



# THE ARCHON

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2014  
[www.archons.org](http://www.archons.org)

Advocates of Religious Freedom for The Ecumenical Patriarchate

**“And the  
Light shines  
on in the  
darkness...”**

—John 1:5

**Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis:  
Fifty years after Paul VI and Athenagoras,  
the light of Christ's love shines on....**

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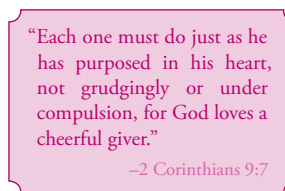
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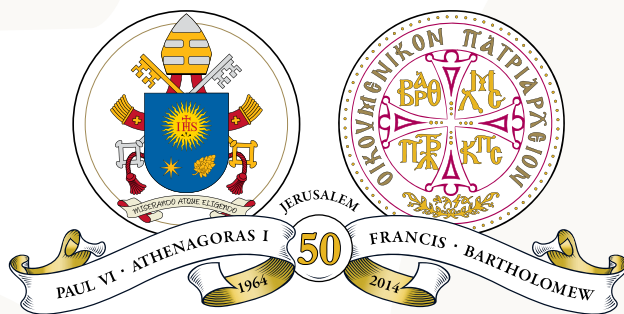
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## APOSTOLIC PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM

THE BROTHERS OF GALILEE : PETER AND ANDREW IN THE HOLY LAND

The Meeting of Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew  
in the Holy City of Jerusalem

[ApostolicPilgrimage.org](http://ApostolicPilgrimage.org)

*H*is Holiness Pope Francis and His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew participated in an Apostolic Pilgrimage to The Holy Lands, May 24-26, 2014. The encounter commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the meeting of their predecessors, Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras in 1964, the first time an Ecumenical Patriarch and a Pope had met in over five hundred years. That historic encounter broke a silence of centuries and led to the lifting of the mutual and limited Anathemas (December 7, 1965) and paved the way toward greater dialogue.

*“This fiftieth anniversary of the historic meeting between the late Pope Paul VI and our ever-memorable predecessor Patriarch Athenagoras is an exceptional opportunity to deepen the fraternal bonds between Peter and Andrew, for both our Sees owe their foundations to them. For this reason, following in the footsteps of Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras, we express our desire to further the relations between the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Churches. Two thousand years ago, it was in Jerusalem where the Light dawned from the Tomb. May it be in Jerusalem again where the light of peace, mutual trust, and brotherly love shines brightly, for the sake of our two Churches and the sake of the whole world.”*

—ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW—

First Statement on the Visit, February 2014

Saint Peter  
the First-Called  
and Saint Andrew  
the Apostle.



## SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION

MAY 24, 2014 | THE PAPAL RESIDENCE

The global heads of the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Churches met on May 25 at the Apostolic Delegation in the Old City of Jerusalem signed a Joint Declaration affirming their commitment to seek unity between their respective ecclesial bodies. Moreover, they expressed their profound concern for the situation of Christians in the Middle East and for their fundamental right to

*“Our fraternal encounter today is a new and necessary step on the journey towards the unity to which only the Holy Spirit can lead us, that of communion in legitimate diversity. We call to mind with profound gratitude the steps that the Lord has already enabled us to undertake. The embrace exchanged between Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras here in Jerusalem, after many centuries of silence, paved the way for a momentous gesture, the removal from the memory and from the midst of the Church of the acts of mutual excommunication in 1054.”*

Excerpt from  
The Joint Declaration

remain full citizens of their homelands.

The Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch also reaffirmed their responsibility and obligation to foster a sense of humility and moderation so that all may feel the need to respect creation and to safeguard it with care.

Finally, the two world leaders underlined the importance of religious understanding and dialogue. ■



Above, members of the Patriarchal and Roman Catholic parties. His All-Holiness, left, presents a gift to Pope Francis. The two brothers embrace one another, right, as they greet one another for the first time in Jerusalem.





–CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST–

*“We are persuaded that it is not arms, but dialogue, pardon and reconciliation that are the only possible means to achieve peace.”*

–RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING–

*“We invite all Christians to promote an authentic dialogue with Judaism, Islam and other religious traditions. Indifference and mutual ignorance can only lead to mistrust and unfortunately even conflict.”*

–SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CREATION–

*“Together, we pledge our commitment to raising awareness about the stewardship of creation; we appeal to all people of goodwill to consider ways of living less wastefully and more frugally, manifesting less greed and more generosity for the protection of God's world and the benefit of His people.”*

Excerpts from  
The Joint Declaration







## PRAYER SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

MAY 24, 2014 | THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHER

The two global Christian leaders proceeded to the Church of the Resurrection, where they venerated the Holy Sepulcher, the Tomb of Christ. Following some private moments in the Cenotaph, they offered an ecumenical prayer of thanksgiving, which was attended by other local Christian leaders and faithful from all over the world. In his address, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew said:

"Fifty years ago, two great church leaders, the late Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, cast out fear; they cast away from

*"It is with awe, emotion and respect that we stand before "the place where the Lord lay," the life-giving tomb from which life emerged. And we offer glory to the all-merciful God, who rendered us, as His unworthy servants, worthy of this supreme blessing to become pilgrims in the place where the mystery of the world's salvation transpired. "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."*

—Gen. 28.17

—ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH—  
—BARTHOLOMEW—

Excerpts from  
the Homilies delivered in  
The Holy Sepulcher

His All-Holiness, above, delivers the homily. Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, far right, venerate the shrine where Christ's body was prepared for burial. The two leaders pray inside the Tomb, left, and later proceed out of the Sepulcher, right.

themselves the fear which had prevailed for a millennium, a fear which had kept the two ancient Churches of the West and East at a distance from one another. And so here we are with His Holiness Pope Francis, as their successors, following in their footsteps and honoring their heroic initiative. We have exchanged an embrace of love, even as we continue along the path toward full communion with one another in love and truth in order that the world may believe that no other way leads to life except the way of love, reconciliation, genuine peace and fidelity to the Truth." ■





*“Let us receive the special grace of this moment. We pause in reverent silence before this empty tomb in order to rediscover the grandeur of our Christian vocation: we are men and women of resurrection, and not of death. From this place we learn how to live our lives, the trials of our Churches and of the whole world, in the light of Easter morning.”*

—POPE FRANCIS—







## MEETING ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

MAY 26, 2014 | THE SUMMER RESIDENCE

On May 26, His All-Holiness met with Pope Francis on the Mount of Olives. At the site known as Viri Galilaei (Acts 1.11), the Patriarch and the Pontiff met for the third and final time during their joint pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Holy Land. It marked the conclusion of an historical pilgrimage and fraternal encounter.

With the echo of Paschal hymns in

*"We have arrived in the place where East and West converge, to the roots of our very existence as Christians, the place where our Lord was born, taught, suffered the Cross, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to constitute His Church. We have come to meet one another and, as our predecessor Patriarch Athenagoras remarked to Your Holiness' predecessor Pope Paul VI, both of them of blessed memory, during their first encounter in this Holy City fifty years ago, "having come to meet each other we have encountered the Lord Himself."*

—ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH—  
—BARTHOLOMEW—

At the dinner hosted by  
Pope Francis, May 25

Receiving the blessings of the Pope: Archon John Georges, upper left, Archon Michael Spanos, lower left, Archon Michael Karloutsos, upper right, Archon Peter Skeadas and Aphrodite Skeadas, National Philoptochos President, lower right.

the distance, the two world leaders conferred on a variety of issues, including ecumenical dialogue, environmental ethics, interfaith relations, and religious freedom and human rights. They sealed their pilgrimage and fraternal exchange by reaffirming their commitment to advance peace, dialogue and mutual understanding among all people of the world. ■









ARCHON REPRESENTATION







The Pilgrims gather together outside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher following the Prayer Service of Thanksgiving with His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick.



## ARCHON REPRESENTATION



Charlie Rose and Archon George Tsunis speak with Theodore Cardinal McCarrick of Washington.



His All-Holiness meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



Archon John and Margo Catsimatidis with Archbishop Demetrios and Muhtar and Defne Kent.



His All-Holiness meets with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah.

PHOTO CREDITS: N. MANGINAS, J. MINDALA

Pilgrims pray with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis, inside the Church of the Resurrection.







Archon George and Caterina Sakellaris, Archon Bill and Linda Stavropoulos and Archon Andrew and Paula Liveris in Bethlehem.



George Gigicos with His All-Holiness and His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos.



Archon Dean Poll greets His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem.



The advance team and support staff hold a late-night meeting to discuss the day's events and plan for the next morning.



Archon Angelo Tsakopoulos offering a welcome toast to the pilgrims



His All-Holiness tours The Hall of Names inside the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Archon Dean and Susie Spanos with His All-Holiness and His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos.



