



# THE ARCHON

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2013  
[www.archons.org](http://www.archons.org)

Advocates of Religious Freedom for The Ecumenical Patriarchate



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attends installation of Pope in Rome**

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# The Extraordinary Historical Significance of His All-Holiness' Presence at Pope Francis' Installation as Bishop of Rome

By George E. Demacopoulos, PhD  
Archon Didaskalos tou Genous

Historian for the Order of Saint Andrew  
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**A**mid the crush of news reports in the past month that followed Pope Benedict's unprecedented resignation from the papacy, one of the most intriguing was the decision by His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, to attend Pope Francis' installation as Bishop of Rome. The occasion is being presented in the media as something that has not happened since the ecclesiastical schism that separated Christian East and Christian West in the eleventh century. But that characterization is almost certainly wrong—this is quite likely the first time in history that a Bishop of Constantinople will attend the installation of a Bishop of Rome. And this is a profoundly bold step in ecumenical relations between the Orthodox and the Roman Catholics, one that could have lasting significance.

Prior to the sixth century, the election of a Roman bishop was a local affair. In most cases, the new pope was chosen from among the city's clergy and was typically either the eldest priest or the eldest deacon. There were a few exceptions, but this was the typical pattern. News of an election would circulate throughout the Christian world but that news flow would have been too slow to enable high-ranking Church officials from the East to travel to Rome for the event.

During the sixth century, Byzantine armies conquered the Italian peninsula, returning the city of Rome to the imperial Roman government, now centered in Constantinople. In this context, which lasted from the mid-sixth century until the loss of Byzantine influence in Italy in the eighth century, the election of a new Roman bishop required the approval of the Byzantine emperor (the same, of course, was true of the election of a new Ecumenical Patriarch). Under such an arrangement, papal elections took longer but there still would be no reason for an Eastern Patriarch to travel to Rome for the installation.





On Wednesday, March 20, His All-Holiness met privately with Pope Francis at the Vatican prior to a papal reception of all church and religious leaders, below, where the Ecumenical Patriarch delivered the sole address to the newly-installed Pope. The Patriarch's attendance at the papal inaugural mass was a historic initiative on the part of Patriarch Bartholomew inasmuch as it was the first time in history that an Ecumenical Patriarch was personally present at a papal installation.

There are a few examples from this Byzantine period, such as the election of Pope Pelagius I in 556, where the man elected to be the Roman bishop was actually in Constantinople at the time of his election. While it is possible that the sacramental ceremony to install the new pope could have occurred in Constantinople—whereby the Patriarch of Constantinople would have been present—it is far more likely that the official ceremony would have occurred in Rome and, therefore, would have been conducted without the Patriarch's presence.

At the conclusion of Byzantine influence in papal elections in the eighth century, the election of Roman bishops returned, again, to local considerations. And, as geo-political factors continued to push Italy and the Eastern empire in separate directions, relations between individual popes and patriarchs became more sterile and

distant—indeed, between the ninth and fifteenth century there are only one or two occasions where a Roman bishop and an Ecumenical Patriarch ever met in person.

With all of this in mind, His All-Holiness' decision to travel to Rome for Pope Francis' installation as Roman bishop is an extraordinary event in the history of Christianity. And it is significant for reasons far beyond its novelty. First and foremost it is a powerful symbolic gesture for the cause of Christian unity. It demonstrates in unprecedented fashion the extent to which the Ecumenical Patriarch considers the relationship with the Roman Catholic Church to be a priority. For their part, members of the Vatican staff have responded to this grand gesture and have arranged for the reading of the Gospel at the installation to be sung in Greek (rather than Latin) in recognition of the fact that the



Ecumenical Patriarch has taken this unprecedented step.

The Christian world has been divided for so long that the establishment of an authentic reunion will require courage, leadership, and humility. It will also require a foundation in common faith and concerns. Given Pope Francis' well-documented work for social justice and his insistence that globalization is detrimental to the poor, it would appear as

though the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic traditions have a renewed opportunity to work collectively on issues of mutual concern. With our Lord's assistance, that common cause can be transformed into more substantive theological work. But such work requires a first step and it would appear as though Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is willing to take such a step. ■

ORTHODOX & CATHOLIC RELATIONS



STATEMENT AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF  
THE RETIREMENT OF POPE BENEDICT XVI



ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

**Istanbul** – Upon being informed on the way to his native island of Imvros of the imminent retirement of Pope Benedict from the Petrine ministry on the Throne of Rome, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew issued a formal declaration and personal statement to the media, responding with sadness to the news. His All-Holiness closely cooperated with Pope Benedict during his papal tenure, issuing joint statements on contemporary problems facing humanity and realizing official exchange visits, but above all resuming in 2007 the conversations of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox and Roman Catholic

Churches (established in 1980 and interrupted in 2000). Immediately upon his election, His Holiness Pope Benedict accepted a formal invitation from His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to visit the Phanar in November, 2006, on the occasion of the Patronal Feast of the Church of Constantinople. He also invited the Ecumenical Patriarch to deliver the only address by an ecumenical leader during the official celebrations in St. Peter's Square for the 50th Anniversary since the opening of the 2nd Vatican Council in October, 2012. Below is the text of the formal statement by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.



PHOTO CREDIT: L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

It is with regret that we have learned of the decision by His Holiness Pope Benedict to retire from his Throne, because with his wisdom and experience he could have provided much more to the Church and the world.

Pope Benedict leaves an indelible mark on the life and history of the Roman Catholic Church, sealed not only by his brief papacy, but also by his broad and longstanding contribution as a theologian and hierarch of his Church, as well as his universally acknowledged prestige.

His writings will long speak of his deep theological understanding, through his knowledge of the Fathers of the undivided Church, his familiarity with contemporary reality, and his keen interest in the problems of humankind.

We Orthodox will always honor him as a friend of our Church and a faithful servant of the sacred proposition for the union of all. Moreover, we shall rejoice upon learning of his sound health and the productivity of his theological work.

Personally, we remember with emotion his visit to the See of the Ecumenical Patriarchate over six years ago, together with the numerous encounters and excellent cooperation, which we enjoyed throughout the duration of his primatial ministry.

