

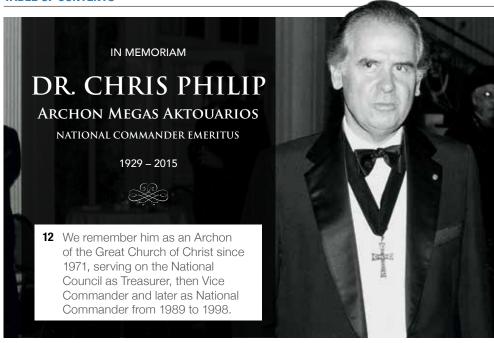
SUMMER 2015 www.archons.org



VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN TO RECEIVE 2015 ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

October 17 · New York City

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EXARCH OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE: His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America

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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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The Vice President of the United States of America to receive Athenagoras Human Rights Award, Oct 17

The Hon. Joseph Biden, Vice President of the United States, will receive this year's Athenagoras Human Rights Award presented by the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, at the organization's annual banquet Saturday, Oct. 17, at the New York Hilton Hotel in New York City.

In December 2011, Biden became the first sitting Vice President of the United States to visit His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Phanar. Three years later, November 2014, the Vice President returned for a second official visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

As a strong advocate for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Biden made the following remarks at the Clergy-Laity Congress in Philadelphia: "The issue that I would like to mention tonight, and one about which I am equally optimistic, is

"...The great faith of the Greek Orthodox Church should have what all people of all faiths deserve the freedom to practice one's religion without any restriction..."

Remarks of The Vice President at the 42nd Clergy-Laity Congress

religious freedom and the right of the Greek Orthodox Church to control its destiny free of the influence of any government – of any government at all. The right to decide who the Patriarch is, is not the business of any State to determine. Period. Period. The right to reopen Halki Seminary is basic. And the protection of the holy places and the heritage sites in Turkey is absolutely necessary. It is basic. It is the essence of religious freedom."

Archbishop Demetrios responded to the news of the Award as follows, "Vice President

Biden has shown again and again his commitment to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and it's free and unhampered exercise of its spiritual mission. His two visits to the Phanar as the only sitting Vice President of the United States speak volumes about his love of liberty, sense of justice and true friendship with His All-Holiness."

National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis added, "We are honored to bestow the Athenagoras Human Rights Award on this exemplary leader, whose love of freedom and human rights has borne such witness for the Mother Church and the rights of all oppressed people."

Past recipients of the award have included Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H. W. Bush, Mother Teresa, Elie Wiesel and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Award is named in memory of Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, who served in that capacity from 1948 until his death in 1972. Prior to his selection as Ecumenical Patriarch, Athenagoras served as Archbishop of North and South America.

Established in 1986, the Athenagoras Human Rights Award is presented annually at the Order of Saint Andrew's grand banquet to a person or organization, which has consistently exemplified by action, purpose and dedication concern for the basic rights and religious freedom of all people.





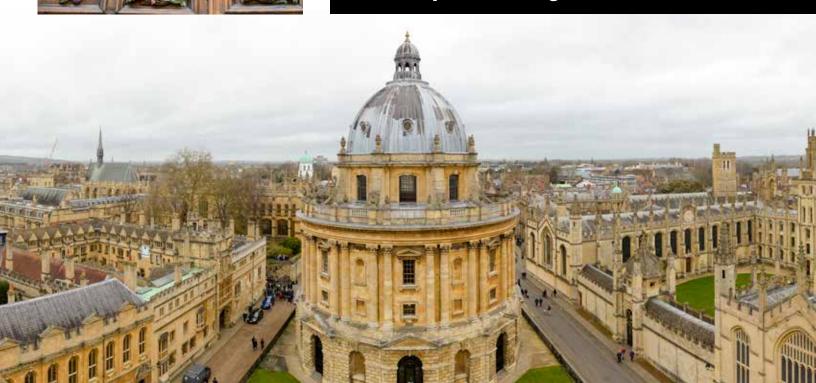




THE ORDER Persecution, Peace and Reconciliation



Archons present religious freedom lecture on









Ecumenical Patriarchate at world's oldest university



on March 27, 2015, with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis presented a dynamic multimedia lecture regarding the religious freedom crisis asphyxiating Ecumenical Patriarchate at Harris Manchester College the renowned University Oxford sponsored by the ford Centre for the Study

