



THE ARCHON

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016
archons.org

Advocates of Religious Freedom for The Ecumenical Patriarchate



50

YEARS

Then.... Now.... and Forever
OUR JUBILEE YEAR

8 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10075-0106
P: 212 570 3550 F: 212 774 0214
archons@goarch.org

EDITOR & GRAPHIC DESIGNER:
John J. Mindala II

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

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR:
Rev. Alexander Karloutsos

Executive Committee
NATIONAL COMMANDER:
Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Aktouarios

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER:
John Halecky, Jr., Ekdikos

SECRETARY:
Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Ekdikos

TREASURER:
James C. Fountas, Depoutatos

Functionaries
LEGAL COUNSELOR:
Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Notarios

HISTORIAN:
George E. Demacopoulos, PhD
Didaskalos Tou Genous

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:
Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon

ASSISTANT TREASURER:
Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA
Dikaiophylax

The Order of Saint Andrew's fundamental mission is to promote the religious freedom, wellbeing and advancement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate—the spiritual center of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians. The Ecumenical Patriarchate is headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Archon is published by the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America. Members are encouraged to submit material pertaining to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodoxy. All material should be typed and submitted electronically. The editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. ©2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

18 ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW AND POPE FRANCIS MEET WITH REFUGEES

Pope Francis accepted an invitation from His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Lesbos to meet with the refugees fleeing the war-torn Syria and Iraq.

21 ARCHON ECONOMIDIS NAMED RECIPIENT OF NICHOLAS J. BOURAS AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY ARCHON STEWARDSHIP

The Order of Saint Andrew is pleased to announce this worthy recipient from the Metropolis of San Francisco will receive this great honor on Friday, October 14 during the Order's annual three-day assembly.



12 THE HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL

"He called all to unity." The Primates of the Orthodox Church arrived in Crete on June 16–26, 2016, to carry out their sacred mission, the convocation of the Holy and Great Council.



26 JAY ALAN SEKULOW, PHD, JD SPEAKS ON CHRISTIAN GENOCIDE

The Archons of South Florida in conjunction with Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church participated in a religious freedom symposium in Naples in which past Athenagoras Human Rights recipient Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD was keynote speaker



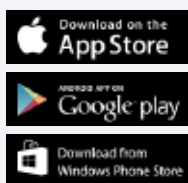
Cover page: National Commander Dr. Anthony G. Borden with Archons visiting Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, and then, Metropolitan Bartholomew of Philadelphia—now Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Download the NEW Archons APP

STEP 1: Search "Archons" in one of the stores listed below

STEP 2: Install the App

STEP 3: Become Informed! Be sure to enable "Push Notifications" to receive important alerts about the work of the Order





A Tribute in honor of our 50th Anniversary

By National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Aktouarios

The Order of St. Andrew of the Ecumenical Patriarchate was organized on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 10, 1966 when His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory conferred upon thirty outstanding laymen of the Church the various Offikia or Offices of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on behalf of His All Holiness Patriarch Athenagoras of blessed memory. They were honored because of their love, loyalty and support of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

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. The Order, under the supervision of its historian will be publishing an official, scholarly academic reference book on the Archon Offikia, including their derivation and historical development which will be released during Archon Weekend, October 14 ~ 16, 2016.

On the occasion of our 50th Anniversary, we take this opportunity to recommit ourselves as Defenders of the Faith to the Spiritual Center of world Orthodoxy, the Ecumenical Patriarchate under the extraordinary leadership of His All-Holiness Bartholomew, who observes his 25th Anniversary as Ecumenical Patriarch on November 2, 2016. We recommit ourselves to fighting for religious freedom and the vitality of Saint Andrew's See, notwithstand-

ing the oppressive environment where it is located and where religious freedom does not exist in that entire part of the world.

The Order is looking forward to support the efforts of His All-Holiness as he convenes the Holy and Great Council this June in Crete, the first such assembly of Orthodox prelates since 787 AD, the Seventh Ecumenical Council that took place in Nicaea, as well as all his initiatives from protecting the environment to promoting reconciliation among warring factions to unity among all Christians.

On this our 50th Anniversary, the Archons of America under the inspired leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America, express our profound love and respect to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, our worldwide spiritual father, now for 25 years and with the anticipation that he will continue for many, many more years his pious, intrepid and Christ-like spiritual leadership. ■

50 YEARS National Commanders of The Order



† Pierre DeMets
(1966–1975)

Pierre De Mets (Panagiotis DeMetreou) was the first National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew, then known as the Knights of St. Andrew. He and Patriarch Athenagoras of blessed memory together envisioned an Order of outstanding laymen in the Archdiocese of the Americas, and in 1966 this dream was realized. Pierre De Mets was appointed for life as the Grand Commander by His All Holiness Patriarch Athenagoras.



† Anthony G. Borden, MD
(1976–1989)

A longstanding and respected churchman in Philadelphia, Dr. Anthony G. Borden succeeded Pierre DeMets as National Commander in 1976 when he was appointed by Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory. Born and raised in Heraklion, Crete and having served as a decorated WWII veteran in the army of the Hellenic Republic as a physician, Doctor Borden furthered his medical training in the field of radiology in the United States at Harvard University, Bellevue Hospital, NY and the University of Pennsylvania, before entering private practice in Philadelphia. Along with his wife Lillian, they raised two children (Maria, a family physician married to current National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD and George, a practicing attorney in Washington, DC). During his tenure as National Commander, the religious freedom persecution perpetrated by Turkey and constricting the Ecumenical Patriarchate was publicized in the United States for the first time by the Order. In addition, the inaugural Athenagoras Human Rights Award was established which provided an extraordinary instrument to honor individuals and organizations in the field of human rights, while simultaneously focusing on the religious freedom crisis asphyxiating the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In 1989 Doctor Borden himself received the Athenagoras Human Rights Award for his visionary contributions.



† Chris Philip, DDS
(1989–1998)

Dr. Chris Philip, respected and distinguished churchman from Tenafly, New Jersey succeeded Doctor Borden in 1989 as National Commander. A graduate of New York University and NYU College of Dentistry, he received his postgraduate training in the field of Orthodontics from Colombia University. After graduating from Dental school he was commissioned as Captain in the U.S. Air Force Dental Corps. Doctor Philip was a professor of Orthodontics at Fairleigh Dickinson University's graduate department, and served as Director of the Cranio-Facial Anomalies and Cleft Palate Programs and was Chairman of the department of Orthodontics. Doctor Philip was Vice Commander prior to his appointment as National Commander by Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory. Among the highlights of his tenure were the sponsorship of the New York Philharmonic Benefit Concert at Lincoln Center highlighting the Ecumenical Patriarchate (1992) and the PBS production of "The Concert for Peace" featuring Nana Mouskouri (1997) that took place during the Holy Visitation of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States, a concert which was broadcast throughout the United States. Beloved husband of Irene for 59 years, the devoted father of Katherine and husband Dr. Chris Kojanis and son Chris Philip Jr., Doctor Philip fell asleep in the Lord in last year.



Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D.
(1998–Present)

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate since 1987 and a member of the National Council since 1988 succeeded Doctor Philip in 1998 with his appointment by former Archbishop Spyridon. Having served as a United States Senate Page from 1969 to 1971 while in high school, he graduated the University of Pennsylvania in 1975 with BA and MA degrees in Political Science. In 1978 Doctor Limberakis graduated Duke University School of Medicine, where he served in various leadership capacities while a student and later as an alumnus. After graduating medical school, he completed an Internal Medicine internship followed by his residency in Diagnostic Radiology at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in 1983. The son of a priest who had served the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese for over 60 years, the church and the Ecumenical Patriarchate have always been integral in his life. With the blessings and guidance of Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America, a dynamic, multifaceted domestic and international religious freedom strategy was developed by the Order. During the tenure of Doctor Limberakis, working side by side with Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alexander Karloutsos and the officers and members of the National Council, the Regional Commanders and brother Archons, the Order's religious freedom strategy included focusing Archon efforts at the White House, Department of State, US Congress, US Commission on International Religious Freedom, each of the 50 States of the United States, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Union, the OSCE and the government of the Republic of Turkey itself, in Ankara. He is married to Dr. Maria A. (Borden) Limberakis, a family practice physician and together have three adult children (John, Anthony (Kathryn) and Elizabeth) and two grandsons (Dakota and Anthony).



50 YEARS Spiritual Leadership and Advisors



† Archbishop Iakovos
(1959–1996)



Archbishop Spyridon
(1996–1999)



Archbishop Demetrios
(1999–Present)

50 YEARS Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Order of St. Andrew of the Ecumenical Patriarchate was organized on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 10, 1966 when His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos conferred upon thirty outstanding laymen of the Church the various Offikion or Offices of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on behalf of His All Holiness Patriarch Athenagoras of blessed memory. They were honored because of their love, loyalty and support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and their contribution to its advancement and welfare.