From the Phanar, we pray that the Lord will manifest his worthy successor as the head of the sister Church of Rome, and that we may also continue with this successor on our common journey toward the unity of all unto the glory of God.

His All-Holiness with Pope Benedict at The Vatican, October 11, 2012, on the occasion of the celebration in Rome of the 50th anniversary since the opening of Vatican II.



Archbishop Demetrios and Father Alexander Karloutsos, Archon spiritual advisor, attend the Inauguration of President Barack Obama.

*Inauguration of the  
President and Vice President  
of the United States*



His Eminence attended the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Luncheon and offered the benediction following the President's toast.



Archbishop Demetrios as he enters the National Cathedral for the Prayer Service.

**Washington, D.C.** – His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarch, participated in events for the 57th Inauguration of the President of the United States. On January 20, 2013, Vice President Joe Biden attended an Inaugural reception in honor of His Eminence and in recognition of the extraordinary public service of three distinguished individuals, Jim Chanos, Archons Dennis

Mehiel and George Tsunis, who were honored by His Eminence with the Medal of Saint Paul, the highest honor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Archbishop Demetrios attended the swearing-in ceremony and the President's Inaugural Address the next day, from the presidential platform, just a few feet away from the podium. Immediately following the

official ceremonies, His Eminence attended the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Luncheon and offered the benediction following President Obama's toast.

On January 22, His Eminence participated in the National Inaugural Prayer Service in the Capital's National Cathedral with the President, Vice President and the Members of the U.S. Congress in attendance. ■

## PATRIARCHAL NEWS



The Secretary of State is greeted by His All-Holiness during his visit to the Phanar.

## U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visits the Ecumenical Patriarchate

**Istanbul** – On Sunday, April 21, 2013, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for an hour-long visit at the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Among those in attendance during the meeting were His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, His Excellency Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, the Hon. Scott Frederic Kilner, U.S. Consul General in Istanbul, and Archon Laki Vingas, representative to the Turkish government for Minority Foundations.

Secretary of State Kerry assured His All-Holiness of the ongoing and unwavering support of the United States for religious freedom and the reopening of the Orthodox Theological School of Halki. “It is our hope that the Halki seminary will open,” Kerry said during a press conference in Istanbul. Both the United States and the European Union, which Turkey aspires to join, have increased pressure on Ankara to re-open the seminary as well as introducing further

rights for religious minorities in the new constitution it is currently drafting.

Mr. Kerry also remarked, saying “It’s such a privilege to talk with somebody who has been such a voice for tolerance, a voice for interfaith understanding, who most recently visited with His Holiness Pope Francis and was at his investiture, and who has consistently talked out about protecting rights of minorities, protecting religious rights, and who is struggling for larger understanding in the world.

“He is also an ardent environmentalist and has been honored by any number of universities, including our great University of Tufts in Massachusetts, with honorary degrees. He has a great following. I have many, many of his flock that I was privileged to represent for years in Massachusetts and have attended Orthodox services in Lowell, Massachusetts and other places, in Boston.

“So for me to visit here with this protector of the rights of people to practice their religion and to try to bring people together

in interfaith understanding is a great, great privilege for me. And I want to thank you so much, Your Holiness.

“Thank you for my reception. And he gave me a beautiful rosary that the Pope gave him that’s been blessed by the Pope and by him, and I will carry that with great, great privilege.”

In turn, His All-Holiness expressed his gratitude to Mr. Kerry, while also conveying his fervent prayers for the victims of the Boston Marathon tragedy and the people of Massachusetts.

The Ecumenical Patriarch accompanied Secretary of State Kerry to the Patriarchal Church of St. George and to the memorial gate of Patriarch Gregory V.

Mr. Kerry follows a long tradition established by former First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has visited the Phanar on three occasions, followed by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. ■

## HALKI SEMINARY NEWS

## TODAY'S ZAMAN

**Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew found out about commission on Halki through media**

**Istanbul** – Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I in Istanbul has said he learned that a special commission was set up to decide the fate of the Halki Seminary, which has been closed for more than four decades, from newspapers.

The patriarch, referred to as the Fener Rum patriarch in the Turkish press because authorities find the word "ecumenical" politically threatening, spoke to the Milliyet daily in an interview published on Sunday. Bartholomew commented on developments regarding the Halki Seminary, which was established in 1844 on the island of Heybeliada. The seminary was closed in 1971 under a law that put religious and military training under state control.

It was the only school where Turkey's Greek minority educated clergy. The theological school once trained generations of Greek Orthodox leaders, including Patriarch Bartholomew, who is one of its 900 graduates.

Civil society groups have long been arguing that it was closed unlawfully and that its reopening will require political will to bypass obstacles from anti-EU groups in Turkey, but steps in that direction have so far been slow.

Bartholomew said: "We are very sorry about this. It is not easy to understand how a house of knowledge can remain shut for 42 years in a modern Turkey." He said the Patriarchate had been given false hopes many times about a possible re-opening of the school. "Recently, we read in the Hürriyet daily that a new commission was established, but we are learning about this from the media. There is no representative of the Patriarchate on this commission. It is as if we are not a party relevant to this issue."

He said of the Halki Seminary: "[Mustafa Kemal] Atatürk didn't shut it down, nor did [İsmet] İnönü

or [Adnan] Menderes. It was shut down in 1971 [the year of the March 12 military coup] when there was a politically extraordinary situation in Ankara. And we have been given false hopes so many times since that day. We have been waiting for our school to reopen for 42 years. Where is our school? Where is our freedom of religion? Where is our freedom of education? Where are human rights? Where

is [the Treaty of] Lausanne?" The patriarch said that the Lausanne Treaty clearly states that non-Muslim minorities in Turkey can open schools providing religious education using their own funds. He also noted, "We don't want a new school, we just want our school to start operating again."

The patriarch also commented on preparations to open a new Greek School on Gökçeada (Imbros), an island in the Aegean Sea off the coast of Çanakkale province. The Ministry of Education last month gave permission to the Greek community of the island to open a primary school on Gökçeada. He also said it was good news that Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan offered Turkish citizenship to a number of archbishops in 2009, allowing all these individuals to participate in patriarchal elections.