the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the Harris Manchester College at the renowned University of Oxford sponsored by the Oxford Centre for the Study of Law and Public Policy (oxfordpolicycentre.com). The three-day symposium entitled Persecution, Peace and Reconciliation focused on religious freedom in the Republic of Turkey. Distinguished speakers from Europe, Africa, China and the United States participated in the symposium, including Baroness Elizabeth Rose Berridge, Member of the House of Lords, Dr. Aykan Erdemir, Turkish parliamentarian, Dr. Tugba Tanyeri Erdemir an expert on religious minorities in Turkey and other distinguished scholars. At the conclusion of the symposium Commander Limberakis was conferred the position of Distinguished Fellow of the Oxford Centre for the Study of Law and Public Policy at Harris Manchester College of the University of Oxford.

The Oxford Centre for the Study of Law and Public Policy is based at Oxford University at Harris Manchester College. It was established by Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD and the American Center for Law and Justice and the European Centre for Law and Justice. The Oxford Centre offers an academic environment designed to bring leading thinkers, academics, and practitioners from across the globe to participate in scholarly pursuit aimed at protecting Christians and others facing persecution in the Middle East and other parts of the globe. The Oxford Centre for the Study of Law and Public Policy has a distinquished list of fellows throughout the academic world.

PHOTO CREDITS: J. MINDALA



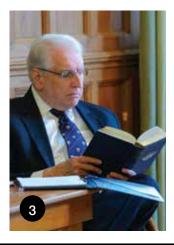
THE ARCHON Summer 2015 UITION, Peace and Reco

OXFORD UNIVERSITY



- National Commander Limberakis delivers his presentation on the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- Dr. Limberakis speaks with Dr. Akyan Erdemir, Member of the Turkish Parliament, and Dr. Tuğba Tanyeri-Erdemir, Deputy Director, Center for Science and Society, both of whom attended The 2nd Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom in Berlin, Germany, 2013.
- Archon Andrew Ekonomou, Senior Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice and the European Centre for Law and Justice.
- The Revd Dr. Ralph Waller, MA, BD, MTh, PhD, DLitt-Principal of the Oxford Centre for the Study of Law and Public Policy, presents a certificate to Dr. Limberakis.
- National Commander walks with Oxford University student Markus Markert in between sessions.
- Dr. Limberakis offers a toast to Jay Sekulow during the farewell dinner.
- Dr. Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD and recipient of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award.
- Gregor Puppinck, Director of the European Centre of Law and Justice, along with Archons Ekonomou, Dr. Limberakis and Dr. Maria A. Limberakis, stroll through the Harris Manchester College.
- Jordan Sekulow, Executive Director of the American Center of Law and Justice and speaker at the 2nd Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom in Berlin, Germany, 2013 delivers his presentation.
- 10. Symposium participants.















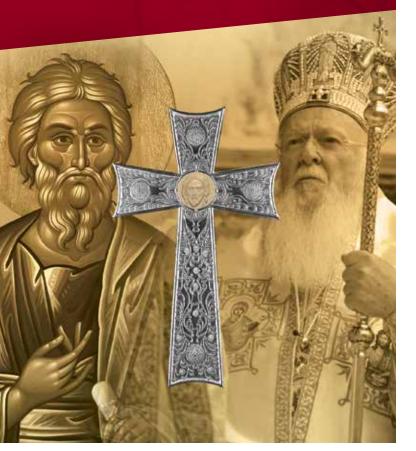






October 16-18, 2015 · New York City

A WEEKEND TO FOCUS ON THE EFFORTS TO SECURE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR THE MOTHER CHURCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE



SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

4:00PM - 5:30PM Gramercy West Conference Room, 2nd Floor Joint Meeting of National Council and Regional Commanders

Private meeting with members of the National Council and Regional Commanders who will offer an overview and briefing of regional Archon activities in their respective Metropolis



6:30PM - 10:00PM

Trianon Ballroom, 3rd Floor

Nicholas J. Bouras Award For Extraordinary Archon Stewardship Award Presentation and Dinner Dance

All Archons, Archons-elect and family members are invited.