† Archon
Ernie Villas
(Secretary from
1967–1982)



Fr. Milton
Efthymiou
(1981–1996)



Fr. Eugene
Pappas
(1997)



Fr. Alexander
Karloutsos
(2004–Present)



50 YEARS Visits to The Ecumenical Patriarchate



National Commander †Anthony Borden (left) and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis (right) pray with clergy and faithful at the grave of the ever memorable Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras at Balikli Monastery.

50 YEARS The Balukli Hospital

During trips to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, frequent visits were made to the patients at the Balıklı Hospital and Home for the Aged in Constantinople. The Balıklı Hospital is a health care institution established in the 18th century and continues its service under the auspices of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



50 YEARS Executive Committee



National Commander †Anthony Borden (left) and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis (right) pray during the Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity with members of the National Council's Executive Committee.

50
YEARS

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award

In 1986 the National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America established The Athenagoras Human Rights Award. The Award is presented every year at the Annual Banquet of the Order 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 Award was named after one of the Great Church Leaders of the 20th Century, the late Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Athenagoras I.

Past Recipients of The Athenagoras Human Rights Award

2015: Vice President Joe Biden

2014: Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD

2013: 60 Minutes

2012: Stavros Niarchos Foundation

2011: Admiral James G. Stavridis

2010: Theodore Cardinal McCarrick

2009: Anthony J. Limberakis, MD

2008: Rabbi Arthur Schneier

2007: Archbishop Demetrios of America

2006: Nicholas J. Bouras

2005: Mikhail Gorbachev

2004: Alex G. Spanos

2003: IOCC and OCMC

2002: President George H. W. Bush
and First Lady Barbara Bush

2001: Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

2000: Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu

1999: Elie Wiesel

1998: Nana Mouskouri

1997: Reverend Clergy
of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

1996: Order of AHEPA

1995: Hon. Edward Derwinski

1994: Hon. Paul S. Sarbanes

1993: George Douris

1992: Ladies Philoptochos

1991: Andrew A. Athens

1990: Hon. John Brademas

1989: Anthony G. Borden, MD

1988: Mother Theresa

1987: President Jimmy Carter

1986: Archbishop Iakovos



Vice President Joe Biden



60 minutes



Archbishop Demetrios



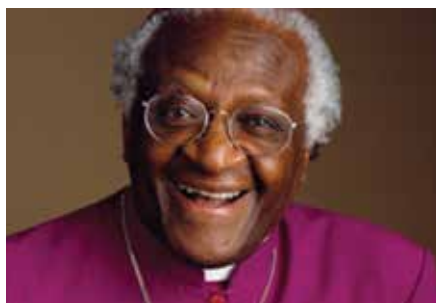
Nicholas J. Bouras



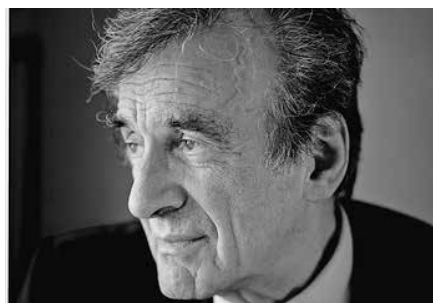
Mikhail Gorbachev



President George HW Bush
and First Lady Barbara Bush



Archbishop Desmond Tutu



Elie Wiesel



Missionaries of Charity (for Mother Theresa)

50
YEARS**Axios! Axios! Axios!**



50 YEARS Fighting for Religious Freedom



Members of the Executive Committee of the Knights of St. Andrew meet together.



Archbishop Iakovos with members of the Order of Saint Andrew



Members of the Executive Committee and National Council at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America on March 22, 2016.



Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Emmanuel with Archons during an Archon Religious Freedom Summit in January 2015.



He divided the nations.
When He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to UNITY.
And with one voice we glorify the All-Holy Spirit.
(Kontakion of Pentecost)

*To the Orthodox people
and to all people of good will*

To God, "the Father of mercies and all comfort," we address a hymn of thanksgiving and praise for having enabled us to gather during the week of Pentecost (18-26 June 2016) on Crete, where the Apostle Paul and his disciple Titus preached the Gospel in the early years of the life of the Church. We give thanks to the Triune God who was well pleased that in one accord we should bring to a conclusion the work of the Holy and Great Council that was convoked by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch. Bartholomew by the common will of their Beatitudes the Primate of the local Orthodox Autocephalous Churches.

Faithfully following the example of the Apostles and our god-bearing Fathers we have once again studied the Gospel of freedom "for which Christ has set us free" (Gal. 5: 1). The foundation of our theological discussions was the certainty that the Church does not live for herself. She transmits the witness of the Gospel of grace and truth

and offers to the whole world the gifts of God: love, peace, justice, reconciliation, the power of the Cross and of the Resurrection and the expectation of eternal life.

1) The key priority of the Council was to proclaim **the unity** of the Orthodox Church. Founded on the Eucharist and the Apostolic Succession of her Bishops, the existing unity needs to be strengthened and to bear new fruits. The One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church is a divine-human communion, a foretaste and experience of the eschaton within the Holy Eucharist. As a continuous Pentecost, she is a prophetic voice that cannot be silenced, the presence of and witness to the Kingdom of the God of love. The Orthodox Church, faithful to the unanimous Apostolic Tradition and her sacramental experience, is the authentic continuation of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church as confessed in the Creed and confirmed by the teaching of the Church Fathers. Our Church lives out the mystery of the Divine Economy in her sacramental life, with the Holy Eucharist at its center.

The Orthodox Church expresses her

unity and catholicity "in Council". Conciliarity pervades her organization, the way decisions are taken and determines her path. The Orthodox Autocephalous Churches do not constitute a federation of Churches, but the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. Each local Church as she offers the holy Eucharist is the local presence and manifestation of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. In regard to the Orthodox Diaspora in various countries of the world, it was decided to continue with the institution of Episcopal Assemblies until such time as canonical rigor can be implemented. These assemblies are composed of the canonical bishops appointed by each Autocephalous Church and these bishops continue to remain subject to their respective Churches. The due function of these Episcopal Assemblies guarantees respect for the Orthodox principle of conciliarity.

During the deliberations of the Holy and Great Council the importance of the Synaxes of the Primate which had taken place was emphasized and the proposal was made for the Holy and Great Council to

Primates from the Orthodox Church gathered in a Small Synaxis at the Patriarchal and Stavropegial Monastery and Orthodox Academy of Crete on 17 June to consider a "draft message" of the Holy and Great Council.

become a regular Institution to be convened every seven or ten years.

2) Participating in the Holy Eucharist and praying for the whole world, we must continue the 'liturgy after the Divine Liturgy' and give the **witness of faith** to those near and those far off, in accordance with the Lord's clear command before His ascension, "And you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth (Ac. 1: 8). The re-evangelization of God's people in modern, secularized societies and the evangelization of those who have still not come to know Christ remain an unceasing obligation for the Church.

3) In response to her obligation to witness to the truth and her apostolic faith, our Church attaches great importance to **dialogue**, primarily with non Orthodox Christians. In this way the remainder of the Christian world comes to know more precisely the authenticity of the Orthodox Tradition, the value of patristic teaching and the liturgical life and faith of the Orthodox. The dialogues conducted by the Orthodox Church never imply a compromise in matters of faith.

4) The explosions of fundamentalism observed within various religions represent an expression of morbid religiosity. Sober **inter-religious dialogue** helps significantly to promote mutual trust, peace and reconciliation. The oil of religious experience must be used to heal wounds and not to rekindle the fire of military conflicts. The Orthodox Church unequivocally condemns the extension of military violence, persecutions, the expulsion and murder of members of religious minorities, forced conversions, the trafficking of refugees, the abductions, torture and abhorrent executions. She denounces the destruction of churches, religious symbols and cultural monuments. Very particularly, she expresses her deep concern about the situation of Christians and of all the persecuted minorities in the Middle East. She calls on the governments in the region to protect the indigenous Orthodox and other Christians and all the populations who have an inalienable right to remain in their countries as citizens with equal rights. Our Council appeals to all parties involved to make systematic efforts without delay to bring to an end the military conflicts in the Middle East and wherever armed hostilities persist and to enable all those displaced to return to their homes.

We address our appeal particularly to those in positions of power to act so that peace and justice may prevail in the countries of origin of the refugees. We urge the civil authorities, the citizens and the Orthodox Christians in the countries in which the persecuted are taking refuge to continue to offer help to the limit or even beyond the limit of their abilities.

5) Modern secularisation seeks the autonomy of man (*anthropos*) from Christ and from the spiritual influence of the Church, which it arbitrarily identifies with conservatism. Western civilization, however, bears the indelible mark of the diachronic contribution of Christianity. The Church, moreover, highlights the saving significance of Christ, the God-man, and of His Body, as the place and mode of life in freedom.

