



2012
ANNUAL REPORT



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

The Annual Report is published annually by the Order of Saint Andrew Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. © 2012

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The 2012 Annual Report photos by:
N. Manginas, D. Panagos and J. Mindala

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

Respectfully Submitted,

In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

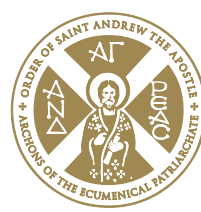
Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D.

Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D.

Archon Aktouarios

National Commander

October 20, 2012



ON THE COVER: His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received an exact replica of an ancient Byzantine Cross from His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, expressing the Pope's appreciation, for His All-Holiness' participation in the celebrations in Rome for the 50th anniversary since the opening of Vatican II. Photo by L'Osservatore Romano.



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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
National Commander
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
The Order of Saint Andrew
8 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Limberakis, Esteemed Members of the National Council, and Beloved Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle,

With thanks to Our Lord and Savior for the blessing which He bestows upon our Church through your valued offering of service that has earned you the title, defenders of the faith, I welcome you to New York City for the 2012 Annual meeting of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle.

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

By your 2012 Annual Meeting and the grace of God, may you be renewed in your worthy aims while continually exhorting and encouraging each other in the ministry of the Church. I offer my best wishes and prayers for fruitful meeting deliberations and for God's infinite grace upon you and your sacred work.

With paternal love in Christ,

Archbishop Demetrios of America

† DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America

Ἐκ τῆς Ἁγίας Ὁρθόδοξης Ἀνατολικῆς Καθολικῆς Ἐκκλησίας
ἡμεῖς ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος τῆς Ἀνατολικῆς Ὀρθόδοξης Ἐκκλησίας
καὶ ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος τῆς Ἀμερικής

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

It is our paternal joy to address this Patriarchal Letter on the occasion of your Annual Meeting and the official presentation of the Annual Report of the Order of St. Andrew for 2012.

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

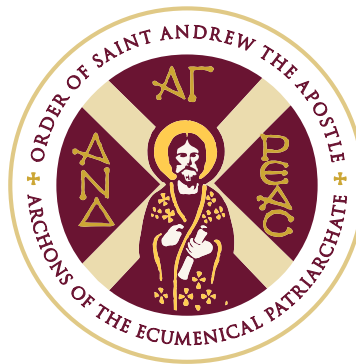
May you continue to serve the Great Church of Christ and all God's people with your characteristic compassion and commitment. And may God bless you and your families with His abundant mercy and love.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, September 21, 2012

Your fervent supplicant before God,

† Bartholomew

† BARTHOLOMEW
Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch



Defenders of the Faith

Executive Summary The Religious Freedom Mission

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

THE ARCHON ARENA

Washington, DC; Each of the 50 States; the European Union (Brussels, Belgium; Capitals of Europe); the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Warsaw, Poland); the European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg, France); Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey; Second International Archon Religious Freedom Conference (Berlin, Germany)

The Order of Saint Andrew is engaged in the relentless execution of a multifaceted domestic and international strategy to secure religious freedom and the institutional human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Spiritual Center of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians. The Archons of America under the inspired leadership of the Exarch, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and the members of our Holy Eparchial Synod, are beginning to witness early signs that an intransigent government apparatus is moving incrementally to granting improved religious freedom, building on events that were initiated in 2011 by the government. **In addition, after extraordinary Archon persistence, perseverance and intense activity in the expansive Archon Arena since 1998, we may be seeing a significant change in the position of the government of Turkey.**

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

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

[2011 Annual Report]

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

Government interference in selection of Ecumenical Patriarch

Requirement of Turkish citizenship: **PM Erdoğan waived the 5 year residency requirement for Turkish citizenship opening the path for hierarchs to apply for Turkish citizenship**

- 26 Hierarchs from around the world have applied
- 21 Hierarchs have received Turkish Citizenship
- 5 Hierarchs have been denied Turkish Citizenship, apparently in an arbitrary manner without meaningful explanation

Lack of Legal Personality

A detailed strategy is being contemplated in pursuit of a bona fide legal personality, although this process is in the nascent stage

Non-recognition of title *Ecumenical*

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

Property confiscation

Significant positive developments

- **Return to Ecumenical Patriarchate by unanimous Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (July 7, 2008), the Patriarchal Orphanage located in Pringipos Island (Büyükkada Island, the largest of the Princes’ Islands in the Sea of Marmara, near Istanbul) on November 30, 2010; the Ecumenical Patriarchate has announced that the Orphanage will be transformed into a**



His All-Holiness welcomed Vice President Joseph Biden to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, December 4, 2011. This was the first time a sitting Vice President has ever visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Global Center for Peace and the Environment, a project supported by the Brookings Institution and its Managing Director Archon William Antholis

- **August 27, 2011 Turkish government signed historic decree to return confiscated property to religious minority foundations** and to compensate those foundations for those properties that were sold to third parties; the Regulations to implement the decree were published on October 1, 2011 and there are a number of concerns voiced by human rights organizations and the religious minorities regarding such implementation
- **The decree currently applies to 167 minority foundations of which approximately 67 are Greek Orthodox claiming over 1012 Greek Orthodox properties in issue**
- **As of August 30, 2012, the General Directorate has thus far identified 115 non-Muslim minority foundations (of the 167 including some Greek Orthodox foundations), which have applied for 1452 properties**
- The General Directorate is slowly going through the applications for property return and as of August 30, 2012 **has approved only 51 applications** for the return of property, **given monetary compensation** on one property that could not be returned as it was conveyed to third parties, and **rejected 32 applications**.

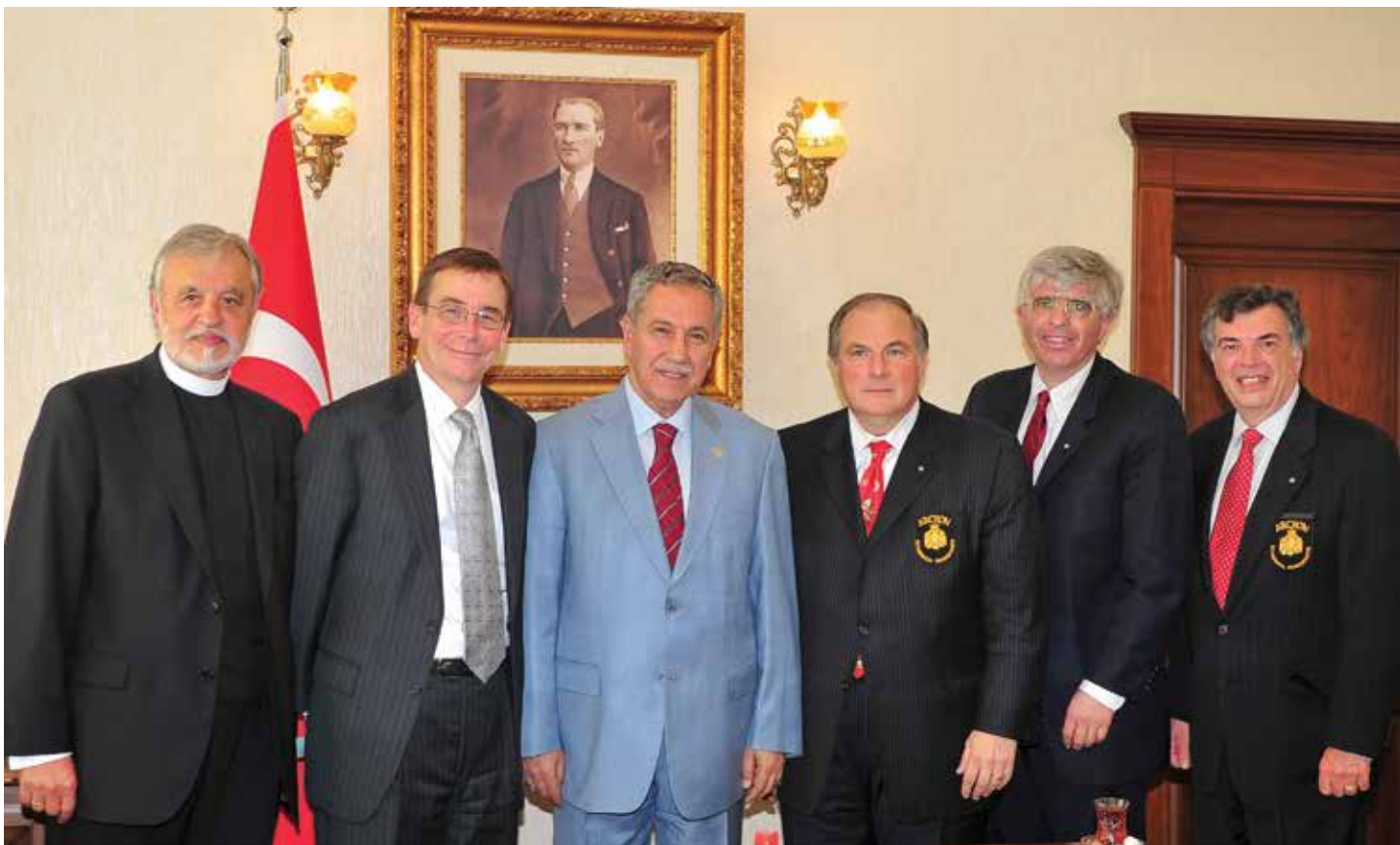
- As a positive development, however, certain Greek Orthodox Foundations have regained valuable properties and are hopeful that others will follow
- The Archons will continue to monitor the status of applications and provide assistance as requested through the Patriarchal Properties Committee chaired by Archon Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis

Closure of Halki School of Theology, forcibly closed 41 years ago

There have been public statements calling for the reopening of Halki by significant government leaders, including the President of Religious Affairs, Prof. Mehmet Görmez

In light of these statements, and the recent appointment of His Eminence Metropolitan Elpidophoros, a Professor of Theology as Dean of the Seminary, the Order remains vigilant and optimistic the Seminary will reopen

The position of the Order of Saint Andrew and for human rights organizations in general is that **the issue of religious freedom and human rights is not one of reciprocity** and not of *quid pro quo* status



On September 12, 2012, members of the Archon delegation had an hour and a half meeting with Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç, which covered major concerns in detail; and reviewed recent positive steps.