"We are grateful to our prime minister. But the other issues that I have talked about are wearing us out, saddening us. This is also creating an impression that we are second-class citizens. For example, ambassadors, foreign prime ministers and presidents come to visit [the Patriarchate] and they enquire about our situation. When we explain to them the facts, they find it hard to understand. I don't want to put Turkey down, I tell them the facts just like I am telling them now."

He also said there was a time when the Foreign Ministry tried to block visits from foreign delegations to the Patriarchate. ■

"It is not easy to understand how a house of knowledge can remain shut for 42 years in a modern Turkey."

—His All-Holiness

# International Herald Tribune

## Minority Rites

Andrew Finkel

**Istanbul**—The Princes' Islands are a chain of volcanic droplets off the coast of Istanbul, famous for their grand Palladian-style wooden summer homes and sweet-smelling pine woods. From one of the hilltops of the second-largest, Heybeliada, "the saddle-bagged" island, the view across the water is of a metropolis in motion, growing higher and wider, eating into more and more green space every year. But on Heybeliada itself, the only distractions are the squawk of seagulls and the clip-clop of horse-drawn carriages (no cars allowed). There, it is easy to imagine that time has stood still.

In a way, history has indeed been frozen on Heybeliada since 1971. This was the year when the Turkish government imposed a form of martial law and shut down educational institutions not under state control. The hilltop seminary, the Holy Theological School of Halki, which had since the mid-19th century trained generation after generation of Greek Orthodox priests, was closed. Later, some of its land was confiscated.

The rest of Turkey has changed a lot in the intervening years. In 1999, twin earthquakes on either side of the Aegean Sea produced a rapprochement between Turks and Greeks, and much longstanding bitterness -- the result of earlier conflicts in the Aegean and in Cyprus -- dissipated.

Turkey no longer argues that it should limit the rights of Turkish citizens who are Greek Orthodox, tit-for-tat, because the Greek government does the same. In any event, Athens has ceded far more rights to the Turkish Muslims of Thrace, lifting restrictions on the sale and repair of property.

**But the Halki seminary remains closed.**

Meanwhile, the die-hard, anti-Greek stance of Turkish officialdom has softened. Turkish courts have started returning land that had been seized -- illegally, they say -- from non-Muslim religious foundations, including land around the Halki

seminary and the Greek Orthodox orphanage on the hilltop of the next island.

The Turkish government itself seems eager to improve relations with the 3,000 Greek Orthodox and other non-Muslims who live in Turkey and their powerful lobbyists abroad. The Turkish foreign minister and minister of education say that Halki should reopen; the United States and the European Commission regularly push for the same.

**And yet the Halki seminary remains closed.**

Why? I think the explanation has nothing to do with vestigial resentment between Turks and Greeks and everything to do with the government's care not to alienate mainstream Islam.

The problem with reopening the Halki seminary is that if Greek Orthodox priests are allowed to be trained there again, in an institution outside the state's control, the Turkish government could come under pressure to extend that right to Muslims.

The current government very much represents the Sunni mainstream. Last week Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan insisted that the halls where Alevis -- Turkey's Shiites and 15 percent of the population -- congregate are mere cultural centers, not places of worship.

The implication is that real Muslims pray in mosques and under the government's watchful eyes, like those of the powerful and well-funded Presidency of Religious Affairs, which licenses after-school Koranic courses, administers Turkey's quota for sending pilgrims on the hajj and pays the clerics who prepare the weekly sermon.

Turkey, formally a secular democracy, may want to become more liberal toward its religious minorities, but not at the risk of tolerating more diversity within the Muslim mainstream.

And so the Halki seminary remains closed. ■

*Andrew Finkel has been a foreign correspondent in Istanbul for over 20 years, as well as a columnist for Turkish-language newspapers. He is the author of the book "Turkey: What Everyone Needs to Know."*



HALKI SEMINARY NEWS

# 470 acres of forest given back to Halki Seminary

## The biggest property return to a minority group in the history of Turkey

**Heybeliada** – Following a meeting held on Friday, the Council of Foundations—part of Turkey’s Directorate General for Foundations (VGM)—returned 190 hectares of forest to the Greek Orthodox Halki (Heybeliada) Seminary in Istanbul.

According to the decision, 190 hectares (470 acres) of woodlands near the Halki Seminary will be given to the seminary’s owner, the Aya

Triada Monastery Foundation. This is the biggest property return to a minority group in the history of Turkey.

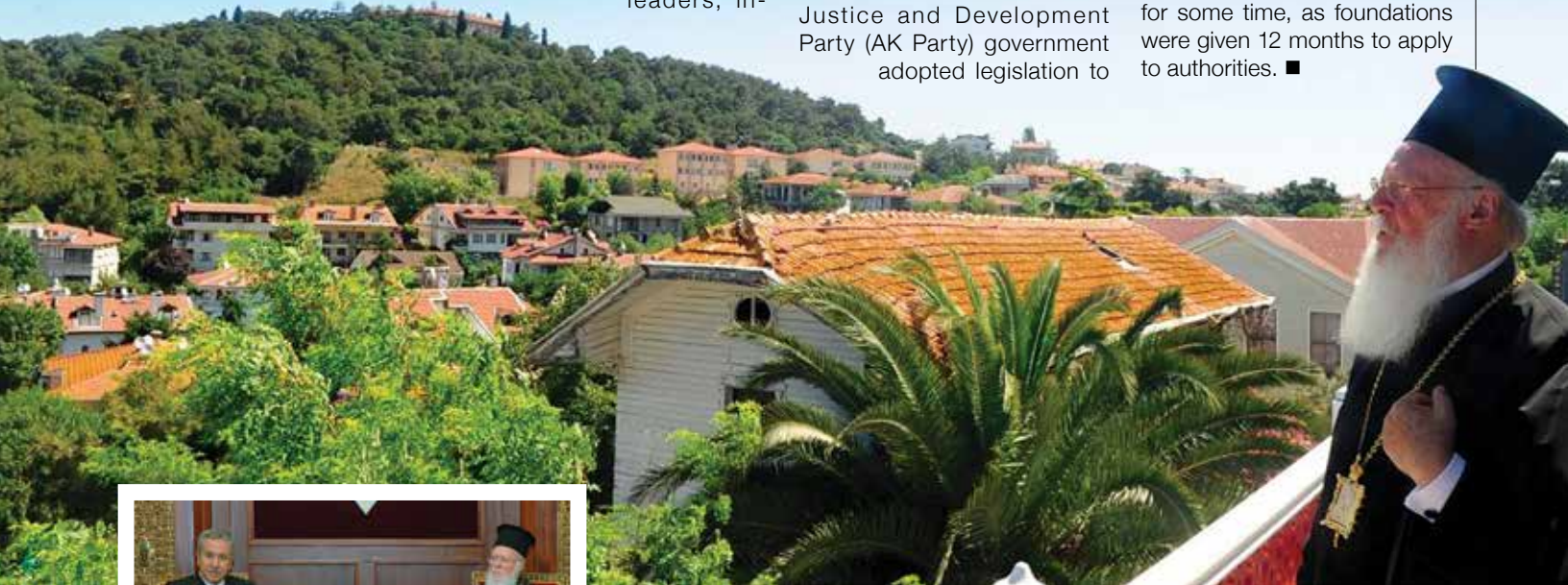
Established in 1844 on the island of Heybeliada, Halki Seminary was closed in 1971 under a law that placed religious and military training under state control. It was the only school where Turkey’s Greek minority educated its clergy. The theological school once trained generations of Greek Orthodox leaders, in-

