

2015 Annual Report



The Archon Mission

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, the Spiritual Center of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, which is headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey.

Defenders



2015 Annual Report

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Ἐκ μέρους τοῦ Οὐμἐνικου Πατριάρχου Κωνσταντινουπόλεως
καὶ Ἐκμἐνικου Πατριάρχου



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

It is on the occasion of your Annual Meeting and the official presentation of the Annual Report of the Order of St. Andrew for 2015 that we address all of you, dear sons of the Ecumenical Throne, with sentiments of great paternal love and joy.

The former Patriarchs of the *Queen of Cities* – in all that they did for the people of the sacred Archdiocese of Constantinople, as well as for those living throughout the entire ecumene – always reflected a Christian love that was both patient and kind. Even for us today, it is this very love which is, as St. Paul described in his first letter to the men and women of the city of Corinth, to be our ultimate aim. Thus, as you look back upon the previous ecclesiastical year which has passed with this loving spirit, and as you move forward in the new year now in our midst, we entreat you to do so united through love, letting “all that you do be done in love”. (1 Cor. 16:14)

By carrying out your work in this manner, you will certainly honor the blessed memory of our holy predecessors. At the same time, you will vividly demonstrate to those around you that living out a Christian life requires a vision of love, which is not simply to be expressed to our Lord, but also to our fellow man and the natural environment. Thus, by becoming children of love, you become simultaneously children of light, allowing the light of the Gospel to shine within the hearts of all.

May the love of our Lord abide and become perfected in you, and may He reciprocate to you and your families the love that you have shown to His people and His Great Church.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the sixteenth of October, 2015

Your fervent suppliant before God,

✠ BARTHOLOMEW
Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

October 16, 2015

Dear Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle,

I greet you with the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as *I lift my heart to the Lord in deep and profound gratitude for each of you, and for the great blessing of my ministry knowing of the faith in the Lord Jesus, which is among you* (Ephesians 1:15).

I offer you my heartfelt appreciation as you contribute your God given time, talents, and resources to support His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of New Rome and Constantinople, in advancing the sacred mission of the Holy Mother Church.

This report highlights the vital initiatives of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle in promotion of the restoration of fundamental freedoms denied to the Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate. It is a substantive body of work in education, advocacy, legislation, policy formulation and coalition building. The profound gratitude of the Church is extended to the National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis for his exemplary leadership in organizing the continuous and valued work of the Archons in *defense of the faith*.

I congratulate and commend you for this most important offering and pray for your continued inspiration in this sacred undertaking.

With paternal love and esteem in Christ,

+ DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America



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

October 16, 2015

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
Reverend Clergy and beloved Presvyteres and
Brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

The ensuing pages of our Annual Report offer 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 at the Phanar. During the Divine Liturgy commemorating the Feast of Saint Andrew the two exchanged the kiss of peace, a symbol of reconciliation and love and the Lord's Prayer was read by Pope Francis in Latin. At the conclusion of the Papal visit to the Phanar, a Joint Declaration was issued affirming the holy fathers' personal commitment towards Christian unity, as well as solidarity with the poor and vulnerable throughout the world. It should be noted that two thirds of the Joint Declaration was dedicated to the crisis in the Middle East, "the ecumenism of suffering," especially in Iraq and Syria, as well as the conflict in Ukraine.

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 the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union. The major components of our strategy include the following:

- Religious Freedom Summit, chaired by the National Commander under the guidance of the Exarch, Archbishop Demetrios of America in which representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, leading Archons from the United States and Europe and academics met for a day-long meeting on January 24, 2015 at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to reassess existing religious freedom programing and brainstorm/deliberate to develop new initiatives.

- 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 and Archon Dr. Stamatios Kartalopoulos.
- Legal Committee Initiative, including the European Court of Human Rights, coordinated by Archon Christopher Stratakis, Chair and Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Vice Chair
- Confiscated Patriarchal Properties Initiative, coordinated by Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis
- European Union Initiative
- Archon International Religious Freedom Conferences held in Brussels, Belgium at the European Parliament (November 2010, *Religious Freedom: Turkey's Bridge to the European Union*) and in Berlin, Germany adjacent to the Brandenburg Gate (December 2013, *Tearing Down Walls*) coordinated by Archon George C. Rockas
- Ankara Initiative
- The Order at Oxford University
- Regional Religious Freedom Presentations throughout the United States and Canada including Naples, FL; Stamford, CT; Chicago, IL; Atlanta, GA; New York City, NY and Toronto, Canada

This Annual Report also reviews the spiritual, educational and philanthropic activities of the Order reviewed during Archon Weekend, as well, including the Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet. The 2014 Athenagoras Human Rights Award was presented to Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD one of the world's leading lawyers and human rights defenders and Chief Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice and the European Centre for Law and Justice, located in Strasbourg, France the home of the European Court of Human Rights. It should be noted that the newly designed Award was created and crafted by world renowned Waterford Crystal, Waterford, Ireland and was made possible through the beneficence of Archon Michael G. Psaros.

Integral to Archon Weekend is the presentation of the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship, named after the beloved and deeply admired late National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, for whom a lasting tribute was developed five years ago with the establishment of the Award. This year the Bouras Award will be presented to Archon Hon. Nicholas J. Tsoucalas. Archon Bouras 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.

This year, the Order is initiating several dynamic programs that are in development aimed at exposing the religious freedom deficit in Turkey more effectively, both domestically and throughout the world utilizing Social Media and through local parish educational initiatives.

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 of 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 Poumprou 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, National Vice Commander John Halecky, Jr., Treasurer James C. Fountas and Secretary Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis; our hardworking functionaries, Historian Prof. George Demacopoulos, Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, Sergeant-At-Arms Alexander Pritsos and Assistant Treasurer Andreas D. Comodromos; Members of the National Council, including our 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!

As we continue our service to the Great and Holy Mother Church of Constantinople, we very much look forward to observing the 26th Anniversary as Ecumenical Patriarch of His All-Holiness Bartholomew next year, in 2016. As our plans develop, we will keep you informed.

In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony J. Limberakis, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "MD" written at the end.