[L-R] Judy and Archon George Marcus, Archon Christos and Stella Spyropoulos, Edward and Debby Rechler and Mae and John Calamos.



## WASHINGTON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM INITIATIVE

## American Leaders Oppose Conversion of Hagia Sophia to a Mosque

Conversion of this historic Christian church into a mosque would not only be deeply offensive to Christian believers worldwide, it would also indicate the Turkish government's fading commitment to secular democracy."

Congressman Ed Royce, pictured right, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in a letter to President Obama

**Washington D.C.**—The United States' opposition to the conversion of the historic Hagia Sophia into a mosque by the Republic of Turkey recently rose significantly higher on the American agenda. The Chairmen of both the US Senate and US House Foreign Affairs Committees, as well as the Commissioners of the United States International Religious Freedom Commission (USCIRF) expressed themselves on this matter.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert

Menendez (D-NJ) addressed the issue in a May 27 letter to US Ambassador to Turkey Francis Ricciardone. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) addressed this issue in a May 29 letter to President Barack Obama. USCIRF issued a strong report on May 21 on the matter. All urged strong American opposition to the proposed Turkish conversion.

These letters and statement followed the May 7th and 8th Archon briefings of the top American officials with jurisdic-



tion over international religious matters mentioned above as well as those at the White House and State Department. The Archon group included National Commander, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis; Spiritual Advisor, Father Alexander Karloutsos; Regional Commander and Washington Religious Freedom Coordinator Andrew E. Manatos and co-Coordinator, Mike Manatos.

Dr. Limberakis said, "We are pleased that our country's leaders appreciate the great symbolic significance of Hagia Sophia.

Built in the sixth century by the Byzantine emperor Justinian, Hagia Sophia served for nearly 1,000 years as the most visible symbol of the Christian faith within the Byzantine Empire. Stopping the conversion of Hagia Sophia to a mosque will accrue to the benefit of all Christians, to all believers in religious freedom and to the 21st Century image of the Republic of Turkey. Our officials' positive response to our concerns is greatly appreciated." ■



Jodi B. Herman, top, senior foreign policy advisor (and Committee Chief Counsel and Deputy Staff Director) to the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. John Podesta, above, Counselor to the President of the United States, at the White House.

Modern Turkey is at the crossroads of civilizations and it possesses many monuments of extraordinary value to humanity. When Ataturk declared the Hagia Sophia a museum, he took a monument that possessed enormous religious and historical importance to different peoples and faiths and made it a place for everyone. It is an extraordinary symbol of Istanbul's status as a world city and restoring it to religious service would undo a positive, inclusive gesture that has endured for decades. I ask you to raise these concerns, as well as those of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, with members of the Turkish parliament and directly with officials of the Turkish government."

Robert Menendez, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, in a letter to the Hon. Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to Turkey



WASHINGTON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM INITIATIVE

# In Era of Polarization, Republicans and Democrats Unite: Religious Freedom Trumps Diplomatic Expediency

**Washington D.C.**—Just days after the Pew Research Center, in the largest political survey in its history, found that Republicans and Democrats are further apart ideologically than at any point in recent history, the Senators of the Foreign Relations Committee provided a stunning counterpoint: regardless of party, they agreed unanimously on one of the most vital issues of our day – that in dealing with the United States

of America, religious freedom trumps diplomatic expediency.

“In a striking show of solidarity, all ten Democrats and all eight Republicans on the Committee signed a letter to President Barack Obama urging him to support religious freedom for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual head of Orthodox Christianity, the second largest Christian Church in the world,” said Dr. Anthony Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of

St. Andrew – Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

“We greatly appreciate the leadership of Senators Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Ron Johnson (R-WI), the Chairman and Ranking Member, respectively, of the Senate European Affairs Subcommittee, who initiated this letter,” said Andy Manatos, who heads the Order’s religious freedom efforts in Washington, DC.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is urging President

Obama to press Turkey to grant the Ecumenical Patriarch full religious freedom. The letter said, “The restoration of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew’s religious freedom would benefit people of all faiths, America’s national interests, and the best interests of Turkey as well.”

