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MARCH 14, 2015

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN NAPLES FLORIDA

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Additional details will be forthcoming on archons.org



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A state-of-the-art communications center is opened and named after Archon James Pedas



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EXARCH OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE: His Eminence

Archbishop Demetrios of America

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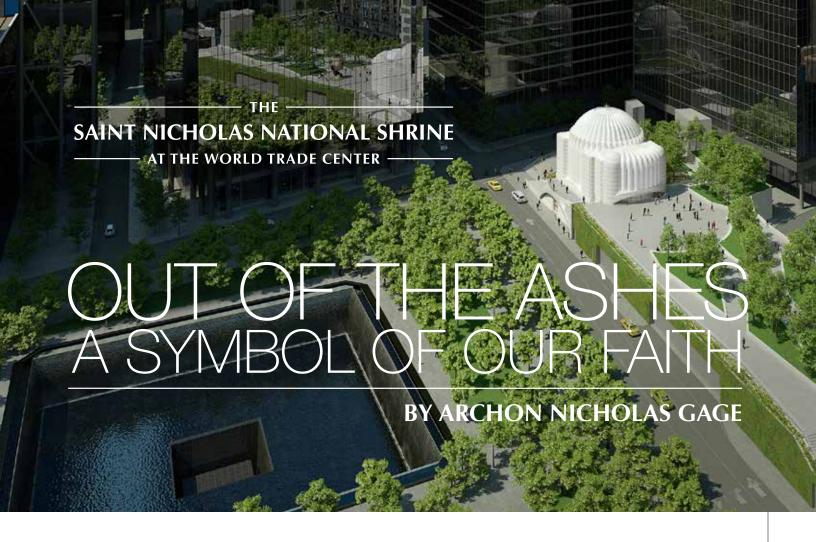
Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA Dikaiophylax

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.

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Once firmly established in the United States, the major religious denominations in America took action to proclaim their presence by each building a great house of worship in a major thoroughfare in the country's most significant urban center—New York City.

The Episcopalians, the American version of the Church of England, made the first imprint with the construction of St. Paul's Chapel on lower Broadway in 1766 and went on to erect the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the enormous Romanesque edifice on Morningside Heights, be-

ginning in 1892. Not to be absent from the heart of the city, a decade later they built St. Bartholomew's Church, a magnificent Byzantine-inspired basilica, on Park Avenue and 52nd St.

The Catholics chose the same general area but on Fifth Avenue between 50th and 51st Street to announce their presence when they began the construction of St. Patrick's Cathedral, their imposing Gothic temple, in 1910 across from what would later become Rockefeller Center.

The Rockefellers were Baptists and were



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America reads from the Holy Gospel during the Ground Blessing Ceremony for Saint Nicholas National Shrine on October 18, 2014 at the World Trade Center.

not about to let their denomination go unrepresented once they made their vast fortune, so in 1926 they financed the construction of the tallest religious structure in America, Riverside Church, on Morningside Heights overlooking the Hudson River.

The Jews made their statement in 1958 with the construction of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, 12 blocks up from St. Patrick's.

We Greek Orthodox have taken our time to make our presence felt in the Big Apple, content with our modest Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, some distance from the city's nerve centers on 74th St., between Second and First Avenues. Over the years, many Greek-American leaders have talked about buying or building a cathedral on Park or Fifth Avenues, now that we have made so much progress in America and achieved the second highest per capita income of any ethnic group. But the talk never went anywhere.

Now a terrible national tragedy has given us the opportunity to create a great shrine for our faith, and a spiritual memorial to

all those who perished on 9/11.

The Church of St. Nicholas that will be built at the heart of Ground Zero replacing the one destroyed on 9/11 will make the most stirring statement that any house of worship has made in the United States in a long time. It will tell America in brilliant visual images what we are, where we come from, and where we are going.

Selecting Santiago Calatrava to design the church was an inspired choice, for he is able to capture in his designs the past and the future in such imaginative ways as to

GROUND BLESSING OF SAINT NICHOLAS NATIONAL SHRINE



astound both the eye and the mind. There is a small bridge in Athens that he designed over a roadway halfway between the city center and Aghia Paraskevi that at first looks like futuristic spaceship ready to take off from its launching pad but then seems to take the form of an ancient Greek trireme gliding over the Aegean.