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Aktouarios
National Commander

The 5 Issues of Concern *for the Ecumenical Patriarchate*



Government Interference in Patriarchal Elections

The Turkish government imposes restrictions on the election of the Ecumenical Patriarch and hierarchs who vote for him by requiring that they must be Turkish citizens. In fact, the government arbitrarily can veto any candidate for the position of Ecumenical Patriarch.

With the dwindling population of hierarchs and Orthodox Christians in Turkey, we may not be able to elect an Ecumenical Patriarch in the not too distant future. This is tantamount to the asphyxiation of the leadership of the Holy Mother Church and a clear illustration of the direct intervention of the Turkish government in ecclesiastical matters.



No Legal Identity

The lack of a legal identity is a major source of problems for the Ecumenical Patriarchate including non-recognition of its ownership rights and the non-issuance of residence and work permits for "foreign" (i.e. - non-Turkish) priests who are essential to the continuity and functioning of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Turkish authorities do not allow the Ecumenical Patriarchate to own any property - not even its churches! The Patriarchal house itself is not recognized as the Patriarchate's property.



Confiscation of Property

The Turkish Government has confiscated thousands of properties from the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Through various methods, the Turkish authorities have confiscated thousands of properties from the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox community over the years including our monasteries, church buildings, an orphanage, private homes, apartment buildings, schools and land. Left unchecked, the remaining Greek Orthodox community of Constantinople (present day Istanbul) - the cultural heirs of the Byzantine Empire - will be threatened and ultimately be no more.



Non-Recognition of "Ecumenical" Status

The Turkish government does not recognize the "Ecumenical" status of the Patriarch and Patriarchate.

Turkish authorities do not allow the use of the term or title of "Ecumenical" for any religious activity whatsoever despite the fact that it has been used since the 6th century A.D. and recognized throughout the world. Turkey regards the Patriarchate as an institution whose leader is seen as the spiritual head of Orthodox Christians in Turkey alone rather than the leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide.



Forcible closure of Halki Seminary and Inability to Train New Clergy

The Ecumenical Patriarchate is unable to train new clergy in Turkey and its theological school was forcibly closed down by the Turkish Government.

The Theological School of Halki was forcibly closed down by Turkish authorities in 1971. Since its closure, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has had to send the young men from its community desiring to enter the priesthood to one of the theological schools in Greece. In many instances, they do not return given the onerous restrictions in getting work permits and the general climate of intimidation. Despite promises by the Turkish government to re-open our theological school, there has been no progress. Left unresolved, the administrative functioning and future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is imperiled.

The Archon Arena

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
National Vice Commander

James C. Fountas, Depoutatos
Treasurer

Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Ekdikos
Secretary

Functionaries

Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Notarios
Legal Counselor

George E. Demacopoulos, PhD, Didaskalos Tou Genous
Historian

Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon
Sergeant-at-Arms

Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA, Dikaiophylax
Assistant Treasurer

National Council

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

Michael G. Psaros, Ostiaros

Stephen J. Yallourakis, MD, DDS, Aktouarios

John Zavitsanos, Esq., Ekdikos

Regional Commanders

DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT
Inspector John V. Kassimatis, Depoutatos
Nikiforos Mathews, Esq., Ekdikos

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

John G. Manos, Eftaxias
Gus M. Pablecas, Ostiaros

METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

Drake G. Behrakis, Maestor
Gregory G. Demetrakas, Depoutatos

METROPOLIS OF DENVER

Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas, DO, Aktouarios
Christopher J. Pappas, Maestor

METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Manuel N. Tissura, DDS, Ekdikos
Harry T. Cavalaris, Ekdikos
John C. Scurtis, Hartouarios
Theodore P. Vlahos, MD, Aktouarios
G. Thomas Yearout, Esq., Ekdikos

METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

Lazaros A. Kircos, Orphanotrofos
Mark D. Stavropoulos, Referendarios

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Peter C. Papadakos, Esq., Ekdikos

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Theofanis V. Economidis, Ekdikos
James G. Kallins, MD, Exarchos

METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

Cary J. Limberakis, DMD, Aktouarios
Andrew E. Manatos, Depoutatos
George A. Tsougarakis, Esq., Dikaiophylax



2015 Annual Report

A Year in Review



[1]

The
Athenagoras
Human Rights
Award

*Jay Alan Sekulow,
PhD, JD*

NEW YORK CITY ■ OCTOBER 2014

Through both the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), as well as the European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD, has been at the forefront in the battle for religious rights and liberties both in this country and abroad. For many years and on innumerable occasions, he has supported and championed the cause of the Orthodox Christian world by his endeavors on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Dr. Sekulow spoke at the Second Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom that took place in Berlin last 2013. He is a courageous and indeed fearless spokesman on behalf of the Judaeo-Christian values that form the bedrock of American society and that are now so virulently under attack.



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



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

In presenting the Award, National Commander Limberakis, paid tribute to Dr. Sekulow, one of the world's

leading lawyers and human rights defenders, saying, "This evening we honor an individual who has dedicated his life to fighting for fundamental human rights and religious freedom in the international juridical arena, from the Supreme Court of the United States to the European Court of Human Rights. His clarion voice has been one calling on governments who victimize their religious minorities by constricting their inalienable rights to cease and desist such pernicious policies by court order."

For nearly a quarter of a century, Dr. Sekulow has been on the front lines - working to protect religious and constitutional freedoms in the courts, in Congress, and in the public arena. Dr. Sekulow is a best-selling author (*Rise of ISIS: A Threat We Can't Ignore*), a popular guest on nationally

televised news programs and a frequent contributor to national publications including USA Today, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, and the Washington Times. For many years and on innumerable occasions, he has supported and championed the cause of the Orthodox Christian world by his endeavors on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

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

Through the hands of the Exarch, the 2014 Athenagoras Human Rights Award was presented to Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD. As a worthy candidate, Dr. Sekulow has participated in meetings with His All-Holiness and the Archon Legal Team in Geneva, Switzerland in February 2008. He also spoke at the Second Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom in Berlin, Germany in December 2013.



National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis holding *The Rise of Isis*, a book written by Jay Sekulow.

This evening we honor an individual who has dedicated his life to fighting for fundamental human rights and religious freedom in the international juridical arena, from the Supreme Court of the United States to the European Court of Human Rights. His clarion voice has been one calling on governments who victimize their religious minorities by constricting their inalienable rights to cease and desist such pernicious policies by court order.”