The Award is named after the late National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, Archon Depoutatos, who had demonstrated during his lifetime remarkable leadership as a faithful son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and extraordinary Archon stewardship of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. We begin the evening with a cocktail reception, followed by an elegant dinner and formal presentation of the Nicholas J. Bouras



Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship to the Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas, Archon Hartoularios by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and the National Commander. After the presentation program, the evening concludes with festive dancing and fellowship where Archons, Archons-elect and their families meet and socialize within the Archon family.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS



Rooms are available from Oct. 13-18 at a special price of \$389 per night.



New York Hilton Midtown 1335 Avenue of the Americas Hilton New York, NY 10019

Call 1-800-HILTONS and use code: OSA or visit:

https://resweb.passkey.com/go/OrderofStAndrews2015

There are a limited number of rooms. Make your reservation as soon as possible.

Defenders of the faith

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

8:30AM - 9:30AM Rendezvous & Petit Trianon, 3rd Floor Orientation Breakfast for Archons-elect and their spouses

Archons-elect and their spouses will gather for an orientation presentation by the National Commander who will offer a multi-media program reviewing the awesome responsibilities and roles of



Archons, who are advocates of religious freedom and serve as Defenders of the Faith.

10:00AM – 12:30PM Trianon Ballroom, 3rd Floor Archon General Assembly

All Archons, Archons-elect and spouses are expected to attend the annual meeting to discuss the vision and strategy to secure religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Specific reli-



gious freedom programing, formal committee reports and other items of concern regarding the well-being of the Ecumenical Patriarchate will be presented thereby offering an open Archon forum for deliberation. Archons-elect will be introduced to the His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and a group photo of the Archon Class of 2015 will be taken.

12:30PM – 1:30PM Mercury Suite, 3rd Floor Archon Agape Luncheon

All Archons, Archons-elect and spouses are invited to attend our annual Agape Luncheon which will feature keynote speaker **Steve Plate**, Deputy Chief of Capital Planing and Director. World



Trade Center Construction Department at Port Authority of New York/New Jersey

6:00PM - 10:00PM Grand Ballroom, 3rd Floor Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet

The black-tie gala is the Archon premier event and fundraiser which begins with a one-hour cocktail reception, followed by the introduction of the dais and the presentation of the 2015 Athenagoras Human Rights Award to Vice President **Joseph R. Biden**, by the Exarch Archbishop Demetrios of America and the National Commander.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:00 AM Cathedral Undercroft

Matins and Procession of Archons and Archons-Elect

Archons and Archons-elect will assemble in Cathedral undercroft for a group portrait and additional instructions. Then all Archons will process into the Cathedral together for Matins.



Archdiocesan Cathedral Of The Holy Trinity Archiepiscopal Divine Liturgy and Investiture of the Class of 2015 Archons

The morning begins with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy by His Eminence **Archbishop Demetrios** of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, with Metropolitans and assisted



by Bishops and visiting Clergy. At the conclusion of the service, new Archons will be invested and presented with their Offikia and Cross of Saint Andrew.

1:00 PM Cathedral Center Ballroom Archon Fellowship Reception

Following Divine Liturgy and the Investiture of the Class of 2015 Archons, an Archon Fellowship Reception of Thanksgiving hosted by the Order of Saint Andrew is offered in the adjacent Cathedral Center ballroom.





ARCHONS.ORG/ATHENAGORASAWARD ARCHON OFFICE: 1.212.570.3550

ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT

The Salvific Social Gospel in War and Peace

Matthew 25: 31-46

Fr. Adamopoulos speaks on extreme poverty in Sierra Leone and the feeding programs he established for their hungry

belongs to the hungry man; the coat hanging unused in your closet belongs to the man who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the man who has no shoes; the money which you put in the bank belongs to the poor. You do wrong to everyone you could help, but fail to help."

On March 27-28, 2015, the Rev. Dr. Themistocles Adamopoulos led the annual Archon Lenten Retreat at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Southampton, NY. Fr. Adamopoulos is a former rock star of The Flies, Orthodox priest and missionary in Sierra Leone. He led the retreat which focused on "The Salvific Social Gospel in War and Peace: Matthew 25: 38-41. National Council member Peter Skeadas, chairman of the Archon Spirituality Committee,

along with Archon Michael G. Psaros, co-chair, organized the retreat. Nearly 60 Archons attended the two-day retreat which commenced on Friday evening. The next day, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated, followed by morning and afternoon sessions led by Father Adamopoulos.

