

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
for brothers to dwell together in unity!

Psalms 133

Annual



Report

2014

About Us

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle is comprised of Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate who have been honored for their outstanding service to The Orthodox Church by having a Patriarchal title, or "offikion," bestowed upon them by His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Those upon whom this title of the Mother Church has been conferred are known as "Archons of the Great Church of Christ," and the titles are personally conferred by the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

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

The 5 Issues of Concern for the Ecumenical Patriarchate

1

Government Interference
in Patriarchal Elections

2

No Legal Identity

3

Forcible closure of Halki
Seminary and Inability to Train
New Clergy

4

Confiscation of Property

5

Non-Recognition
of "Ecumenical" Status



Annual



Report

2014

Message of His All-Holiness	2	Statement of The Order Regarding The Plight of Christians	20
Message of The Exarch	3	Departed Archons	21
Message of The National Commander	4	Remembering Nicholas J. Bouras	22
The Archon Arena	6	The Annual Lenten Retreat	24
The Athenagoras Human Rights Award	8	Honorable Mentions	26
The New Defenders of The Faith	10	Visit to The World Trade Center	28
The Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship	10	The Ecumenical Patriarchate: Diplomatic Relations	30
The 2nd Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom	12	50 Years Later: An Historic Visit to Jerusalem	32
The Controversy of Converting Haghia Sophia Into A Mosque	16	A Vatican Invocation for Peace	36
Christian Persecution	18	Religious Freedom Resolutions for the Ecumenical Patriarchate	38

Message of The Ecumenical Patriarch



Ἐπισημογραφία

To the honorable members of the Order of St. Andrew, esteemed Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate serving in the United States of America, our beloved in the Lord: Grace be unto you and peace from God.

It is with sentiments of great paternal joy and pride that we address all of you on the occasion of the Annual Meeting and formal presentation of the Annual Report of the Order of St. Andrew for 2014.

In reflecting upon your achievements over the past year, our heart is greatly uplifted and we rejoice with much gladness. Through your success, you have demonstrated that which was expressed by St. Peter, the brother of our patron, St. Andrew the First-Called of the Apostles; that the establishment of peace is not just to be yearned for, but to be *sought after* and *pursued* (1 Pet. 3.11).

Thus, we beseech the Prince of Peace to bless you for all that you endure and achieve for the sake of righteousness. May His pure light shine within the hearts of all, reciprocating to you and your families the love that you have shown to His people and His Great Church.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the seventeenth of October, 2014

Your fervent supplicant before God,

✠ BARTHOLOMEW

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch

Message of The Exarch



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

October 17, 2014

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

I greet you in the grace and peace of our Lord as you gather in New York City to attend the meetings pertaining to your valued initiatives as Archons of the Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate. It pleases me to know that you are among the faithful who will also be participating in the historic and sacred *Ground Blessing Services* of the site of the future Saint Nicholas National Shrine at 130 Liberty Street.

I offer my appreciation to each of you as you contribute your God given time, talents, and resources to both support the extensive ministries of the Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate and to advocate on behalf of the Holy Mother Church for the religious freedom needed to deliver the message of the Gospel unencumbered by asphyxiating political realities.

With your engagement and participation in these meetings and special events, may you be renewed in your worthy aims as an Archon of the Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate, Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle. I offer my best wishes and prayers for fruitful meeting deliberations and for God's infinite grace upon you and your sacred work.

With paternal love in Christ,

+ DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America

Message of The National Commander



THE ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

October 17, 2014

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America
Members of the Holy Eparchial Synod
His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA
Brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

The ensuing pages of our Annual Report offers a pictorial summary of the activities of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America under the inspired leadership of the Exarch Archbishop Demetrios of America. The Report highlights the historic meetings of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the extraordinary meeting between the late Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras in Jerusalem. In the words of His All-Holiness: *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.*

The Report reviews the multifaceted, domestic and international initiatives of the Order in our relentless pursuit of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archon Congressman Gus Bilirakis leads the Washington presence of the Order and Archon John A. Catsimatidis chairs the Religious Freedom Committee. In the European Union arena, the Order works closely with Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, the head of the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union. The major components of our strategy include the following:

- Washington, DC Initiative, coordinated by Regional Commander Archon Andrew E. Manatos and Archon Mike Manatos
 - White House
 - State Department
 - Congress
 - United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
- Archon 50-State Religious Freedom Legislative Resolutions Initiative, coordinated by Archon Stephen P. Georgeson, Esq.
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Initiative, coordinated by Archon Constantine G. Caras, Esq.
- Legal Committee Initiative, including the European Court of Human Rights, coordinated by Archon Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Chair and Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Vice Chair
- Confiscated Patriarchal Properties Initiative, coordinated by Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis
- Second Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom Tearing Down Walls, Berlin, Germany, December 4-5, 2013, coordinated by Archon George C. Rockas, Esq.
- European Union Initiative
- Ankara Initiative

This Annual Report also reviews the spiritual, educational and philanthropic activities of the Order, as well, including the Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet which the CBS News Television program *60 Minutes* received in 2013 for their work in exposing to the world the Turkish government's discriminatory policies constraining the religious freedom of religious minorities in Turkey, including the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In December, the Order bid farewell to its beloved and deeply admired National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, for whom a lasting tribute was developed four years ago with the establishment of the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. This year the Bouras Award will be presented to Archon Christopher Stratakis, Esq., the Order's Legal Counselor and Chair of the Legal Committee. Archon Nicholas of blessed memory through his extraordinary stewardship empowered *and continues to empower* the Order to pursue its extensive domestic and international religious freedom initiatives that have been effective over the years, but costly. His constant encouragement, advice and exemplary personal conduct as churchman, philanthropist, war hero and patriot will continue to inspire all who had the privilege to know him, and those who will learn of his remarkable life in the years to come.

On behalf of the Order, we extend our deep gratitude to Rev. Alexander Karloutsos, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and our Spiritual Advisor who indefatigably offers his enormous efforts and guidance to the Order, as the Archons pursue the institutional rights and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

To our National Archon Office Team, headed by Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos and joined by Graphic Designer John Mindala II, Administrator Christa Pourou and Administrator Elpida Pouprou we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

In closing, the foundation and strength of an organization is based on its membership and its leadership team. It is a great personal honor for me to work side-by-side with the devoted officers of the Order, Secretary John Halecky, Jr. and Treasurer James C. Fountas; our hardworking functionaries, Historian Prof. George Demacopoulos, Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Sergeant-At-Arms Alexander Pritsos and Assistant Treasurer Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA; Members of the National Council, the Regional Commanders, Archon John Zavitsanos who reorganized the Annual Exarch's Appeal and the hundreds of Archons throughout America who offer their *Time, Talent and Treasure* so that one day, the bells of religious freedom will be heard around the world emanating from the Patriarchal Cathedral of Saint George and we will continue our *Agonas* until that day has come!