National Commander Limberakis



The National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew unanimously voted in 2010 to establish the Nicholas J. Bouras Award. The Award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary and incomparable stewardship to the Order, enabling Archons to vigorously pursue securing religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople.

The Award is named after the late National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, Archon Deputatos, who himself had demonstrated remarkable leadership as a faithful son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and exemplary steward of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Churchman, Industrialist, World War II hero, devoted husband of his beloved late wife Anna, Philanthropist, devout Christian and Archon par excellence are terms that have all described the life of Nicholas J. Bouras.

[2]

The
Nicholas J.
Bouras Award
for
Extraordinary
Archon
Stewardship

*Christopher
Stratakis, Esq.*

NEW YORK CITY ■ OCTOBER 2014



Archon Christopher Stratakis is joined by his family as he receives the 2014 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America joined the Order of Saint Andrew in honoring Christopher Stratakis, Esq. by bestowing upon him the “Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship.” The Award was presented during a special celebratory dinner dance held at the New York Hilton Hotel, which launched the Annual Archon Weekend on Friday, October 17, 2014.

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

Christopher Stratakis, an Archon

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

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

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

The Award is named after the late National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, Archon Depoutatos, who himself had demonstrated remarkable leadership as a faithful son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and exemplary steward of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The Award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary and incomparable stewardship to the Order, enabling Archons to vigorously pursue securing religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople. ■

“

Archon Stratakis 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.”



Archon George E. Safiol
Chairman





Archon Stratakis, top, and his wife Mary, along with their children and grandchildren. National Vice Commander the Hon. Theodore Bozonelis, left, makes introductions. Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis delivers remarks, above, as His Eminence stands by. Archon John Stratakis, far right, served as Master of Ceremonies.

[3]

The Investiture *of the Class of 2014*

NEW YORK CITY ■ OCTOBER 2014



The Offikia for the Order of St. Andrew derive from some of the most prestigious offices of the ancient world. Originating in the Ancient Greek City-States, these civic offices were transformed when the Roman Empire embraced the Christian faith during the fourth century. As a consequence of this transition, not only were the office holders important leaders of the Christian community, the offices themselves took on specific religious responsibilities for the service and promotion of the faith in the Roman Empire. The ancient order of Archons is, in fact, the oldest and most prestigious honor that can be bestowed upon a layman in the entire Christian world.



Fotios Barounis

Orphanotrofos, Westwood, MA

John S. Buzas, J.D.

Proto Ekdikos, San Marino, CA

Angelo J. Coutris, J.D.

Nomophylax, Rocky River, OH

Anastasius Efstratiades, J.D.

Hypomnematografos, Cherry Hill, NJ

Andrew J. Ekonomou, J.D., Ph.D.

Dikaiophylax, Atlanta, GA

Constantine E. Flokas, M.D.

Aktouarios, Yonkers, NY

Geoffrey J. Greenleaf

Depoutatos, Novelty, OH

Markos Lagos

Maestor, Dunedin, FL

Keith A. Maib

Notarios, Leawood, KS

John Mangouras

Kastrinsios, Rochester, MN

Michael H. Missios, Ph.D.

Eftaxias, Huntsville, AL

George Pantelidis

Hartouarios, New York, NY

Panayiotis Peters

Laosynaktis, Fort Worth, TX

Demetrios Polos

Hieromnimon, Highland Park, NJ

Theodore J. Poplos

Hartophylax, Memphis, TN

Apostolos Pries

Skevophylax, Campbell, CA

Michael G. Psaros

Ostiaros, Archdiocesan District

Demetrios Stathopoulos

Referendarios, Victor, NY

Elias Tsekerides

Depoutatos, Brewster, NY



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





Archon Michael Psaros is invested by Archbishop Demetrios.

[4]

The Pope at the Phanar

The Feast of Saint Andrew

CONSTANTINOPLE ■ NOVEMBER 2014



Pope Francis attends the Divine Liturgy celebrating the Feast day of Saint Andrew the Apostle as His All-Holiness presides.



On November 29, 2014, His Holiness Pope Francis made his first official visit to Turkey to attend celebrations for the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Thronal Feast on the occasion of the Feast of St. Andrew, first-called of the Apostles and brother of St. Peter, the founder of the Church of Rome.

The Pope's visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate was in response to the invitation of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew extended to Pope Francis at the Pope's Inaugural Mass on March 19, 2013. It was the first visit of Pope Francis to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The two leaders attended a Doxology Service, a prayer for thanksgiving and peace, after which they blessed the faithful crowded inside the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George.

Pope Francis was enthusiastically greeted for a second time the following day, where he attended the Divine Liturgy to commemorate the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. The Pope was received by Elder Metropolitan John of Pergamon and the Patriarchal Court, which escorted him to the special guest throne of the Patriarchal Church of St. George.

During the service, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis exchanged the kiss of peace, a symbol of reconciliation and love, and the Lord's Prayer was read by Pope Francis in Latin.

Following the Divine Liturgy, a joint declaration was signed by both Primate affirming their personal commitment towards Christian unity as well as solidarity with the poor and vulnerable throughout the world.

The two leaders recalled with joy and gratitude their recent encounter in Jerusalem to commemorate the 50th anniversary since the meeting there of their predecessors, Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras. They also referred to visits to the Phanar by their





predecessors, Popes John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

However, two-thirds of the statement was dedicated to the crisis in the Middle East, the “ecumenism of suffering” especially in Iraq and Syria, as well as the conflict in Ukraine. The two primates underlined:

We cannot resign ourselves to a Middle East without Christians, who have professed the name of Jesus there for two thousand years. Many of our brothers and sisters are being persecuted and have been forced violently from their homes. It even seems that the value of human life has been lost, that the human person no longer matters and may be sacrificed to other interests. And, tragically, all this is met by the indifference of many.

With regard to the dialogue with Islam, the Pope and the Patriarch noted:

The grave challenges facing the world in the present situation require the solidarity of all people of good will, and so we also recognize the importance of promoting a constructive dialogue with Islam based on mutual respect and friendship. Inspired by common values and strengthened by genuine fraternal sentiments, Muslims and Christians are called to work together for the sake of justice, peace and respect for the dignity and rights of every person, especially in those regions where they once lived for centuries in peaceful coexistence and now tragically suffer together the horrors of war.