Celebration by His All-Holiness of Divine Liturgy at Greek Orthodox religious shrines “allowed” in isolated circumstances, an activity previously prohibited

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

The Archon Washington Initiative

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

It has been six years since the Manatos team on behalf of the Order secured a record number of signatures on letters to the President regarding religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. 75 of the 100 United States Senators signed a letter (dated November 29, 2006) calling on the President to prevent the termination of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and allow it full religious freedom. Today reinvigorating that effort to educate our Members of Congress, new letters are being circulated since nearly one half of today's Members were not in Congress six years ago. In the Senate the

new letter has been signed by 90 of the 100 US Senators and the new letter in the House, which this time is now open to all Members of the House of Representatives (not just those on the House Foreign Affairs Committee as it was in 2007), **has been signed by 291 (or 67%) of the 435 Members.**

For the first time in history, a sitting Vice President of the United States visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This was an extraordinary statement by our government in support of the religious freedom of the Spiritual Center of world Orthodoxy. Vice President Biden was greeted at the entrance to the Patriarchal compound by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, together with the Chancellor, the Chief Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod, and the Patriarchal Court. Afterward, the Vice President was introduced to members of the Holy and Sacred Synod, clergy and laity of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as well as prominent members of the Greek Orthodox community in Turkey and abroad, including Archons of the Order of St. Andrew in the United States.

The Archon 50-State Plan to Enact Religious Freedom Resolutions

Archon Stephen Georgeson, Esq. is coordinating the Archon State Legislative Religious Freedom Resolution Initiative pro bono. The Order has identified Archons, clergy and key Orthodox



On September 13, 2012, 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.

Christians in all 50 states and has asked them to participate in local campaigns to enact Religious Freedom Resolutions in their state legislatures under the coordination of Archon Georgeson. Thus far, **51 Religious Freedom Resolutions have been adopted in 42 states representing 90% of the American citizens**, including the most populous states in the Union, California, New York and Texas. Since the last Annual Report, five more states and seven more Resolutions have been added. The Order congratulates and expresses its appreciation to Archon Georgeson and his team as they proceed state by state to secure Religious Freedom Resolutions.

The Archon European Union Initiative

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

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and in cooperation with His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, director of the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union,

the Order journeyed on **two Religious Freedom Missions to the European Union**, since our last report. The first mission began on November 30, 2011 in Warsaw, Poland the seat of the rotating EU Presidency and concluded at the Phanar on December 3, 2011 during the historic visit of Vice President Joseph Biden (see page 20 of this Annual Report). The **second Religious Freedom Mission** was initiated in Berlin, Germany on September 9, 2012 and served as an advance trip to develop the logistics and foundation for the Second International Archon Religious Freedom Conference scheduled for the first week of December 2013 and concluded in Turkey where a number of substantive meetings took place with government leaders and religious minority representatives. In Ankara, the Archon Delegation met with the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Jess Baily at the Official Chargé Residence, then with Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç and finally with the President of Turkey's Religious Affairs Directorate, Professor Mehmet Görmez, Turkey's top Muslim cleric. In addition, while in Ankara the Archon Delegation hosted a luncheon meeting with a Religious Freedom Delegation from the U.S. Government Accounting Office which was visiting the U.S. Embassies around the world confirming the Embassy's work implementing religious freedom foreign policy requirements, as mandated by Congress. While in Istanbul the Archon Delegation received the blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew; churched themselves on the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George, met with Minister Egemen Bağış, Secretariat General for EU Affairs at his Istanbul office and

had extensive meetings with representatives of the religious minorities of Turkey at the Agia Triada (Holy Trinity) Greek Orthodox Church in Taksim Square, in preparation of the Berlin religious freedom conference.

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

On a personal note, it was rather disconcerting to be in a foreign country during the anniversary of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks during which time a heroic United States Ambassador, the Hon. Christopher Stevens was tragically assassinated in Libya. With that horrific and heinous act of terrorism against the United States, it became alarmingly apparent that the dedication of our diplomatic corps and their unparalleled commitment to democratic ideals can result in their ultimate sacrifice. We convey our deep sympathy to Mrs. Stevens and her beloved family.

The Archon Legal Initiative

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

The 2012 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship:

**Archon Depoutatos James C. Fountas
& Archon Ekdikos John Halecky, Jr.**

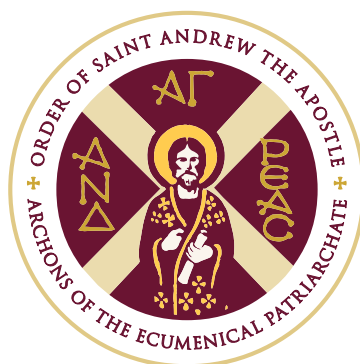
Axioi! Axioi! Axioi!

In honor of the extraordinary and incomparable Archon Stewardship Vice Commander **Archon Depoutatos** Nicholas J. Bouras has demonstrated over the many years economically and spiritually empowering the Order to execute its sacred mission to Defend the Mother Church of Constantinople, the National Council established an award in his name. The inaugural recipient of the **Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship** was **Archon Depoutatos** George D. Behrakis who received the recognition on June 5, 2011 at the Metropolitan Club in New York at an elegant celebratory gala dinner dance. The 2012 recipients of this coveted recognition are **Archon Depoutatos** James C. Fountas, National Treasurer and **Archon Ekdikos** John Halecky, Jr., National Secretary. The exemplary accomplishments and Archon stewardship of these devoted sons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate are laudatory and most deserving of this distinguished Award.

Respectfully Submitted,
In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



Archon Aktouarios
National Commander
October 20, 2012



Defenders of the Faith

A Year In Review

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“Freedom, in the end, is the right to be human.”

—Admiral James G. Stavridis, speech excerpt at Grand Banquet

Admiral James G. Stavridis and the U.S. Armed Forces, become recipient of Athenagoras Human Rights Award



October 15, 2011

New York - Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, together with Archons' National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to Admiral James G. Stavridis, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, who accepted on behalf of the heroic members of the United States Armed Forces. Admiral Stavridis is the highest-ranking Greek American in the history of the United States military. The Award was presented during the annual Human Rights Banquet held at the New York Hilton on October 15, 2011, with over 600 Archons and guests in attendance.

In presenting the Award, Dr. Limberakis paid tribute to Admiral Stavridis and the members of our Armed Forces, stating: “The three million heroes of America’s men and women in uniform who defend our

way of life each singularly, and together collectively, share in the 2011 Athenagoras Human Rights Award.

“There are those among who lobby for human rights. There are those among us who pray for human rights. But no one among us is called upon to lay down their own lives and make the ultimate sacrifice to safeguard those very fundamental human rights, other than the members of our Armed Services, the recipients of the 2011 Athenagoras Human Rights Award.”

In accepting the Award, Admiral Stavridis spoke about his family and the values that were instilled in him and particularly about his father who left Asia Minor in the early 20th Century and conveyed his pride for his Hellenic heritage. Admiral Stavridis also emphasized the humanitarian role of the Armed Forces and highlighted that “it is the duty of the strong to protect those who are weak,” adding that “might does not make right” and explaining



Archon Mike Emanuel, left, Chief Congressional Correspondent, FOX News, makes introductions. Archon George Stephanopoulos, right, ABC Chief Political Correspondent and Co-Ancor, Good Morning America, served as Master of Ceremonies.



that “we live in an imperfect world [in which] human rights sadly are not the norm.”

Admiral Stavridis closed his speech with the valedictory words of Nikos Kazantzakis, the author of *Report to Greco* and *Zorba the Greek*, saying, “I want nothing. I fear nothing. I am free.” If we can help create a world without want, a world without fear ... we will have created a world

where we are free. That is the most important, undeniable, and central human right of all – freedom. Freedom, in the end, is the right to be human.

I thank you for this Award, and I humbly accept it on behalf of the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, volunteers all, who defend our freedom every day.” ■

Pictured left, the Honorable Dr. Susan Johnson Cook, U.S. Ambassador for Religious Freedom, Archon John Halecky, National Secretary, Archbishop Demetrios, Archon James C. Fountas, National Treasurer, Admiral Stavridis, Archon George Stephanopoulos, Master of Ceremonies, National Commander Dr. Limberakis.