In January 2008, with the blessing of His Beatitude Patriarch Theodoros of Alexandria and sponsored by the international charity 'Paradise Kids 4 Africa' (PK4A), Fr Themi moved from Kenya to





Sierra Leone, where he involved himself in similar activities that he had initiated in Kenya. As of 2009, there are 9 building projects in progress, including a missionary residence and 3 places of worship, as well as providing many feeding programs for the hungry.

Negotiations with the government in March 2008 led to Fr Themi having responsibility for two schools, with a total of 3500 students and 90 staff; and in May, grants were received from two Greek missionary societies, the Orthodox Missionary

Fraternity and the Missionary
Alliance of St. Cosmas the
Aetolian - one grant
to build infrastructure for one of
the schools,
and the other
to begin construction of a Teachers'
College. Work began
on the Teachers' College
before the end of that month,
and construction has begun on
housing for the disabled and
victims of the war.

who refuse to hand over a trifling sum to Christ when He is poor and lacking the barest substance, and what the pagans spend on harlots and mimes and dancers in return for a single shout of applause this our Christians will not give for the sake of the eternal Kingdom."

St. John Chrysostom



PHOTOS BY GEORGE KOKKINOS









CLIMATE CHANGE and MORAL RESPONSIBILITY By His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, Primate of the Church of England This article was featured in The New York Times "Opinion" section on June 19, 2015

On Tuesday, the British medical journal The Lancet will publish a landmark report highlighting the inalienable and undeniable link between climate change and human health. We warmly welcome the report's message of hope, which confirms the fact that climate change is more than just a technical or financial challenge (as Pope Francis did in his encyclical letter on June 18) and confirms the voice of health in the discussion on climate change. Indeed, the central premise of the Lancet commission's work is that tackling climate change could be the single greatest health opportunity of the 21st century.

It is no surprise that climate change has the potential to set back global health. The greenhouse gas emissions that are warming our planet come from industrial activity that pollutes our air and water, and the temperature changes may lead to drought that brings malnutrition. Those with little or no access to health care — children and the elderly in particular — are more vulnerable to such predicaments.

However, health is symptomatic of a larger problem, which undermines and fragments our broader worldview. In addition to highlighting the effects of climate change, we must address the root of the problem. In so doing, we will discover how the benefits of assuming moral responsibility and taking immediate action — not just on matters related to health, but also world economy and global policy — far outweigh the cost of remaining indifferent and passive.

It is this vital link that The Lancet's report conclusively and authoritatively demonstrates. In short, it proves that our response to climate change — both in terms of mitigation and adaptation — will reduce human suffering, while

preserving the diversity and beauty of God's creation for our children. God's generous and plentiful creation, which we so often take for granted, is a gift to all living creatures and all living things. We must, therefore, ensure that the resources of our planet are — and continue to be — enough for all to live abundant lives.

The report could not appear at a more significant and sensitive time in history. This year, as all eyes look ahead to the Paris climate negotiations and as governments prepare to sign a universal commitment to limit global temperature rises, we have reached a critical turning point. We are — as never before — in a position to choose charity over greed and frugality over wastefulness in order to affirm our moral commitment to our neighbor and our respect for the Earth. The saic human rights — such as access to safe water, clean air and sufficient food — should be available to everyone without distinction or discrimination.

Because of our faith in God as creator, redeemer and sustainer, we have a mission to protect nature as well as human beings. The obligation of all human beings is to work together for a better world, one in which all human beings can flourish; our Christian vocation is to proclaim the Gospel inclusively and comprehensively.

To this purpose, as early as the mid-1980s, when the faith-based environmental movement that has come to be known as creation care was neither political nor fashionable, the Ecumenical Patriarchate initiated pioneering environmental initiatives. In 1989, it established a day of prayer for the protection of the natural environment and, from 1991 to this day, instigated a series of symposia and summits on an international, interfaith

and interdisciplinary basis. Its ecumenical and ecological vision has been embraced in parishes and communities throughout the world.

In 1984, the Anglican Consultative Council adopted the Five Marks of Mission, the fifth of which is: "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth." In 2006, the Church of England started a national environmental campaign, Shrinking the Footprint, to enable the whole church to address — in faith, practice and mission — the issue of climate change. In 2015, a clear direction has been set for the Church of England's national investing bodies in support of the transition to a low-carbon economy that brings its investments into line with the church's witness.