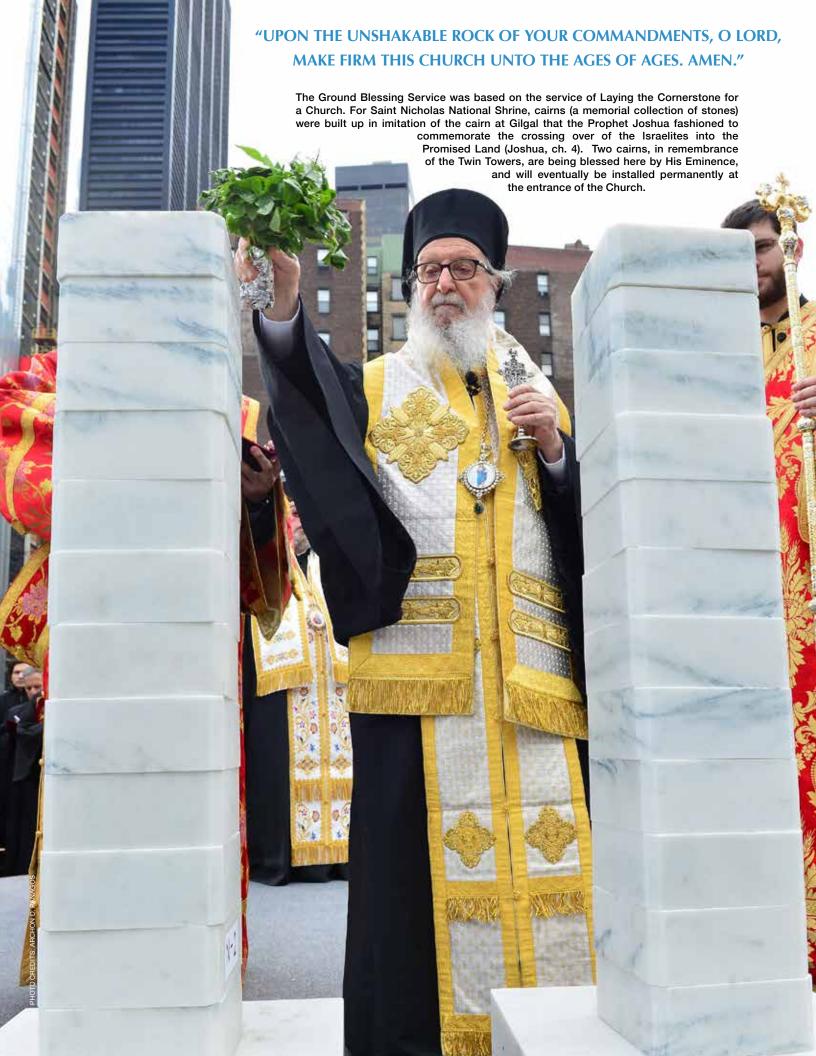
A fusion of the past and the future is what characterizes the new St. Nicholas Church. Calatrava has taken his inspiration from some of the great churches in Constantinople in creating his design. The shallow dome will have 40 ribs as does the dome of the Aghia Sofia, and alternating bands of stone at the corners will echo the walls of the Church of the Holy Savior in Chora. But the church will also be constructed in such a way as to create an ethereal effect reminiscent of the more mystical scenes of "2001: A Space Odyssey." This will be achieved by fusing the exterior stone cladding with glass that in the evening hours will create a luminous aura and make the whole church appear to glow from within.

Most of all St. Nicholas Church will have something entirely its own-what Laurence Durrell called "spirit of place." The original church, a neighborhood parish built in 1916, was completely buried by the collapse of the South Tower of the World Trade Center on 9/11, the only place of worship destroyed in the terrorist attack. The new church will be built on a platform 25 feet above street level at the end of an open space that will include a non-denominational bereavement center for rest and meditation, a shrine that will attract pilgrims of all beliefs from all over America and the world.

The church and the park area it will crown will become a national destination that some 10 million people are expected to visit every vear. That will make St. Nicholas Church at Ground Zero one of the most popular sites in New York City, attracting twice as many visitors as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, for example, and many times more than other churches in the area, including the most majestic cathedrals.

A terrible tragedy has brought us the opportunity to leave our mark on our new-found land and to do it in a way that is worthy of our faith, fitting to the memory of all those who perished on 9/11, and mindful of the promise of Jesus when he said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people." ■

Cairns are placed by Archon Louis Koumoutsos, Chief of the Port Authority Police Department, top, Archon Andrew and Mrs. Paula Liveris, middle, William S. Crane and Archon Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis on behalf of the Nicholas J. Bouras Foundation, far left, and Archon Michael and Mrs. Robin Psaros, left.