Twenty-nine new Archons invested in Class of '11 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

October 16, 2011

New York - Earlier in the weekend, the Annual Archon Weekend commenced with an new Archon orientation dinner held on

Friday, Oct. 14 beginning with an invocation by His Grace Bishop Savas of Troas, assisted by Chaplain Father Milton Gianulis. Members of the

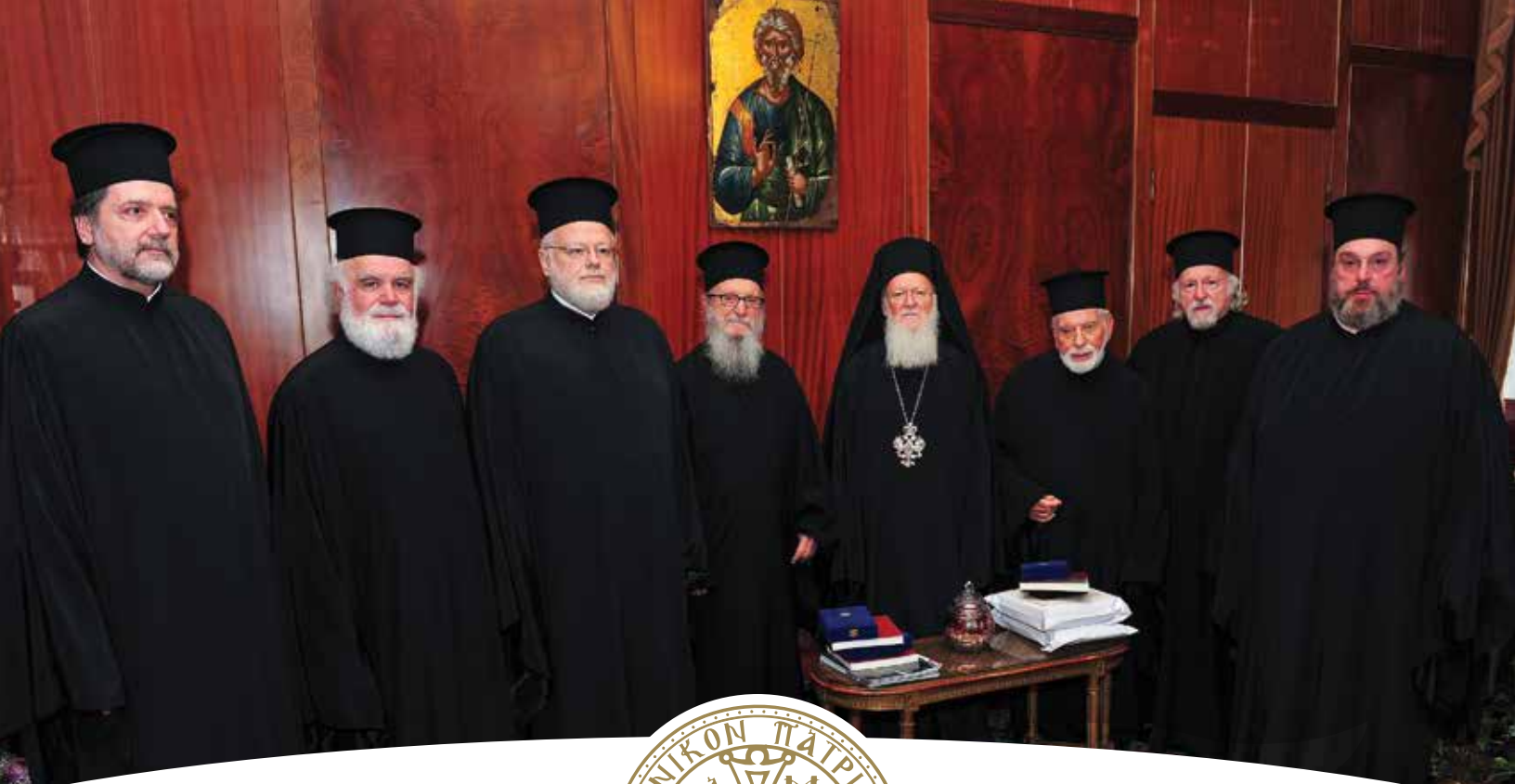
National Council and Regional Commanders of the Order of Saint Andrew joined Archons-elect and their spouses for an evening of fellowship and introductions.

On Sunday morning, October 16, Archbishop Demetrios presided at the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City with Metropolitans Methodios of Boston, Isaiah of Denver and Evangelos of New Jersey concelebrating. Following the Divine Liturgy the ceremony of investiture of the new Archons took place. ■



Archbishop Demetrios of America invests Reince Priebus, left. Archons-elect bear candles, top, during the solemn Archon Investiture. Senator Dean Skelos, above left, is invested as an Archon. Archbishop Demetrios with Archon Theo Nicolakis with his family, above top right. Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver invests Archon Tom Suehs, above bottom right.





Elected October 22



Enthroned November 2

HIS ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW

ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

Archbishop Demetrios leads Archons in pilgrimage for twenty-year anniversary celebrations for His All-Holiness

October 2011

Istanbul - Led by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and with the participation of the entire Eparchial Synod of our Holy Archdiocese of America, over fifty Archons and other pilgrims traveled to Constantinople in order to honor the twentieth anniversary of the election and enthronement

of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Upon their arrival in Constantinople on October 20, the pilgrims travelled to the historic Baloukli Monastery, where they visited the underground shrine and Holy Spring of Zoodochos Pege (Life-Giving Spring) and the adjacent cemetery, where an impromptu

Trisagion was held at the burial site of Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I (1948-72), former Archbishop of North and South America (1930-48). Later that evening, a welcome dinner was hosted at the Divan Hotel by Archbishop Demetrios.

The next day, October 21, the pilgrims participated in a full day of guided sight-seeing, begin-

ning at the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora, now a museum, where they observed the stunning mosaics and frescoes. The pilgrims later moved on to the Hippodrome and the grand Hagia Sophia, the Church of Holy Wisdom, which was completed under Byzantine Emperor Justinian in 537 AD.

That evening, a reception and

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, above, with the Exarch, Archbishop Demetrios of America and members of the Holy Eparchial Synod.



Archon Constantine G. Caras, top left, offers greetings on behalf of Leadership 100 which co-sponsored the twentieth anniversary tribute dinner. His Excellency Francis Ricciardone, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, delivers greetings, middle left, on behalf of President Barack Obama and other U.S. diplomats. Archon Laki Vingas, bottom left, reads congratulatory messages from the President and Prime Minister of Turkey. His All-Holiness presides, top, during the Patriarchal Chorastasia on Saturday, October 22, in Saint George Church. A celebratory cake is cut, above left, during a special reception and dinner co-hosted by The Order of Saint Andrew and Leadership 100. Through the hands of Archbishop Demetrios of America, Archons Alexander Pritsos and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., assist in presenting a hand crafted American Chelsea clock, above right, to His All-Holiness.

banquet was hosted for His All-Holiness at the elegant Four Seasons Bosphorous Hotel. Over 400 guests attended the banquet. In his welcome remarks, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, noted that “the twenty-year Patriarchal Ministry of His All-Holiness is one of a few unparalleled diakonias in the 1700 year history of the Sacred See of Saint Andrew not only in terms of longevity, for His All-Holiness is one of only nine Ecumenical Patriarchs who have served for more than twenty years, but more importantly in substantive accomplishment.” Dr. Limberakis highlighted many of the extraordinary accomplishments of Ecumenical Patriarch

Bartholomew, from the ecclesiastical, global, political, inter-Orthodox, environmental and ecumenical perspectives. Among other things, Dr. Limberakis emphasized the breakthrough initiatives pioneered by His All-Holiness, including the luminary sessions of the Synaxis of the Heads of all Autocephalous Churches; the Tolerance and Peace Conferences and post 9-11 international conferences seeking greater interfaith understanding through dialogue with Jews, Christians and Muslims; the strengthening of bonds with other confessions; and the tireless efforts to promote Pan-Orthodox cooperation. Dr. Limberakis further noted His

All-Holiness’s devotion to the environment, for which he has been recognized as one of the leading conservationists of our time, earning the title “Green Patriarch.”

In his banquet toast, Archon Constantine G. Caras, Chairman of Leadership 100, noted the tireless devotion and steady guidance of His All-Holiness: “You have been a good shepherd for your flock, always ready, as you promised in your address on the day of your enthronement, to sacrifice your soul for your sheep.” Archon Caras then made his toast, based on Psalm 20, asking that the Lord protect His All-Holiness, remember his

offerings and fulfill all of his petitions.

His Excellency Francis Ricciardone, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, echoed these sentiments and praised His All-Holiness’s inspirational leadership, stating: “With his deep love for God, for His Creation, and for all mankind, and with his tireless commitment to interfaith dialogue and the protection of the environment for future generations, His All-Holiness Bartholomew has inspired millions around the world, no matter whom they recognize as their Prophet. I feel blessed to have first met him 16 years ago with then-First Lady Clinton, and



His Excellency Egemen Bagis, Turkish Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator held a meeting with Archons Constantine G. Caras, John Zavitsanos, Alex Pritsos, Nicholas Karacostas, Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., Peter Skeadas, Father Alex Karloutsos, the Hon. Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis, Stephen Cherpelis, Harry Cavalaris and Nikiforos Mathews.

many times since then; and deeply honored to join in celebrating the 20th anniversary of his accession to the Ecumenical Patriarchate." The Ambassador later delivered remarks offered by President Barack Obama, former President George Herbert Walker Bush and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Archon Laki Vingas, the official representative of all the religious minority foundations in Turkey, also read a letter of congratulations from President Abdullah Gul of Turkey and mentioned that he also had official greetings from Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the foreign minister of Turkey.