Finally, the two leaders expressed their concern about the ongoing crisis in Ukraine:

We also remember all the people who experience the sufferings of war. In particular, we pray for peace in Ukraine, a country of ancient Christian tradition, while we call upon all parties involved to pursue the path of dialogue and of respect for international law in order to bring an end to the conflict and allow all Ukrainians to live in harmony. ■



On November 29, 2014, at the conclusion of Vespers for the Feast of St. Andrew, founder and patron of the Church of Constantinople, Pope Francis bowed his head in humility and asked for the blessing of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who responded by blessing and kissing the Pope on the head – a traditional sign of affection in the East. For Fr. Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See Press Office, this was not the first time that the Pope had asked for a blessing from another brother, but the familiarity with which the Patriarch kissed the Pope's head was definitely unprecedented. Previously, on May 25, 2014, the Pope bowed to kiss the hand of the Ecumenical Patriarch, an ecumenical gesture to which the Patriarch responded by embracing the Pope with a fraternal kiss. Such gestures in themselves may be said to change nothing; yet, at the same time, they change everything. For, while they do not reconcile the two churches doctrinally and sacramentally, nevertheless they reestablish the ground of mutual respect and soften the ground of mutual mistrust.



[5]

Archon Pilgrimage



The Feast of Saint Andrew

CONSTANTINOPLE, PATRAS & ATHENS ▪ NOV-DEC 2014



On Friday, November 28, 2014, pilgrims visited the Balikli Monastery after arrival into Istanbul. A memorial service was led by Father Steven Vlahos of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Wildwood, NJ, for the late Patriarch Athenagoras.



On December 2, pilgrims traveled to Patras to visit St. Andrew Cathedral where they were greeted by His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Patras. Pilgrims had the opportunity to venerate the relics of St. Andrew and the Cross on which he was crucified.

The Archdiocese leadership, consisting of Archon and Philoptochos members, as well as members of AHEPA, met with David D. Pearce, U.S. Ambassador to Greece at the Hotel Grande Bretagne in Athens, December 3.

Archons, Philoptochos and AHEPA leadership together with pilgrims met with His Excellency Antonis Samaras, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic on December 3.

On Tuesday, December 2, pilgrims had the opportunity to have a private tour of the Acropolis Museum followed by a dinner.




[6]

St. Nicholas: *Symbol of Faith from Ashes*

NEW YORK CITY ■ OCTOBER 2014



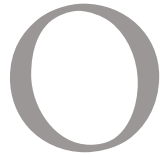


His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America reads from the Holy Gospel, opposite page, during the Ground Blessing Ceremony for Saint Nicholas National Shrine on October 18, 2014 at the World Trade Center. More than 2,000 people gathered near the base of the Shrine to watch the service on large television screens.

“

You look around, and you see these soaring buildings, symbols of commerce, symbols of our confidence, symbols of our belief that tomorrow will be better and we can soar to new heights. But what was missing was that rock ... that rock of faith. We had remembrance, we had commerce, but without St. Nicholas did we not have faith. Well, now, today, we have remembrance, we have commerce, and we have that rock, we have that faith right here at St. Nicholas.”

—Governor George Pataki—



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

The Episcopalians, the American version of the Church of England, made the first imprint with the construction of St. Paul's Chapel on lower Broadway in 1766 and went on to erect the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the enormous Romanesque edifice on Morningside Heights, beginning in 1892. Not to be absent from the heart of the city, a decade later they built St. Bartholomew's Church, a magnificent Byzantine-inspired basilica, on Park Avenue and 52nd St.

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

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

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

We Greek Orthodox have taken our time to make our presence felt in



National Commander Limberakis, above, participates in the service of Laying the Cornerstone for a Church. Archon John and Mary Pappajohn, left, sign their name and message on the concrete wall on Liberty Street.

the Big

A p -

ple, content with our

modest Cathedral

of the Holy Trinity, some distance from the city's nerve centers on 74th St., between Second and First Avenues. Over the years, many Greek-American leaders have talked about buying or building a cathedral on Park or Fifth Avenues, now that we have

made so much progress in America and achieved the second highest per capita income of any ethnic group. But the talk never went anywhere.

Now a terrible national tragedy has given us the opportunity to create a great shrine for our faith, and a spiritual memorial to all those who perished on 9/11.

The Church of St. Nicholas that will be built at the heart of Ground

“It has been such a long time coming, but now we finally have plans to rebuild a shrine for St. Nicholas near the 9/11 Memorial. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, this shrine will represent all the resilience, fortitude and strength of St. Nicholas’ congregation and of all New Yorkers.”

Senator Charles Schumer

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

Selecting Santiago Calatrava to design the church was an inspired choice, for he is able to capture in his designs the past and the future in such imaginative ways as to astound both the eye and the mind. There is a small bridge in Athens that he designed over a roadway halfway between the city center and Aghia Paraskevi that at first looks like futuristic spaceship ready to take off from its launching pad but then seems to take the form of an ancient Greek trireme gliding over the Aegean.

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

the whole church appear to glow from within.

Most of all St. Nicholas Church will have something entirely its own—what Laurence Durrell called “spirit of place.” The original church, a neighborhood parish built in 1916, was completely buried by the collapse of



the South Tower of the World Trade Center on 9/11, the only place of worship destroyed in the terrorist attack. The new church will be built on a platform 25 feet above street level at the end of an open space that will include a non-denominational bereavement center for rest and meditation, a shrine that will attract pilgrims of all beliefs from all over America and the world.

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

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

by Archon Nicholas Gage

Archon Dennis Mehiel, top, Archon George Tsandikos and Paulette Poulos of Leadership 100, middle, and Archon Inspector John Kassimatis, 9/11 survivor and hero, bottom.

[7]

The Order at *Oxford University*

OXFORD ▪ MARCH 2015



National Commander Limberakis delivers a multimedia presentation on the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

As the oldest university in the English-speaking world, Oxford is a unique and historic institution. There is no clear date of foundation, but teaching existed at Oxford in some form in 1096 and developed rapidly from 1167, when Henry II banned English students from attending the University of Paris.