In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,



Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Aktouarios
National Commander

The Archon Arena

The Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is comprised of some 750 Archons throughout the United States. Under the leadership of the Exarch, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, the governing board of the Order is the National Council and is assisted by the Regional Commanders throughout the United States.

Spiritual Leadership

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Father Alexander Karloutsos
Spiritual Advisor

Executive Committee

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Aktouarios
National Commander

John Halecky, Jr., Ekdikos
Secretary

† Nicholas J. Bouras, Depoutatos
National Vice Commander

James C. Fountas, Depoutatos
Treasurer

Functionaries

Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Notarios
Legal Counselor

Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon
Sergeant-at-Arms

George E. Demacopoulos, PhD
Didaskalos Tou Genous

Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA, Dikaiophylax
Assistant Treasurer

National Council

Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Ekdikos
Thomas S. Cappas, Esq., Nomophylax
Constantine G. Caras Esq., Skevophylax
John A. Catsimatidis, Notarios
Stephen Cherpelis, Dikaiophylax
Theodore D. Demetriou, Exarchos
Nikitas Drakotos, Depoutatos
Theofanis V. Economidis, Ekdikos
Stephen P. Georgeson Esq., Ekdikos
Peter Kakoyiannis Esq., Nomophylax

George Kaludis, PhD, Didaskalos Tou Genous
Nicholas G. Loutsion, VMD, Aktouarios
Dean Poll, Kastrinsios
George E. Safiol, Archiophylax
Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnimon
Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas, Hartouarios
George J. Tsunis, Esq., Hypomnematografos
Stephen J. Yallourakis, MD, DDS, Aktouarios
John Zavitsanos, Esq., Ekdikos

Regional Commanders

<p>Region 1</p> <p>NYC (Manhattan, Bronx), Westchester Cty. and Connecticut</p>	<p>Nikiforos Mathews, Esq., Ekdikos</p>	<p>Region 10</p> <p>Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, S. Dakota, Wyoming & Utah</p>	<p>Gregory G. Papadeas, DO Aktouarios</p>
<p>Region 2</p> <p>NYC (Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Long Island)</p>	<p>Inspector John V. Kassimatis Depoutatos</p>	<p>Region 11</p> <p>Florida</p>	<p>John C. Scurtis, Hartouarios Theodore P. Vlahos, MD Aktouarios</p>
<p>Region 3</p> <p>New Jersey</p>	<p>George A. Tsougarakis, Esq. Ekdikos</p>	<p>Region 12</p> <p>Georgia</p>	<p>Manuel N. Tissura, DDS, Ekdikos</p>
<p>Region 4</p> <p>Upper New York State and North East Pennsylvania</p>	<p>Vacant</p>	<p>Region 13</p> <p>N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Southern West Virginia and Tennessee</p>	<p>Harry T. Cavalaris, Ekdikos</p>
<p>Region 5</p> <p>Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island</p>	<p>Gregory G. Demetrakas Depoutatos Drake G. Behrakis, Maestor</p>	<p>Region 14 / 15</p> <p>Greater Washington, D.C. and Maryland, Virginia</p>	<p>Andrew E. Manatos, Depoutatos</p>
<p>Region 6</p> <p>Michigan, Kentucky and Western Ohio</p>	<p>Mark Stavropoulos Referendarios Lazaros Kircos, Orphanotrofos</p>	<p>Region 16</p> <p>Northern Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and Northern West Virginia</p>	<p>Peter C. Papadakos, Esq. Ekdikos</p>
<p>Region 7</p> <p>Delaware, Pennsylvania (Greater Philadelphia To Lancaster)</p>	<p>Cary J. Limberakis, DMD Aktouarios</p>	<p>Region 17</p> <p>Northern California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii</p>	<p>Theofanis V. Economidis, Ekdikos</p>
<p>Region 8</p> <p>Alabama, Lousianna, Mississippi and North West Florida</p>	<p>G. Thomas Yearout, Esq. Ekdikos</p>	<p>Region 18</p> <p>Southern California, Arizona and Nevada</p>	<p>James G. Kallins, MD, Exarchos</p>
<p>Region 9</p> <p>Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin</p>	<p>Harold A. Peponis, Depoutatos</p>	<p>Region 19</p> <p>Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas</p>	<p>Christopher J. Pappas, Maestor</p>

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award



CBS Chairman and CEO Jeff Fager

The Order of St. Andrew awarded the prestigious Athenagoras Human Rights Award to the CBS News television program 60 Minutes at the New York Hilton's Grand Ballroom on Saturday, October 19, 2013.

Honorees included, Jeff Fager, CBS News President and 60 Minutes Executive Producer; Bill Owens, Executive Editor; Bob Simon, Senior Correspondent; Harry A. Radcliffe, II, Producer; Michael Karzis, Co-Producer; Magalie Laguerre, Associate Producer and Christopher Albert and Wim DeVos, cameramen.

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award was presented to the 60 Minutes team because of their perilous work to expose the Turkish government's negative treatment of minority religions, including that of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in their December 2009 segment titled The Patriarch. Had it not been for the CBS news program's work, Turkey's actions would continue on unknown to the rest of the world.





60 Minutes Producer Harry Radliffe



60 Minutes Reporter Bob Simon



60 Minutes Executive Producer Michael Karzis



The New Defenders of the Faith

Archon Dr. Yallourakis becomes recipient of **Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship**

Through the hands of Archbishop Demetrios, the Order honored Archon Stephen J. Yallourakis, M.D., D.D.S., with the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship.

Dr. Limberakis, stated, "Archon Dr. Yallourakis' contribution in many capacities as an Archon of the Great Church of Christ is exemplary. His leadership donation towards the rebuilding of Transfiguration of Christ Our Savior Monastery on Halki which was destroyed by rioting workers of

the Turkish Forestry Ministry; his personal commitment, along with his beloved wife Doctor Anna in the development, funding and distribution of 160,000 copies of the Zine Magazine First Among Equals to educate our faithful throughout America regarding the canonical, historical and ecclesiastical significance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and his many pilgrimages to the Mother Church in Constantinople render him a most worthy recipient of this prestigious Award. Axios! Axios! Axios!"





His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America presided at the Investiture of new Archons, from throughout the United States, following the Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity on October 20, 2013. Concelebrating were His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey and His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh.



Archon John C. Metaxas, Master of Ceremonies, Michael Grant, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Stephanie Katherine Grant, Dr. Anna Yallourakis, Archbishop Demetrios, Archon Dr. Stephen J. Yallourakis, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, and Dr. Limberakis.