6) In contrast to the contemporary approach to **marriage**, the Orthodox Church regards the indissoluble loving relationship of man and woman as "a great mystery... of Christ and the Church". Similarly, she calls the family which springs from this and which constitutes the only guarantee for the upbringing of children a "little church".

The Church has always emphasised the value of **self-restraint**. Christian asceticism, however, differs radically from every dualistic asceticism which severs man from life and from his fellow man. On the contrary, she connects this with the sacramental life of the Church. Self-restraint does not concern only the monastic life. The ascetic ethos is a characteristic of Christian life in all its manifestations.

**

Apart from the specific topics about which it decided, the Holy and Great Council notes in brief the following important contemporary issues:

7) In regard to the matter of the relations between Christian faith and the natural sciences, the Orthodox Church avoids placing scientific investigation under tutelage and does not adopt a position on every scientific question. She thanks God who gives to scientists the gift of uncovering unknown dimensions of divine creation. The modern development of the **natural sciences** and of technology is bringing radical changes to our life. It brings significant benefits, such as the facilitation of everyday life, the treatment of serious diseases, easier communications and space exploration, and so on. In spite of this, however, there are many negative consequences such as the manipulation of freedom, the gradual loss of precious traditions, the destruction of the natural environment and the questioning of moral values. Scientific knowledge, however swiftly it may be advancing, does not motivate man's will, nor does it give answers to serious moral and existential issues and to the search for the meaning of life and of the world. These matters demand a spiritual approach, which the Orthodox Church attempts to provide through a bioethics which is founded on Christian ethics and Patristic teaching. Along with her respect for the freedom of scientific investigation, the Orthodox Church

at the same time points out the dangers concealed in certain scientific achievements and emphasises man's dignity and his divine destiny.

8) It is clear that the present-day **ecological crisis** is due to spiritual and moral causes. Its roots are connected with greed, avarice and egoism, which lead to the thoughtless use of natural resources, the filling of the atmosphere with damaging pollutants, and to climate change. The Christian response to the problem demands repentance for the abuses, an ascetic frame of mind as an antidote to overconsumption, and at the same time a cultivation of the consciousness that man is a "steward" and not a possessor of creation. The Church never ceases to emphasise that future generations also have a right to the natural resources that the Creator has given us. For this reason, the Orthodox Church takes an active part in the various international ecological initiatives and has ordained the 1st September as a day of prayer for the protection of the natural environment.

9) Against the levelling and impersonal standardization that is promoted in so many ways, Orthodoxy proposes **respect for the particular characteristics** of individuals and peoples. It is also opposed the making of the economy into something autonomous from basic human needs and turning it into an end in itself. The progress of mankind is not connected only with an increase in living standards or with economic development at the expense of spiritual values.

10) The Orthodox Church does not involve herself in politics. Her voice remains distinct, but also prophetic, as a beneficial intervention for the sake of man. Human rights today are at the center of politics as a response to the social and political crises and upheavals, and seek to protect the citizen from the arbitrary power of the state. Our Church also adds to this the obligations and responsibilities of the citizens and the need for constant self-criticism on the part of both politicians and citizens for the improvement of society. And above all she emphasises that the **Orthodox ideal** in respect of man transcends the horizon of established human rights and that "greatest of all is love", as Christ revealed and as all the faithful who follow him have experienced. She insists also that a fundamental human right is the protection of religious freedom—namely, freedom of conscience, belief, and religion, including, alone and in community, in private and in public, the right to freedom of worship and practice, the right to manifest one's religion, as well as the right of religious communities to religious education and to the full function and exercise of their religious duties, without any form of direct or indirect interference by the state.



The inaugural session of the Council commenced in the neighbouring Orthodox Academy of Crete.



11) The Orthodox Church addresses herself to **young people** who seek for a plenitude of life replete with freedom, justice, creativity and also love. She invites them to join themselves consciously with the Church of Him who is Truth and Life. To come, offering to the ecclesial body their vitality, their anxieties, their concerns and their expectations. Young people are not only the future, but also the dynamic and creative present of the Church, both on a local and on a world-wide level.

12) The Holy and Great Council has **opened our horizon** towards the contemporary diverse and multifarious world. It has emphasised our responsibility in place and in time, ever with the perspective of eternity. The Orthodox Church, preserving intact her Sacramental and Soteriological character, is sensitive to the pain, the distress and the cry for justice and peace of the peoples of the world. She "proclaims day after day the good tidings of His salvation, announcing His glory among the nations and His wonders among all peoples" (Psalm 95).

Let us pray that "the God of all grace, who has called us to his eternal glory in Christ, will, after we have suffered a little, Himself restore, establish, and strengthen and settle us. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 5.10-11).

[Signed by the Heads of the participating Autocephalous Orthodox Churches and Delegations attending the Holy and Great Council]

During his introductory speech at the Opening Session on June 20, His All-Holiness, pictured left, expressed his joy at the eager participation of ten Churches, namely Alexandria, Jerusalem, Serbia, Romania, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Albania, Czech and Slovakia. At the same time, however, he expressed his bitter disappointment at the non-participation of four Churches at the Council, even though these, namely the Churches of Antioch, Russia, Bulgaria and Georgia, had co-operated in all stages of preparation of the topics for discussion, with great willingness, and made an important contributions. Therefore, his disappointment at their absence, for no specific reason, was even greater since two of them had agreed on and signed all of the texts of the Council at the recent Synaxis of the Primates of the most Holy Local Orthodox Churches. In this spirit, at the conclusion of the deliberations of the Council on June 17 – and with the common consent of all the Primates – an invitation was sent out to the Primates of the non-participating Churches, to participate in the Concelebration of the Sunday of Pentecost, or in that of the Sunday of All Saints (June 26).



On June 26, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew presides over the Orthros and Synodal Divine Liturgy and concelebrates with the Primate of the Local Orthodox Churches at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Chania, Crete.



His-All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew prays before the relics of the Apostle Titus in the Church of St. Titus in Heraklion celebrated Vespers of Pentecost.



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, top, with Metropolitans of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese.

National Commander Limberakis and National Secretary Bozonelis escort His All-Holiness, left, to a reception hosted by the Order of Saint Andrew at Firkas Fortress in Chania. Dr. Limberakis concluded his toast, above, left, saying, "For such a heroic effort that you have all put forth in these last days, led by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who celebrates twenty-five years this year as Head of the Church of Constantinople, I humbly and with deepest respect raise my glass to all of you, the Fathers of the Holy and Great Council of the Year of the Grace of our Lord Two Thousand and Sixteen. May the Same Lord grant unto you all peace, health, and length of days, so that you may ever rightly divide and teach the Word of His Truth."



From left to right: Archon Michael Karloutsos, Archons Alexander Pritsos and Nicholas Furris, Archon Dimitrios Panagos and Archon Theo Nicolakis were all instrumental in the pre-planning, organization, communication and success of the Holy and Great Council.



National Commander Limberakis and National Secretary Hon B. Theodore Bozonelis sit in as observers on the closing session.



Pastoral Visit to the Refugees on Lesbos

16 April 2016

"Whatever you do to the least of these My brethren, you do unto Me."

The Patriarch, The Pope, And The Refugee Crisis: An Ecumenism Of Solidarity And Service

By Rev. Dr. John Chrysavgis

The significance of the joint visit to the island of Lesbos, Greece, on Saturday, April 16, 2016, by the leaders of the Christian Churches of the East and West cannot be understated. And its impact on the refugee crisis--in addition to its spiritual and symbolic dimensions, as well as its seemingly non-political and refreshingly spontaneous nature--should not be diminished.

This was the fifth time that Roman Catholic Pope Francis and Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew are meeting together and the second joint pilgrimage that they have realized together since the pope's election in 2013. On most of these occasions--Rome (March 2013), Jerusalem (May 2014), Rome (June 2014), Istanbul (November 2014), and now Lesbos (2016)--they have declared their solidarity with people suffering from war and persecution, poverty and hunger, as well as ecological repercussions of social injustice. Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew have, from the very outset of their relations, demonstrated that they understand the role of the church. They know what matters, or at least what should matter, in the church; and they understand what the responsibility, priority, and ministry of the church should be in the contemporary world.

Many of the encounters of these two remarkable men have been spontaneous. For example, when the patriarch attended the inaugural mass of the pope in March 2013, it was the first time in history that this had occurred--ever. Just over a year later, when Francis invited President Peres of Israel and President Abbas of Palestine to the Vatican in June 2014, he spontaneously asked Bartholomew to extend the invitation jointly to the two political leaders.

Finally, this latest visit to Lesbos began as a request from the Greek government to the ecumenical patriarch in February, which led Bartholomew to initiate communications with Rome in March for a possible joint visit in April to a small Greek island that had generously and graciously welcomed hundreds of thousands

of refugees over the last eighteen months. And it was a way to remember and mourn the tens of thousands--among them many children--who lost their lives in the Mediterranean as they crossed by inflatable boats from Turkey to Greece.