In his remarks, Archbishop Demetrios of America recognized His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as the "Serving Patriarch" by making reference to the Gospel of Luke when the Lord, during a dispute amongst His disciples, said to them, but I am among you as one who serves (Luke

22:27). His Eminence continued saying that "Our Most Holy and beloved Patriarch is a true servant of God who, through his intense, eloquent and continuous offering of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, serves and ministers the people in every part of the Earth while seeking peace and reconciliation for all mankind... Under not the best conditions, he is serving in spite of obstacles and sometimes insurmountable difficulties. He has elevated the image and the spiritual authority of the Ecumenical Patriarch in a level unheard of before... This 'Serving Patriarch' we honor tonight for the 20th anniversary of his Enthronement. We pray that the Lord gives him plenty of years to continue His truly wonderful work teaching with love and truth the Gospel to our wounded, troubled and confused world."

In his address, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew told the guests that the past twenty years had been "filled with numerous and diverse blessings for all of

us and for our Church throughout the world. Unexpected and unimagined gifts have been showered upon the Great Church of Christ and its faithful children." His All-Holiness gave thanks for these gifts and expressed gratitude towards his predecessors on the Throne of Constantinople, emphasizing that "we are beholden to all those who have preserved our Church - often under difficult, if not impossible conditions - for the future generations." He concluded his remarks with heartfelt appreciation to the Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew for their exemplary devotion, efforts and achievements "in order to uphold and honor the venerable Ecumenical Patriarchate and our Modesty, soothing our pain and lightening our burden over these years."

At the conclusion of the banquet, Archbishop Demetrios, assisted by National Commander Limberakis and Sergeant of Arms Alex Pritsos, presented a hand crafted American Chelsea

clock, depicting the Patriarchal 20th anniversary emblem, to His All-Holiness. The gift was presented on behalf of the Order and the delegation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

On Saturday, October 22, the pilgrims attended the Divine Liturgy with a Patriarchal Chorostasia in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the enthronement of His All-Holiness at Saint George Cathedral at the Phanar. A great number of hierarchs were in attendance for this service. Following the service, a delegation comprised of the Archon National Council members and Regional Commanders participating in the pilgrimage, as well as Archon Nicholas A. Karacostas, Chairman of the Board of AHEPA, met with His Excellency Egemen Bağış, Turkish Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator, at the offices of the Ministry. The delegation, led by Dr. Limberakis and Archon Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, thanked



Hierarchs visiting from around the world, top, included, L-R, Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, Patriarch Irinej of Serbia and Patriarch Ilia of Georgia. Pilgrims in the underground Sacred Spring of Zoodochos Peghe, above, at the historic Baloukli Monastery.

Minister Bağış for his ongoing efforts in support of religious freedom. The meeting participants also discussed numerous matters of importance to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including the recent decree by Prime Minister Erdoğan regarding the return of confiscated properties to minority communities in Turkey, which the Archon leadership recognized as a “dramatic and courageous move” and “a bold gesture.” The delegation also brought to Minister Bağış’ attention the action of the Turkish Government rejecting certain hierarchs for Turkish citizenship, thereby undermining the government’s effort to improve religious freedom. During the meeting, Minister Bağış expressed his deep admiration for His All-Holiness, calling him a good citizen and asset of the Turkish State.

That evening, the pilgrims attended a reception hosted by the Orthodox Christian

Community of Istanbul at the newly renovated Assembly Hall of the Galata Primary School.

On Sunday, October 23, the Feast Day of St. Iakovos, the pilgrims attended the Divine Liturgy at St. George Cathedral, which was concelebrated by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, His Beatitude Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, who was visiting the Ecumenical Patriarchate, four Metropolitans of the Serbian Church and four Hierarchs of the Ecumenical Throne including our own Archbishop Demetrios of America.

The pilgrimage was a celebration marking a major milestone for a unique personality in our Church, honoring a man who has transcended all boundaries to become a true “world-wide father,” and a truly servant Patriarch in imitation of our serving God. ■

Departed Archons

03/15/2012	William Boykas, Archon Architekton Coopersburg, PA
05/06/2012	Carl G. Cantonis, Archon Primikrios Fullerton, CA
03/24/2012	Nick D. Christy, Archon Depoutatos Newport Coast, CA
08/06/2012	Frank Cockinos, Archon Architekton Charlotte, NC
07/25/2012	James Counelis, Archon Hartoularios Orinda, CA
11/06/2011	Emmanuel A. Gianakakos, Archon Depoutatos Lincolnwood, IL
12/15/2011	John Gigounas, Archon Ekdikos Tiburon, CA
07/01/2012	Peter Karagines, Archon Maestor Yorba Linda, CA
06/01/2012	Michael J. Katos, Archon Depoutatos Beechurst, NY
09/22/2011	George J. Kevgas, Archon Depoutatos Methuen, MA
01/26/2012	Demetrios S. Kotsakis, Archon Ostiarios Park Ridge, IL
07/03/2012	Prof. Dimitrios G. Kousoulas, Archon Depoutatos Bethesda, MD
12/04/2011	Thomas Kress, Archon Notarios Edison, NJ
04/03/2012	Dr. Stavros Meimaridis, Archon Ekdikos Columbus, OH
05/21/2011	Eleftherios Moussas, Archon Ostiarios Annapoles, MD
11/18/2011	Gregory C. Papalexis, Archon Exarchos Norwood, NJ
04/29/2012	Constantine G. Pappas, Archon Architekton Solana Beach, CA
12/12/2011	Steve Pavlis, Archon Depoutatos Langhorne, PA
09/13/2011	Edward Sedor, Archon Ostiarios Johnson City, NY
03/03/2012	Steve Terris, Archon Depoutatos Murrieta, CA
04/10/2012	James Youlios, Archon Depoutatos West Paterson, NJ

May their memory be eternal!

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MISSIONS

FOR THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE



Nov-Dec 2011

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

Thereafter, on December 2 to December 3, 2011, the delegation traveled to the Phanar, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Spiritual Center of world Orthodoxy to conclude its mission. At the Phanar the delegation offered assistance and participated in meetings on the issue of Turkey's return of confiscated properties for the benefit of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. On December 3, 2011, the delegation, accompanied by Father Alexander Karloutsos, Spiritual Advisor to the Order, joined His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios for the historic, first ever visit of a sitting Vice President of the United States to the Ecumenical Patriarch, as Vice President Joe Biden visited the Phanar and met with His All-Holiness for more than two hours. ■

September 2012

Berlin - 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. While in Turkey, the delegation vigorously pursued religious freedom issues regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The delegation 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 representatives of the religious minorities of Turkey. 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. ■



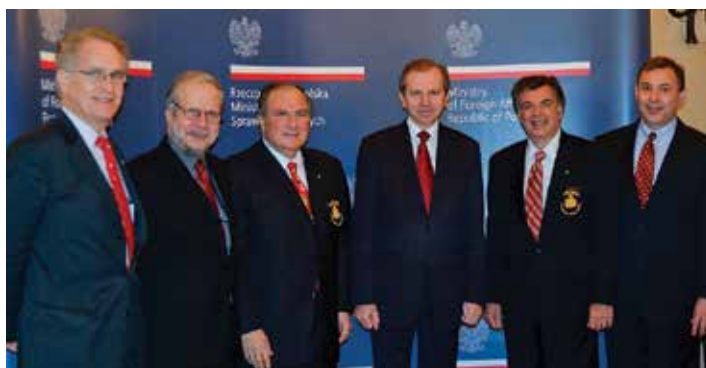


Warsaw

In 2011, Poland held the EU presidency and coordinated negotiations with EU candidate nations, including Turkey.



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



The delegation met with His Excellency Jan Borkowski, Secretary of State for Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and also Director Piotr Ogradzinski.



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



The Archon delegation with His Eminence Cardinal Nycz, Archbishop of Warsaw.



A meeting was held with members of the Polish Ecumenical Council. The Council was founded in 1946 and comprised of a community of Churches aimed at ecumenical dialogue.



Berlin

In 2013, Berlin will be the site of the second International Archon Religious Freedom Conference with the theme, 'Tearing Down Walls.'



On Monday, September 10, 2012, the Archon delegation met with His Excellency Cem Özdemir, Co-chair of the German Political Party Alliance '90/The Greens.



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.



A meeting was held with His Excellency H Avni Karslioglu, Turkey's ambassador to Germany, where extensive discussions were held on the Orthodox Theological Seminary of Halki.



The delegation with His Excellency Minas Hadjimichael, Ambassador of Cyprus to Germany, who offered poignant guidance on religious freedom from an EU perspective.



On Tuesday, September 11, 2012, members of the Archon delegation met with His Excellency Ambassador Andreas Frygnas, at Greece's Embassy in Berlin, and Greek diplomats Poulou and Radiopoulos.



Istanbul & Ankara

Ankara– The Capital of Turkey
Istanbul– Audience with His All-Holiness



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 during their 2012 Mission.



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew thanks Archons for their work during a dinner held in his honor during their 2011 Mission.