The 2nd Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in cooperation with the Patriarchal Liaison Office to the European Union and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Germany, hosted its 2nd Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom December 4-5, 2013 at the historic Adlon Hotel in Berlin, Germany. Taking place in the shadow of the Brandenburg Gate, the theme of the Conference was, "Tearing Down Walls: Achieving Religious Equality in Turkey."

The Conference focused on religious freedom issues affecting minorities in Turkey stressing the concepts of equality, state neutrality and pluralism as they relate to religious freedom and the status of religious freedom under Turkey's current and proposed new constitutions.



JAY ALAN SEKULOW, PH.D., J.D.

 Washington, D.C.

Chairman, American Center for Law and Justice and the European Centre for Law and Justice

"Religious freedom is one of the most cherished freedoms in the world. The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has a deep commitment and dedication to religious freedom that transcends their denomination. In fact, this conference in Berlin will have a lasting impact on religious freedom throughout the globe."




The Status of Equality, Pluralism and State Neutrality in Turkey

Dr. Steven Ealy, right, Senior Fellow, Liberty Fund, Indianapolis, Indiana moderates the panel discussion. Panelists included, left to right, Fatma Benli, Lawyer and Human Rights Activist, Turkey's Representative to the International Jurists Union; Dr. Aykan Erdemir, Member of the Turkish Parliament representing Bursa, Member of Turkey – EU – Joint Parliamentary Committee, and Dr. Tugba Tanyeri-Erdemir, Deputy Director of the Center for Science and Society, Member of American Research Institute, Ankara, Turkey.

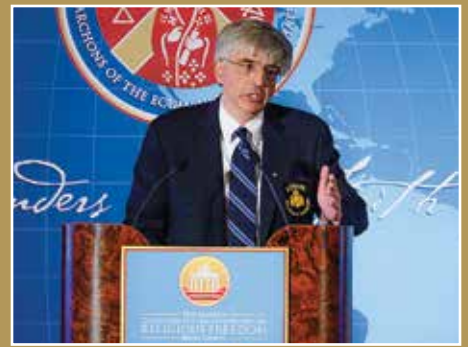
"Halki knows very well how to tear down walls; it also knows how to build, how to construct. It knows how to destroy walls and how to build bridges. It will tear down the walls of suspicion and erect bridges of love and cooperation – and especially the bridge of Turkey's accession and full incorporation to the place where it belongs historically, geographically, and culturally: namely Europe and the European Union. Such is the contribution of Halki to our world and to our country Turkey."



**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN
ELPIDOPHOROS OF BURSA**

 **Istanbul, Turkey**

**Abbot of the Halki Holy Trinity
Patriarchal and Stavropegial
Monastery**



George C. Rockas, Esq., above, served as the Conference Planning Chairman. Christopher Stratakis, Esq., left, is chairman of the Archon Legal Committee and Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, right, also served as Conference Planning Co-Chair.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, as well as Hillary Clinton, former U.S. Secretary of State, United States Senator and First Lady, both addressed the participants by video.

In addition, the Conference featured over 35 world-renowned speakers and panelists from the interfaith, diplomatic, journalistic, legal, and academic communities. From the civil sphere, there were politicians, diplomats, human rights lawyers and activists, scholars, journalists, and political commentators. From the religious sphere, there were members of religious minorities, including Alevi Muslims, Armenians, Catholics, Jews, Orthodox Christians, Protestants and Syriacs. All of these diverse participants came together to discuss freedom of faith issues in Turkey and to discuss the day-to-day challenges religious minorities encounter in order to survive and how to overcome those challenges.

One of the most critical discussions at the Conference was on the forcible closure of the Halki Theological Seminary.




35 World Renowned Speakers
Distinguished speakers gathered in Berlin, with efforts coordinated by George C. Rockas, John Zavitsanos and Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis, Conference Co-Chairmen.



"Why is it that Turkey is incapable of making this final step of granting religious freedoms to these people? There is really very little political cost. We have to look for the answers not so much in it's relationship with minorities in Turkey, but relationships with itself-with it's own majorities."

ANDREW FINKEL

 **Istanbul, Turkey**

Journalist



Orhan Kemal Cengiz, Attorney, Human Rights Defender and Newspaper Columnist, of Izmir Turkey, speaking on "Legal and Political Obstacles to Achieving Equality, Neutrality and Pluralism" at the Kafers Restaurant in the Bundestag, Germany's Parliament Building.



JOHNNY MESSO

 **Stockholm, Sweden**

President, World Council of Arameans (Syriacs)

"The Turkish state prefers religious partiality to religious equality. We disagree, but we can still live with that. However, when it continues to make it difficult for its citizens to freely express, manage and cultivate their own religion, we can never live with that. It is in Turkey's best interest to change itself. As a native people, we must help Turkey to redefine itself in order to become a true democratic country."




Archons, spouses, speakers and guests sit in Conference session at the Adlon Hotel.



"Fundamental rights like religious freedom... do not come from the generosity of this or that state... religious freedom comes from none other than God, and we should defend it vigorously, everywhere, in every society."

MUSTAFA AKYOL


 **Istanbul, Turkey**

Author, Journalist and Political Commentator



"Tearing down the wall between Europe and Turkey will require setting aside not just hubris on both sides, but also conceit and fear. Tearing down walls is a metaphor for embracing hope and diversity. On both sides, that begins with respect."

WILLIAM J. ANTHOLIS, PH.D.

 **Washington, D.C.**

Brookings Institution



**HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP
DEMETRIOS OF AMERICA**

 **New York, New York**

**Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of
America**

"To live in a nation and a society where there is religious oppression and limitation of religious freedom—whether as the oppressor or as the one oppressed—is to live behind a prison wall. It is to live spiritually in a condition of diminished light and joy of diminished human quality."



The Controversy On Converting Hagia Sophia Into A Mosque

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby calls on 'No Mosque Conversion' during visit to Ecumenical Patriarchate



The official visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of His Grace Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, leader of the worldwide Anglican Church, occurred from January 13-14, 2014. During the visit the Archbishop expressed his opposition to the possibility that the Church of Hagia Sophia of Constantinople be transformed into a mosque.

In response to our question concerning the idea in certain circles to use Hagia Sophia again as a mosque, His Grace said clearly: "It should not become a mosque." Upon completing a visit to Hagia Sophia, the symbol of Christianity for centuries, on the 14th of January, he added: "That would be another loss, in which a great symbol of civilization throughout the world was transformed into a particular symbol of exclusivism."