However, this time, the meeting between Francis and Bartholomew was different. Theological dialogues and ecumenical relations are often carried out in order to gain something--whether to achieve clarity or advance toward unity. The visit by Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, accompanied by the local Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece, aimed at giving something: hope to the hundreds of detainees, thanks to the already beleaguered people of Greece, and caution to politicians to examine their hearts. Together, the three leaders declared:

We have met on the Greek island of Lesbos to demonstrate our profound concern for the tragic situation of the numerous refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers who have come to Europe fleeing from situations of conflict and, in many cases, daily threats to their survival. World opinion cannot ignore the colossal humanitarian crisis created by the spread of violence and armed conflict, the persecution and displacement of religious and ethnic minorities, and the uprooting of families from their homes, in violation of their human dignity and their fundamental human rights and freedoms.

And while the political dimensions were deliberately diminished, one of the pivotal objectives of the joint visit was to censure politicians and nations for shunning the refugees and exacerbating their crisis. As Patriarch Bartholomew boldly observed in his address at Lesbos, "the world will be judged by the way it has treated" the refugees:

We have traveled here to look into your eyes, to hear your voices, and to hold your hands. We have traveled here to tell you that we care.

We have traveled here because the world has not forgotten you.

We have wept as we watched the Mediterranean Sea becoming a burial ground for your loved ones. We have wept as we witnessed the sympathy and sensitivity of the people of Lesbos and other islands. But we also wept as we saw the hard-heartedness of our fellow brothers and sisters--your fellow brothers and sisters--close borders and turn away.

Those who are afraid of you have not looked at you in the eyes. Those who are afraid of you do not see your faces. Those who are afraid of you do not see your children. They forget that dignity and freedom transcend fear and division. They forget that migration is not an issue for the Middle East and Northern Africa, for Europe and Greece. It is an issue for the world.

The world will be judged by the way it has treated you. And we will all be accountable for the way we respond to the crisis and conflict in the regions that you come from.

For his part, Pope Francis stunned the world by inviting twelve eligible Syrian refugees to board his plane and relocate to the Vatican City, a humanitarian gesture repeated countless times previously in Greece and Turkey where millions of refugees have fled.

The event in Lesbos a few days ago indicated a practical response by the churches of the East and West to a tragic crisis in our world. At the same time, it signaled a powerful reassessment of how ecumenical relations can advance human rights at a time when the world is either turning its face away from the victims of extremism and persecution or else deciding their fate on financial terms or national interests. The power of ecumenism lies in beginning to open up beyond ourselves and our own, our communities and our churches. It is learning to speak the language of care and compassion. And it is giving priority to solidarity and service. ■

Above: His All-Holiness, together with Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece and Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, welcome Pope Francis as he arrives at the Airport.

PATRIARCHAL NEWS

Metropolitan Athenagoras of Belgium calls for unity against terrorism

The Orthodox Metropolitan of Belgium, Athenagoras (Ecumenical Patriarchate) has called for all religious leaders of Belgium to unite their voices and forces against terrorism.

Commenting on the attacks of Tuesday morning in Brussels, Athenagoras, President of the Orthodox Episcopal Assembly of Belgium, appealed to every person of good will around the world, Christians and non, to become a shield against terrorism as well as messengers of peace.

"Terrorists today have not struck Brussels. Terrorists to-

"We call upon the whole world, Christian and not, to become a shield against terrorism."

day struck throughout Europe. Terrorists today struck once again the whole world" he underlined in his comment.

"We call upon the whole world, Christian and not, to become a shield against terrorism. To become one body against the storm of grief that overwhelms the planet. In this war that was declared by terrorism in Europe we will become messengers of peace" he said.

"As Bishop and Pastor, as president of the Orthodox Episcopal Assembly of Belgium, I call upon the religious leaders of Belgium to unite our voices and our power against the wickedness and violence. I call upon the religious leaders of Belgium to condemn any kind of terrorism and to give our own testimony of consolation and sympathy to our affected brothers and sisters" Metropolitan Athenagoras said. ■



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew meets with Scholars at the Phanar

The Ecumenical Patriarchate hosted a meeting of thirty scholars on January 4-5, 2016. The purpose of the encounter was to establish connections with theologians and academics working in vari-

ous disciplines and ministries throughout the world in order to become better acquainted with their interests and aspirations for the church, especially in light of the Holy and Great Council.

Professor Archon George Demacopoulos and Professor Archon Aristotle Papanikolaou, co-founders of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University, along with Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou,

Former Vice Chair, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and speaker at the 2013 Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom in Berlin, were among many of the scholars present. ■



"We invite the support of pious Orthodox scholars, who are concerned about the unity of our Church and its role in the public square, where there are so many competing opinions and where the word of Orthodoxy can contribute positively and constructively through dialogue. Our faith should not be regarded as stagnant or even obsolete. It must not be conveyed as verbose or perhaps artificial. And it cannot be dismissed as merely cerebral or uninspired. Our word must express the hope and joy, the light and life of the risen Lord. It must be renewed and renewing, reviving and refreshing."

—Excerpt by His All-Holiness
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the Scholars' Meeting

ARCHON NATIONAL NEWS

Reverend Dr. Stefanos Alexopoulos leads Archon Lenten Retreat in Southampton



With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, was pleased to have Reverend Dr. Stefanos Alexopoulos as its retreat master for the 13th Annual Archon Lenten Retreat, April 15-16, 2016. The retreat was held at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church of the Hamptons, hosted by Father Alexander Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor and Father Constantine Lazarakis, Pastor.

Some seventy Archons, spouses and participants attended the retreat which allowed everyone to grow in their spirituality, join together in fellowship and prayer, and allowed Archons to reenergize their commitment in the pursuit of religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople.

The two-day retreat focused on the topic, "The Power of Worship: Insights From Liturgical History, Liturgical Theology, & Liturgical Anthropology" outlining and dissecting the Byzantine Liturgy and offering insights from Liturgical theology and anthropology. Participants had the opportunity to engage in breakout sessions and also worship during an evening Akathist service along with a celebration of the Divine Liturgy the following morning, led by Father Constantine Lazarakis, rector, and visiting retired cleric Father Constantine Mathews.

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, together with Archons Peter J. Skeadas, Michael G. Psaros--co-chairs of the Spirituality Committee--and members of the National Council, thanked Fr. Stefanos at the conclusion of the retreat. ■

PHOTO CREDITS: JOHN MINDALA



Archon Theofanis V. Economidis named recipient of Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship, Oct 14



The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle is pleased to announce that Archon

Theofanis V. Economidis, Archon Ekdikos, has been designated 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 Marriott Marquis Hotel, Friday evening, Oct. 14, as part of the Order's annual three-day assembly, Oct. 14-16.

Archon George Safiol, Award

Committee chairman, said, "Archon Economidis 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." ■



Full biography available online at archons.org





ANNUAL EXARCH'S APPEAL

List complete as of June 3, 2016

(List includes donor name, city and state of residence and offikion date)
Each day sponsored represents at least a \$3,000 pledge donation.

33 DAYS SPONSORED

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

12 DAYS SPONSORED

John C. Kulis Charitable Foundation •
Chicago, IL

8 DAYS SPONSORED

Peter Karmanos, Jr. • Orchard Lake, MI •
5/6/15

6 DAYS SPONSORED

George M. Marcus • Palo Alto, CA • 2/24/91

4 DAYS SPONSORED

Theodore K. Zampetis • Bloomfield Hills, MI •
10/28/07

3 DAYS SPONSORED

Thomas S. Cappas • Highland, IN • 10/10/04
Michael S. Johnson • Denver, CO • 1/1/80
John Pappajohn • Des Moines, IA • 2/18/01
Michael G. Psaros • Purchase, NY • 10/19/14
Tim Tassopoulos • Atlanta, GA • 10/28/07

2 DAYS SPONSORED

Stephen Cherpelis • Douglaston, NY • 2/18/01
Stephen A. Georgeson • Atlanta, GA • 3/9/03
Demitrios Halakos • Greenville, DE • 10/18/15
Steven M. Laduzinsky • Chicago, IL • 11/1/09
Nicholas L. Lekas • Hudson, OH • 10/20/13
Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis • Rydal, PA • 3/8/87
Dr. Michael J. Patzakis • San Marino, CA •
10/22/06
Paun Peters • Fort Worth, TX • 10/19/14
Dean Poll • Upper Brookville, NY • 10/22/06
George E. Safiol • Weston, MA • 3/16/97
Christ Stratakis • New York, NY • 3/8/98
Stephen J. Yallourakis, M.D., D.D.S. •
Kingsport, TN • 10/23/05
John Zavitsanos • Houston, TX • 10/10/04