cluding the current Patriarch Bartholomew, who is one of its 900 graduates.

Minority foundations, seeking the return of property seized by the Turkish state in the first decade of the Turkish Republic, are finding that taking back what belongs to them is not going to be easy, despite a 2011 law passed to ensure confiscated property be returned to its rightful owners.

In August of last year, the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) government adopted legislation to

return all confiscated immovable property belonging to minority foundations in Turkey, a long-overdue step towards expanding the rights of minorities in the country. The decree allows foundations to reclaim real property declared back in 1936. All real property, cemeteries and fountains are to be returned to their rightful holders as per the decree. Immoveable property currently belonging to third persons will be paid for. The process has been ongoing for some time, as foundations were given 12 months to apply to authorities. ■



**Hürriyet**

**Berlin** – Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç said the Halki Seminary should be reopened to educate clerics for the Orthodox community, saying “minorities have the same rights as us” while speaking at a conference in Berlin on March 5, 2013. His All-Holiness received the Deputy Prime Minister at the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Jan. 11, 2011.

**“We accept that there is a necessity for clerics in the Heybeliada Halki Seminary for the Greek Orthodox Patriarch or the Orthodox community, and a school is needed for these [clerics] to be educated. We know there are [those needs]. Therefore, this school certainly has to be opened and clerics should be educated here again.”**

– Responding to a question from Metropolitan Augustinos of Germany at a Berlin conference

“We do not return these as a favor. These were already yours, but taken from you in some ways. We see this as a humanitarian right, a holy value of your belief. We apologize to all of you for those things that happened in the past.”

– Concerning articles being added to the Foundations Law for the return of property to minority communities.

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM NEWS



**HALC**  
HELLENIC AMERICAN  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The following article was published on the Hellenic American Leadership Council's website:  
[hellenicleaders.com](http://hellenicleaders.com)

Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou //

## Celebrating Freedom in America Missing Freedom in Turkey



**Washington, D.C.** – Today is a day of both celebration and remembrance in America. The inauguration in Washington of Barack Hussein Obama for a second term as the 44th President of the United States of America coincides with MLK Day, the holiday of remembrance for American civil-rights icon Martin Luther King, Jr., who was assassinated in Tennessee in 1968 because of his non-violent campaign to ensure freedom and equality for all American citizens. For the first time in the country's history, the invocation at the presidential inauguration will be delivered by a lay person and a woman, Myrlie Edgar-Williams, tire-

less civil-rights activist and widow of Medgar Evers, who was murdered in Mississippi in 1963 for championing school desegregation and voting rights for all American citizens.

There is almost a providential feel to today's tableau of America, which conveys an inspirational message that the United States stands for universal human rights--rights intrinsic to every human being, regardless of race, gender, religion, or belief--and, likewise, that hatred manifested in violence in America is unlawful and will be met by justice for all. The moving symbolism in today's presidential inauguration should also remind the new administration that the legitimacy and security of the United States of America demands resolute commitment to the promotion of human rights in US foreign policy, both in terms of our own actions and in terms of our cooperation with those countries that we identify as allies. On this count, the Obama administration faces unpalatable realities and serious choice when it comes to the US relationship with Turkey.

Turkey's actions and records on human rights offer an ugly contrast to the sacrifices and accomplishments remembered and celebrated today in America. In Turkey, religious minorities are subjected to state policies, whether by omission or commission, that earned the country a spot on the Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) list of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). Turkey's company on this list includes countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and China, all members of the world pantheon of most egregious violators of international religious freedom.

The treatment of Turkey's Christian

minorities is especially shocking and raises serious doubts about the suitability of Turkey as a model for Muslim democracies in the Middle East and North Africa. In fact, in a region where Christians are fast being cleansed from their historic lands of origin, Turkey is a standard-bearer in the eradication of its Christian populations. The estimated 1750 Greek Orthodox Christians remaining in Turkey today form less than .01 percent of that country's total population of almost 80 million. Despite Ankara's much ballyhooed announcement last week that the Turkish state will return 470 acres of forestlands to the Ayia Triada Monastery, the illegal confiscation of that land long ago from the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the 40-year shuttering of the Halki Theological Seminary leave no doubt about Turkey's goal of erasing the living presence of Greek Orthodox Christians from Turkey.

The condition of Turkey's Armenian Christian population (about 65,000, a remnant of the historic Armenian Orthodox population wiped out by the genocide marking the foundation of the Republic of Turkey) adds a charge to the indictment against Turkey as a model democracy. Ankara's direct interference in the election of an interim Armenian Patriarch in 2010 mirrors the general pattern in government interference in the internal affairs of all religious communities--including the Sunni Muslim majority and sizeable minority of Alewites comprising about 20% of Turkey's population. Two recent liturgical celebrations at the Armenian Orthodox Akhtamar Church in Van have been used as public relations spectacles by Ankara, in order to divert attention from the reality of its stranglehold on free worship for the country's Christian minorities.