Inquiring about his impressions of Hagia Sophia after his visit, the Archbishop responded: "My main impression is of the extraordinary history of the place, a sense of sadness that it is such an example of loss -- of a great building that feels in need of more love and affection. I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the building and the importance that it is kept available for everyone and not becomes the property of one particular group. Its beauty is overwhelming. It is a place that needs explanation so that it is understood when people come in, of what it stood for and stands for." ■



**“ Hagia Sophia
Should Not
Become A
Mosque ”**

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby



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, third from left, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in a letter to President Obama

Archon Religious Freedom Mission leads to U.S. Chairman of House and Senate to oppose Mosque Conversion; other American Leaders strongly oppose

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 jurisdiction 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



Archons met with John Podesta, middle, Counselor to the President of the United States, at the White House.

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." ■



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



Christian Persecution

Who Will Stand Up for the Christians?

"...open our mouths for the mute and for the rights of all who are destitute. Open our mouths and defend the rights of those in need." –Proverbs 31: 8-9

1 Vandalism at a Sacred Site in Constantinople



A number of young vandals invaded the the courtyard and the chapel of Agia Paraskevi, the site of a Sacred Spring (Agiasma), outside the Byzantine walls near the Monastery of Baloukli.

For at least five hours, according to the testimony of the church sacristan (neokoros) of forty years, Athanasiou Ozkaramichaloglou, the runaway crowd of youths looted and dishonored the sacred precincts of the Agiasma, disrupting the entire sanctuary, sending sacred vessels and priestly vestments flying to the floor. They also the invaded the home of the neokoros. They caused significant damage, broke into the candle pangari, and when they fled even stole a bell.

2 The Dangers Isis And Its Progeny Pose To Regional And Global Peace

In Mosul, ISIS militants had been seen tagging Christian houses with the letter “N” for Nassarah, a common term used for Christians in the Quran, so that jihadist terrorists can subsequently attack and destroy them. Nearly 50,000 Christians have been displaced from Qaraqosh, including those who had fled from neighboring Mosul. The Christians were displaced because their water and electricity were cut off from ISIS-controlled Mosul. Yet, cutting off water and electricity was not enough, the area was bombed and people were shot”. Christians were not the only ones affected by the attack: Yazidis, Shias, and liberal Muslims have also been displaced from the region. ISIS views all four of these groups as “infidels without human rights”.

Even more appalling is the first-hand account given by Canon Andrew White, the Vicar of the Anglican Church in Baghdad. He noted with horror that 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”.

In addition to Mosul and Qaraqosh, three other villages were attacked, two of which are predominantly Christian. Archbishop Athanasius Toma Dawod of the Syriac Orthodox church called ISIS’ targeting of Christians a “genocide [or] ethnic cleansing”. Speaking of the extensive destruction caused by ISIS, Archbishop Dawod stated, “[t]hey have burned churches; they have burned very old books. They have damaged our crosses and statues of the Virgin Mary. They are occupying our churches and converting them into mosques”.

Excerpt from
Jay Sekulow, PhD, JD

Chief Counsel
American Center
for Law and Justice

European Centre
for Law and Justice

2014 Athenagoras
Human Rights Award Recipient



“

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**”.

3

His All-Holiness condemns Religious Violence in Northern Africa

"The Ecumenical Patriarchate expresses its outright and unequivocal condemnation of the kidnapping in Nigeria of scores of young women, who are forcibly subjected to espouse Islam. Moreover, it professes its wholehearted and unambiguous denunciation of the death sentence for the pregnant young Christian mother in the Sudan refusing to espouse Islam. What is happening in Nigeria and Sudan is a dual act of wrongdoing: first and foremost, it is a disgrace against humanity, which we believe and proclaim is created in the image and likeness of God; and second, it is a defamation of the God, whom the great religions of the world worship as divine creator of all life.

In Northern Africa, both believers of Islam and Christianity are obliged to promote a God of love and compassion. And the political authorities are responsible for protecting their citizens, especially the more vulnerable members of their societies. Such acts are unacceptable from the perspective of religion and morality, as well as by standards of international human rights."

–Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (*excerpt*)

4

Regarding the Violence in Iraq

"The targeting of tens of thousands of Christians (including Arameans, Chaldeans, and Assyrians) and other religious minorities (including Turkmens, Yazidis, and Kurds) can never be justified in the name of any religious creed or conviction.

What we are witnessing before our eyes in Iraq is the uprooting not simply of a religious minority – in this case the Yazidis, whose very existence is being threatened – but of an entire civilization. The victimization and extermination of women and children, as well as of the elderly and disabled, for any reason whatsoever – much more so in the supposed name of religious conviction – is a repudiation of our own future. Such calamity and cruelty of adherents to one religion can never be defended by cowardly and falsely invoking another religion. Such brutal acts are categorically unacceptable and unjustifiable before both God and humankind. Violence never is pacified by violence, and hatred is only overcome by tolerance."

–Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (*excerpt*)



Missing Orthodox Bishops since April 22, 2013

Monastery vandalized on Halki, October 2007



5

ISIS empties Nineveh Plains: 200,000 Christians flee

As a result of a shameless attack by ISIS terrorists, the Nineveh plains are now emptied from its native Christians, who belong to the Syriac Orthodox, Syriac Catholic, Chaldean and Assyrian (Nestorian) churches in the region. This is the second region that has been emptied from its Aramean population for the first time in its millennia-old history. Thus, an ancient civilization, cultural heritage and population have been destroyed and erased from Iraq's future.

The World Council of Arameans (Syriacs) President, Johny Messo, expressed his deep concerns as follows: “How many more crimes against humanity does the world wants to see before it finally speaks up? Where are the conscience and the sense of responsibility of the world leaders? Where are the principles of ethics and objective journalism by the mainstream media? Not to speak is to speak and not to act is to act!”



ISIS Crucifying Christians



6

Refusing to Renounce Her Faith

Meriam Ibrahim, a lifelong Christian, was sentenced to a hundred lashes and death for adultery and for refusing to renounce her faith in Khartoum, Sudan and for marrying a Christian.

Statement of the Order of Saint Andrew Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Regarding the Plight of Christians in the Middle East

The Middle East is where Judaism, Christianity, and Islam first began, and for centuries these three communities have co-existed. 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.

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, businesses should be urged to boycott doing business therein. Finally, public figures, business leaders, and government officials in offending countries should be 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 your consciousness, because if enough people do this, positive change can and will happen.

Departed Archons May Their Memory Be Eternal!