GROUND BLESSING OF SAINT NICHOLAS NATIONAL SHRINE

"CONTINUE TO HEAL
THE WOUNDED HEARTS
OF THOSE WHO LOST
LOVED ONES AS A RESULT
OF TRAGIC EVENTS OF
SEPTEMBER 11TH
AND GIVE THEM RENEWED
COURAGE AND HOPE."

Family members of victims of 9/11 make a solemn procession carrying vessels of water from the two memorial pools, which now occupy the footprints of the fallen twin towers. The Metropolitans of the Holy Eparchial Synod, concelebrating the service, received the water and poured it into the crystal fount used for the sanctification of the water.





Archon Inspector John Kassimatis, 9/11 survivor and hero, left, Archon John and Mary Pappajohn, middle, and Greek Orthodox faithful from around the tri-state area, left, had the opportunity to sign their names and personal messages in areas on the concrete wall on Liberty Street.

More than 2,000 people gathered, opposite page, near the base of the Shrine to watch the service on large television screens.



Archon Peter Pappas Sr. greets Santiago Calatrava, the architect of St. Nicholas National Shrine.





Archon George Tsandikos and Paulette Poulos of Leadership 100.

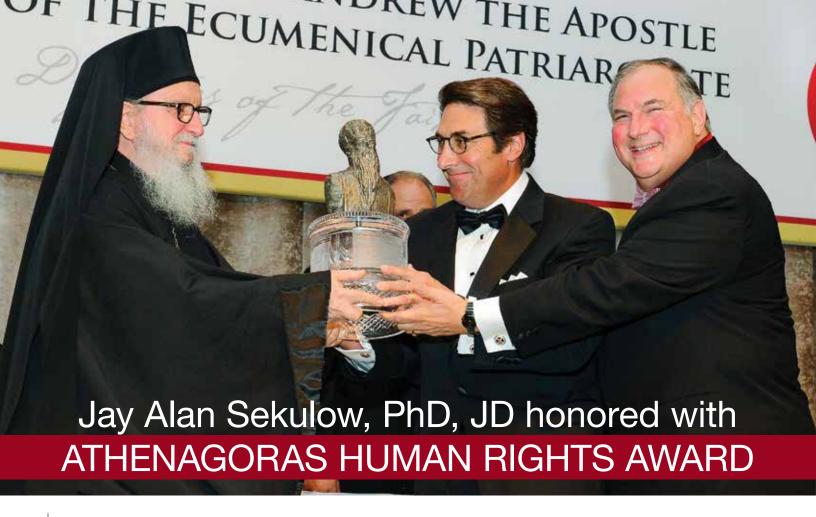


Philip Ruhl and Michael Spanos, grandsons of Archon Alexander and Faye Spanos.



Archon Dennis Mehiel.







Chief Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice and the European Centre for Law and Justice



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, together with the Order of Saint Andrew's National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to the Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD. Dr. Sekulow is the Chief Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice and the European Centre for Law and Justice. The Award was presented during the annual Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet held at the New York Hilton Hotel on October 19, 2014, with some 500 Archons and guests in attendance.

In presenting the Award, National Commander Limberakis, paid tribute to Dr. Sekulow, one of the world's leading lawyers and human rights defenders, saying, "This evening we honor an individual who has dedicated his life to fighting for fundamental human rights and religious freedom in the international juridical arena, from the Supreme Court of the United States to the European Court of Human Rights. His clarion voice has been one calling on governments who victimize their religious minorities by constricting their inalienable



Dr. Sekulow, pictured left of His Eminence, alongside members of the Award Committee.

rights to cease and desist such pernicious policies by court order."

For nearly a quarter of a century, Dr. Sekulow has been on the front lines - working to protect religious and constitutional freedoms in the courts, in Congress, and in the public arena. Dr. Sekulow is a best-selling author (Rise of ISIS: A Threat We Can't Ignore), a popular guest on nationally televised news programs and a frequent contributor to national publications including USA Today, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, and the Washington Times. For many years

and on innumerable occasions, he has supported and championed the cause of the Orthodox Christian world by his endeavors on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Dr. Sekulow spoke at the Second Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom that took place in Berlin last December. He is a courageous and indeed fearless spokesman on behalf of the Judaeo-Christian values that form the bedrock of American society and that are now so virulently under attack.