The Ecumenical Patriarchate is located in Istanbul, Turkey, and its freedom is increasingly restricted by the Turkish government in a number of ways:

**1**  
Religious properties have been confiscated including prime properties that overlook the Bosphorus;

**2**  
The Theological School of Halki has been closed since 1971, effectively condemning the Church in Turkey to death by denying it the ability to renew itself by training hierarchs allowed by Turkish law to lead the Church;

**3**  
The Turkish government has refused to recognize the title 'Ecumenical' for the Patriarch, which is tantamount to the Italian government refusing to recognize the title “Pope” for the Archbishop of Rome, Francis;

**4**  
Religious freedom has been denied to Orthodox Christians in Turkey, including the spiritual head the world’s 300 million Orthodox Christians, the Ecumenical Patriarch.

**5**  
Permission to restore and maintain churches has been denied, the result of which is only to hammer more nails into the coffin of Orthodoxy in Turkey – a NATO member that aspires to leadership of its region.

“This rare display of unity between Democrats and Republicans follows that between Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority President Mahmud Abbas in a recent prayer meeting at the Vatican with Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, itself yet another rare display of unity between rivals that just 50 years ago

lifted the nearly 1,000-year-old excommunication of each other’s churches. The Pope and Ecumenical Patriarch are the direct successors of the Apostles and brothers Peter and Andrew. Peter traveled to Rome while Andrew made his way to Constantinople (today’s Istanbul in Turkey) and they served as co-bishops in the undivided Christian Church until the Great

Schism between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches in 1054,” said Father Alexander Karloutsos, spiritual advisor to the Order of St. Andrew.

Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew share many spiritual beliefs and concerns about the world today. The renowned journalist Charlie Rose said recently of the Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch,

“It is their imperative to make this world a better place for all.” Rose’s admiration for Pope Francis is well known and he recently said of Bartholomew, “When I look at all the interviews I have had in my life there is no interview that I can think of that I would place higher than the conversation I had with the Ecumenical Patriarch.” ■

DEPARTED ARCHONS: May their memory be eternal!

**Chris Joufflas**  
Archon Kastrinsios  
Grand Junction, CO  
Departed on December 12, 2013

**John N. Deoudes**  
Archon Depoutatos  
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Archon Depoutatos  
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Departed on April 15, 2014

**Thomas Zaferes**  
Archon Depoutatos  
Cincinnati, OH  
Departed on February 2, 2014

**Elias D. Chinonis**  
Archon Lambadarios  
Grand Blanc, MI  
Departed on April 13, 2014

**Emanuel Fthenakis**  
Archon Exarchon  
Potomac, MD  
Departed on April 3, 2014

**Dr. Ernie P. Tiboris**  
Archon Ostiarios  
Sheboygan, WI  
Departed on April 4, 2014



## PATRIARCHAL NEWS



## Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Joins Pope Francis at a Vatican Invocation for Peace

**New York**—With a renewed commitment to Christian unity and an enduring desire to include people of all faiths in dialogue, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual leader of over 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, and his brother Pope Francis joined hands at the Vatican during an Invocation for Peace. Together with the Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch, the Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas participated in the inter-faith service of Jews, Christians and Muslims.

The leaders read passages from the scriptures and offered

prayers of thanksgiving for God's creation and asked for God's forgiveness and peace in the Middle East. Reading from the Book of Isaiah, His All-Holiness reminded the people of the region that God had not abandoned them, and that He would answer before they call, and hear while they yet speak (65: 24).

The Ecumenical Patriarch also called upon God's blessings upon the Jewish, Christian and Muslim children of the Holy Land and prayed that their shared thanksgiving for all of God's blessings may remind them that they are brothers and sisters.



From left, Israel's President Shimon Peres, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Pope Francis, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas pose for photographers at the end of an evening of peace prayers in the Vatican gardens, Sunday, June 8, 2014.

Following the prayer service, Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew shook hands with Presidents Peres and Abbas. As a clear sign of their desire for mutual recon-

ciliation and an equitable and sustainable solution to the conflict in the Middle East, the four leaders planted an olive tree in the Vatican gardens. ■

## ARCHON NEWS

## Archons Bozonelis and Vingas attend Istanbul Conference on Legal Entities of Non-Muslims

**Istanbul**—On January 30, the Honorable B. Theodore Bozonelis, Archon Ekdikos and Regional Commander of New Jersey, attended a conference in Istanbul, Turkey, on behalf of the Order, sponsored by Bilgi University Faculty of Law in partnership with Community (Minority) Foundations and the Council of European Human Rights (the Venice Commission). The topic of the conference was

Legal Entities of Non-Muslims: "Problems and Rights".