Today, in Turkey, Christian religious

“ *Despite Ankara's much ballyhooed announcement last week that the Turkish state will return 470 acres of forestlands to the Ayia Triada Monastery, the illegal confiscation of that land long ago from the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the 40-year shuttering of the Halki Theological Seminary leave no doubt about Turkey's goal of erasing the living presence of Greek Orthodox Christians from Turkey.* ”

leaders describe themselves as “feeling crucified” and their communities as “endangered species.” The tragic results of Ankara’s policies to eradicate Christianity from its lands of origin are shockingly evident in the northern part of Cyprus under occupation by Turkey’s military since its invasion in 1974. The systematic looting, desecration, and destruction of the Greek Orthodox churches, monasteries, and cemeteries in Turkish-occupied Cyprus has been replicated in the Turkish military’s assaults on Roman Catholic, Armenian, and Maronite sites; in Turkish-occupied Cyprus, there are less than 400 Christians (the tiny enclave of elderly Greek Cypriots) remaining in the lands to which St. Andrew brought Christianity.

As for other civil liberties in Turkey, while Americans today are mindful of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s words that “our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter,” an avalanche of legal cases against journalists, intellectuals, and artists in Turkey shows Ankara’s unflinching efforts to silencing those who speak about things that matter for the application of universal human rights. This past week, Turkish police rounded up another group of journalists and lawyers suspected of sympathizing with violent groups and terrorists--code for journalists who write in support of civil and political rights for the Kurdish minority estimated at 20-25% of Turkey’s population. Article 301 of the Constitution exercises a chilling effect on freedom of speech and freedom of the press, by prohibiting “insults to the Turkish state.” Used mainly to muzzle non-Muslim minorities by the secularist Kemalists who ruled Turkey almost uninterruptedly until the general election of 2002, Article 301 is now being interpreted by the Islamist government of Prime Minister Erdogan to charge violations of free speech as blasphemy, a worrying trend that suggests the identification of insults to the

Turkish state with insults to Islam.

The criminalization of dissent against citizens who dare speak about human rights--especially when these touch on freedom of conscience, belief, religion, speech, and press--explains why Turkey today continues to be identified by the International Committee to Protect Journalists, as well as Human Rights Watch, amongst others, as one of the world’s worst violators of speech and press freedoms. The blasphemy trial against renowned Turkish pianist Fazil Say will continue next month in Turkey, and meanwhile, last week marked the sixth anniversary of the murder of Hrant Dink, the Armenian editor of the Turkish-Armenian newspaper, who fearlessly advocated for equal rights for religious and ethnic minority rights and reconciliation in Turkey. International human rights organizations and some Turkish rights groups maintain that there is extensive evidence to implicate the Turkish government and the ruling Justice and Development Party (JDP) in Dink’s murder, but 18 defendants were acquitted and only 1 was convicted last year in what is widely seen as a kangaroo trial.

When Americans turn out their lights tonight after a day of celebration and remembrance, after a day honoring our democratic principles and process with the presidential inauguration and the MLK federal holiday, we would do well to recall the old adage that goes as follows: “tell me who your friends are and I’ll tell you who you are.” This simple saying should apply to the sophisticated practice of US foreign policy, especially when it comes to choosing our allies. The value of Turkey as an ally to the US as we champion human rights and protect our strategic interests cannot rely on military calculations alone.

The new administration in Washington should take universal human rights standards into account in assessing the future of US-Turkey relations. ■

## Metropolis of Chicago Archons announce Illinois state-wide campaign in support of religious freedom for the Mother Church

**Chicago** – Acting with the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos, a group of Greek Orthodox Clergy and parishioners have undertaken a vigorous campaign to enact a Religious Freedom resolution in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Illinois state senate. The resolution has been introduced as SR 70.

Almost 6 years ago the Illinois House of Representatives adopted such a resolution, but the senate failed to address the matter. This year’s effort is intended to complete the project in that state.

Leading the effort is His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, the Chancellor of the Metropolis of Chicago, and an active group of Greek Orthodox lay leaders who have organized them-

selves as the Friends of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Included in this group are Frank and Katena Lagouros, John and Maria Ackerman, George Manias and Emanuel Manias. Coordinating the effort on behalf of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle is Archon Regional Commander Harold Peponis.

Among many expressions of support, the group has received not only an endorsement from the Executive Committee of the Council of Religious Leaders of the Metropolis of Chicago but also a personal endorsement from His Eminence Cardinal Francis George, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Chicago.

To date, 16 senators have agreed to co-sponsor the resolution. ■



A private reception with Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, top. On the floor of the Illinois State Senate, above.

# Archon John Catsimatidis runs for mayor of NYC



**New York** – Archon John A. Catsimatidis, member of the Order’s governing body, the National Council and chairman of the Archon Religious Freedom Committee stood on the steps of City Hall on January 29, 2013, and announced that he would seek the Republican nomination for mayor of New York City. Archon John issued a personal statement in December 2012 regarding this extraordinary public service endeavor for which we, the Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew, convey our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the entire Catsimatidis Family.

Today I filed an exploratory committee for the 2013 New York City Mayoral election.

I do this because I love New York City.

I came to this country as an infant from Nisyros, a small island in Greece. We lived in a poor area of New York City on 135th street with my father’s extended family while he worked as a waiter.

In 1968, while still a college student, I opened the first of many supermarkets which are now located all over the City. Since that time I have added a number of successful enterprises to my portfolio not the least of which is a major East coast petroleum refining facility and more recently significant real estate developments in the City. I am very proud to say, this has led to the creation of jobs, thousands of jobs, over the years.

I say this to point out the City of New York has been very good to me and my family and the time has come to give back.

My life has always been centered around my family, my faith and my community.

New York City has made great strides in recent years and I want to ensure its continued success. A great deal of the City’s success is due to the faith business leaders all over the world place in the City’s leaders. The world brings its business to New York City because we understand with business come jobs and with jobs a better life for all of us.

I believe the Mayor of New York must be pro-business and at the same time possess the humanitarian feelings which keep this great melting pot working together, but most of all, the Mayor must be fair. Whether dealing with unions, corporations or the individual taxpayers, fairness will be the underlying theme of my every action.

As I embark on this quest, I know it will be a great learning experience for me. Over the next months I will meet with educators, law enforcement, city services operators and taxpayers in every corner of the City.