Athenagoras and Bouras Awards get redesigned



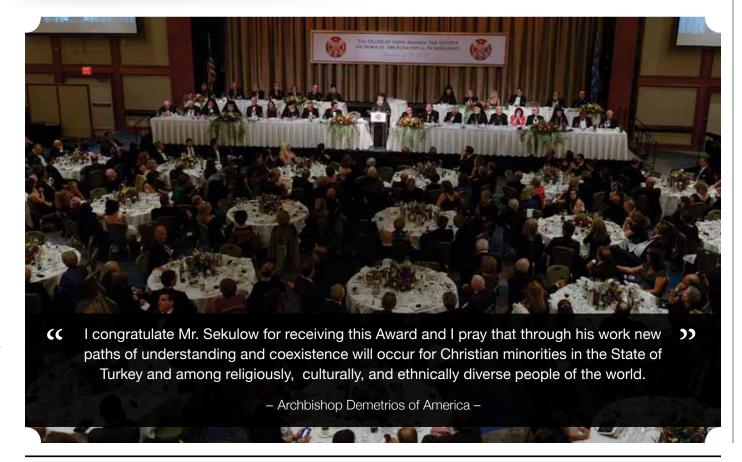
NICHOLAS J. BOURAS AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY ARCHON STEWARDSHIP

The Order of Saint Andrew offers its gratitude to Archon Michael G. Psaros who was essential in underwriting the redesign of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award and assisting us with the Nicholas J. Bouras for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship Award presentation sculptures through his relationship with the world renowned Waterford Crystal Company of Waterford, Ireland.





ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD



ANNUAL ARCHON WEEKEND



The Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship

Archbishop Demetrios joined the Order in honoring Christopher Stratakis, Esq. by bestowing upon him the "Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship." The Award was presented during a special celebratory dinner dance The Hilton on October 17.

Archon Christopher's son, Archon John, served as Master of Ceremonies and his daughters, Sophia Stratakis Huling and Erene Stratakis-Allen, offered musical and poetic tributes respectively to their beloved father. Mrs. Mary Stratakis, Archon Chris' beloved wife of 55 years was recognized as well, with the presentation of a Patriarchal broche.

Christopher Stratakis, an Archon since 1998 has served on the National Council for 13 years, and as Legal Counselor of the Order since 2001. Chairman of the Archon Legal Committee, Archon Chris has been at the forefront in fighting for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, often serving on religious freedom delegations of the Order traveling throughout the capitals of Europe and in Ankara. Archon Chris has always been the soft spoken, yet firm voice of reason during deliberations throughout his many years of service on the National Council.

Archon Stratakis is a senior partner of Poles, Tublin, Stratakis & Gonzalez, LLP, a law firm founded in 1957. He has practiced admiralty, commercial real estate and corporate law, and advises clients in connection with their personal legal matters. Throughout his life, Archon Chris has shown a devotion to community involvement.



He and his wife, Maro, are members of Leadership 100. He has received numerous Hellenic and Orthodox awards, including the St. Paul's Award and Layman's Award, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America; Medal of Merit for Greek Diaspora, Government of Greece; member of the Holy Sepulchre, Patriarchate of Jerusalem; the Ellis Island Medal of Honor; and several awards from Drexel University.

19 Churchmen invested as Archons of the Great Church of Christ

On Sunday the Archon Class of 2014 was invested at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. The investiture immediately followed the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, presided by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, with Metropolitans lakovos of Chicago, Methodios of Boston, Alexios of Atlanta, Savas of Pittsburgh, Gerasimos of San Francisco and Evangelos of New Jersey concelebrating.





Top: The Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship is presented to Archon Christopher Stratakis.

Middle: Archon Stratakis, and his wife Mary, along with their children and grand-children.

Bottom: Archon George E. Safiol, Bouras Award Chairman, left, and Archon John Stratakis, right, served as Master of Ceremonies.













Fotios Barounis Orphanotrofos Westwood, MA

John S. Buzas, J.D. Proto Ekdikos San Marino, CA

Angelo J. Coutris, J.D. Nomophylax Rocky River, OH

Anastasius Efstratiades, J.D. Hypomnematografos Cherry Hill, NJ

Andrew J. Ekonomou, J.D., Ph.D. Dikaiophylax Atlanta, GA Constantine E. Flokas, M.D.