As representatives of two major Christian communions, we appeal to the world's governments to act decisively and conscientiously by signing an ambitious and hopeful agreement in Paris during the United Nations' climate conference, COP 21, at the end of this year. We hope and pray that this covenant will contain a clear and convincing long-term goal that will chart the course of decarbonization in the coming years. Only in this way can we reduce the inequality that flows directly from climate injustice within and between countries.

The Lancet report is further proof that all of us must act with generosity and compassion toward our fellow human beings by acting on climate change now. This is a shared moral responsibility and urgent requirement. Civil society, governmental authorities and religious leaders have an opportunity to make a difference in a way that bridges our diverse opinions and nationalities.

Archon Judge Nicholas Tsoucalas named recipient of Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship, Oct 16



The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle is pleased to announce that Archon Judge Nicholas Tsoucalas, Archon Hartoularios,

has been nominated as the recipient of this year's Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. A special tribute dinner dance will be held at the New York Hilton Hotel, Friday evening, Oct. 16, as part of the Order's annual three-day assembly, Oct. 16-18.

Archon George Safiol, Award Committee chair-

man, said, "Archon Tsoucalas has exemplified tremendous stewardship of time. talent and resources in support of the Mother Church of Constantinople, the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the United States, and to the mission of the Order of Saint Andrew in which all Christians should be granted religious freedom rights. Our committee deemed it appropriate to recognize his efforts and name him as the recipient of this prestigious Award in recognition of the extraordinary service exemplified by National Vice Commander Bouras." ■

President Reagan nominated Judge Tsoucalas to the Court of International Trade, which nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in June 1986. In addition to his judicial duties with this Court, Judge Tsoucalas has served as a visiting judge in U.S. district courts throughout the country and in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second circuit. He became a Senior Judge on September 30, 1996. Judge Tsoucalas was named an Archon with the offikion Hartoularios in March 1987. He is a member of the National Council and was appointed as a chairman of the Nominating Committee in 1998 and continues to serve this post proudly.

Full biography available online at archons.org

TLOTEÚW National Council Member Michael Psaros produces / underwrites beautiful documentary on sacred iconography

PISTEVO "I believe", a stunning 17-minute film packed with vivid imagery depicting the life of Jesus Christ and His saints, was screened on Sunday, June 21, 2015 at the Greek Orthodox Church of our Saviour in Rye, New York, in the prescence of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America. The independent documentary short film, produced and underwritten by National Council member Archon Michael Psaros, depicts a community coming together to complete the centuries-old mission of iconography, under the leadership of Father Elias G. Villis, Proistaminos.

Iconography, the centuries-old tradition of depicting faith through images, was the primary means of teaching Christianity until written records were formally canonized as the Holy Scriptures. Yet even today, centuries later, iconography remains a spiritually powerful part of Orthodox Christian theology.

For many, the images enhance one's ability to go deeper into the exploration and appreciation of their faith. With the Greek Orthodox Church of our Saviour in Rye,

New York, as the focal point, PISTEVO "I believe" chronicles the journey of a congregation through a multi-phased campaign to complete the Holy Tradition of iconography in their church.

The film features interviews with Father Villis, Archon Psaros and other kev

stewards who brought the documentary to life. Its compelling, brilliant, almost ethereal visuals provide the backdrop to highly personal, often emotional interviews about what iconography means to their faith. In today's fast-paced technology-driven world, it is unusual to find things that make a group of people stop in their tracks. At every opportunity, the iconography in the Greek Orthodox Church of Our Saviour does just that for its congregation and visitors who are fortunate enough to have that experience.





United Nations event on the Papal encyclical entitled

LAUDATO SI'

On the Care of our Common Home





Archdeacon John Chryssavgis, left, offers the Ecumenical Patriarchate's response at the United Nations as a delegation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, right, listens.



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America greets Cardinal Peter Turkson upon arrival at the United Nations.

At the invitation of Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See Mission to the United Nations, the Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis, Advisor to the Ecumenical Patriarch on Environmental Issues and Theological Advisor to the Ecumenical Office of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, responded to Cardinal Peter Turkson's remarks at a high level discussion marking the publication of His Holiness Pope Francis' encyclical entitled "Laudato Si' (Praised Be): On the Care of our Common Home." The event took place the evening of June 30, 2015 in the ECOSOC Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters. Mirroring the Vatican press conference of June 18, this high level discussion is yet another example of positive developments between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches.