In the end, I hope New Yorkers will like what I have to offer; a common sense, level headed businessman with a proven record of success and a personal understanding what is like to yearn for a better life.

New York City is the greatest city on earth and my intention is to keep that way.

*[Personal statement submitted December 2012]*

REGIONAL NEWS

# Detroit Archons host Religious Freedom Symposium



**Regional  
Commander  
Lazaros Kircos**

**Detroit** – On Saturday, March 30, 2013, the Order of Saint Andrew’s Detroit region hosted a religious freedom symposium at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Southgate, MI. The event was held under the auspices of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit and organized by Regional Commanders Louis Kircos and Mark Stavropoulos.



**His All-Holiness greets symposium participants during a live video conference call from the Phanar.**

The symposium opened with luncheon, followed by a live video conference call to the Ecumenical Patriarchate where participants had the extraordinary opportunity to receive the greetings and blessings of His All-Holiness. Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander spoke about "The Religious Freedom Crisis in Turkey." Dr. George Demacopoulos, Archon Historian, closed the event speaking about "The Return of the Relics of St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom to Constantinople in 2004." ■



**Metropolitan Nicholas with Archons of the Metropolis of Detroit.**

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM NEWS




## AHI honors the Order of Saint Andrew with Religious Freedom Award

**Washington, D.C.** – The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) bestowed their Religious Freedom Award upon the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, during its 38th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner, March 9, 2013, at the Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C.

Archons Nick Larigakis, AHI President, and Dr. Spiro Spireas, AHI Foundation President, pictured above, honored a distinguished set of awardees that evening, based upon their important career or institutional achievements and contributions to the Greek American community or community at-large. Accepting on behalf of the Order was its National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, who stated:

“I would like to begin by congratulating and expressing our profound gratitude to Mrs. Angelopoulos and the Angelopoulos Family for their unparalleled philanthropy to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which enabled the Phanar, to rebuild its compound after it was destroyed by fire in the 1940’s. We are deeply grateful Mrs. Angelopoulos, for your family’s extraordinary beneficence in sustaining the Mother Church.” The Order of St. Andrew is the

only organization in the United States whose exclusive mission is to defend the Mother Church of Constantinople, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. We consistently and systematically bring the issue of religious freedom of the Mother Church and other religious minorities in Turkey to the European Union and its rotating presidency nations, to the largest human rights meetings in Europe in Warsaw, Poland, the OSCE human dimension meetings, to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, and to the White House... We travel to Ankara, and together with our ambassador of the United States, meet with the government leaders with the simple message: reopen Halki, return our properties, stop interfering in the election of the Ecumenical Patriarch, respect the title of “Ecumenical,” and recognize the world center of Orthodoxy for what it is—the center of spiritual salvation as a corporate entity with legal personality. In the eyes of the Turkish government the Ecumenical Patriarchate does not exist and that must end.”

Dr. Limberakis added, “I am compelled to pay tribute to the

American Hellenic Institute for its herculean efforts to promote religious freedom of the Mother Church under the leadership of its founder, Archon Eugene Rossides, and its president, Archon Nick Larigakis, and together with Archon Dr. Spiro Spireas. AHI has been impactful and consequential...AHI has been front and center in leading the charge for religious freedom by working to pass the historic H.Res.50, a resolution on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate [eventually passed as law in Section 2804 of the FY1998 Omnibus Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act]. AHI has been relentless in its pursuit for law and justice for Cyprus and seeking relief for the Hellenic Republic.”

He concluded by noting that although as individuals we may have different agendas but “we are all united by one Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and one spiritual father, His All-Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch.”

The American Hellenic Institute is a non-profit Greek American public policy center that works to strengthen relations between the United States and Greece and Cyprus, and within the Greek American community. ■

## DEPARTED ARCHONS

**John C. Anggelis**  
Archon Dikaiophylax  
Lexington, KY

Departed on March 14, 2013

**Andrew A. Athens**  
Archon Maestor  
Chicago, IL

Departed on January 9, 2013

**Basil C. Foussianes**  
Archon Megas Ekdikos  
Naples, FL

Departed on December 12, 2012

**Peter T. Kikis**  
Archon Maestor  
New York, NY

Departed on February 28, 2013

**Emmanuel M. Kontokosta**  
Archon Depoutatos  
New York, NY

Departed on March 31, 2013

**Dr. Michael G. Melas**  
Archon Aktouarios  
Albany, NY

Departed on January 22, 2013

**Hon. Nicholas J. Melas**  
Archon Ekdikos  
Chicago, IL

Departed on March 15, 2013

**James M. Mezilson**  
Archon Notarios  
Chicago, IL

Departed on January 18, 2013

**Themis C. Pailas**  
Archon Depoutatos  
Lansdale, PA

Departed on January 28, 2013

**James A. Poll**  
Archon Hieromnimon  
Manhasset, NY

Departed on April 17, 2013

**Christos G. Tsaganis**  
Archon Depoutatos  
Brockton, MA

Departed on February 4, 2013

**Sava Tshontikidis**  
Archon Hypomnematografos  
Satellite Beach, FL

Departed on February 3, 2013

May their memory be eternal!



IN MEMORIAM

## Andrew A. Athens, Archon Maestor



**Chicago** – Andrew A. Athens, Archon Maestor of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and president of the Archdiocesan Council of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese for over two decades (1974-1995) fell asleep in the Lord, March 14, 2013. He was 91 years old. Athens was the first world president of the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE), founder of the United Hellenic-American Congress (UHAC) and Hellenicare, co-founder of Leadership 100, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce, National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH) and many other philanthropic and public benefit organizations and foundations.

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle expresses our heartfelt condolences to the beloved family of Archon Athens who leaves a global legacy of good works and unparalleled philanthropy. His remarkable *diakonia to the Church* includes his leadership in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council, the establishment of Leadership 100 and International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), as well as his consistent and relentless pursuit of a just resolution in Cyprus and the creation of Hellenicare offering medical care and humanitarian assistance to the needy in the countries of the former Soviet Union. In 1991, he received the Athenagoras Human Rights Award in recognition of his extraordinary global humanitarian achievements. ■

## Peter T. Kikis, Archon Maestor

**New York** – Peter T. Kikis, Archon Maestor, president of FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy & Hellenism and Member of the Archdiocesan Council of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese fell asleep in the Lord Feb. 28, 2013. He was 90 years old.