1 DAY SPONSORED

John Alahouzos • Washington, DC • 6/10/09

Leon W. Andris • Silver Spring, MD • 3/9/03
Lewis A. Assaley, Ph.D. • Cincinnati, OH •
10/26/08
Arthur Balourdos • Lincolnwood, IL • 10/26/08
Peter J. Barris • McLean, VA • 10/10/04
Charles Beck • Holladay, UT • 10/31/10
Drake Behrakis • Sudbury, MA • 10/16/11
Dr. Gerald Biernacki • Toledo, OH • 10/21/12
Dr. Nicholas Bournias • Birmingham, MI •
10/18/15
Dimitris Bousis • Northbrook, IL • 10/23/05
Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis • Chatam, NJ •
10/28/07
Anthony Brigis • Sea Cliff, NY • 10/18/15
Robert M. Buchanan, Jr. • Jackson, MS •
10/20/13
John S. Buzas • San Marino, CA • 10/19/14
John P. Calamos, Sr. • Aurora, IL • 10/18/15
Tykye G. Camaras • Corona Del Mar, CA •
3/12/95
Ronald E. Canakaris • Atlanta, GA • 10/31/10
Constantine G. Caras • Greenville, DE • 3/8/98
James C. Catricken • Haverford, PA • 10/18/15
Nicholas E. Chemicles, Esq. • Devon, PA •
10/20/13
John N. Colis • Glenview, IL • 10/20/13
Andreas D. Comodromos • Paramus, NJ •
3/3/96
John J. Couchell • Spartanburg, SC • 10/21/12
Jimmy C. Daskalos • Albuquerque, NM •
10/31/10
Theodore D. Demetriou • Chatham, NJ •
2/28/88
John W. Demetropoulos • Scottsdale, AZ •
10/10/04
George C. Demos, Esq. • Huntington Beach,
CA • 10/20/13
Poti G. Doukas • Littleton, CO • 10/19/16
Nikitas Drakotos • Riverdale, NY • 3/3/85
Theofanis V. Economidis • Los Altos, CA •
3/3/96
Anastasius Efstratiades, J.D. • Cherry Hill, NJ
• 10/19/14
John P. Eliopoulos, M.D. • Swampscott, MA •
10/31/10
Constantine E. Flokas, MD • Yonkers, NY •
10/19/14
George Frangiadakis • Westwood, MA •
10/21/12
Isidoros Garifalakis • Vancouver, WA •
10/10/04

George M. Gazis • Houston, TX • 10/16/11
David P. Gdovin • Vestal, NY • 10/31/10
Anastasius J. Georgalas • Seaford, VA •
3/16/97
Geoffrey J. Greenleaf • Novelty, OH • 10/19/14
Vassilios B. Grous • Greenwich, CT • 10/28/07
John Halecky, Jr. • Summit, NJ • 7/20/82
Stavros Haviaras • Muttontown, NY • 10/20/13
George G. Horiates • Moorestown, NJ •
10/21/12
Timothy J. Joannides • Cheyenne, WY •
10/23/05
Peter Kakoyiannis • Yardley, PA • 3/8/98
Dr. James G. Kallins • Downey, CA • 3/3/96
Chris Karamanos • Toms River, NJ • 10/16/11
Ignatius P. Karatassos • Atlanta, GA • 3/19/89
Dr. Stamatis Kartalopoulos • Annandale, NJ
• 2/28/99
Theodore X. Koinis • PearLand, TX • 10/21/12
Theodore D. Konopisos • Newport Beach, CA
• 10/18/15
Dr. Harry N. Kotsis • Grosse Pointe Farms, MI
• 10/22/06
George Koukounaris • Nahant, MA • 3/9/03
Dr. George Koulianos • Mobile, AL • 10/28/07
Markos Lagos • Dunedin, FL • 10/19/14
Frank Lagouros • Peoria, IL • 10/20/13
Elias Lambiris • New York, NY • 10/18/15
Dr. Cary J. Limberakis • Ambler, PA • 10/10/04
Elias J. Livaditis • Atlanta, GA • 10/20/13
Dr. Nicholas G. Loutsion • Canonsburg, PA •
3/9/03
Keith Maib • Leawood, KS • 10/19/14
George G. Makris • Alpine, NJ • 10/23/05
Andrew E. Manatos • Bethesda, MD • 2/24/91
Nikitas Manias • Palm Harbor, FL • 10/18/15
Theodore P. Maniatakos • Los Angeles, CA •
10/18/15
John G. Manos • Bloomingdale, IL • 3/1/13
Nikiforos Mathews • Stamford, CT • 11/1/09
C. Dean Metropoulos • Greenwich, CT •
10/23/05
Michael H. Missios, Ph. D. • Huntsville, AL •
10/19/14
James S. Nicholas • Grand Rapids, MI •
3/10/02
Anthony A. Nichols • Skokie, IL • 2/24/91
Gus M. Pablecas • South Barrington, IL •
10/22/06
Steve C. Padis • Danville, CA • 10/20/13

ANNUAL EXARCH'S APPEAL

Anthony Palmieri • Newtown Square, PA • 10/21/12
 James Pantelidis • New York, NY • 10/21/12
 George Pantelidis • New York, NY • 10/19/14
 Christopher J. Pappas • Houston, TX • 10/26/08
 Peter G. Pappas • Centerville, MD • 3/23/86
 John A. Payiavlas • Warren, OH • 2/24/91
 James & Theodore Pedas Family Foundation • Washington, DC • 10/31/10
 Gus G. Perdikakis • Maineville, OH • 3/7/82
 Demetrios Polos • Highland Park, NJ • 10/19/14
 Theodore J. Poplos • Memphis, TN • 10/19/14
 George C. Psetas • Port Richey, FL • 10/23/05
 Gerry Ranglas • Rancho Santa Fe • 3/10/02
 Dr. John C. Rouman • Durham, NH 03824 • 10/16/11
 William Scaljon • Atlanta, GA • 3/3/96
 John C. Scurtis • Miami, FL • 10/28/07
 Constantine Sideridis • Salem, MA • 10/18/15
 Peter J. Skeadas • Greenwich, CT • 10/10/04
 Harry W. Spell • Edina, MN • 10/16/11
 William Spell • Edina, MN • 10/18/15
 James D. Speros • Wellesley, MA • 3/10/02
 Demetrios Stathopoulos • Victor, NY • 10/19/14
 Michael Stefanoudakis • Denver, CO • 10/18/15
 Thomas M. Suehs • Austin, TX • 10/16/11
 James G. Tasios • Winston-Salem, NC • 10/31/10
 Nicholas E. Terezis • Pittsburgh, PA • 10/18/20015
 Dr. Gregory A. Thomas • Highland, IN • 3/12/95
 James G. Thomas • Highland, IN • 3/3/96
 James Thomas • Highland, IN • 3/12/95
 Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas • Rego Park, NY • 3/8/87
 George A. Tsougarakis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/11
 Adam Tzagournis • Dublin, OH • 10/19/15
 Haralampos Tzanetatos • Coconut Grove, FL • 1987
 Dr. Sotirios J. Vahaviolos • Princeton, NJ • 10/10/04
 Peter A. Vlachos • New York, NY • 2/18/01
 Theodore D. Vlahos • La Grange Park, IL • 11/1/09
 Dr. Theodore Vlahos • Safety Harbor, FL • 10/22/06
 Gus Vratsinas • Little Rock, AR • 3/10/02
 Gary M. Vronis • Danville, CA • 10/23/05
 Leonard Zangas • Manhasset, NY • 10/31/10

ALL EXARCH'S APPEAL PARTICIPANTS

John Alahouzos • Washington, DC • 6/10/09
 Dr. Menelaos A. Aliapoulos • Weston, MA • 2/24/91
 Peter Allan, Ph.D. • Fort Lee, NJ • 3/19/89
 George J. Anderson • Nashville, TN • 9/27/06
 Louis Anderson • Charleston, SC • 6/14/81