Aktouarios Yonkers, NY

Geofrey J. Greenleaf Depoutatos Novelty, OH

Markos Lagos Maestor Dunedin, FL

Keith A. Maib Notarios Leawood, KS

John Mangouras Kastrinsios Rochester, MN **Michael H. Missios, Ph.D.** Eftaxias

Huntsville, AL

George Pantelidis Hartoularios New York, NY

Panayiotis Peters Laosynaktis Fort Worth, TX

Demetrios Polos Hieromnimon Highland Park, NJ

Theodore J. Poplos Hartophylax Memphis, TN **Apostolos Pries** Skevophylax Campbell, CA

Michael G. Psaros Ostiarios Archdiocesan District

Demetrios Stathopoulos Referendarios Victor, NY

Elias Tsekerides Depoutatos Brewster, NY

TURKEY'S OPPORTUNITY with the Ecumenical Patriarchate



The actions -- and inaction -- of Turkey in the fight against the evil Islamic State reinforces the foreign policy axiom that there are no permanent allies or enemies, just interests.

As the U.S.-led mission continues to drop bombs on Islamic State targets and fighting in the strategic city of Kobani persists, Turkey, a NATO member and, at least in theory, an aspiring EU member, continues to watch the war go on, its military personnel and tanks sitting idle.

Most, if not all, of Turkey's decisions in this context is driven by calculations regarding the impact on, and relationship with, its minority Kurdish population and especially the Kurdistan Workers' Party.

It should be noted and applauded, however, that Turkey has allowed hundreds of thousands refugees to enter its country and seek safety; but, as a G20 member and emerging (regional) power -- for this, it seems, is the overarching objective of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu -- it can, and should, do more.

Within its borders, in the Phanar-district of the historic city of Constantinople (Istanbul), lies the holy and sacred Ecumenical Patriarchate -- the heart of Orthodox Christianity.



National Commander Limberakis and Father Alexander Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor, listen to presentations during the Toronto conference.



National Commander Limberakis delivers his presentation during a religious freedom conference, entitled, "Reflecting on the Past-Looking Towards the Future" held in Toronto.

Yes, the centre of an ancient Christian Church and spiritual home of 300 million Orthodox Christians, dating back to the time of Christ and His Apostles, is found in present-day Muslim Turkey.

The Patriarchate is a hidden gem, which, if polished properly by Turkish authorities can be used to reflect a light on all that is good with humanity: love, joy and peace (cf. Gal 5:22-23).

The Ecumenical Patriarchate, led by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, may not receive the attention that its history and prestige warrants but it was centre stage at a conference held in Toronto on October 21st.

Organized* by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis in Canada, the theme of the conference was "Reflecting on the Past -- Looking Towards the Future" and began with a video address from His All-Holiness.

Three-hundred people attended the conference including many Church hierarchs, diplomats and broader community dignitaries

from around the world. Four distinguished speakers presented on subjects that aligned with the conference's theme.

Fr. Maximos Constas, formerly Associate Professor at the Harvard Divinity School, now a monk at the Monastery of Simonopetra (Mount Athos) and Senior Research Scholar at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston, discussed the historical and ecclesiastical role of the Patriarchate, leveraging the work of a little known but much admired theologian and 5th-century Archbishop of Constantinople, St. Proclus.

The keynote address was delivered by His Eminence Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea who bridged the past and the future by meticulously outlining the historical and present-day efforts of the Patriarchate to make disciples of all the nations (cf. Mt 28:19) through its missionary efforts.

Canada's Ambassador for Religious Freedom, Andrew Bennett, spoke about federal government efforts to promote freedom of religion; he also spoke specifically about



Metropolitan Sotirios of Canada, above, welcomes Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins. Mr. Vageli Sotiropoulos, the volunteer member of the organizing committee, below, addresses participants.

the Ecumenical Patriarchate, its need for religious freedom and the need for Turkey to re-open the Halki Theological School.

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, the National Commander of the U.S. Order of Saint Andrew, systematically presented on the plight of the Patriarchate and the need for meaningful and outcomes-driven reforms by Turkish authorities.

It is here where Turkey has a golden opportunity to collaborate with, and improve the state of, the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Even setting aside the fact that Patriarch Bartholomew is a citizen of Turkey (and having served in the Turkish military) and therefore entitled to full and unqualified rights under the law, it is actually in the strategic interest of the Republic of Turkey to

harness the internationally renowned reputation and stature of the Patriarchate.

