the parishioners in the beautiful gar-

dens behind the church. Their pride beamed as they offered the lunch and their presentation to the pilgrims.

The Cypriot Ambassador, His Excellency Stavros Loizides, invited the group to a lovely cocktail reception in the garden of his residence. An official from the American Mission to the US Interest Section was also present, along with the Greek, Russian, Serbian and Austrian Ambassadors. In addition, a breakfast meeting took place with the Greek Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Pantelis Carcabassis.



Archons and pilgrims stand with His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras in front of Saint Nicholas Cathedral following the Divine Liturgy.



Archons process with the icon of Saint Nicholas.



Metropolitan Athenagoras officiates the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.



Prayers are recited for newly-baptized Orthodox Christians.



Metropolitan Athenagoras together with clergy of the local community baptizes a young woman into Orthodox Christian faith.



Archon Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis and National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas with children of the Saint Nicholas community.



Archons and pilgrims stand with His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras in front of Saint Nicholas Cathedral following the Divine Liturgy.



Archon Nicholas Loutsion carries the icon of Saint Nicholas in procession.



Metropolitan Athenagoras with National Philoptochos Skeadas and Archon Stratakis.



TO HUMEN CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

Today, during the Divine Liturgy our heart and attention were directed in thought and prayer for those who lost their lives at Sandy Hook Elementary School, in Connecticut, USA, especially the tender children and their caring teachers. We stand in silent prayer and tears beside their siblings, parents, and extended family, as well as the community and entire American nation, as we mourn the loss of innocence and extinguishing of dreams.

At this moment, we are the silence and tears of God. No words can adequately express the grief of those related to the victims or, indeed, the disbelief of us all. Silence and tears are the only fitting response to the traumatic unfolding of events, which began last Friday morning, and whose reverberation will continue for days and years to come. Silence and tears are the only tangible way that the presence of God, who always receives "the sacrifice of a broken and crushed heart," can fill our painful void with solace and transform our unimaginable grief into comfort. Silence and tears are the only selfless way that we can stand in solidarity with one another before this tragedy.

When the pain subsides and the tears dry, then we may reflect on the reality of horror and darkness in our world. Then we must interpret for our children; but, more importantly, we must inform society and influence politicians about how to reshape our world so that this never happens again. We must ponder our response to the suffering and violence in our life. We must understand the responsibility we share for terror and evil, which is easily blamed on others — whether other peoples or other individuals — but should also be discerned among us and even within us. And we must assume initiatives for radical decisions and drastic changes in our society and the global community. Then, the lives of these victims will not have been lost in vain. Then, their candles will shine brightly forever.

There are more angels in heaven today. And those closest to the sweet children and their loving teachers are surrounded by more than just our love. They can take pride in "such a great cloud of witnesses," who are now in the arms of God.

May their memory be eternal!

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, with paternal compassion and fervent prayer

To Kurig Certin's Dojens Sacrosopano

† BARTHOLOMEW

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch



Bishop Gregory ordained ruling hierarch of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

On Nov. 27, His Grace Bishop Gregory became the fourth ruling Bishop of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA through the laying-on-of-hands by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the co-consecrating bishops, at Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

More than 500 clergy, Archons and faithful gathered to take part in the ordination. Bishop Gregory succeeds His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of blessed memory.

During the reception, Archon John Halecky was joined by his fellow Archons who then presented a gift of a Panagia to His Grace.







The laying-on-of-hands, top left, by Archbishop Demetrios and co-consecrators. Top right, L-R: His Grace Bishop Savas of Pittsburgh, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA, His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and His Grace Bishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA. Archon John Halecky, National Secretary, is joined by fellow Archons, above, as they present a panagia to Bishop Gregory during the consecration banquet.

REGIONAL NEWS



Archon Tzakis honored as first Greek physician to become member of European Surgical Association

MIAMI

Dr. Andreas G. Tzakis, Archon Aktouarios, has been invited to become an honorary member of the European Surgical Association (ESA) in Beaune, France and to present a lecture in April 2013. He is the first physician of Greek heritage to become a member of the ESA.

Archon Tzakis received the honorary degree of "D HC Mult" from the Sahlgrenska Academy of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden for his pioneering contributions in organ transplantation and his vital collarboration in research/medical education.

Archon Tzakis was recognized for building the intestinal/mutivisceral organ transplantation

program at the University of Gothenburg. The ceremonial hat and diploma to commemorate this great honor were given.