His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Director of the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the EU, offers words during an Archon dinner to conclude their 2011 Mission. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco was also in attendance.



The Archon delegation met with His Excellency Egemen Bagis, Minister for E.U. Affairs and Chief Negotiator, during their 2012 Mission.



During their 2012 Mission, meetings were held on the return of confiscated properties with Patriarchal attorneys Father Joakim Billis, Yannis Ktistakis and Archon Laki Vingas in Istanbul.

Ecumenical Patriarch's religious freedom is one of U.S. Congress' most highly supported issues

90 Senators and 291 Members express concern to President Obama

November 2011

Washington, D.C. - "With overwhelming numbers of Republicans and Democrats, the US Senate and the US House of Representatives separately expressed themselves to President Barack Obama regarding religious freedom for the spiritual head of the second largest Christian Church in the world, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. In total, 90 of the 100 Senators and 291 of the 435 Members of the House signed a letter urging support for the head of the Sacred See that has flourished for over 2,000 years since it was established by the Apostle Andrew, in what is today the country of Turkey," said Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew.

A veteran, senior House Foreign Affairs Committee staff member indicated that he could not think of any letters in the House that received more than 291 signers in the 112th Congress and the only letters that may have come close involved Israel or Iran. The Staff Director of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Yleem Poblete, said, "It is rare

to witness this level of bipartisan support for a letter addressing a particular policy item. It is a testament to the importance that Members place on this issue."

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and Ranking Member, Howard Berman (D-CA), initiated the letter signed by 291 Members and sent to President Obama on November 22. Senators Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), authored and circulated for signature the letter signed by 90 Senators, including the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Chairman, John Kerry (D-MA) and Ranking Member, Richard Lugar (R-IN) and it was sent to President Obama on November 21.

"Since the formation of the modern Republic of Turkey, the government has interfered in the canonical election of the Ecumenical Patriarch, confiscated 90% of its properties and forcibly closed its only local seminary, the Halki

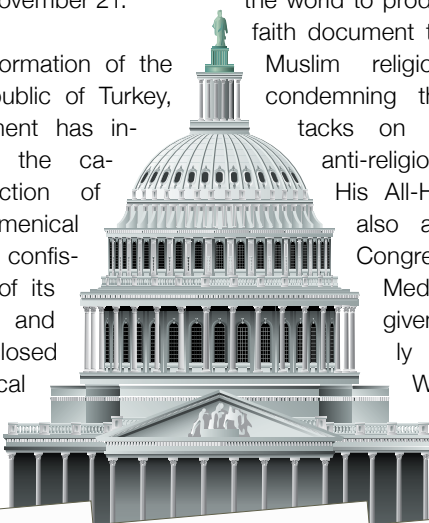
School of Theology, actions and policies which have constrained the religious freedom of the Spiritual Center of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, located in Istanbul," said Limberakis. On a positive note, Dr. Limberakis expressed gratitude to the government which has very recently taken positive steps to address the longstanding religious freedom deficit by announcing the return of confiscated properties, among several other policies shifts.

"Despite these oppressive conditions, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who speaks eight languages, was recognized by Time Magazine as one of the world's 100 most influential people. He was also the first in the world to produce an inter-faith document that included Muslim religious leaders condemning the 9/11 attacks on America as anti-religious actions. His All-Holiness was also awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, an honor given previously to George Washington, Winston Churchill,

Pope John Paul, and relatively few other leaders," said Limberakis.

"The extraordinary esteem within which Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is held in Washington is reflected in these record numbers. Of the thousands of letters sent from Capitol Hill in the 112th Congress to the Obama Administration, regarding any subject, virtually none received this overwhelming bi-partisan Congressional support," said the coordinators of this Order of Saint Andrew effort, Andy Manatos and Mike Manatos.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the 269th direct successor of the Apostle Andrew. The Apostle Andrew's brother, the Apostle Peter, has as his 265th direct successor Pope Benedict XVI. The Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch were bishops in the same Christian Church until the great schism in 1054 when the State Church of the Roman Empire was divided into the Eastern (Greek) and Western (Latin) Churches, which later became the Orthodox Christian and Catholic Churches, respectively. ■





The National Council honors Archon James D. Speros

September 8, 2011

New York - The National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew honored one of its most dedicated members on September 8, James D. Speros, Archon Kastrinsios, who retired from the National Council.

Archon Speros worked to de-

velop the template and protocol of the Order of Saint Andrew's communication, newsletter and website. He also served as Spirituality Committee Chairman and executed the first of seven annual Archon Lenten Retreats with 'excellence and brilliance.'

Members of the National Council presented Archon

Speros with a commemorative plaque at the conclusion of their monthly meeting at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America on September 8. The plaque acknowledged his efforts and accomplishments in promoting religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, stating:

"In grateful acknowledgment to James D. Speros, Archon Kastrinsios for your exemplary National Council service. God grant you many years, good health, abundant blessings and continued commitment to our Orthodox Faith through the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its Apostolates. Axios! Axios! Axios!" ■

Archons honor newly-enthroned Metropolitan Savas and newly-ordained Bishop Sevastianos



December 8, 2011

Pittsburgh - His Eminence Metropolitan Savas was enthroned December 8, 2011, as Metropolitan of Pittsburgh during a magnificent and traditional ceremony at the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in

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



December 17, 2011

New York - The ordination of His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela took place at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, December 17, 2011. Following the ordination ceremony, Archon John Halecky,

National Secretary, was joined by Archons and presented an engolpion to His Grace, marking the occasion. His Grace became the first Cypriot bishop in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese's history. ■



VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN

visits the

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



December 3, 2011

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

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



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

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

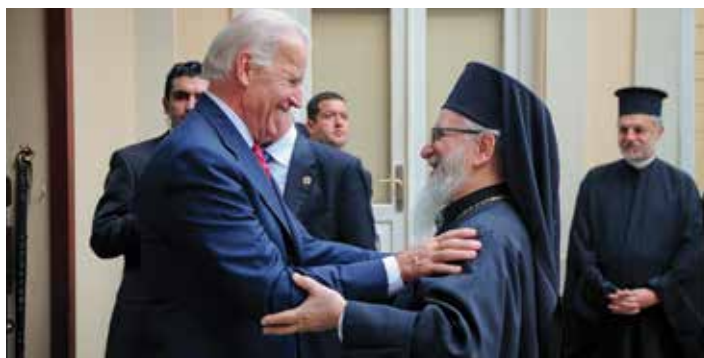
His All-Holiness met with the Vice President in his personal office for a private conversation. Among the issues discussed

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

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



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



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



Archon Laki Vingas presents a book to Vice President Biden.



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



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

Turkey's Greek minority to open school on Gökçeada

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

January 12, 2012

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

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

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

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

In total, there are 250 ethnic Greek

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

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

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

Nikos Kefalas, the representative of the founder of Zapyon, told *Today's Zaman* that the Greek

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

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

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

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

National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis honored by The Constantinopolitan Society



Delegation members with Antonis Samaras, left, who subsequently became Prime Minister of Greece in June 2012. His Eminence Archbishop Ieronymos II of Athens and All Greece, right, welcomes Archon Spiritual Advisor Father Alex Karloutsos and his wife Presbyteria Xanthi, along with the National Commander and his wife, Dr. Maria A. Limberakis.

January 29, 2012

Athens - The Constantinopolitan Society honored Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew, in recognition for his dedication and commitment to the Mother Church of

Constantinople, January 29, 2012. The Society paid special tribute to his efforts of informing the international community on the violations of religious freedoms and the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate during a special ceremony at the Great

Hall in Kallithea in Athens, Greece. The ceremony opened with greetings by the Society's President, Mr. Anthony Lambidis, who presented an honorary diploma and commemorative plaque to Dr. Limberakis in front of a crowd of

over three hundred diplomats, university professors, representatives of Greek State, Civic and Armed Forces authorities and religious leaders, which included His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos II of Athens and All Greece. ■



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew makes historic appearance before Turkish Parliamentary Constitution Commission

February 22, 2012

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

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

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

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

For decades, Turkey has mostly ignored demands of the Patriarchate, mainly due to mistrust stemming from a rivalry with Greece. However, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's

government has pledged to address the problems of religious minorities and said he hopes the new constitution will correct democratic shortfalls.

Bartholomew sounded optimistic about the new constitution.

"Unfortunately there have been injustices toward minorities until now," Bartholomew said. "These are slowly being corrected and changed. A new Turkey is being born."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

community.

A community leader, Kuryalos Ergun, said the Assyrians — one of the world's oldest Christian communities — want religious minorities to be represented in a government agency that regulates mosques and imams in Turkey, and want minority clergy to be paid and employed by the state the same way imams are.

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

The patriarch has long complained that Halki's closure has prevented raising new leaders for the church, and that Turkish laws that require a patriarch to be a Turkish citizen make it difficult for the nation's dwindling Greek community of several thousand to produce candidates.

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

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

[Source: AP News, by Susan Fraser]



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SYMPOSIUMS

Metropolis of San Francisco Archons honor Archbishop Demetrios during FDF celebrations National Commander delivers presentation

February 17, 2012

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

Archon Regional Commander Dr. James Kallins hosted a welcome dinner on Friday evening for Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Gerasimos and visiting guests. Archon Kallins

was grateful for His Eminence's involvement during the weekend and offered his personal thanks for his leadership.