Archons of South Florida together with St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church of Naples co-host Religious Freedom Symposium



With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Naples, Florida held its first Religious Freedom Symposium on March 14, 2015 in its cultural center. The symposium, under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Philemon Patitsas was chaired by Dr. Harry Dimopoulos and co-chaired by Archon Regional Commander John C. Scurtis on behalf of the South Florida Archons. This was the first annual National Christian Rights and Freedom Symposium under the overall theme of Uplifting Christ and Witnessing for our Faith in the Face of Radical Extremism. The St. Katherine Lecture Series on Religious Freedom was underwritten by a generous grant by Archon Harry W. Spell from Minneapolis, MN. ■



Father Philemon Patitsas



Regional Commander John C. Scurtis



Archon Harry Demas







DR. CHRIS PHILIP ARCHON MEGAS AKTOUARIOS

National Commander Emeritus



The late National Commander Emeritus Chris Philip, above, together with his beloved wife Irene.

The Order of Saint Andrew mourned the passing of our dear National Commander Emeritus Dr. Chris Philip, Archon Megas Aktouarios who fell asleep in the Lord on July 2, 2015, the day before his birthday. The Order extends its condolences to Mrs. Irene Philip the beloved wife of Archon Dr. Philip for 59 years and their children Katherine and husband Dr. Chris Kojanis and son Chris Philip, Jr. and grandchildren Lee, Ellyn and Renee Kojanis. Archon Dr. Philip was invested an Archon of the Great Church of Christ in 1971 and served on the National Council as Treasurer, then Vice Commander and later as National Commander from 1989 to 1998. He was bestowed the title of National Commander Emeritus upon his retirement.

Archon Dr. Philip, an orthodontist, was a long time resident of Tenafly, NJ and most recently of Fort Lee. He was a graduate of NYU

(University Heights College of Pure Arts & Sciences) and NYU College of Dentistry. He received his degree in Orthodontics at Colombia University. After graduating from Dental school he was commissioned as Captain in the U.S. Air Force Dental Corps. Archon Dr. Philip was a professor of Orthodontics at Fairleigh Dickinson University's graduate department, serving as Director of the Cranio-Facial Anomalies and Cleft Palate Programs and was Chairman of the department of Orthodontics. He also served as president of the Northeastern society of Orthodontists and had private practices in New York and New Jersey. In addition to his duties as National Commander, he had served as President of the parish council of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan, having served on that parish council for over 58 years. ■

Anthony G. Andrikopoulos	Gustav Koffinas
Depoutatos, Cheyenne, WY	Megas Notarios, Brooklyn, NY
Departed on April 11, 2015	Departed on July 10, 2015
George Angelakis	John K. Kontinos
Depoutatos, Pennington, NJ	Depoutatos, Ft. Myers, FL
Departed on March 5, 2015	Departed on June 11, 2015
Dr. George P. Argerakis	George Liolis
Hypomnematografos, Fort Lee, NJ	Depoutatos, Whitestone, NY
Departed on May 2, 2015	Departed on July 1, 2015
George P. Brown	George S. Raptis
Exarchos, Columbus, OH	Lambadarios, West Bloomfield, M
Departed on March 24, 2015	Departed on June 7, 2015
Thomas L. Chase	Nickolas J. Pantazes
Depoutatos, Columbus, OH	Dikaiophylax, Darnestown, MD
Departed on March 7, 2015	Departed on April 25, 2015
Evan Alevizatos Chriss	Dr. Chris Philip
Depoutatos, Baltimore, MD	Megas Aktouarios, Fort Lee, NJ
Departed on April 27, 2015	Departed on July 2, 2015
Dr. George F. Dalianis	Dr. Nickolas L. Terezis
Aktouarios, Park Ridge, IL	Aktouarios, Steubenville, OH
Departed on April 3, 2015	Departed on March 16, 2015
George P. Demeter	Dr. Nicholas A. Tzimas
Depoutatos, Boston, MA	Aktouarios, Tenafly, NJ
Departed on June 1, 2015	Departed on May 29, 2015
Jerry G. Felos	Dr. George Zazanis
Depoutatos, Jacksonville, FL	Depoutatos, New Vernon, NJ
Departed on June 18, 2015	Departed on February 4, 2015
Basil Kaloyanides Depoutatos, Highland Beach, FL	MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