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 the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the Harris Manchester College at the renowned University of Oxford, on March 27, 2015, 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 distinguished list of fellows throughout the academic world. ■



[8]

Religious Freedom Summit *for the Ecumenical Patriarchate*

NEW YORK CITY ■ JANUARY 2015

We will work relentlessly to secure the complete and unfettered religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

A Religious Freedom Summit took place on January 24, 2015 at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to reassess existing religious freedom programming and brainstorm and deliberate to develop new initiatives to more effectively execute our mission as Defenders of the Faith. The Summit chaired by the National Commander under the guidance of the Exarch, Archbishop Demetrios of America met for a day-long session which yielded several new dynamic initiatives, including the use of social media in our communications strategy. The Summit was attended by representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, leading Archons and academics from the United States and Canada.



The National Commander referenced the Archon Mission to serve, protect and promote the Sacred See of Saint Andrew the Apostle, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and to support the ministries of His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and those of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Participants included representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and leading Archons and academics from the United States and Canada. ■



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. ■



[9]

Religious Freedom Symposium

Saint Katherine Orthodox Church

NAPLES, FL
MARCH 2015



[10]

Turkey's Opportunity *with the Ecumenical Patriarchate*

TORONTO, CANADA
OCTOBER 2014

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

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

Three-hundred people attended the conference including many Church hierarchs, diplomats and broader community dignitaries from around the world. Four distinguished speakers presented on subjects that aligned with the conference's theme.

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

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

Canada's Ambassador for Religious Freedom, Andrew Bennett, spoke about federal government efforts to promote freedom of religion; he also spoke specifically about the Ecumenical Patriarchate, its need for religious freedom and the need for Turkey to re-open the Halki Theological School.

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

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

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



reputation and stature of the Patriarchate.

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

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

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

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

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

[11] Town Hall Meeting with Senator Chris Murphy

STAMFORD, CT ■ MARCH 2015



On Sunday, March 8th, The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle and several other organizations co-presented a Town Hall in Stamford, CT with United States Senator Christopher Murphy. At the Town Hall, Sen. Murphy addressed issues of importance to the Greek Orthodox community, including religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In his preliminary

remarks, the Senator mentioned the Ecumenical Patriarchate's struggle for religious freedom, as well as the importance of re-opening its seminary in Halki. ■

[12] Celebrating 100 Years Archon Ioanis Liakopoulos

PANAMA ■ MAY 2015



On behalf of National Commander Limberakis, Archon Ambassador Pablo Antonio Thalassinis 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." ■

[13]

Archons in Chios

meet with His All-Holiness

VESSA, CHIOS ■ SEPTEMBER 2015



From September 11-14, 2015, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew traveled to the Island of Chios to unveil a statue of his predecessor, Ecumenical Patriarch Constantine V (1897-1901),

who was born on the island of Chios, and specifically in the remote village of Vessa. His All-Holiness visited the village square for the ceremony and also had the opportunity to pray in the historic Cathedral of Saint Victores.

Several Archons, many of whom originated from this island, traveled from the United States for this event and received the blessings of His All-Holiness and His Eminence Metropolitan Markos. ■

[14]

Religious Freedom Symposium

Metropolis of Chicago

CHICAGO
MAY 2015



On May 16, 2015, with the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos 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. ■



Lenten Retreat

Rev. Dr. Themistocles Adamopoulos

SOUTHAMPTON, NY ■ MARCH 2015

[15]



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. ■

Ohio became the 43rd state to express its support for religious freedom for Orthodox Christianity’s Ecumenical Patriarchate on December 9th when the Ohio House of Representatives adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 21 in a unanimous 85-0 vote. The Ohio Senate had earlier adopted the resolution in May. SCR 21 is the 53rd such resolution to be adopted in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in these states.



Leading the successful effort were Steven Poulos, former Congressman Zack Space, Aristotle Hutras, Dr. Manual Tzagournis, Angelo Coutris, former state Senator Harry Meshel and the late Tom Zaferes. Archon John Payiavlas was instrumental in reaching out to Governor John R. Kaisich while Fathers Tom Constantine and Dean Kokanos testified in support of the resolution in hearings in Columbus. ■

[16]

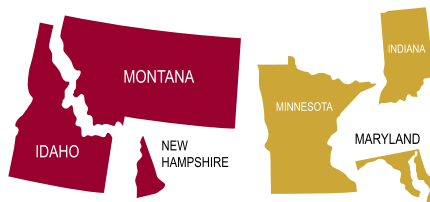
Ohio adopts Resolution for the Ecumenical Patriarchate

COLUMBUS MAY 2015

REMAINING STATES

- Resolution has been introduced.
- No resolution has been introduced.

Learn more at archons.org/resolutions



[17]

The Plight of Christians in the Middle East

The Humanitarian Disaster in Damascus

NEW YORK ■ SEPTEMBER 2015



Samer Laham, former Director of the Department of Philanthropy of the Patriarchate of Antioch speaks on the humanitarian crisis affecting Syria's Orthodox Christians.

On Tuesday September 29th at the Museum of the City of New York, the former Director of the Department of Philanthropy of the Patriarchate of Antioch, Samer Laham, addressed a crowd of nearly 200 people regarding the devastating impact of the humanitarian crisis in Syria upon Orthodox Christians in the Middle East as well as Syrians of all faiths. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios

of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America were in attendance and offered Archieratical responses to Mr. Laham's multimedia presentation. The lecture was sponsored by the Order of St. Andrew, the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch and the IOCC as the relief agency of the Assembly of Bishops. ■

[18]

Newly-elected Officers *for the Order of Saint Andrew*

NEW YORK ■ DECEMBER 2015

Archon Halecky, Jr. elected National Vice Commander; Archon Bozonelis elected Secretary

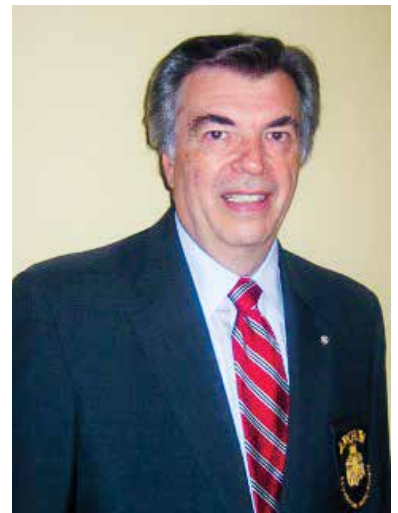
With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and at the nomination of the National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, John Halecky, Jr., Archon Ekdikos, was unanimously elected by the National Council of the Order Saint Andrew to the office of National Vice Commander and the Honorable B. Theodore Bozonelis, Archon Ekdikos, to the office of Secretary position previously held with distinction by Archon Halecky.