October 2013–2014

Nicholas J. Bouras, Depoutatos
Summit, NJ

Departed on December 22, 2013

Thomas Koliopoulos, Depoutatos
Norwood, NJ

Departed on November 10, 2013

Peter Chergotis, Depoutatos
Port Richey, FL

Departed on June 11, 2014

John N. Mandalakas, Depoutatos
N. Huntingdon, PA

Departed on April 15, 2014

Elias D. Chinonis, Lambadarios
Grand Blanc, MI

Departed on April 13, 2014

Timothy J. Maniatis, Exarchos
Bethesda, MD

Departed on August 2, 2014

Vaseleos S. Colevas, Depoutatos
Upper Marlboro, MD

Departed on July 1, 2013

John N. Panas, Depoutatos
Harrison, NY

Departed on November 20, 2013

Emanuel Demos, Primikirios
New York, NY

Departed on July 4, 2014

Theodore Pappas, Exarchos
Encino, CA

Departed on August 23, 2014

John N. Deoudes, Depoutatos
Bethesda, MD

Departed on February 12, 2014

Pericles A. Rizopoulos, Aktouarios
Bronx, NY

Departed on September 25, 2014

Emanuel Fthenakis, Exarchon
Potomac, MD

Departed on April 3, 2014

Dr. Ernie P. Tiboris, Ostiarios
Sheboygan, WI

Departed on April 4, 2014

Chris Jouflas, Kastrinsios
Grand Junction, CO

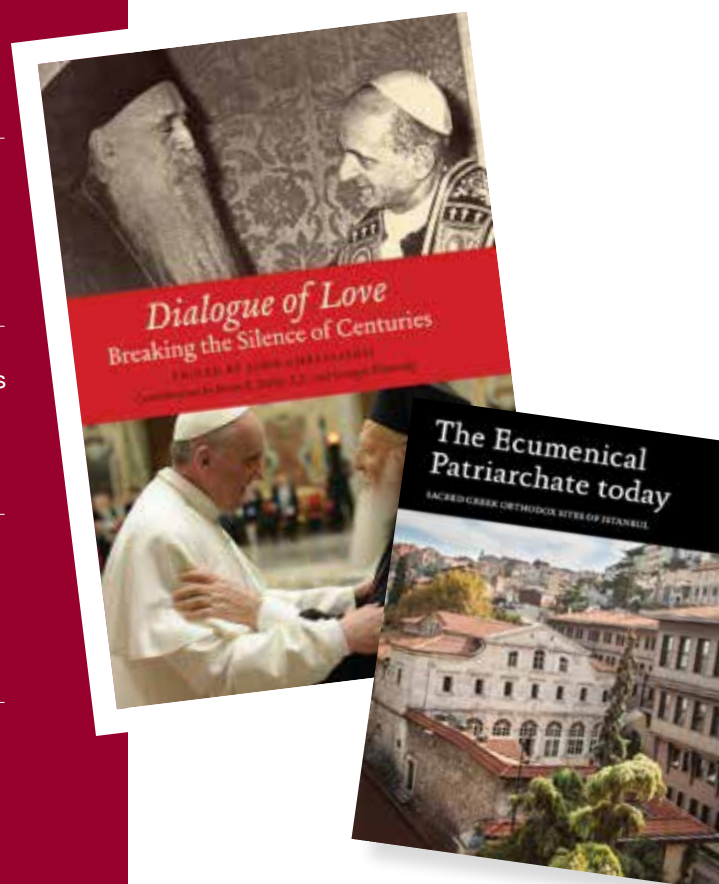
Departed on December 12, 2013

Thomas Zaferes, Depoutatos
Cincinnati, OH

Departed on February 2, 2014

Archons sponsor two new books on the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The Order of Saint Andrew is pleased to have helped sponsor the printing of two new books: *Dialogue of Love, Breaking the Silence of Centuries*, published by Fordham University Press and *The Ecumenical Patriarchate Today: Sacred Greek Orthodox Sites of Istanbul*, published by London Editions Turkey. Both were written by the Very Reverend Dr. John Chrysavgis, who is Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Throne and serves the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



Saying goodbye to our National Vice-Commander **Nicholas J. Bouras**

Archon Depoutatos



"Archon Nicholas lived as one who knew the secret to a happy and fulfilling life. He was righteous in his ways, generous in his heart, faithful in his soul, and noble in his spirit. His passing from us and from this world to the fullness of God and the world to come is a most worthy passage, and his attainment of rest the sure and certain outcome of his life." –His All-Holiness

National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras fell asleep in the Lord, December 22, 2013. Funeral arrangements were held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, NJ. Mr. Bouras was a member of the Executive Committee of the Archdiocesan Council, National Vice Commander of the Order of St. Andrew, member of the Board of Trustees of the Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, founder of FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism, founder of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, major contributor for the building of the new Church of St. Anna in Flemington, NJ, and a generous and committed member of numerous committees and boards within the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America's institutions and organizations.

"If a man be endowed with a generous mind, this is the best kind of nobility." –Plato

"The righteous shall live by faith." –Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17

"For what we leave behind is not engraved in stone, but what is woven in the lives of others." –Pericles



Archons escort the flagged draped coffin of Nicholas J. Bouras, above, at Holy Trinity Church in Westfield, NJ to his final resting place.



On October 21, 2006, Archon Bouras was honored, right, with the Athenagoras Human Rights Award.



On December 9, 2010, Archon Bouras was again honored, below, by the Order, right, on the occasion of his nameday and 90th birthday.



The Archon Lenten Retreat

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, chaired by Archon Peter J. Skeadas. 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 energized their Orthodox Christian Faith and strengthened their devotion to our Lord and Savior towards their pursuit of religious freedom for the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople.



Honorable Mentions



Tampa Bay Archons host Religious Freedom Conference

On Nov. 14, 2014, the Archons of North Florida, under the leadership of Regional Commander Theodore P. Vlahos MD, held a Conference on Religious Freedom, attended by over 350 people, entitled, "The Persecution of Christians Today in the Lands of the Bible."



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.



Regional Commander and son use talents to help monks on Mt. Athos

Archon Dr. Cary J. Limberakis and his son, Dr. Jonathan, visited Vatopaidi Monastery on Mount Athos in early 2014. Father-son dentists treated over twenty monks with various dental needs. Their dental treatment consisted of operative dentistry, endodontics, crown & bridge, occlusal guard therapy and prophies. The monastery dental clinic was well outfitted, from materials to equipment to technology, due to the generous donations of past visitors to the monastery. The monks were most grateful and asked them for the names of family and friends for whom they would pray daily henceforth. Likewise, the Doctors Limberakis were deeply gratified that they were able to give back to those who pray for all of us, day in and day out.



Congressional Briefing held on efforts to reopen Halki Seminary

With the initiative of Archon Congressman Gus Biliakis (R-FL), a Congressional briefing on the religious freedom deficit in Turkey and the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the continued 43-year closure of the Halki Seminary was held on Nov. 20, 2013 at Capitol Hill. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America was one of the three presenters, which also included National Commander Dr. Limberakis and Dr. Elizabeth Prodrumou.



Archons co-sponsor 'Christian Populations' symposium

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 attend Conference on Legal Entities of Non-Muslims

On Jan. 30, 2014, the Honorable B. Theodore Bozonelis, Regional Commander of New Jersey, attended a conference in Istanbul 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.