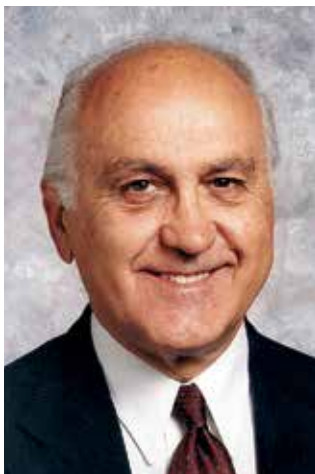
Archon Peter T. Kikis

Peter Kikis, the son of Greek immigrants from Arcadia was born in New Rochelle, NY in 1922. He lost his father at an early age and thereafter started working to help support his mother and sisters. He received his Bachelor's Degree summa cum laude from Princeton University, where he majored in Mathematics studying with Albert Einstein. He served as a captain in the US Army in Europe during World War II and earned four Battle Stars for his service in the War.

Mr. Kikis was a well known business leader and philanthropist, and trusted advisor to Archbishop Demetrios. He had served not only on the Archdiocesan Council, but had been a member of the Executive Committee.

Peter Kikis was married to the late Helen Kikis in 1955. He is survived by their son, Thomas P. Kikis, daughter-in-law Stephanie and three grandchildren: Elena, Peter, and Terrel Kikis. He is also survived by his sister Urania Perakos and the many people whose lives he has positively impacted. ■

## George L. Strike leaves magnanimous bequest to The Order



Archon George L. Strike

**Cincinnati** - George L. Strike, Archon Depoutatos, passed away October 20, 2012, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Susan, three sons, six grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

He was inducted into the Order of St. Andrew with the Offikion of Archon Depoutatos by His Eminence the late Archbishop Iakovos in 1972 at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City.

Archon Strike was born in 1930 in Salt Lake City and graduated from the University of Utah. He was a man of limitless energy and dedication to his work and to philanthropic endeavors. He served as Chairman of the Board of Advance Textile Systems, Martin Franchises, the Hess & Eisenhardt Manufacturing Company,

American Laundry Machinery, and Peoples Bank & Trust (Denver, Colorado). He was a longtime limited partner in the Cincinnati Reds.

Archon Strike believed in service to the community and served as Chairman of UC Health of Greater Cincinnati, the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees, the University of Cincinnati Hospital Board, and the Cincinnati Council on World Affairs.

Among the many awards he received are the following: an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Cincinnati, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Utah, and the Chairman's Award from the University of Cincinnati Foundation for distinguished leadership.

Archon Strike maintained membership in Holy Trinity Church in Salt Lake City and Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Church in Cincinnati. He leaves a legacy of faith, community involvement and service, devotion to family, productive living, respect for all people, and appreciation of the joys of life.

The Order of St. Andrew is honored to be the recipient of a bequest in the amount of \$100,000 from the estate of Archon Strike. ■

## ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT

## Father Maximos of Mount Athos leads 2013 Archon Lenten Retreat

**Westfield** - With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, the Order of Saint Andrew was pleased to have Father Maximos—a monk from Mount Athos, Greece—as its featured speaker for the 10th Annual Archon Lenten Retreat, April 19-20, 2013. The retreat was held at the Metropolis of New Jersey Headquarters in Westfield, at the gracious invitation of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, and was attended by some sixty Archons, spouses and participants. The retreat allowed everyone to grow in their spirituality, join together in fellowship and prayer, and allowed Archons to reenergize their commitment in the pursuit of religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople.

The two-day retreat with Father Maximos commenced on the topic, "The Distracted Life," following the Akathist Hymn service at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Friday evening. The presentation focused on how our daily lives are preoc-



**Archons Alex Pritsos, Peter Skeadas, Spirituality Chairman, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., Father Maximos, John Halecky, Jr., James C. Fountas and Regional Commander Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis.**

cupied with modern technology such as cell phone devices, tablets, personal computers—all of which permit your mind to wander to something not relevant at the moment. He elaborated on how these distracted thoughts steal our possibility to know God. We consume the ads that we are fed through the media and focus our lives on that which is of the moment and will not enrich the core of our being. We must focus not from surface, but instead to depth; from mind to heart; from

outward to inward.

The following day, participants celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the Metropolis Chapel. Father Maximos continued with the topic, 'The Buried Seed,' stating, "Don't be conformed to the form of the world; but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." He mentioned that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit that God gives through Holy Baptism. It is given in the form of a tiny spark or in the form of a seed—waiting for us to

cultivate. Father Maximos stated that the heart is the center of our being, the seed is to be cultivated to bear fruit and the core of human life is the heart which begins at birth.

Father Maximos concluded the day offering participants a glimpse into the daily responsibilities of monastic life and how to coexist in a community of people of all backgrounds and past professions, during his afternoon topic, "From Harvard to Mount Athos." He spoke about the many forms of monastic life: large community monasteries vs. skeets—small homes on hillsides with one central church from which life is lived. He spoke about how Mount Athos is not a place where one is alone. It is communal living with all the responsibilities that go with it.

Archon Peter Skeadas, Committee Chairman on Spirituality, was the retreat's organizer while Archons John Halecky, Jr. and James C. Fountas assisted in coordinating the event with the Metropolis Headquarters. In expressing







# The Patriarchal Throne

A poem by Father Nicholas Samaras

Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church  
West Nyack, New York

thanks to Father Maximos, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D. said, "The retreat participants are truly blessed to have had the opportunity to participate in a retreat led by such a learned, spiritual and pious cleric. He challenged the retreatants to abandon the distracted life of the superficial and mundane and focus on nurturing the seed of the Holy Spirit that Orthodox Christians receive at baptism by doing good works.

"The Order looks forward to publishing the retreat presentation by Father Maximos so that all may benefit from this outstanding theologian."