Leon W. Andris • Silver Spring, MD • 3/9/03
 William Antholis • Charlottesville, VA • 10/31/10
 Constantine A. Anthony • Boca Raton, FL • 3/3/96
 Arthur C. Anton Jr. • Carlisle, MA • 10/20/13
 Arthur C. Anton, Sr. • North Andover, MA • 4/7/76
 Prof. John Antonopoulos • Staten Island, NY • 3/15/92
 Andrew P. Arbes • Manasquan, NJ • 6/14/81
 Kosta M. Arger, MD • Reno, NV • 10/16/11
 Clifford Argue • Mercer Island, WA • 10/10/04
 Hon. Andrew S. Armatas • Denver, CO • 3/7/82
 Lewis A. Assaley, Ph.D. • Cincinnati, OH • 10/26/08
 Basil M. Assimakopoulos • Potomac, MD • Jun-99
 Theodore J. Athanasakes • Ocean Ridge, FL • 11/1/09
 Dr. William A. Athens • Grosse Ile, MI • 2/28/88
 Peter Baganakis • New Milford, NJ • 3/9/03
 Arthur Balourdos • Lincolnwood, IL • 10/26/08
 Andrew T. Banis • Walnut Creek, CA • 3/4/02
 Peter J. Barris • McLean, VA • 10/10/04
 Charles Beck • Holladay, UT • 10/31/10
 Drake Behrakis • Sudbury, MA • 10/16/11
 Anastasios S. Betzelos • Chicago, IL • 3/19/89
 Dr. Gerald Biernacki • Toledo, OH • 10/21/12
 Hon. Michael Bilirakis • Tarpon Springs, FL • 3/23/86
 John J. Blazakis • Somerset, NJ • 10/31/10
 Dr. Nicholas Bournias • Birmingham, MI • 10/18/15
 Dimitris Bousis • Northbrook, IL • 10/23/05
 Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis • Chatam, NJ • 10/28/07
 Alex R. Breno • Royersford, PA • 3/20/94
 Anthony Brigis • Sea Cliff, NY • 10/18/15
 Chris J. Brous • Farmington, CT • 2/18/01
 Robert M. Buchanan, Jr. • Jackson, MS • 10/20/13
 John S. Buzas • San Marino, CA • 10/19/14
 Emil Bzdil • Freeland, PA • 2/17/01
 John P. Calamos, Sr. • Aurora, IL • 10/18/15
 Tykye G. Camaras • Corona Del Mar, CA • 3/12/95
 Ronald E. Canakaris • Atlanta, GA • 10/31/10
 Thomas S. Cappas • Highland, IN • 10/10/04
 Chris W. Caras • Palos Verdes Est., CA • 2/18/01
 Constantine G. Caras • Greenville, DE • 3/8/98
 Gregory Caras • Dayton, OH • 3/9/03
 Michael L. Carousis • Manasquan, NJ • 1/1/70
 Nicholas A. Carras • Myersville, MD • 10/23/05
 Nick T. Catranis • Mobile, AL • 3/5/00
 James C. Catrickes • Haverford, PA • 10/18/15
 James T. Cavalaris • Charlotte, NC • 3/3/85
 Harry T. Cavalaris • Charlotte, NC • 3/6/93
 Stephen Cherpelis • Douglaston, NY • 2/18/01

Paul G. Chiligris • Decatur, IL • 10/31/10
 Nicholas E. Chimicles, Esq. • Devon, PA • 10/20/13
 Gerald B. Clonaris • Charlotte, NC • 3/3/96
 John N. Colis • Glenview, IL • 10/20/13
 Andreas D. Comodromos • Paramus, NJ • 3/3/96
 Peter J. Condakes • Weston, MA • 10/26/08
 Panagiotis Contos • Denver, CO • 10/22/06
 Robert D. Cosgrove • Port Orange, FL • 2/17/01
 Jerry A. Costacos • Seattle, WA • 7/4/82
 Prof. Demetrios Costaras • Beechhurst, NY • 3/11/79
 Jon J. Couchell • Spartanburg, SC • 10/21/12
 Nicholas J. Coussoulis • Indian Wells, CA • 7/4/82
 Christo Daphnides • Highland Beach, FL • 1/1/72
 George J. Dariotis • Manhasset, NY • 2/18/01
 Jimmy C. Daskalos • Albuquerque, NM • 10/31/10
 George Demacopoulos Ph.D. • Commack, NY • 10/31/10
 Harry J. Demas • Naples, FL • 2/28/99
 George Demchenko • Arlington Heights, IL • 2/28/99
 Theodore D. Demetriou • Chatham, NJ • 2/28/88
 John W. Demetropoulos • Scottsdale, AZ • 10/10/04
 Peter G. Demetriades • Henderson, NC • 3/6/93
 George C. Demos, Esq. • Huntington Beach, CA • 10/20/13
 Dennis K. Dickos, MD • Carmel, IN • 3/15/92
 James Dimitrion • Waretown, NJ • 3/5/00
 Peter M. Dion • Palm Beach, FL • 3/23/86
 George N. Donkar • Savannah, GA • 10/21/12
 Poti G. Doukas • Littleton, CO • 10/19/16
 Steven Doulaveris • Florence, SC • 11/1/09
 Nikitas Drakotos • Riverdale, NY • 3/3/85
 Theofanis V. Economidis • Los Altos, CA • 3/3/96
 Anastasios Efstratiades, J.D. • Cherry Hill, NJ • 10/19/14
 Andrew J. Ekonomou, Ph.D. • Atlanta, GA • 10/19/14
 John P. Eliopoulos, MD • Swampscott, MA • 10/31/10
 Michael S. Emanuel • McLean, VA • 11/1/09
 James C. Fountas • Scotch Plains, NJ • 6/14/81
 Dr. Kenneth Frangadakis • Saratoga, CA • 3/5/00
 George Frangiadakis • Westwood, MA • 10/21/12
 Phillip T. Frangos • East Lansing, MI • 10/20/13
 Jim Gabriel, Jr. • Centerport, NY • 11/1/09
 Alvin C. Galloway • Tucker, GA • 3/19/89
 Isidoros Garifalakis • Vancouver, WA • 10/10/04
 George M. Gazis • Houston, TX • 10/16/11
 David P. Gdovin • Vestal, NY • 10/31/10
 Anastasios J. Georgalas • Seaford, VA • 3/16/97
 Leslie P. George • Marietta, GA • 10/22/06
 Stephen A. Georgeson • Atlanta, GA • 3/9/03
 Nicolaos A. Georgiarentis • Itasca, IL • 10/26/08
 Renos Georgiou • Bayside, NY • 10/23/05