Departed on June 4, 2015

List complete as of July 16, 2015

2015 USCIRF report identifies worst religious freedom violators; identifies Turkey as "serious" violator

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) announced its 2015 recommendations to Congress, the White House, and the State Department. Key finding included that Turkish secularism historically has been particularly detrimental to the smallest religious minority communities and their ability to perpetuate their faiths. Per the 1982 constitution, the state has pervasive control over religion and denies full legal status to all religious communities. Other concerns exist, including the listing of religious affiliation on national identity cards, societal discrimination, anti-Semitism, and religious freedom violations in the Turkish-occupied northern part of Cyprus. The overall landscape for democracy and human rights has deteriorated significantly in the last two years, with troubling implications for freedom of religion or belief in Turkey. For these reasons USCIRF again places Turkey on "Tier 2" in 2015.

Congress created the Commission in 1998 through the International Religious

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

A six-page section is devoted to the current situation in Turkey. Pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Commission's findings state:

"The Turkish government continues to require that only Turkish citizens can be members of the Greek Orthodox Church's Holy Synod. Although the

Prime Minister in 2010 approved dual citizenship for 25 Metropolitans, others were denied. The government's role in deciding which individuals may be part of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate represents interference in its internal affairs. The government also has interfered in the selection process of the Armenian Patriarchate's leadership. Generally, Turkey denies religious minority communities the ability to train clergy in the country.

"The Greek Orthodox Theological School of Halki remains closed, as it has been since 1971, despite promises and public statements of support for its reopening by President Erdogan and former President Gul. The Armenian Orthodox community also lacks a seminary, however, there are 16 Armenian Orthodox parish schools."

The commission presses for immediate improvements to end religious freedom violations, stating that Turkey should:

"Fulfill private- and publiclystated promises that the Greek Orthodox Halki Seminary would be reopened, and permit other religious communities to open and operate their seminaries; and

"Permit religious communities to select and appoint their leadership in accordance with their internal guidelines and beliefs." ■

THE ANNUAL EXARCH'S APPEAL

List complete as of August 3, 2015 (List includes donor name, city and state of residence and offikion date)

John J. Couchell • Spartanburg, SC • 10/21/12

33 Days Sponsored

The Nicholas J. & Anna K. Bouras Foundation, Inc. • Summit, NJ

12 Days Sponsored

John C. Kulis Charitable Foundation • Chicago, IL

5 Days Sponsored

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REGIONAL NEWS



Archon Tzakis honored by Academy of Athens

Archon Dr. Andreas G. Tzakis, far right, was inducted into the Academy of Athens with the highest honor of Corresponding Member in the field of "Medical Sciences" of the First Section of Sciences on June 9, 2015. This is a life long Achievement

Award recognizing Dr. Tzakis for his renowned life changing surgeries in the field of organ transplantation and his research and clinical practice teaching publications. Dr. Tzakis also presented a lecture on "The Miracle of Transplantation."



Religious Freedom Symposium in Chicago

On May 16, 2015, with the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan lakovos of Chicago, the Metropolis of Chicago held a religious freedom symposium. The event was organized by Regional Commanders John Manos and Gus Pablecas. National

Secretary Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis delivered a presentation on behalf of the Order of Saint Andrew. A special presentation was made to Archon Harold A. Peponis for his long tenure and exemplary service as a Regional Commander.



Archon Liakopoulos honored on 100th birthday

On behalf of National Commander Limberakis, Archon Ambassador Pablo Antonio Thalassinos presented the Honorable Ioanis Liakopoulos, Archon Hartoularios, a special citation in recognition of the celebration of his 100th birthday in Panama. National Commander Limberakis cited in his letter: "your dedication and service to the Greek Orthodox

Church and Hellenic Community in Panama, working with your fellow Hellenes to the benefit of the community and Hellenism in Panama, and to benefit the Hellenic youth, to preserve the values and honor which our forbearers gave us, has granted you a place of respect not only in the Panamanian Society, but throughout Latin America and in the United States."



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If you, or someone you know, would benefit from learning more about the dedicated work of The Order of Saint Andrew who fight tirelessly to preserve religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, send an email with their mailing address to archons@goarch.org and we'll add you to our subscription list for our FREE publication of *The Archon*.