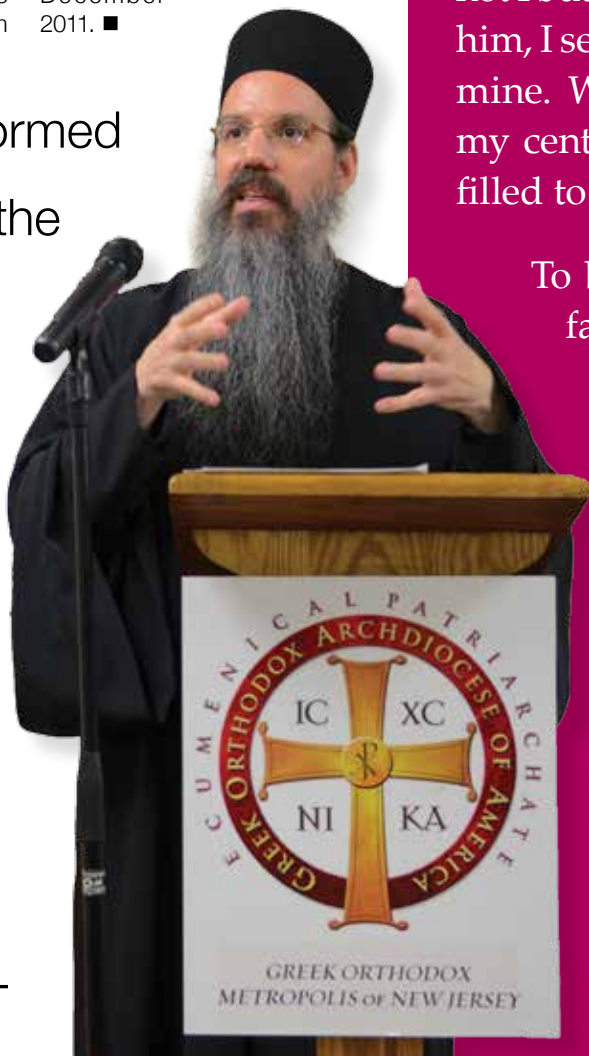
Due to responsibilities on the Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Metropolitan Evangelos was unable to attend this year's retreat. However, he joined participants via a Skype session that afternoon from

the Ecumenical Patriarchate and offered his blessings and greetings.

Father Maximos is a native New Yorker, and a graduate of Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He holds a Ph.D. in patristics, has twice been a fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, and for many years was a professor at Harvard Divinity School and subsequently at Holy Cross.

The author of many scholarly books, articles, and translations, his edition and translation of St. Maximos the Confessor's *Ambigua* will be published later this year by Harvard University Press. He is currently a visiting professor at Hellenic College and Holy Cross and appeared on CBS's 60 Minutes Mount Athos documentary, which aired December 2011. ■

“Don't be conformed to the form of the world; but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”



The dark amber grain of alder wood long burnished by the hands of Patriarchs leaning in the dusk of prayer. A succession of patient palms where I am furnished in a holy nave. Together, it is the witness we bear.

And I have stood to view centuries of such Elders to inhabit the cradle of me: not I but Christ who lives in me. So, from him, I see it is his definition that gives me mine. With the gold icon of the Being in my center, we are all what the space is filled to by.

To be a Holy Father is to be first a father with children. And I see him go to them everywhere. In a bright morning, others will see him humble and fatherly in Doxology. Know the children by the father.

The root of the word Patriarch means "He Who Provides." Be thus led. Stand with him as I stand for what is spoken and heard. Oh, bless the full silver and white hairs of his head. ❧

## PHOTO BRIEFS



### German Chancellor Merkel

**Istanbul** – On February 25, following a personal invitation from the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, His All-Holiness met with the Chancellor of Germany, the Hon. Angela Merkel, at the residence of the Prime Minister in Ankara.



### Georgian President Saakashvili

**Tbilisi** – On January 12, His All-Holiness met with the President of Georgia, the Hon. Mikheil Saakashvili, at Tbilisi Palace. His All-Holiness was formally invited to Georgia by Patriarch Ilia II in order to participate in the celebrations of the latter's 80th birthday and 35th anniversary since his enthronement.



### Serbian President Nikolic

**Istanbul** – On Tuesday, February 5, the Serbian President, His Excellency Tomislav Nikolic, visited the Phanar and was received by His All-Holiness.



### Metropolitan Anthony's Enthronement

**Silver Spring** – On January 26, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony was enthroned as the 4th Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA during a service held at Saint Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring, MD. Through the hands of the Exarch, National Commander Limberakis presented a panagia set to His Eminence on behalf of the Order.



### Berlin preparations discussed at National Council Meeting

**New York** – National Council members discussed preparations for the upcoming International Religious Freedom Conference slated to be held in Berlin, Germany in December. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



### \$15K raised for 'Project Hope for Greece'

**Miami** – Archons Dr. Andreas G. Tzakis, and his wife, Dr. Patricia Carroll-Tzakis, and John and Evangeline Scurtis, hosted a special fundraising dinner for 'Project Hope for Greece,' April 18. More than 70 people came together and raised over \$15,000 for a wide range of charities and important institutions in Greece.

### NJ Ukrainian seminarians visit Phanar

**Istanbul** – On April 11, His All-Holiness received His Grace Bishop Daniel of Pamphilon and the 2013 graduating class of Saint Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary in South Bound Brook, NJ, for their senior trip to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



### Executive Committee meets with Metropolitan Sotirios, Canadian Archons

**Toronto** – Members of the Executive Committee of the Order of Saint Andrew, led by National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, visited the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto, March 1–3, 2013. They met with His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios, His Grace Bishop Christoforos and a number of Archons from Canada to discuss various issues and initiatives, including the second International Archon Religious Freedom Conference scheduled for December. On Sunday, March 3, the Archons attended the Divine Liturgy at the Church of St. George in Toronto. ■



The Archons visited various churches in the local area.



The Archons visited St. John the Compassionate Mission, of the Carpatho-Russian Church, which serves 30,000 meals a year to the homeless and needy.



The Archons visited a local Greek school at SS. Panteleimon, Anna and Paraskeve Greek Orthodox Church in Markham.



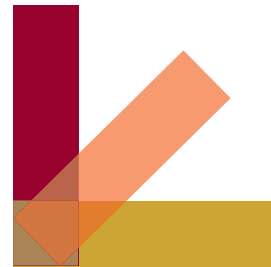
8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075-0106

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

# THE ARCHON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

## Tearing Down Walls

4–5 December 2013 ■ Berlin, Germany



[conference.archons.org](http://conference.archons.org)