By granting the Patriarchate its full rights -- nothing more, nothing less -- Ankara will fulfill its legal obligations and show itself as a serious country committed to the rule of law and a responsible member of the international community.

Moreover, by employing the global reach and influence of His All-Holiness, Turkey will help to counterbalance the evil emanating from different Middle Eastern hotspots. Patriarch Bartholomew, for example, has been a leading force promoting Christian-Islamic dialogue and cooperation.

After all, Islamic State fighters not only target and kill Christians (who are the true martyrs in this battle) but they indiscriminately murder Muslims as well.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople is an ace up the strategic sleeve of the Turkish state; it can be used to advance peace and preach unity.

The time for Turkey to justly use this advantage is now. ■



THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE



The Hellenic Initiative honors three preeminent Greek-Americans for their lifetime of philanthropic and entrepreneurial excellence

The Hellenic Initiative (THI) honored three outstanding Greek-Americans, two of whom are Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, with the Hellenic Leadership Award at the 2nd Annual Banquet at The Museum of Modern Art on October 2, 2014. George D. Behrakis, Archon Depoutatos, John Pappajohn, Archon Laosynaktis, and Peter G. Peterson, were acknowledged for their extraordinary leadership in the business world and in philanthropy. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America gave the invocation, as over 550 Greeks and Philhellenes forom across America and around the globe gathered for the THI Second Annual Banquet. Many Archons attended the event in support of the honorees. Arianna Huffington, a member of The Hellenic Initiative Board of Directors was Master of Ceremonies.

The Hellenic Initiative is a global, nonprofit, secular institution mobilizing the Greek Diaspora and Philhellenes to invest in the future of Greece. Andrew N. Liveris, Archon Proto Notarios, the President, Chairman and CEO of The Dow Chemical Company, is the Chairman of THI, Father Alexander Karloutsos is Honorary Advisor and member of the THI Executive Committee, and one in four of the THI Board of Directors are Archons of the Mother Church.

The event raised over 2.3 million dollars to further the work of THI in Greece. which is a combination of direct philanthropy and investment in job creation and entrepreneurship.

Written by Susanne Güsten of Al-Monitor (The Pulse of the Middle East)



Pope's visit to Turkey is a chance to bridge ancient divide

As Ankara prepares to receive Pope Francis on Nov. 28-30, Turkish media have noted with raised eyebrows that Turkish affairs do not appear to be uppermost on the pope's mind. "It was conspicuous that the pope chose to speak of the 'Ecumenical Patriarchate' and 'Constantinople' rather than of Turkey," when referring to the destination of his upcoming visit, the daily Milliyet pointed out huffily. It is a Turkish delusion of grandeur to believe that the spiritual leader of over a billion Catholics around the world should see, one and a half years into his papacy and before visiting most of those countries that have predominantly Catholic populations, a pressing need for talks in Ankara. His visit to the Turkish capital is little more than an obligatory courtesy call on the host country of his real destination, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The patriarchate has long been at the heart of a deep misunderstanding between Turkey and the West. While the Fener, as the patriarchate is locally known for its location on the Golden Horn, appears to many Turks as little more than a local bishopric for the handful of remaining Greeks in Istanbul, it retains enormous significance for 300 million Orthodox Christians around the world. In addition, its importance to Christianity has been growing again over the past 50 years, as successive patriarchs and popes since 1964 have been seeking a path to reunification of the world's two largest churches, which split apart nearly a thousand years ago. Those efforts have recently intensified under the auspices of the present Patriarch Bartholomew and his counterparts in the Vatican, John Paul II, Benedict and now Francis.

Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in discussion during the historic encounter in Jerusalem, May 25, 2014.



From the patriarchate on the Golden Horn, Bartholomew has been steadily advancing the rapprochement, in which his part is the more difficult one: In contrast to the Roman Catholic Church with its sleek hierarchy, the Orthodox Church is an unruly affair composed of over a dozen self-governing churches, which must be made to agree on common ground for negotiations with the Latin Church before these can proceed. As first among equals, among the leaders of the Orthodox churches, it falls to the Ecumenical Patriarch to organize this alignment. After several preparatory meetings, Bartholomew has now called the first ever pan-Orthodox synod for 2016 in the Hagia Irene Church in Istanbul, where it is to

adopt a framework for reunification talks with Rome. As a next step, he has raised the idea of an Ecumenical Council of all churches, East and West, to meet in 2025 in Nicaea — modern Iznik on the Sea of Marmara — where the first such Ecumenical Council was held in 325.