The office of National Vice Commander was left vacant for a period of one year in memory and in extraordinary and unprecedented tribute to Archon Depoutatos Nicholas J. Bouras who held the office from 1998 to 2012. The election took place on December 11, 2014 at the first regular National Council meeting following the Annual Meeting of Archons, in accordance with the Bylaws. "Archon Halecky of Carpatho-Russian heritage and the recipient of the 2012 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Ar-



**National Vice Commander
John Halecky, Jr.**

chon Stewardship, brings to the office a sense of ecumenism, spiritual vitality as the impetus for the establishment of the Annual Archon Lenten Retreat and unparalleled and steadfast devotion to the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople. It will be an honor to work closely with Archon John as we continue our relentless quest for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate," stated the National Commander.



**Secretary
Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis**

In response to Archon Bozonelis' recent appointment to the vacant position, National Commander Limberakis said, "Archon Judge Bozonelis brings to the office his legal expertise and unwavering commitment to preserve and protect the Ecumenical Patriarchate as demonstrated by his leadership in the various initiatives of the Order." ■

[19] Vice President Joseph Biden visits the Phanar



together, later met and issued a joint declaration. Journalist Rose went to great lengths to be with the Pope and Ecumenical Patriarch in Jerusalem because he said, "It is their imperative to make this world a better place for all."

They have been described to be like brothers. This is appropriate because they are, after all, the direct successors of the brother Disciples of Jesus Christ -- Peter and Andrew. Peter founded today's largest Christian Church -- the Catholic Church -- in Rome. His brother Andrew founded today's second largest Christian Church -- Christian Orthodoxy -- in Constantinople, today's Istanbul, Turkey. The Pope is Peter's 266th direct successor and The Ecumenical Patriarch is Andrew's 269th.

These two Church leaders and world peacemakers met at the Vatican earlier this year with Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority President Mahmud Abbas, where they prayed for peace. This meeting came less than two weeks after the Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch each met with Palestinian and Israeli leaders in Israel.

Next weekend Pope Francis will visit Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey.

Even the contentious and dramatically divided Republicans and Democrats in the US Senate came together for Ecumenical Patriarch

Why would Vice President Joe Biden, during his crucial, ISIS focused, trip to Turkey, meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, and His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew? Part of the answer lies in Vice President Biden describing Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as "one of the two most Christ-like people I have ever met." World-renowned journalist Charlie Rose said of Bartholomew, "There is no interview that I would place higher than the conversation I had with The Ecumenical Patriarch."

Another part of the answer lays in the fact that Ecumenical Patriarch

Bartholomew, the head of the second-largest Christian Church in the world, is headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey. This ancient Christian Orthodox Sea, established by the Apostle Andrew, is located in the sixth largest Muslim country in the world. In many ways, he has bridged these two great world faiths.

Bartholomew's importance as a world peacemaker has been further enhanced recently due to his relationship with the also highly regarded Pope Francis. Bartholomew became the first Ecumenical Patriarch in history to attend a Papal inauguration. That was followed by an historic meeting in Jerusalem earlier this year and co-celebration at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus Christ was laid to rest. There they prayed

During His Crucial ISIS-Focused Trip to Turkey, Why Would the Vice President of the United States Meet With Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew?

CONSTANTINOPLE ■ NOVEMBER 2014

Bartholomew and his mission. All ten Democrats and all eight Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee showed rare unanimity as joint signers of a letter to President Barack Obama seeking full religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarch.

My short answer to the question why Vice President Joe Biden would meet with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew follows. This is a globally disturbing historic moment when misguided Muslim extremists are murdering untold numbers of Christians, Muslims and anyone else they encounter and pitting the faiths against each other. It is at such moments that the world's peacemakers, like Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, are needed more than ever.

Unbeknown to most people, Vice President Biden is particularly qualified to bring such people into the picture. His personal library contains more books on the subject of comparative religion than any other subject. And for decades, as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Vice President, he has met with virtually all the world's top leaders, religious and otherwise. His decision to meet with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during this high level trip to Turkey will benefit Christians, Muslims and us all in America and around the world. ■

by Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis



With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and in consultation with the respective eparchial Metropolitans, His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago and His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey and pursuant to the Archon governing Bylaws, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis appointed John G. Manos and Gus M. Pablecas, Regional Commanders for the Archons of the Metropolis of Chicago and George A. Tsougarakis, Esq. for the Metropolis of New Jersey. "Archons Manos, Pablecas and Tsougarakis will infuse energy and dynamism to the Archons of Chicago and Archons of New Jersey in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the religious freedom initiatives of the Order. These churchmen possess the extraordinary commitment to the Orthodox Faith, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and our Hellenic Heritage," National Commander Limberakis said. ■



Regional Commander
John G. Manos



Regional Commander
Gus Pablecas



Regional Commander
George A. Tsougarakis

[21]