The following afternoon, President Jeannie Ranglas and board members of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society hosted Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Gerasimos and National Commander Limberakis at a luncheon. Father Gary Kyriacou, Chairman of the FDF Board of Trustees, offered a toast to His Eminence on behalf of the Philoptochos. Later, a special gift was presented to the Archbishop along with an embroidered framed cross on behalf of the Society.

That evening, Archon Regional Commander Theofanis Economidis welcomed National Commander Limberakis who addressed over 150 clergy, Archons and their spouses on the religious freedom deficit in Turkey and the continuing plight



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

of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He spoke of the recent progress made by Turkish authorities with a promise to return properties previously owned by 135 minority foundations, in which the Ecumenical Patriarchate has begun to petition to be returned. He also commended the Archons of the Metropolis for their continued support of the Order, acknowledging their leadership to pass religious freedom resolutions for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in states such as

California, Oregon and Nevada, but reminded them of states still in need of pursuit, such as Washington and Hawaii.

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



ACLJ's Chief Counsel Jay Sekulow is featured speaker at Metropolis of Atlanta meeting and forum

March 17-18, 2012

Atlanta - 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.

Concerns were raised about possible initiatives to support the Patriarchate. Dr. Sekulow pointed to the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the Phanar as

significant and said the US State Department is applying more direct pressure. However, the grim reality is that the tide is shifting to the Islamic East.

The Forum lasted a forty-five minutes and ended with words of gratitude to Drs. Sekulow and Ekonomou by Archon Dr. Tissura for their valuable contribution to the Forum. Dr. Sekulow, in turn, complimented moderator Dr. Tissura and the Archons on the "tough, challenging, and knowledgeable" questions asked. The Forum ended with a prayer by Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis, Metropolis Chancellor.

A banquet was also held honoring Metropolitan Alexios on the 25th anniversary of his elevation to the Episcopacy and his name day. His Eminence expressed his gratitude to Dr. Sekulow for his notable work on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and of all the persecuted Christians. His Eminence also thanked Dr. Tissura for his diligence as



Archon Dr. Manuel Tissura with His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, Dr. Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel of American Center for Law & Justice, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and Dr. Andrew Ekonomou, Senior Council to the American Center for Law & Justice at the Religious Freedom Initiative Banquet.

Regional Commander and to everyone who had helped make the evening a magnificent success.

The inspiring weekend concluded with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Cathedral the following day, with all the Archons joining Metropolitan Alexios, His Grace Bishop John of Amorion, Fr. Tsahakis, Fr. Paul Kaplanis, Dean and Fr. Christos Mars and

Fr. Ken Anthony in the procession of the Veneration of the Cross through the Sanctuary. Dr. Sekulow marched with the Archons and addressed the congregation at the conclusion of the service with a continuation of the Religious Freedom Initiative theme. ■



Philadelphia Archons hold religious freedom symposium

April 21, 2012

Valley Forge - 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 Jeffersonville, PA, organized by Regional Commander Dr. Cary J. Limberakis.

Over 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 from meetings with government officials and religious leaders in Warsaw during the Order's 'Religious Freedom Mission' to the European Union.

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.

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. ■

Metropolitan Evangelos, 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.



Fordham U. Professor, & Commander are featured speakers for NJ symposium

June 16, 2012

Westfield - 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, organized by Regional Commander Hon B. Theodore Bozonelis.

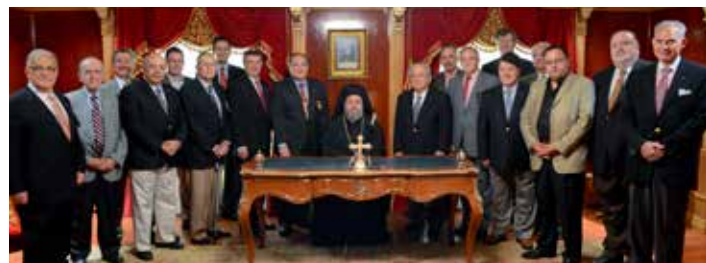
Dr. George Demacopoulos, Associate Professor, Co-Director and Co-Founder of the Orthodox Christian Studies Program and Center at Fordham University delivered a presentation on the history behind the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order, spoke

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 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. ■

National Commander Limberakis, left, and Professor Demacopoulos, right. Metropolitan Evangelos with Archons of the Metropolis, below.



Archons participate in Saint Photios Shrine 30th anniversary celebrations



February 4-5, 2012

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

A Trustees dinner, held on

Saturday evening was presided over by Archbishop Demetrios, Chairman and Metropolitan Alexios, President, along with His Grace Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, Director Emeritus. Archon Dr. Manuel Tissura, 1st Vice President served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Archon Regional Commander John C. Scurtis and Dr. Theodore Vlahos, who could not be present, arranged to have Dr. Andrew Ekonomou,

Senior Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice and the European Centre for Law and Justice, serve as the featured guest speaker.

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

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



2012 USCIRF report identifies worst religious freedom violators; for the first time, moves Turkey from 'Watch List' to worst category, 'Country of Particular Concern'

March 21, 2012

Washington, D.C. - The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) announced its 2012 recommendations to Congress, the White House, and the State Department. These recommendations included naming Turkey as one of the most serious offenders of freedom of religion towards non-Muslim communities and listed it as a "country of

particular concern" for the first time ever. For years, Turkey had been listed on the commission's "watch list," a lower-level designation. However, due to the Turkish government's systematic and egregious limitations on the freedom of religion that threaten the country's non-Muslim religious minorities, USCIRF recommended Turkey be designated a—country of particular concern. The report criticizes Turkey for regulating non-Muslim groups by restricting how

they can train clergy, offer education and own their places of worship.

"It's no coincidence that many of the nations we recommend to be designated as CPCs are among the most dangerous and destabilizing places on earth," said USCIRF Chair Leonard Leo. "Nations that trample upon basic rights, including freedom of religion, provide fertile ground for poverty and insecurity, war and terror, and violent, radical

movements and activities."

Congress created the Commission in 1998 through the International Religious Freedom Act. It serves to monitor the status of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief abroad, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international instruments. It provides independent policy recommendations to the President, Secretary of State, and Congress. ■



Turkish Foreign Minister Davutoglu makes historic visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate

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

March 3, 2012

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

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

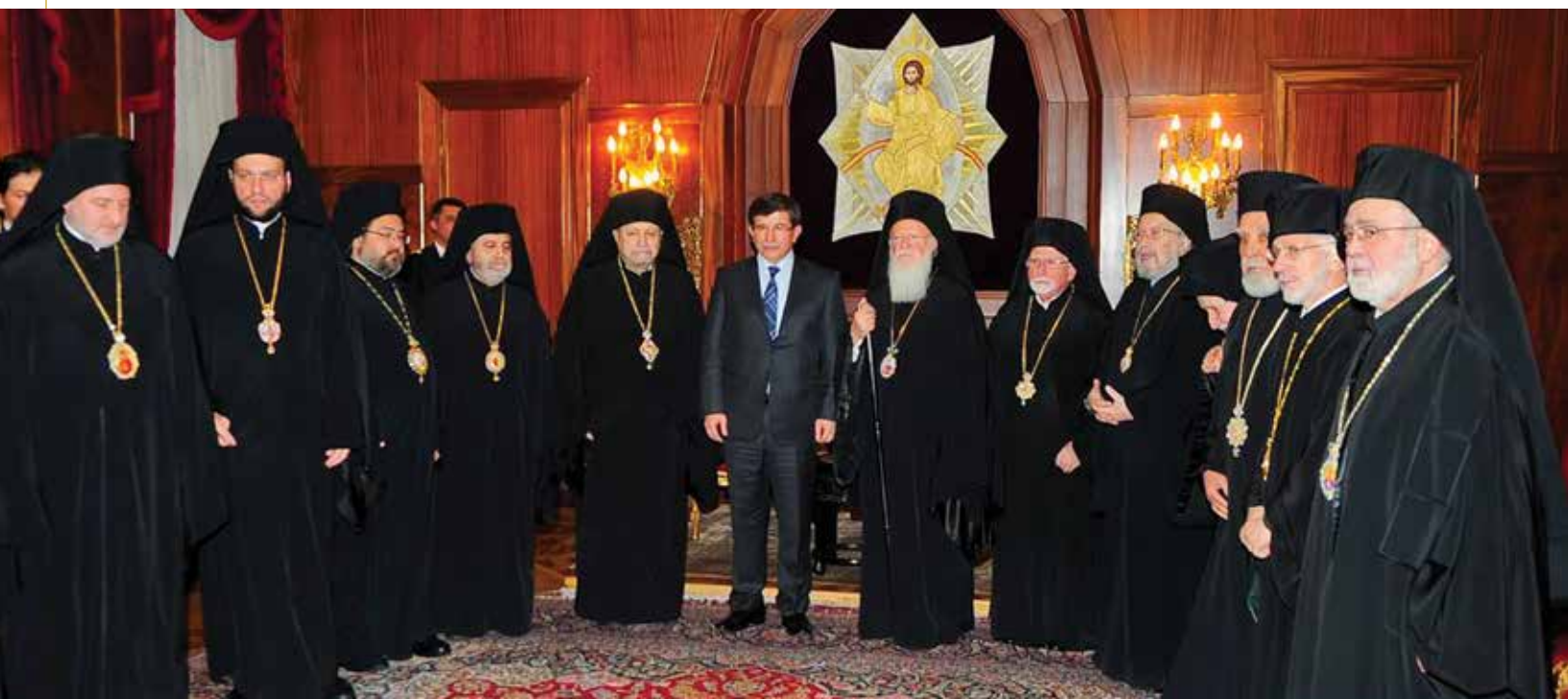
Church and got an audience with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

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



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

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



Bishop Sevastianos of Zela offers lessons from Prodigal Son during annual Archon Lenten Retreat



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



Bishop Sevastianos of Zela used Rembrandt's *The Prodigal Son* to teach a valuable lesson on the power of forgiveness. Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, below, with retreat participants.