Metropolis of Boston Archons host Religious Freedom Event

On June 9, 2014, Regional Commander Drake G. 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.

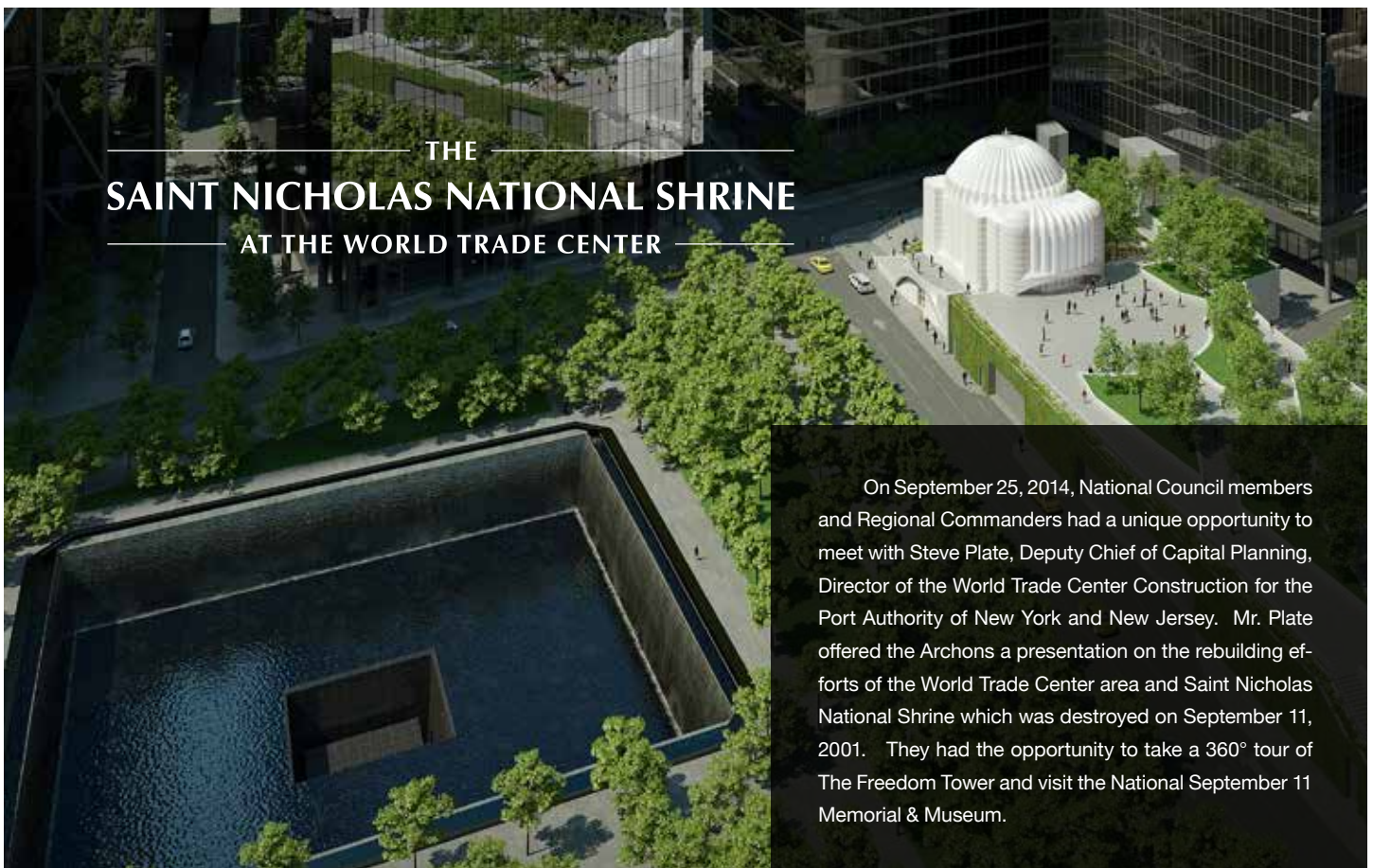
Regional Commander Inspector Kassimatis recognized for heroic efforts on 9/11

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 visit World Trade Center site



On September 25, 2014, National Council members and Regional Commanders had a unique opportunity to meet with Steve Plate, Deputy Chief of Capital Planning, Director of the World Trade Center Construction for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Mr. Plate offered the Archons a presentation on the rebuilding efforts of the World Trade Center area and Saint Nicholas National Shrine which was destroyed on September 11, 2001. They had the opportunity to take a 360° tour of The Freedom Tower and visit the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.



Archons with Steve Plate, pictured above, 60-floors above Manhattan in One World Trade Center. National Commander Limberakis presents Mr. Plate with a set of Archon cufflinks below left. Mr. Plate shows diagrams, below right, of the new Saint Nicholas National Shrine. Archon Michael Psaros, bottom left, points out an iconic tower in the distance inside the Freedom Tower. Archon Lou Kircos inside the lobby of One World Trade Center.





The Ecumenical Patriarchate Diplomatic Relations



Ukraine's Medal of Freedom

On January 19, 2014, His All-Holiness was awarded the Medal of Freedom of Ukraine “for his ministry in the service of universal Orthodoxy and on the occasion of the 1025th anniversary since the Christianization of the Kievan Rus.” On behalf of the President of Ukraine, His All-Holiness was presented this prestigious honor by His Excellency Sergiy Korsunsky, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Turkey.



Memorial Service for Ukrainian victims

On February 23, 2014, His All-Holiness held a Memorial Service for those who lost their lives during the protests in Ukraine. The service was attended by the Acting Consul General of Ukraine in Istanbul, the Hon. Andriy Mostyskyi, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Turkey, His Excellency Irakli Koplatadze, as well as faithful from all over the world, including Turkey, Greece, Ukraine and other countries.



Prime Minister of Hungary

On March 2, 2014, His All-Holiness traveled to Hungary for a two-day official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. His All-Holiness met with the Prime Minister in the Nandorfehervari Hall of the Hungarian Parliament. An Agreement was signed between the Government of Hungary, represented by the Prime Minister, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, represented by His All-Holiness as its First-Hierarch.



Prime Minister of Albania

His All-Holiness presided over the consecration of the newly built Resurrection of Christ Cathedral in Tirana, Albania, on June 1, 2014. During his visit, meetings took place between representatives of the Orthodox Churches and the heads of the Albanian Republic, including Prime Minister Edi Rama.



U.S. Consul General visits the Phanar

On October 2, 2013, His All-Holiness received the Honorable Charles F. Hunter during his first official visit to the Phanar as Consul General of the United States in Istanbul. Among those in attendance were Archbishop Demetrios of America and Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey.