In Memoriam

*May
Their Memory
Be Eternal*

2014-2015



IN MEMORIAM

DR. CHRIS PHILIP

ARCHON MEGAS AKTOUARIOS
NATIONAL COMMANDER EMERITUS

1929 - 2015

Anthony G. Andrikopoulos
Cheyenne WY • Depoutatos
Departed on 4/11/15

George Angelakis
Pennington NJ • Depoutatos
Departed on 3/5/15

Dr. George P. Argerakis
Fort Lee NJ • Hypomnematografos
Departed on 5/2/15

George P. Brown
Columbus OH • Exarchos
Departed on 3/24/15

Thomas L. Chase
Columbus OH • Depoutatos
Departed on 3/7/15

Evan Alevizatos Chriss
Baltimore MD • Depoutatos
Departed on 4/27/15

Gustav Coffinas
Brooklyn NY • Megas Notarios
Departed on 7/10/15

Dr. George F. Dalianis
Park Ridge IL • Aktouarios
Departed on 4/3/15

George P. Demeter
Boston MA • Depoutatos
Departed on 6/1/15

Jerry G. Felos
Jacksonville FL • Depoutatos
Departed on 6/18/15

Dr. Antoine C. Harovas
New York • Aktouarios
Departed on 9/24/15

Basil Kaloyanides
Highland Beach FL • Depoutatos
Departed on 6/4/15

John K. Kontinos
Ft. Myers FL • Depoutatos
Departed on 6/11/15

Gus Kramis
Englewood Cliffs NJ • Depoutatos
Departed on 12/27/14

Constantine G. Lacas
Haverford PA • Depoutatos
Departed on 2/15/15

Peter Lagen
Chicago IL • Hartouarios
Departed on 11/30/14

Evangelos Lazarakis
Haverhill MA • Maestros
Departed on 11/18/14

George Liolis
Whitestone NY • Depoutatos
Departed on 7/1/15

Leon C. Marinakos
Oak Park IL • Exarchos
Departed on 7/8/14

Nickolas J. Pantazes
Darnestown MD • Dikaiophylax
Departed on 4/25/15

Dr. Chris Philip
Fort Lee NJ • Megas Aktouarios
Departed on 7/2/15

Dr. Nicholas Pituras
Tenafly NJ • Hartouarios
Departed on 1/8/15

George S. Raptis
West Bloomfield MI • Lambadarios
Departed on 6/7/15

Pericles A. Rizopoulos
Bronx NY • Aktouarios
Departed on 9/25/14

Peter Silis
Alexandria VA • Ekdikos
Departed on 1/17/15

Christopher Spilios
West Newton MA • Eftaxias
Departed on 3/30/14

Nick K. Stavros
Collinsville OK • Depoutatos
Departed on 1/12/15

Dr. Nickolas L. Terezis
Steubenville OH • Aktouarios
Departed on 3/16/15

Dr. Nicholas A. Tzimas
Tenafly NJ • Aktouarios
Departed on 5/29/15

Nick Vourlas
Norfolk VA • Ostiarios
Departed on 7/10/14

Dr. George Zazanis
New Vernon NJ • Depoutatos
Departed on 2/4/15

On Thursday, August 6, 2015, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was awarded the Steward of Creation Award by the National Religious Coalition on Creation Care, an interfaith organization that regularly represents environmental positions before the US Congress, the White House and other government agencies. Past recipients include Wendell Berry, Bill McKibben and James Hansen.

After presiding over the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord at the Transfiguration Monastery on the island of Prinkipos, His All-Holiness welcomed the members of the NRCCC's steering committee, which included Rev. Tom Carr (and his wife Peg), Dr. Tom English (and his wife Jan), Dr. Lise van Susteren (and her husband Jonathan Kempner), and

executive director Frederick Krueger. Alicia Krueger accompanied the group as photographer.

After the Divine Liturgy, the members of the NRCCC visited the former Prinkipos Orphanage, the site of a planned interfaith patriarchal Environment Center. At the luncheon, which was graciously offered by His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos at the Metropolis of the Princes' Islands, the members spoke briefly on specific contributions and unique contributions of His All-Holiness in raising awareness about climate change. On receiving the award, the Ecumenical Patriarch responded with a greeting of thanks and presented the visitors with commemorative gifts. On the previous day, the members of the NRCCC visited the Phanar and received an official tour of the Patriarchal Church and Offices. ■

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Steward of Creation Award

presented to His All-Holiness

PRINKIPOS
AUGUST 2015



[23] Synaxis of Hierarchs
of the Ecumenical Throne

CONSTANTINOPLE ■ AUG-SEP 2015





From August 29-September 2, 2015, at the invitation of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, a Synaxis of Hierarchs of the Ecumenical Throne gathered from all over the world at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Taksim Square. His All-Holiness delivered the Keynote Address to over 140 Hierarchs of the Throne, speaking to developments and challenges of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Orthodox Church in general during recent years.

Introductions were presented by senior Metropolitan on ecclesiastical, pastoral and theological initiatives and ministries, including the forthcoming Holy and Great Council, the regional Assemblies of Bishops, the World Council and European Council of Churches, the Theological Dialogues with the Roman Catholic Church, the Pre-Chalcedonian Churches, the World Lutheran Federation, the Anglican Communion, the World Communion on Reformed Churches and the Old Catholic Church. ■



A Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church has been scheduled for 2016. In March of 2014, the leaders of all the autocephalous (independent) Orthodox Churches met in Istanbul, the sacred see of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which (since at least the fifth century) coordinates such assemblies, facilitating unity while serving as a center of appeal among these churches. Arguably the foremost decision unanimously agreed upon at that assembly of church heads was the convocation of a Great Council in 2016, tentatively planned to be held in the Church of Hagia Irene—the site of the second ecumenical council of 381, which completed the “creed” recited by most Christians today. Hagia Irene is now a museum in Istanbul, never having been converted into a mosque since the fall of Constantinople in 1453.

The council of 2016, which has been on the table for discussion and preparation since at least 1961 (although there were earlier proposals for such a council in the 1920s and 1930s), will for the first time ever gather representatives from all fourteen independent Orthodox Churches. The very conception, let alone the convocation of such a great or general council, is entirely unprecedented. It will be attended by patriarchs, archbishops, and bishops from the

fourteen autocephalous Orthodox Churches, including those from all of the ancient patriarchates, with the exception of Rome.

Theological commentators and historical analysts should bear in mind that the process in the Orthodox Church may undoubtedly not appear as orderly or organized as that in some Western churches precisely because it involves a consensus among all churches, rather than the imposition of one church or leader. However, it is naïve to dismiss disagreements among various churches sweepingly, implying that these merely result from rivalries of power. While such a perception may not be entirely erroneous, and while such a process may be frustrating to those inside as to those outside the Orthodox Church, it is in some ways a profoundly—even if often painful—democratic method than frequently perceived.

The issues for discussion and decision at the Great Council have been painstakingly determined since the early 1970s, with some of them going back to the early 1960s. The topics and texts include some esoteric items, such as the ranking of churches and discussion about a common calendar; but they also include problems that emerge from adapting an ancient faith to a modern reality—like precepts of fasting and, in particular, regulations of marriage in a multicultural and interreligious world.