March 30-31, 2012

Somerset - 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 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).

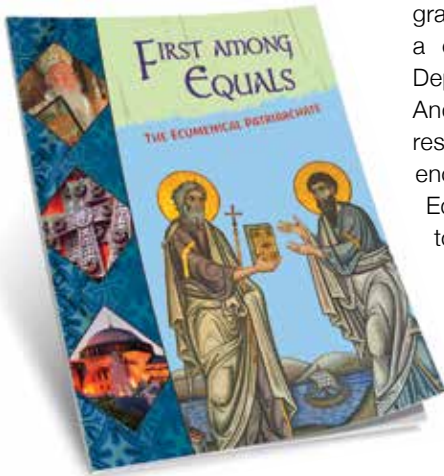
It was further discussed that it is harder to accept forgiveness and love than to offer them. That we need to allow God to

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. ■



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



April 2012

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.

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. ■

Archon Michael Parlamis helps to plant the Patriarchal Flag throughout the world

2011-2012

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

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

patriarchal flags to each metropolis for display in the churches. They flags come with a pole, base, cross and tassel.

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

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

Archon Parlamis, an Archon

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

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

He persists in his efforts to distribute the flag globally.

"The flag of the patriarchate is flying throughout the world," he said. "We have to show the flag in order to make some noise. We have

to stand up for the Patriarchate; and to make it known to the world that we exist."

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



Archons of the Metropolis of Atlanta hold Religious Retreat

September 14, 2012

St. Augustine - The fourth annual Metropolis of Atlanta Archon Religious Retreat was held in St. Augustine, FL at the St Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine, September 14-16, 2012. This year's theme was a continuation of last year's, "Making of an Icon," to this year's, "Theology through the Writings of the Holy Icons." The retreat was organized by Regional Commander Dr. Manuel Tissura.

Interactive discussions were presented by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta,

retreat master, who offered an informative description of the feast day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. He detailed the history of the founding of Constantinople on the Roman capital of Byzantium, the strength of faith shown by Helen, mother of Constantine, the first and second elevations of the cross and underscored the relevance of Old and New Testament. The Crucifixion is yesterday and tomorrow - as shown in scripture, writing and the hymns of the day.

His Grace Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, Fr. Nicholas Louh of

Jacksonville, Fr. George Ioannou of St. Augustine, and Fr. Martin Ritsi of OCMC also participated in afternoon discussions.

Archons

and wives present included: Dr. Tissura and his wife, Elaine (GA); Regional Commander Harry Cavalaris (NC); Les and Mary Alice George (GA); Nick and Frances Katapodis (GA); Dr. Steve and Vasso Poulos

(FL); Ted Pappas (FL); Peter Bouras (FL); George Parandas (FL); Constatine and Connie Rizopoulos (FL); Andrew Kampiziones (SC); and Steve Doulavaris (SC). ■



The Ecumenical Patriarchate issues statement on Religious Tolerance and Violence

Communiqué from the Chief Secretariat of the Holy Synod for Respect of Religious Differences and Cessation of Violence

September 29, 2012

Istanbul - The Ecumenical Patriarchate expresses profound sorrow as the world has rushed into a confusing and volatile time of religious protests turning violent, and a grievous lack of consideration for religious differences. When we act disrespectfully and violently in the name of our religious prejudices or our religious beliefs we are undermining our own lives and faith, while creating an atmosphere of anger, hatred, and distrust which unravels the very thread that has woven humanity together since our creation.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate issued last August a communiqué "On the resurgence of Violence spreading throughout the World" and called for all people engaged in violence to lay down

their weapons. Given the events of the past weeks, this call for peaceful engagement and mutual respect for all humanity is even more critical.

Holy Scripture teaches us in Proverbs 10:12 "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins". Hence, let us love one another because we know that true love comes from God who created every living person, and He loves every individual in His Divine Providence. We who profess to know God must recognize the Divine miracle of life within each human being and respect that seed of Divine creation. We who name God as our sovereign must nurture human life and reach out with honor to that person with whom we disagree.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate

believes it is our obligation to dialogue with those who are different than we are to gain insight into the other's symbols, their priorities, and their way of thinking. Symbols are external representations to which all people connect their own internal meaning and values. In developing an understanding of the symbols, we come to understand the person. To destroy symbols is to inflict pain on the people who honor those symbols and the traditions they represent in their heart.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I continues to call all humanity to adopt a "radical conversion of attitudes, habits and practices" and to attain that level of commitment where we "are open to sharing all things with all people." He points us to St. John

Chrysostom who wrote: "the sacrament of 'our neighbor' cannot be isolated from the sacrament of 'the altar'". In pursuit of these truths and in humble recognition of the Divine in all people, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and the Ecumenical Patriarchate denounce treating one another with disrespect, disdain, and destructive hatred. In the end, no one benefits from hateful speech, unfounded accusations, misunderstanding of cultural differences, and blaming others to avoid responsibility. Regardless of the path one's conscience has chosen to follow, we are all intricately woven together into a Divine tapestry and must recognize the beauty and inherent worth of every other thread and cease with the destruction of any part of our collective beauty. ■

Archon pilgrimage leads to the Holy Lands and sacred land of Cappadocia

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 wel-

coming 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 Metropolitans 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. ■



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

Archons with Patriarch Theophilos, below, following a reception held at the King David Hotel. Pilgrims with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, bottom, during a banquet held in his honor, held at the Hilton Hotel in Cappadocia. Pilgrims stand outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, right.





New Regional Commanders appointed in Metropolises of Denver, Boston and Detroit

2012

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and pursuant to the Archon governing Bylaws, three new Regional Commanders were appointed this past year.

In consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis appointed **Christopher J. Pappas**, Archon Prostatist, 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," 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!"

In consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, the National Commander also appointed **Drake Behrakis**, Archon Maestor, 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 extraordi-



Archon Pappas



Archon Behrakis



Archon Kircos

nary 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.

In consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, the National Commander 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." ■



HALKI SUMMIT

His All-Holiness meets with Jane Goodall during first-ever Halki Summit

June 18, 2012



Istanbul - 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. ■



41st Biennial
CLERGY-LAITY
CONGRESS

Archons gather for 41st Biennial Clergy Laity Congress in Phoenix

July 1-5, 2012

Phoenix - 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. ■



His Eminence received an American crystal bald eagle, left, on the occasion of Independence Day. National Commander Limberakis addresses the Clergy-Laity Congress, below. Archon Regional Commander Peter Skeadas, and his wife Aphrodite Skeadas, National Philoptochos President, with His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, bottom left, at the Archon Family Reception. Archons Michael Jaharis and Dr. Antoine Harovas with Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Sotirios of Toronto, bottom right.



Visit of the Under Secretary of the US State Department to the Representative of the non Muslim foundations of Turkey

July 12, 2012

Istanbul - Mrs. Maria Otero, the Under Secretary from the US State Department responsible for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights accompanied by the U.S. Consul General in Istanbul, Mr. Scott Frederic Kilner and the Vice Consul Mr. Paul D. Palmer, paid a visit to Mr. Lakis Vingas, council member of the General Foundations Directorate for the non-Muslim foundations. The meeting took place at the premises of the Greek Community in Istanbul at Taksim Square and was at-

tended by representatives of other minority groups such as Mr. İskender Şahingöz from the Armenian community, Mrs. Deniz Saporta and Mrs. Lisa Tavasi from the Jewish community, Mr. Sait Susin from the Syriac and Mr. Costas Santaltzidis from the Greek community.

The visit aimed to update the Under Secretary regarding the current situation of Non-Muslim minorities in Turkey especially as regards to the enjoyment of their religious, property and educational rights. ■



Maria Otero, Under Secretary from the U.S. State Department, far right, discusses the situation of non-Muslim minorities in Turkey in regards to the enjoyment of their religious, property and educational rights.

US assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon visits Halki

July 30, 2012

Istanbul - 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 reopening. Furthermore, he conveyed Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's warm greetings toward His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. ■





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

By Denis McDonough, Deputy National Security Advisor

July 31, 2012

Washington, D.C. - 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 discus-



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

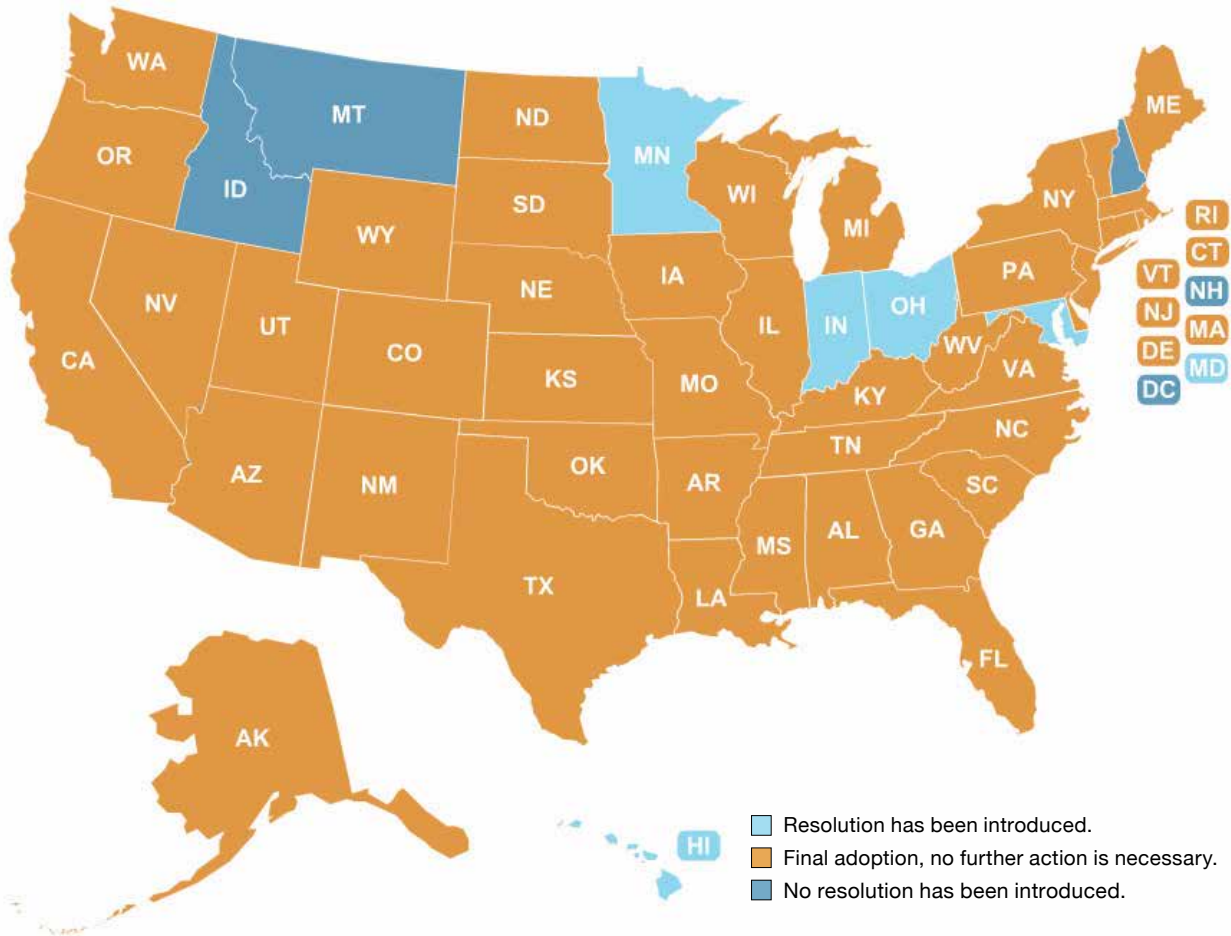
sion on implementation. As for our bilateral efforts, these are focused both on the countries designated by the Secretary of State as Country of Particular Concern for particularly severe violations of religious freedom -- Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Uzbekistan -- 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. ■

51 religious freedom resolutions adopted in 42 States, representing 90% of the American population

New York - In 2006, the National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew initiated 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. Below is the most recent update as of October 15, 2012:

Alabama SJR 73 Adopted by House and Senate on 5/2007	Alaska SJR 28 - Introduced on 2/18/2010 Adopted by Senate 4/5/2010 Adopted by House 4/11/2010	Arizona HCM 2009 Introduced on 1/17/2008 Adopted by House 3/18/2008 Adopted by Senate 5/22/2008	Arkansas SCR 3 Introduced on 1/22/2009 Adopted by Senate on 2/18/09 Adopted by House 3/12/2009	California SJR 17 Introduced on 9/10/2007 Adopted by Senate 2/28/2008 Adopted by Assembly 8/30/2008
Colorado HJR 1014 Adopted by House and Senate on 4/7/2011	Connecticut Adopted on 4/30/2010	Delaware HR 9 Introduced on 3/10/2009 Adopted on 3/19/2009	Florida HM 191 Introduced on 3/2/2010 Adopted on 4/23/2010 SM 314 Introduced on 3/1/2010 Adopted on 4/28/2010	Georgia HR 415 Adopted by House 4/2007 SR 1038 Introduced on 2/27/2008 Adopted by Senate 3/6/2008
Hawaii SCR 57 and SR 31 Introduced on 3/4/2011 Adoption Pending	Idaho No resolution has been introduced at this time.	Illinois HR 666 Introduced on 8/10/2007 Adopted on 10/4/2007 SR 100 Introduced on 2/25/2009 Adoption Pending	Indiana SR 4 Introduced on 1/5/2011 Adoption Pending	Iowa HR 27 Introduced on 3/12/2009 Adopted on 3/23/2009
Kansas SR 1807 Introduced on 1/6/2011 Adopted by Senate 2/3/2011	Kentucky HR 244 Adopted on 3/26/2008	Louisiana SR 109 Adopted by Senate 6/2007	Maine HP 924 Introduced on 3/25/2009 Adopted by House 3/31/2009 Adopted by Senate 4/2/2009	Maryland HJR 5 Introduced on 3/14/2008 Adoption Pending
Massachusetts Adopted on 4/16/2008	Michigan SCR 6 Introduced on 3/19/2009 Adopted by House 3/19/2009 Adopted by Senate 3/25/2009	Minnesota SR 178 Introduced on 4/2/2008 Adoption Pending	Mississippi HCR 67 Introduced on 3/19/2008 Adopted by House 3/31/2008 Adopted by Senate 4/16/2008	Missouri HR 1365 Introduced on 3/19/2008 Adopted by House 5/7/2012 SR 1762 Adopted by Senate 5/7/2012
Montana No resolution has been introduced at this time.	Nebraska LR 273 Introduced 1/6/2010 Adopted on 4/13/2010	Nevada ACR 31 Adopted by Assembly and Senate on 5/6/2009	New Hampshire No resolution has been introduced at this time.	New Jersey SJR 11 Adopted by Senate and House 6/2006
New Mexico HM 39 Introduced on 2/2/2010 Adopted by House 2/13/2010	New York Adopted by Senate and House 4/1/2011	North Carolina Adopted on 6/28/2010	North Dakota SCR 4014 Introduced 1/26/2010 Adopted on 3/24/2011	Ohio SCR 3 Introduced on 2/1/2011 Adoption Pending



TAKE ACTION

for your State to pass a Resolution for
Religious Freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate!

Stay up to date with the Religious Freedom Project ► archons.org/resolutions

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

Oklahoma

SR 54
Introduced on 2/19/2008
Adopted on 3/24/2008

Oregon

SJR 16
Introduced on 5/4/2009
Adopted by Senate on 5/6/2009
Adopted by House on 6/1/2009

Pennsylvania

HR 876
Adopted by House 11/2006
SR 188
Introduced on 10/24/2007
Adopted by Senate 3/10/2008

Rhode Island

SR 895
Adopted by Senate 3/2007

South Carolina

HR 4727
Introduced on 2/20/2008
Adopted by House on 4/9/2008
SR 735
Adopted by Senate 5/2007

South Dakota

SCR 6
Adopted by Senate 2/21/2012
Adopted by House on 2/23/2012

Tennessee

SJR 535
Adopted by Senate 6/2007
Adopted by House on 4/17/2008

Texas

HCR 1670
Introduced on 5/1/2011
Introduced on 5/5/2011
SR 1006
Adopted on 5/16/2011

Utah

SR 1
Introduced on 1/23/2009
Adopted on 2/5/2009
HR 2
Introduced on 2/3/2009
Adopted on 2/19/2009

Vermont

JRS 47
Introduced on 2/9/2010
Adopted on 5/12/2010

Virginia

HR 35
Adopted on 3/1/2012

Washington

HR 35
Adopted by the Senate and
House 2/26/2012

West Virginia

HCR 37
Introduced on 2/11/2008
Adopted by House 3/3/2008
Adopted by Senate 3/8/2008

Wisconsin

SR 10
Introduced on 3/4/2010
Adopted on 4/22/2010

Wyoming

Adopted on 6/20/2012

His All-Holiness addresses crowds at St. Peter's Square

October 11, 2012

The Vatican - On Thursday, October 11, at the invitation of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew visited Rome, where he addressed the crowds in St. Peter's Square and delivered a message on the occasion of the 50th anniversary since the opening of the 2nd Vatican Council.



His All-Holiness addresses the faithful at St. Peter's Square in the Vatican.

Beloved brother in the Lord, Your Holiness Pope Benedict;

Brothers and Sisters;

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 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 *Unitatis Redintegratio* §1:

Everywhere large numbers have felt the impulse of this grace, and 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 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 church-wide 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 sincere 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 di-

mension, 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.



His All-Holiness in discussion with Pope Benedict XVI.

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.

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







Defenders Defenders of the Faith



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