ANNUAL EXARCH'S APPEAL

Fotios Gerasopoulos • Jackson Heights, NY • 3/20/94

Larry R. Gess • Atlanta, GA • 3/12/95

Alexander A. Gianaras • Lake Forest, IL • 2/18/01

John Gidicsin • Brooklyn, NY • 2/17/01

Geofrey J. Greenleaf • Novelty, OH • 10/19/14

Dr. John Grossomanides, Jr. • Westerly, RI • 4/14/12

Vassilios B. Grous • Greenwich, CT • 10/28/07

Gary C. Grysiak • Monroeville, PA • 2/28/99

Demitrios Halakos • Greenville, DE • 10/18/15

John Halecky, Jr. • Summit, NJ • 7/20/82

Dn. Stephen E. Hall • Upper Marlboro, MD • 2/28/99

Ron J. Harb • Little Rock, AR • 3/10/02

Stavros Haviaras • Muttontown, NY • 10/20/13

Spiro C. Hondros • Charlotte, NC • 10/23/05

George G. Horiates • Moorestown, NJ • 10/21/12

Larry Hotzoglu • Bayside, NY • 10/26/08

John C. Hrapchak • Columbia, MD • 2/28/99

Dr. William N. Hunter • Bethesda, MD • 10/15/95

Stratos E. Inglesis • Potomac, MD • 11/8/98

Timothy J. Joannides • Cheyenne, WY • 10/23/05

Michael S. Johnson • Denver, CO • 1/1/80

Thomas G. Jordan • Grosse Pointe, MI • 10/31/10

Constantine Kaganis • Bronx, NY • 10/16/11

Peter Kakoyiannis • Yardley, PA • 3/8/98

John A. Kalinoglou • Atlanta, GA • 3/10/02

Stephen S. Kalivas, R. Ph. • Peabody, MA • 10/21/12

William C. Kallinikos • Oceanside, NY • 10/23/05

Dr. James G. Kallins • Downey, CA • 3/3/96

John Kalucis, M.D. • Middleburg Heights, OH • 10/20/13

Dean C. Kamaras • Allison Park, PA • 3/9/03

Nicholas A. Karacostas • Bayside, NY • 11/1/09

Demitri P. Karagias • Deal, NJ • 3/5/00

George L. Karagias • Allenhurst, NJ • 3/16/97

Chris Karamanos • Toms River, NJ • 10/16/11

Tom Karas • San Francisco, CA • 10/21/12

Ignatius P. Karatassos • Atlanta, GA • 3/19/89

Prof. Peter Karavites • Quincy, MA • 3/5/00

Peter Karmanos, Jr. • Orxhard Lake, MI • 5/6/15

Dr. Stamatis Kartalopoulos • Annandale, NJ • 2/28/99

John V. Kassimatis • Garden City, NY • 3/9/03

Nick H. Katapodis • Atlanta, GA • 11/1/09

Emanuel G. Katsoulis • Manhasset, NY • 10/31/10

Theodore G. Kays • Coral Gables, FL • 3/9/03

Dr. George Kleris • Atlanta, GA • 3/10/02

Sam N. Kleto • Charlotte, NC • 10/23/05

Theodore P. Klingos • New York, NY • 11/1/09

Theodore X. Koinis • PearlLand, TX • 10/21/12

George Kokkinakis • Ramsey, NJ • 3/8/87

George M. Kondos • Scarsdale, NY • 3/10/02

Nicholas D. Konides • N.Wildwood, NJ • 3/12/95

Theodore D. Konopisos • Newport Beach, CA • 10/18/15

George J. Kontogiannis • Columbus, OH • 10/10/04

George H. Kossaras • Carefree, AZ • 3/10/02

George J. Kostas • Houston, TX • 3/10/02

Dr. Harry N. Kotsis • Grosse Pointe Farms, MI • 10/22/06

Notis Kotsolios • Westfield, NJ • 10/10/04

George Koukounaris • Nahant, MA • 3/9/03

Mihail D. Koulakis • Porter Ranch, CA • 11/1/09

Dr. George Koulianos • Mobile, AL • 10/28/07

Louis E. Koumoutsos • Tinton Falls, NJ • 10/20/13

Christ G. Kraras • Wyomissing, PA • 3/12/95

Gust C. Kraras • Reading, PA • 3/4/90

Michael Kusturiss, Jr. • Eighty Four, PA • 10/21/12

Pavlos Kymissis, M.D. • Manhasset Hills, NY • 10/16/11

Thomas C. Kyrus • Virginia Beach, VA • 1/1/78

Georgios C. Kyvernitis • King of Prussia, PA • 3/10/02

Steven M. Laduzinsky • Chicago, IL • 11/1/09

Markos Lagos • Dunedin, FL • 10/19/14

Frank Lagouros • Peoria, IL • 10/20/13

Theodore Laliotis • Los Altos, CA • 10/21/12

Elias Lambiris • New York, NY • 10/18/15

Nicholas R. Larigakis • Alexandria, VA • 3/9/03

George K. Lavas • Rockville Centre, NY • 3/20/94

Nicholas L. Lekas • Hudson, OH • 10/20/13

Hon. Paul Lillios • Northbrook, IL • 2/18/01

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis • Rydal, PA • 3/8/87

Anthony C. Limberakis • Philidelphia, PA •

Dr. Cary J. Limberakis • Ambler, PA • 10/10/04

Demetreos Limberakis • Peabody, MA • 10/31/10

Dr. John Lingas • Portland, OR • 1/1/85

Spiros P. Livanis • Bordentown, NJ • 3/15/81

Demetrios Logothetis • Riverwoods, IL • 10/10/04

Arthur Loridas • Needham, MA • 10/22/06

Costas T. Los • Harrison, NY • 3/4/90

Dr. Nicholas G. Loutsion • Canonsburg, PA • 3/9/03

Steven Lukac • Hubbard, OH • 10/16/11

Spiro J. Macris • Wrightsville Beach, NC • 3/3/96

Eleftherios Maggos • Leo, IN • 10/21/12

Keith Maib • Leawood, KS • 10/19/14

George G. Makris • Alpine, NJ • 10/23/05

John D. Malatras • Charlotte, NC • 2/28/99

Chris C. Maletis • Portland, OR • 10/26/08

Louis G. Malevitis • Oak Brook, IL • 3/3/96

Andrew E. Manatos • Bethesda, MD • 2/24/91

Mike A. Manatos • Bethesda, MD • 10/22/06

Christopher D. Mandalieris • Greensboro, NC • 10/16/11

Theodore P. Maniatakos • Los Angeles, CA • 10/18/15

Nikitas Manias • Palm Harbor, FL • 10/18/15

Franklin Manios • Warren, OH • 3/18/05

John G. Manos • Bloomingdale, IL • 3/1/13

Mark F. Manta • Orlando Park, IL • 2/24/91

George M. Marcus • Palo Alto, CA • 2/24/91

William B. Marianes • Tucker, GA • 2/18/01

Nikiforos Mathews • Stamford, CT • 11/1/09

John C. Metaxas • Katonah, NY • 10/20/13

C. Dean Metropoulos • Greenwich, CT • 10/23/05

Louis J. Michaelos, MD • Largo, FL • 2/24/91

Emmanuel Mihailides • East Greenwich, RI • 10/23/05

Nick Mihalios • Malba, NY • 3/4/90

Frank Mihalopoulos • Dallas, TX • 10/31/10

George D. Mihaltses, Esq. • Bayside, NY • 11/1/09

Christos G. Miliotes • Maitland, FL • 3/16/97

George J. Miller • Charlotte, NC • 10/23/05

Michael H. Missios, Ph. D. • Huntsville, AL • 10/19/14

William Mitchell • Wildwood, NJ • 10/28/07

Theodores Moschokarfis • Beechhurst, NY • 3/12/95

Demitrios M. Moschos • Worcester, MA • 3/19/89

James H. Moshovitis • Washington, DC • 2/28/88

Harry Moskos • Knoxville, TN • 2/24/80

Basil Mossaidis • Washington, DC • 10/31/10

Andrew S. Natsios • College Station, TX • 10/23/05

James S. Nicholas • Grand Rapids, MI • 3/10/02

Anthony A. Nichols • Skokie, IL • 2/24/91

Louis Nicozisis • Manalapan, FL • 3/15/92

George J. Omiros • Uniontown, PA • 2/18/01

Gus M. Pablecas • South Barrington, IL • 10/22/06

Steve C. Padis • Danville, CA • 10/20/13

Anthony Palmieri • Newtown Square, PA • 10/21/12

Christos T. Panopoulos • East Grand Rapids, MI • 2/18/01

James Pantelidis • New York, NY • 10/21/12

George Pantelidis • New York, NY • 10/19/14

Hon. Nicholas P. Papadakos • McKeesport, PA • 2/28/99

Peter Clyde N. Papadakos, Esq. • McKeesport, PA • 10/22/06

Dr. Gregory Papadeas • Greenwood Village, CO • 11/1/09

Stavros Papadopulos • Potomac, MD • 10/15/95

Aristotle Papanikolaou, Ph.D. • Bradford, MA • 10/31/10

Christopher J. Pappas • Houston, TX • 10/26/08

Peter G. Pappas • Centerville, MD • 3/23/86

John Pappajohn • Des Moines, IA • 2/18/01

Stephen G. Pappas, MD • Somersworth, NH • 3/12/95

Nicholas L. Papson • Washington Township, NJ • 3/10/02

John G. Patronis • Atlanta, GA • 3/19/89

Prof. Lewis J. Patsavos • Cambridge, MA • 11/1/09
 Solon Patterson • Atlanta, GA • 3/9/03
 Dr. Michael J. Patzakis • San Marino, CA • 10/22/06
 John A. Payiavlas • Warren, OH • 2/24/91
 James & Theodore Pedas Family Foundation • Washington, DC • 10/31/10
 Harold A. Peponis • Chicago, IL • 3/7/93
 Gus G. Perdikakis • Maineville, OH • 3/7/82
 Paun Peters • Fort Worth, TX • 10/19/14
 Dr. Marinos A. Petratos • New York, NY • 3/8/87
 Paul J. Plumis • Seattle, WA • 10/16/11
 Dean Poll • Upper Brookville, NY • 10/22/06
 Demetrios Polos • Highland Park, NJ • 10/19/14
 Theodore J. Poplos • Memphis, TN • 10/19/14
 George Possas • E Northport, NY • 3/23/86
 Peter E. Preovolos • La Mesa, CA • 7/4/82
 Alexander Pritsos • Bayside, NY • 3/15/1992
 John M. Psaltos • Wilton, CT • 10/21/2012
 Michael G. Psaros • Purchase, NY • 10/19/14
 George C. Psetas • Port Richey, FL • 10/23/05
 George P. Psihogios • Lake Oswego, OR • 10/26/08
 Dino A. Ralis • Bayside, NY • 10/28/07
 Gerry Ranglas • Rancho Santa Fe • 3/10/02
 Harry Raptakis • Mineola, NY • 3/15/92
 Michael Ristvey, Jr. • Hermitage, PA • 3/15/92
 Dr. John C. Rouman • Durham, NH 03824 • 10/16/11
 Louis J. Roussalis, M.D. • Casper, WY • 3/15/92
 George E. Safiol • Weston, MA • 3/16/97
 Hon. Paul S. Sarbanes • Baltimore, MD • 3/7/82
 Anthony T. Saris • Mill Valley, CA • 3/10/02
 Prof. John C. Sarkioglou • Meadowbrook, PA • 3/7/93
 Nicholas C. Sarris • Tyngsboro, MA • 3/10/02
 William Scaljon • Atlanta, GA • 3/3/96
 Dr. Peter Scamagas • Fresno, CA • 10/28/07
 James S. Scofield • St. Petersburg, FL • 8/10/68
 John C. Scurtis • Miami, FL • 10/28/07
 John H. Secaras • Kenilworth, IL • 3/3/85
 Theodore Sepsis • Elmhurst, IL • 10/23/05
 Demetrios Seremetis • Canton, MA • 11/1/09
 Robert J. Serko • Endwell, NY • 3/5/00
 Harry G. Siafaris • Los Angeles, CA • 3/3/96
 Constantine Sideridis • Salem, MA • 10/18/15
 Louis S. Sinopoulos • Deerfield Beach, FL • 1/1/68
 Peter J. Skeadas • Greenwich, CT • 10/10/04
 Basil Skelos • Rockville Centre, NY • 10/26/08
 George Skoufis • Atlanta, GA • 3/5/00
 Harry W. Spell • Edina, MN • 10/16/11
 William Spell • Edina, MN • 10/18/15
 James D. Speros • Wellesley, MA • 3/10/02
 Arthur G. Spirou • Ft. Wayne, IN • 3/4/90
 Gregory J. Stamos • Woodbridge, CT • 10/16/11