Boğaziçi University honors His All-Holiness

On December 19, 2013, His All-Holiness received an honorary doctorate from Istanbul's Boğaziçi University (formerly Robert College) for his extraordinary vision and initiatives for the protection of the natural environment. This is the first Turkish university to bestow such an honor on His All-Holiness, and the first also publicly to acknowledge his status and position as Ecumenical Patriarch.



Prince Albert II of Monaco

His All-Holiness traveled to Monaco, where he was invited to address the 6th World Policy Conference. The topic of his presentation is the global importance and impact of religion in our world. His All-Holiness also paid a formal visit to Prince Albert II of Monaco.



World Assembly of Religions for Peace

From November 21-24, 2013, His All-Holiness made an official visit to the Metropolis of Austria on the occasion of the 50th anniversary since its establishment. During his visit, he was invited to attend and address the closing session of the 9th World Assembly of Religions for Peace, which was held in Vienna. The assembly brought together over 600 religious leaders from all over the world.



President of Palestine

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew met with President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas on May 25, 2014 in Ramallah.



President of Israel

On May 27, 2014, His All-Holiness met with the President of Israel Shimon Peres.



Prime Minister of Israel

On May 27, 2014, His All-Holiness met with Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu.



50 YEARS LATER

An Historic Pilgrimage to The Holy Lands

His 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.



Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew venerate the shrine where Christ's body was prepared for burial.



Candles are lit by the two brothers in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher at Golgotha—the site where our Lord was crucified.



The Brothers of Galilee: Peter and Andrew in the Holy Land

“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.”

– His All-Holiness



Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis offers a toast to His All-Holiness during the Welcome Dinner held at Olmaya Restaurant.



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



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



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



The Pope offers words inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher during the Prayer of Thanksgiving.



The Pope and Ecumenical Patriarch issued a Joint Declaration on May 25, 2014.



Archon Michael Karloutsos receives the Pope's blessing.



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



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



Archon Michael Spanos receives the Pope's blessing.

Ecumenical Patriarch Joins Pope Francis at Vatican Invocation for Peace



With a renewed commitment to Christian unity and an enduring desire to include people of all faiths in dialogue, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis joined hands at the Vatican during an Invocation for Peace, together with the Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. They participated in an interfaith service of Jews, Christians and Muslims.

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.



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





First Among Equals

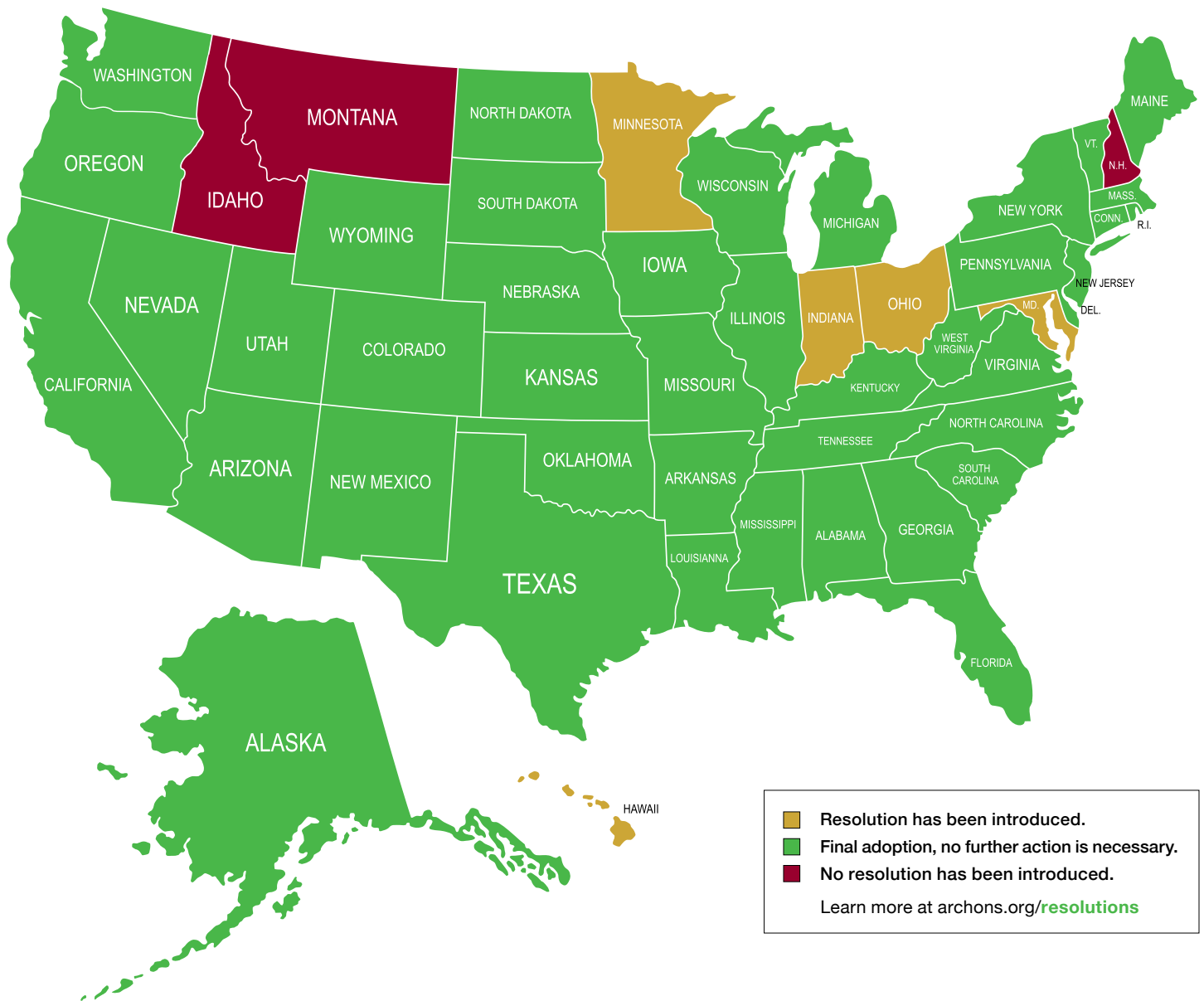
At the invitation of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Primates of all the Orthodox Autocephalous Churches will gather from March 6-9, 2014, for a Sacred Synaxis at the Phanar in order to deliberate on matters pertaining to the entire Orthodox Church throughout the world and procedural issues for the convocation of the Holy and Great Synod, whose preparation is coming to an end.