On behalf of the Archons in South Florida, Regional Commander John C. Scurtis, Archon Hartoularios, proudly congratulates Dr. Tzakis for his pioneering efforts in medicine. *Axios! Axios! Axios!*

Archons gather to celebrate feastday of Saint Andrew

Throughout the country, Archons celebrated the feastday of Saint Andrew the Apostle–patron saint for the Order of Saint Andrew and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

On November 25, the Archons of the Greater Philadelphia gathered at St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall, PA where an Artoklasia service was conducted for the good health and strength of our worldwide spiritual father His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew; our spiritual father in America and Exarch His **Eminence Archbishop Demetrios** and our spiritual father in the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos, as well as all the Archons and their families. A memorial service was also offered for the repose of the Archons of the area who have fallen asleep in The Lord.

Following a National Council meeting at the offices of Nicholas J. Bouras in Summit, New Jersey, several Council members joined Archons on Thursday, November 29, to celebrate Vespers at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ. Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey presided and a reception followed sponsored by the Church's Philoptochos Chapter.

That same day, South Florida Archons celebrated the Vesper service at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Miami-Kendall. Attendance was arranged by Regional Commander John C. Scurtis, Archon Hartoularios. Father Arisitides Arizi conducted the service and several other South Florida area priests from neighboring parishes also joined in prayer.

Father Arizis spoke on the good deeds that the Archons are doing continuously in "defending the faith" and in support of His All-Holiness and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Archons of the greater Tampa Bay also area came together on Sunday, December 2 to celebrate the feastday at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Clearwater, Florida.

In honor of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Father James Paris, Proistamenos of Holy Trinity, declared that Sunday as "Archon Appreciation Sunday." Father Paris spoke of the tireless effort of the Archons as "defenders of the faith" and their active support of the Ecumenical Patriarch. Seven area Archons were joined by wives, who attended from four of the area churches and participated in the Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia service. Father Paris also prayed for the health of all Archons in the area and their families and presented an Artos to Regional Commander Theodore Vlahos MD. The Archons sponsored the fellowship coffee hour at Holy Trinity as a reminder of their commitment to the Mother Church.











[1] His All-Holiness celebrates the Feastday of St. Andrew at the Patriarchal Church of St. George. [2] Archons of Greater Philadelphia area prayed at St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church for the feastday. [3] L-R: Archons Savas Tsivicos, John Blazakis, Andreas Comodromos, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Metropolitan Evangelos, Regional Commander the Hon. Judge B.

Theodore Bozonelis, John Halecky, Jr., George Siamboulis along with Mr. John Kourounis, the beloved father of Metropolitan Evangelos. [4] Back Row, L-R: Rev. Gustavo Alfonso, Rev. David Wooten, Rev. Andrew Maginas, Rev. Spiro Bobotas, Rev. Aristides Arizi, Archon Henry Angelo, Jr. Front Row, L-R: Archons Theodore Kays, Basil Yanakakis, Constantine Lantz, Regional Commander John C. Scurtis, Rev. Elias Bouboutsis, Angelo Demos, Rev. John Codis. [5] Regional Commander Dr. Theodore Vlahos and wife Filitsa, the Honorable Michael Bilirakis, former U.S. Congressman, and wife Evelyn, Dr. Louis Michaelos and wife Mary, Mr. Elias and Katie Chinonis, Mr. George and Demetra Kalambokis, iconographer Elias Damianakis and wife Angela, and George Psetas, Esq.



PHOTO BRIEFS







Top, left: On December 9, His All-Holiness presided over the funeral service for Patriarch Ignatius IV of Antioch and All the East, in Beirut. The late Patriarch Ignatius (Hazim) passed away on December 5, at the age of 92.

Top, right: On December 12, His All-Holiness met with President of France, the Hon. François Hollande at the Elysee Palace in Paris. His All-Holiness was accompanied by Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Bishop Athenagoras of Sinope and Deacon Andreas.

Above: On November 29, the President of Bulgaria, the Hon. Rosen Plevneliev, visited the Phanar, where he was received by His All-Holiness.



Departed Archons



11/08/2012	Spiro Cappony, Archon Hartoularios
	Reno, NV

10/12/2012 Dr. George T. Demos, Archon Aktouarios Highlands Ranch, CO

11/18/2012 Dr. Orestis D. Finale, Archon Kastrinsios Brooklyn, NY

11/19/2012 John S. Kokonos, Archon Ekdikos Havertown, PA

10/05/2012 Angelo L. Pappas, Archon Depoutatos Los Angeles, CA

11/11/2012 Constantine J. Skedros, Archon Depoutatos

Salt Lake City, UT

George L. Strike, Archon Depoutatos 10/20/2012

Loveland, OH

May their memory be eternal!