Archon Laki Vingas, as the duly elected representative of all Minority Foundations to the government of Turkey's General Directorate of Foundations, organized the conference which featured speakers and panelists from the Turkish government, the Venice Commission, academia and attorneys. ■







## His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa leads Archon Lenten Retreat

**Somerset**—With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, the Order of Saint Andrew was pleased to have His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, presiding hierarch of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA, as its retreat master for the 11th Annual Archon Lenten Retreat, March 21-22, 2014. The retreat, entitled “Orthodox Christians: Paradise is in front of us, Are we there yet?” was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center,

which serves as the headquarters of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople) in Somerset, NJ. Some fifty Archons, spouses and participants attended the retreat which 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. ■



### REGIONAL NEWS

## Archons co-sponsor 'Christian Populations' symposium



**New York**—On April 25, 2014, Archon Districts 1 and 2 of New York co-sponsored a symposium, titled Christian Populations in the Middle East Since the Arab Spring, which was held at Yale University. The panel discussion featured three professors: Stephen Davis of Yale University, Ellen Lust of Yale University and Christine M. Philliou of Columbia University. The event was moderated and

principally organized by George Symiris, Associate Chair of the Hellenic Studies Program at Yale University, together with Archon Gregory Stamos.

Approximately 70 people participated at the event. The event was co-sponsored with the Order of AHEPA, the Hellenic Bar Association of Connecticut and several Yale studies programs and departments. ■

## Archons of Metropolis of Boston host Religious Freedom Event

**Boston**—On June 9, 2014, Regional Commander Drake Behrakis organized a spring event for the Archons, spouses, family and friends of the Metropolis of Boston. Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou, one of the esteemed speakers at

the Order's 2nd International Archon Religious Freedom Conference in December, 2013, served as the guest speaker. Dr. Prodromou delivered an update on Religious Freedom Issues in Turkey, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■





## 2014 HONOR ROLL

The Order of Saint Andrew acknowledges those who have contributed towards the Annual Exarch's Appeal. Completed list as of June 20, 2014 includes donor name, city and state of residence and offikion date.

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## A Return To MOUNT ATHOS

By Regional Commander Dr. Cary J. Limberakis



**Mount Athos**—Four years ago, I kept a promise to myself when my son, Jonathan, was born that I would bring him to the Holy Mountain, Mount Athos, in Greece; replicating a prior trip fifty years before when my Dad, Father John A. Limberakis, had brought my brother, Anthony, and me there to visit the monasteries. Jonathan was about to embark on a four year journey... he was beginning dental school, and he sought a blessing before he began his studies. On that trip, we only could stay for one day, but we promised that we would return sometime in the future, this time, to render dental care to the monks.

Fast-forward four years and Jonathan has just graduated from Temple's Kornberg School of Dentistry. We knew for several months prior to his completing his dental training that we wanted to keep that promise we made four years earlier. The plans were made and we departed Philadelphia for Mount Athos. Mount Athos is located in the northern part of Greece on a peninsula stretch-

ing into the Aegean Sea. It's the home of twenty monasteries and the one we visited is called Vatopaidi Monastery. Father Basil is the resident dental therapist at this monastery.

We arrived early afternoon on a Monday, and following afternoon services, dinner and a formal welcome tour, we were advised that the monks (our patients) were waiting for us in the dental clinic. Although Greek is the official language at the monastery, and I speak Greek somewhat well, we were fortunate to become close with several English-speaking monks who hailed from Wisconsin, South Carolina, Australia and France. Our dental treatment consisted of operative dentistry, endodontics, crown & bridge, occlusal guard therapy and prophies. The clinic was well outfitted, from materials to equipment to technology, due to the generous donations of past visitors to the monastery.

A day in a life of a monk at Vatopaidi Monastery begins at 4am when he is called by ringing bells to attend religious services; they conclude at about 8:30



when the monks, in hierarchical order, process into the refectory to have breakfast in silence while another monk reads from scripture. After breakfast the monks depart for their assigned duties. Due to their responsibilities during the daytime, the monks can only come to the dental clinic at night following evening services and dinner. I kidded Father Basil when I asked him if he charged more for evening appointments!

During the nearly four days we were at the monastery, Jonathan and I tag-teamed to

treat over twenty monks. They were most grateful and asked us for the names of family and friends for whom they would pray daily henceforth. Our evenings concluded with our feeling rewarded and gratified that we were able to give back to those who pray for all of us, day in and day out. ■

*A slice of life at Mount Athos can be witnessed when you view the CBS program 60 Minutes "The Monks of Mount Athos" episode on YouTube.*