It is not only Ankara that tends to overlook this heritage and the continuing role of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the world of Christianity. In Europe, opponents of a Turkish accession to the European Union are fond of pointing to the Christian roots of European culture and values, arguing that Turkey lacks the cultural credentials to join the club. Ironically, this argument is mainly advanced by Christian democrats. The pope's visit could serve as an opportunity to remind Europe that these roots are nowhere deeper than in Istanbul and Anatolia. Not only the first council, but all seven Ecumenical Councils recognized by both the Catholic and the Orthodox churches were held on what is Turkish soil today — in Constantinople, Ephesus, Nicaea and Chalcedon, which is today the Istanbul district of Kadikov. It was at these councils that the theological foundations of the Christian faith were laid, right down to the Nicene Creed that is still professed by Christians all over the world today: "We believe in one God, the father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth ...'

Nor is this rich Christian heritage a mere museum relic in modern Turkey. In the Ecumenical Patriarchate, it is alive and pulsing and continuing to make world history. Many Christians hope that the great schism of Christianity may be overcome by its millennium in 2054, the patriarchate's spokesman Pater Dositheos said this week. After a thousand years of unity and another thousand years of discord, Christians would then embark on a new millennium together. Clearly, the daily concerns of a 90-year-old nation pale beside these matters that are to be discussed between the pope and the patriarch on Francis' visit to the Fener. Instead of sulking about the perceived slight, Turkey should take pride in being the home of this 1,700-year-old institution, showcase its role as venue for the planned synod and council, and support the patriarchate's efforts for religious peace - starting by allowing its seminary Halki to reopen. ■

Statement of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate regarding the

LIGHT OF CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East is where Judaism, Christianity, and Islam first began, and for centuries these three communities have coexisted. In recent times, however, Christians across the Middle East have increasingly become the victims of political conflicts between Israel and the Arab States and horrific persecution by Islamic extremists. As a result, many of the most ancient Christian communities in the world are teetering on the brink of extinction. The ongoing exodus of tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians from Mosul into Kurdistan is the latest example of religious cleansing and genocide. Islamic State insurgents occupying Mosul imposed an ultimatum on Iraqi Christians: convert to Islam, or pay a special religious levy known as "jizya", or face death.

ISIS Empties Nineveh Plains: 200,000 Christians Flee, **Huge Humanitarian Disaster**

-The World Council of Arameans

For too long, the world's political leaders have remained silent while this intolerable persecution and the problem worsens. If this silence continues, history will no doubt ask why. Some will say that the problems are complex, and beyond the control of outside parties and governments. Others will say that, by the time they had the opportunity to act, the eventual result -- eradication of Christians from the Middle East -- was a fait accompli. These responses are unacceptable and make those giving them complicit in what is fast becoming one of the great tragedies of the modern age.

The simple fact is that, in the modern world, people of different faiths must engage in dialogue aimed at resolving differences and co-existing peacefully. Recent events have demonstrated that this is possible. On May 25-26, 2014, Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew met in Jerusalem to continue the healing process that resulted from the "Great Schism" of 1054 A.D. when Christianity split into Eastern (i.e., the Eastern Orthodox Church) and Western (i.e., Roman Catholic) Churches

and led to violence. including the sacking of Constantinople in 1204 by Catholic forces during the Fourth Crusade. This healing process began when Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical

Patriarch Athenagoras met in 1964. If this centuries old division, with its own history of betrayal and violence, can be the subject of productive dialogue, why cannot similar dialogue begin among Jews, Christians and Muslims, and for that matter, between Sunnis and Shiites? The answer to this question no doubt lies in the growth of the extremist view that peaceful co-existence is neither an option, nor is preferable.

So, what then can be done?

The answers to that question are numerous. First, the United States and other governments should make non-humanitarian aid to countries where persecution exists contingent on efforts to strengthen religious freedom and human rights. Where persecution exists, aid should cease. Second, diplomats must be educated on issues of religious freedom and the problems faced

by religious minorities throughout the Middle East. This will enable them to act more effectively when problems arise. Third, businesses should be urged to work with governmental and non-governmental organizations to promote religious freedom and make religious freedom part of their business plans. With respect to those countries that are the most egregious violators,

"A Christian "child was cut in half" by ISIS "monsters". Canon White said, "I baptized [this] child in my church in Baghdad. This little boy, they named him after me - he was called Andrew".