Most importantly, the documents

tackle sensitive matters, such as relations of the Orthodox Church with the other Christian confessions, the role and response of the Orthodox Church to the contemporary challenges of our age, as well as “unorthodox” (or uncanonical) governance issues facing the Orthodox Church in the Western world.

While the last three issues may seem uncomplicated or unsophisticated to the outsider, they are vital to the growth of the Orthodox Church. For instance, the ecumenical openness of an otherwise profoundly traditional church is of crucial importance, especially in light of conservative and traditionalist circles in the Greek and Slavic worlds. The way that the Orthodox Church handles modernity is of profound relevance for the resonance of its teaching in the public sphere.

The third item concerns the role of the Orthodox Church in non-Orthodox countries (often referred to as Orthodoxy in the “diaspora”). This relates to the manner of achieving the proper canonical status of one bishop per diocese (or city) when an existing diocese currently has a number of ethnic Orthodox Churches and, therefore, more than one bishop. Will church leaders grant some standing of autonomy? More importantly, will leaders in countries such as the United States of America be interested in a unified, collaborative organization? Or will they remain obsessed with narrowly nationalistic interests?

The Great Council of the Orthodox Church in 2016

CONSTANTINOPLE

Certain commentators are quick to criticize the forthcoming council as being of little significance or consequence. Detractors are fond of claiming that no doctrinal issue will be discussed or defined. I'm not quite sure that bishops attending earlier councils were themselves aware that they were about to settle theological disputes and ecclesiastical controversies in an inspired way; they simply dealt with the issues at hand.

However, there are at least two issues up for discussion at the Great Council that encompass universal and unparalleled authority. The first is the way in which the Orthodox Churches will respond to religious fundamentalism and fanaticism. A united and unequivocal response to extremist and subversive elements and factions—sometimes within circles influenced by rigid or reactionary monastics—would be a compelling and committed emphasis on the “royal way” of discernment and moderation adopted by the classic teachers of the early church. Will we see a condemnation of separatist groups and a new commitment to ecumenical openness?

Perhaps the most consequential and enduring pronouncement of the great council will be its deliberation and determination regarding the organization and administration of the Orthodox Church throughout the world. The question is whether churches abroad, such as in the United States, Western Europe, and

Australasia—comprised of Orthodox immigrants and converts long established in their new homelands, miles away and cultures apart from the “mother Churches, where they originated—have reached the maturity or acquired the single-mindedness and commitment to minister to their people and manage their affairs in unity. Regrettably, however, most Orthodox Churches seem to be retreating into a stifling, sheltered and safe provincialism, which they explain—or excuse—as attending to internal affairs, which in turn are reckoned as more important pastorally than concerns for collaboration or collegiality. What is more unfortunate is that contemporary bishops, who have been exposed to and educated in the modern world and its global challenges—at least by comparison with their predecessors, who were restricted by the “iron curtain” or oppressive xenophobia—appear less interested in transcending any prejudice and parochialism.

Time will show just how much the Orthodox want to realize the Great Council of 2016 and how the status of this council will be received by the Orthodox Churches themselves. It will be telling indeed to observe just how much each independent church is willing to lay aside trends of supremacist nationalism and the temptations of secular power. ■

by Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis



THE PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

BARTHOLOMEW, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch



THE PATRIARCHATE OF ALEXANDRIA

THEODOROS, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa



THE PATRIARCHATE OF ANTIOCH

JOHN, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East



THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM

THEOPHILUS, Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem and All Palestine



THE CHURCH OF RUSSIA

KIRILL, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia



THE CHURCH OF SERBIA

IRINEJ, Archbishop of Pech, Metropolitan of Belgrade-Karlovci and Serbian Patriarch



THE CHURCH OF ROMANIA

DANIEL, Archbishop of Bucharest, Metropolitan of Muntenia and Dobrugea, Patriarch of Romania



THE CHURCH OF BULGARIA

NEOPHYT, Patriarch of Bulgaria



THE CHURCH OF GEORGIA

ILIA, Catholicos Patriarch of All Georgia Archbishop of Mtskheta and Tbilisi



THE CHURCH OF CYPRUS

CHRYSOSTOMOS, Archbishop of New Justiniana and All Cyprus



THE CHURCH OF GREECE

IERONYMOS, Archbishop of Athens and All Greece



THE CHURCH OF POLAND

SAWA, Metropolitan of Warsaw and All Poland



THE CHURCH OF ALBANIA

ANASTASIOS, Archbishop of Tirana, Durres, and All Albania



THE CHURCH OF THE CZECH LANDS AND SLOVAKIA

Metropolitan of the Czech Lands and Slovakia

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OSCE

*Archons
represented at
Annual
Conference*

WARSAW, POLAND
SEPTEMBER 2015



Archons Constantine Caras and Stamatios Kartalopoulos represented the Order at the 2015 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Meeting in Warsaw, Poland. Archons Caras and Kartalopoulos had a private meeting with the State Department delegation of the United States and provided them with the most current information regarding the status of our Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey, the major issues of which we are all aware, the most recent developments and current documents of the Order.

At the Discrimination Session of the OSCE, Archon Caras presented his paper outlining the discrimination faced on a daily basis by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archon Kartalopoulos presented his paper at the Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion and Belief Session. It is worth noting that the Turkish Ambassador to the OSCE replied to both Archons at the conclusion of their remarks by first making general denials that the

alleged discrimination and denial of religious freedom exist in Turkey generally and in regard to the Ecumenical Patriarchate specifically. Of interest was his additional comment that “negotiations are ongoing” regarding the reopening of Halki and that the Patriarchate is treated no better or worse than any other religious institution in Turkey.

Archons Caras and Kartalopoulos also met with the Constantinopolitan Society representative who fully supported and reiterated the concerns of the Order in his own remarks. They also met with the diplomatic delegation from Greece and conveyed the Order’s concerns for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The OSCE is the world’s largest such organization whose 56 international members and 11 partner states address issues relating to security and cooperation in all areas of society worldwide. Over 2,000 international delegates participated in the conference which took place in September, 2015. ■

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Advocates of Religious Freedom
for the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Defenders
Defenders of the Faith