52 Resolutions / 42 U.S. States

Representing
90%
of the
American
population

In 2006, the National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew initiated the Religious Freedom Resolutions project, coordinated by Archon Stephen Georgeson of Atlanta. The goal of this project, which represents one component of the overall, multi-faceted Religious Freedom Initiative, is the adoption of religious freedom resolutions in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in every state legislature. This project is an ongoing effort of the Order of Saint Andrew and represents an important part of the governmental and public affairs strategy of the Religious Freedom Initiative. Below is the most recent update as of October 15, 2014:

<p>Alabama</p> <p>SJR 73 Adopted by House and Senate on 5/2007</p>	<p>Alaska</p> <p>SJR 28 - Introduced on 2/18/2010 Adopted by Senate 4/5/2010 Adopted by House 4/11/2010</p>	<p>Arizona</p> <p>HCM 2009 Introduced on 1/17/2008 Adopted by House 3/18/2008 Adopted by Senate 5/22/2008</p>	<p>Arkansas</p> <p>SCR 3 Introduced on 1/22/2009 Adopted by Senate on 2/18/09 Adopted by House 3/12/2009</p>	<p>California</p> <p>SJR 17 Introduced on 9/10/2007 Adopted by Senate 2/28/2008 Adopted by Assembly 8/30/2008</p>
<p>Colorado</p> <p>HJR 1014 Adopted by House and Senate on 4/7/2011</p>	<p>Connecticut</p> <p>Adopted on 4/30/2010</p>	<p>Delaware</p> <p>HR 9 Introduced on 3/10/2009 Adopted on 3/19/2009</p>	<p>Florida</p> <p>HM 191 Introduced on 3/2/2010 Adopted on 4/23/2010 SM 314 Introduced on 3/1/2010 Adopted on 4/28/2010</p>	<p>Georgia</p> <p>HR 415 Adopted by House 4/2007 SR 1038 Introduced on 2/27/2008 Adopted by Senate 3/6/2008</p>
<p>Hawaii</p> <p>SCR 57 and SR 31 Introduced on 3/4/2011 Adoption Pending</p>	<p>Idaho</p> <p>No resolution has been introduced at this time.</p>	<p>Illinois</p> <p>HR 666 Introduced on 8/10/2007 Adopted on 10/4/2007 SR 70 Introduced on 2/25/2009 Adopted on 5/31/2013</p>	<p>Indiana</p> <p>SR 4 Introduced on 1/5/2011 Adoption Pending</p>	<p>Iowa</p> <p>HR 27 Introduced on 3/12/2009 Adopted on 3/23/2009</p>
<p>Kansas</p> <p>SR 1807 Introduced on 1/6/2011 Adopted by Senate 2/3/2011</p>	<p>Kentucky</p> <p>HR 244 Adopted on 3/26/2008</p>	<p>Louisiana</p> <p>SR 109 Adopted by Senate 6/2007</p>	<p>Maine</p> <p>HP 924 Introduced on 3/25/2009 Adopted by House 3/31/2009 Adopted by Senate 4/2/2009</p>	<p>Maryland</p> <p>HJR 5 Introduced on 3/14/2008 Adoption Pending</p>
<p>Massachusetts</p> <p>Adopted on 4/16/2008</p>	<p>Michigan</p> <p>SCR 6 Introduced on 3/19/2009 Adopted by House 3/19/2009 Adopted by Senate 3/25/2009</p>	<p>Minnesota</p> <p>SR 178 Introduced on 4/2/2008 Adoption Pending</p>	<p>Mississippi</p> <p>HCR 67 Introduced on 3/19/2008 Adopted by House 3/31/2008 Adopted by Senate 4/16/2008</p>	<p>Missouri</p> <p>HR 1365 Introduced on 3/19/2008 Adopted by House 5/7/2012 SR 1762 Adopted by Senate 5/7/2012</p>
<p>Montana</p> <p>No resolution has been introduced at this time.</p>	<p>Nebraska</p> <p>LR 273 Introduced 1/6/2010 Adopted on 4/13/2010</p>	<p>Nevada</p> <p>ACR 31 Adopted by Assembly and Senate on 5/6/2009</p>	<p>New Hampshire</p> <p>No resolution has been introduced at this time.</p>	<p>New Jersey</p> <p>SJR 11 Adopted by Senate and House 6/2006</p>
<p>New Mexico</p> <p>HM 39 Introduced on 2/2/2010 Adopted by House 2/13/2010</p>	<p>New York</p> <p>Adopted by Senate and House 4/1/2011</p>	<p>North Carolina</p> <p>Adopted on 6/28/2010</p>	<p>North Dakota</p> <p>SCR 4014 Introduced 1/26/2010 Adopted on 3/24/2011</p>	<p>Ohio</p> <p>SCR 3 Introduced on 2/1/2011 Adoption Pending</p>



<p>Oklahoma</p> <p>SR 54 Introduced on 2/19/2008 Adopted on 3/24/2008</p>	<p>Oregon</p> <p>SJR 16 Introduced on 5/4/2009 Adopted by Senate on 5/6/2009 Adopted by House on 6/1/2009</p>	<p>Pennsylvania</p> <p>HR 876 Adopted by House 11/2006 SR 188 Introduced on 10/24/2007 Adopted by Senate 3/10/2008</p>	<p>Rhode Island</p> <p>SR 895 Adopted by Senate 3/2007</p>	<p>South Carolina</p> <p>HR 4727 Introduced on 2/20/2008 Adopted by House on 4/9/2008 SR 735 Adopted by Senate 5/2007</p>
<p>South Dakota</p> <p>SCR 6 Adopted by Senate 2/21/2012 Adopted by House on 2/23/2012</p>	<p>Tennessee</p> <p>SJR 535 Adopted by Senate 6/2007 Adopted by House on 4/17/2008</p>	<p>Texas</p> <p>HCR 1670 Introduced on 5/1/2011 Adopted on 5/5/2011 SR 1006 Adopted on 5/16/2011</p>	<p>Utah</p> <p>SR 1 Introduced on 1/23/2009 Adopted on 2/5/2009 HR 2 Introduced on 2/3/2009 Adopted on 2/19/2009</p>	<p>Vermont</p> <p>JRS 47 Introduced on 2/9/2010 Adopted on 5/12/2010</p>
<p>Virginia</p> <p>HR 35 Adopted on 3/1/2012</p>	<p>Washington</p> <p>HR 35 Adopted by the Senate and House 2/26/2012</p>	<p>West Virginia</p> <p>HCR 37 Introduced on 2/11/2008 Adopted by House 3/3/2008 Adopted by Senate 3/8/2008</p>	<p>Wisconsin</p> <p>SR 10 Introduced on 3/4/2010 Adopted on 4/22/2010</p>	<p>Wyoming</p> <p>Adopted on 6/20/2012</p>



Leader of Love

His All-Holiness interacts with children during an official visit to Hungary, March 2014.

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