Excerpt from The Dangers Isis And Its Progeny Pose To Regional And Global Peace by Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD

doing business therein. Finally, public figures, business leaders, and government officials in offending countries should be

businesses should be urged to boycott

Turkey Accused Of Turning Blind Eye To Destruction Of Christian Sites'

-The Irish Times

denied travel visas and perhaps even face economic sanctions -- they must be made to feel the pain that they either cause or are complicit in via inaction. While more must be done to address the roots of sectarian tensions in the Middle East, if these steps are implemented, then the world will have at least acted to make resolution, rather than exploitation, of those tensions a priority. The time for action is now before it is too late. The fact is that the world can no longer remain silent, for it will mean the extinction of the world's oldest Christian communities.

His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America, has issued a Statement calling for prayers for the Christians in the Middle East "who have endured unimaginable suffering because of their faith." He has declared that "as members of the one Body of Christ (Rom 12: 4-5), we must not forget our calling

to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters." Contact your elected representative and express your concern about the plight of Christians in the Middle East. Do the same with business people with whom you interact. Keep the problem active in vour consciousness. because if enough people do this, positive change can and will happen. ■

REGIONAL NEWS



Thiel College names communication center after Archon Pedas

The Order of Saint Andrew congratulates Archon Jim Pedas on the recent inauguration of the James Pedas Communication Center at his alma mater, Thiel College in Greenwood, Pennsylvania. This state-of-the-art communications center will teach students in sophisticated labs and studios, dynamic classrooms and learning spaces about film, TV, radio, news production and other multimedia-rich experiences. It is a "green" certified \$6.5 million building.

Jim Pedas' pretension-less personality belies his extraordinary success as a movie mogul familiar with film celebrities, entertainment personalities as well as leading American and Greek government officials. Jim and his brother Ted have made many such philanthropic contributions in addition to producing films that have won numerous awards including the Cannes Film Festival Golden Palm Award. In 2012 Ted Pedas received one of the highest awards in teh film industry - the *National Association of Theater Owners Marquee Award*. In addition to their many other accomplishments, they gave two of America's most successful directors, the Cohen brothers, as well as internationally renowned crime writer George Pelecanos, their starts.

Archon Tsougarakis appointed Regional Commander of New Jersey



The Archons announce the appointment of George A. Tsougarakis, Archon Dikaiophylax, as the Regional Commander of the New Jersey Region. Since 1986, Mr. Tsougarakis has practiced law at the global law firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed, based in New York. He is a graduate of Bucknell University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and is married to Evangelia Poneros, also an attorney, with two children, Kira, 18 in her first

year at Barnard College, and Andoni, a 16 year old high school junior. Mr. Tsougarakis was baptized at St. George of Asbury Park, NJ and was married at the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. John the Theologian in Tenafly NJ where he has been a long time parish council member and currently serves as its President. Since Mr. Tsougarakis was made an Archon in 2012, he has tirelessly discharged his obligations, including providing extensive legal services to the Ecumenical Patriarchate on a pro bono basis, and is eager to work with the distinguished Archons of the NJ region. ■



Regional Commander Inspector Kassimatis recognized for heroic efforts on 9/11

On September 25, 2014, the Order recognized Regional Commander Inspector John V. Kassimatis, acknowledging his heroism and sacrifices made for the victims of September 11, 2001 and in defense of life, liberty and the pursuit of freedoms for all peoples. The presentation was made during a National Council meeting held at Gallaghers Steakhouse, hosted by Archon Dean Poll, and following an afternoon visit to the World Trade Center site and future home of Saint Nicholas National Shrine.

Archons represented at OSCE Conference



Archon Constantine G. Caras represented the Order during the 2014 Human Implementation Conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) held in Warsaw, Poland. Archon Caras presented two papers and spoke to the delegates about the impediments to religious freedom and discrimination facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The

OSCE is the world's largest organization whose 56 participating states and 11 partner states span the globe. Over 2,000 delegates participated in the Conference. ■

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List complete as of November 19, 2014

Peter Chergotis, Depoutatos	Theodore Pappas, Exarchos
Port Richey, FL	Encino, CA
Departed on June 11, 2014	Departed on August 23, 2014
Emanuel Demos, Primikirios	Pericles A. Rizopoulos,
New York, NY	Aktouarios, Bronx, NY
Departed on July 4, 2014	Departed on September 25, 2014
Timothy J. Maniatis Exarchos, Bethesda, MD Departed on August 2, 2014	MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

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