Angelo A. Stamoulis • Holliston, MA • 3/23/86
 Demetrios Stathopoulos • Victor, NY • 10/19/14
 Panos Stavrianidis • Somerset, NJ • 2/18/01
 George Stefanidakis, Ph.D. • Houston, TX • 10/20/13
 Michael Stefanoudakis • Denver, CO • 10/18/15
 Athena Stephanopoulos • Lenexa, KS •
 Wesley A. Stinich • Westchester, IL • 10/22/06
 Christopher Stratakis • New York, NY • 3/8/98
 Nick M. Stratas • Mobile, AL • 3/20/94
 Thomas M. Suehs • Austin, TX • 10/16/11
 William G. Sutzko • Saint Clair, PA • 10/10/04
 John Tangelos • Shelby Township, MI • 10/31/10
 James G. Tasios • Winston-Salem, NC • 10/31/10
 Tim Tassopoulos • Atlanta, GA • 10/28/07
 Nicholas E. Terezis • Pittsburgh, PA • 10/18/15
 Dr. Gregory A. Thomas • Highland, IN • 3/12/95
 James G. Thomas • Highland, IN • 3/3/96
 James Thomas • Highland, IN • 3/12/95
 Anthony Thomopoulos • Westlake Village, CA • 10/31/10
 Manuel N. Tissura, D.D.S. • Roswell, GA • 3/19/89
 Costas N. Trataros • Boca Raton, FL • 3/20/94
 Nicholas Tsakalos • Phoenix, MD • 10/28/07
 Kyriakos Tsakopoulos • Sacramento, CA • 10/22/06
 George Tsandikos • New York, NY • 3/20/94
 Savas C. Tsivicos • Wayside, NJ • 3/16/97
 Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas • Rego Park, NY • 3/8/87
 George A. Tsougarakis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/11
 Manuel Tzagournis, M.D. • Columbus, OH • 3/9/03
 Haralambos Tzanetatos • Coconut Grove, FL • 1987
 George A. Tzikas • Sacramento, CA • 3/5/00
 Dr. Sotirios J. Vahaviolos • Princeton, NJ • 10/10/04
 Argyris Vassiliou • Stamford, CT • 10/16/11
 Emmanuel E. Velivasakis • Scarsdale, NY • 3/10/02
 Kostas Vellios • Brooklyn, NY • 1/1/69
 Stefanos Vertopoulos • Vancouver, WA • 10/28/07
 George M. Ververides • Princeton, NJ • 3/15/81
 Peter A. Vlachos • New York, NY • 2/18/01
 Theodore D. Vlahos • La Grange Park, IL • 11/1/09
 Dr. Theodore Vlahos • Safety Harbor, FL • 10/22/06
 Thomas Vlahos • Bronx, NY • 2/18/01
 Dr. Elmer Vogelpohl, Jr. • Galveston, TX • 3/3/85
 John P. Volandes • Brooklyn, NY • 3/12/95
 Bill J. Vranas • Skokie, IL • 3/20/94
 Gus Vratsinas • Little Rock, AR • 3/10/02
 Constantine N. Vrettos • Charlotte, NC • 10/23/05

Gary M. Vrionis • Danville, CA • 10/23/05
 Nicholas Yakubik • Cary, NC • 10/28/07
 Stephen J. Yallourakis, M.D., D.D.S. • Kingsport, TN • 10/23/05
 Phillip Yamalis • Pittsburgh, PA • 10/21/12
 G. Thomas Yearout • Birmingham, AL • 3/8/98
 Nickas J. Yiannias • Dubuque, IA • 10/23/82
 James B. Zafiros • White Plains, NY • 10/31/10
 George P. Zaharas • Cheyenne, WY • 10/16/11
 Theodore K. Zampetis • Bloomfield Hills, MI • 10/28/07
 Leonard Zangas • Manhasset, NY • 10/31/10
 John Zavitsanos • Houston, TX • 10/10/04
 George P. Zimmar, Ph.D. • Briarcliff Manor, NY • 10/23/05
 Demetrius C. Zonars • Dayton, OH • 3/9/03
 The Nicholas J. & Anna K. Bouras Foundation, Inc. • Summit, NJ •
 John C. Kulis Charitable Foundation • Chicago, IL •

“
 EVERY DAY IS LITERALLY
 ANOTHER FIGHT
 FOR SURVIVAL OF OUR
 MOTHER CHURCH.
 ”

ARCHON JOHN ZAVITSANOS
 EXARCH'S APPEAL CHAIRMAN

It costs over
 \$1 Million a year
 to operate our religious
 freedom mission.

It costs \$3,000 a day to operate
 the Order of Saint Andrew.

YOUR ACTIONS
 MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

archons.org/donate

ARCHON REGIONAL NEWS



Archon Andrew E. Manatos receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The Alpha-Omega Council of Boston honored Archon Andrew E. Manatos with the Lifetime Achievement Award at its 33rd Annual Banquet which was held on June 4. ■



Metropolis of Chicago Archons hold first ever Archon Retreat, Kansasville, WI

The Archons of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago held their first ever Archon Retreat on May 7, 2016 at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville, Wisconsin. Father David Bissias of Hammond, Indiana delivered the Keynote Address entitled "Primus Inter Pares: The Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Conciliar Tradition of the Church" and centered around the upcoming Holy and Great Council. ■



Jay Alan Sekulow speaks on Christian Genocide at Religious Freedom Conference, Naples, FL

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, the Archons of South Florida hosted a religious freedom symposium, entitled, "Christian Rights and Freedom" on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Naples, FL. Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD, past recipient of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award and Chief Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), delivered a presentation on Christian Genocide. ■



Archons meet with Speaker Ryan on Religious Freedom Issues

Archon Leadership met with Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Paul Ryan to address important religious freedom issues surrounding the Ecumenical Patriarchate. ■



Presentation on Refugee Crisis and Resettlement Process, New Haven, CT

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, the Order of Saint Andrew co-sponsored a presentation on the refugee crisis and the resettlement process. The Jan 13th presentation, entitled, "America's Noblest Tradition ... Welcoming Refugees to our Shores - How the Refugee Settlement Program Works in Connecticut" was delivered by Mr. Chris George, Executive Director of Immigrant Refugee Integrated Services (IRIS), a not-for-profit refugee resettlement agency based in New Haven, Connecticut. ■



Archon Symposium held on The Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, Elkins Park, PA

The Church of the Annunciation in Elkins Park, PA was the setting for the Philadelphia region's fifth Archon Symposium/Lenten Retreat on Saturday, April 2nd which focused on the upcoming historic Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, which has not occurred in 1200 years. With the blessings of His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, the topic of the upcoming Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church was addressed by Fordham University Professor of Theology, and the Order of Saint Andrew's Historian Archon George E. Demacopoulos, Ph.D. ■

DEPARTED ARCHONS

Paul J. Apostolos
Notarios, Englewood Cliffs, NJ
Departed on March 31, 2016

Milton J. Davis
Depoutatos, Summerfield, FL
Departed on May 14, 2016

George P. Gabriel
Depoutatos, Orefield, PA
Departed on April 13, 2016

Michael Jaharis
Exarchos, New York, NY
Departed on February 17, 2016

Elias J. Livaditis
Hartophylax, Atlanta, GA
Departed on April 14, 2016

Roland G. Matthews
Hartophylax, Niguel, CA
Departed on January 3, 2016

George S. Regas
Skevophylax, Boca Raton, FL
Departed on May 20, 2016

Steven G. Yatrousis
Exarchos, Wethersfield, CT
Departed on January 10, 2016

James E. Zambounis
Notarios, Bluffton, SC
Departed on January 15, 2016

MEMORY ETERNAL!

List complete as of May 17, 2016

In Memoriam: Archon Michael E. Jaharis

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America mourns the passing in the Lord of Mr. Michael E. Jaharis, 87, Archon Exarchos of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Vice-President of the Archdiocesan Council of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, businessman, philanthropist and great benefactor and faithful steward of the Church.

Mr. Jaharis passed away peacefully today, February 17, in his home in New York City with his family by his side.

Upon learning of his passing to the Lord, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios stated: "Archon Michael Jaharis was an extraordinary human being endowed by God with inexhaustible energy, amazing creativity and impressive care and love for the people, especially those in sickness, distress and suffering. He was

a person fully dedicated to the Church and its sacred work, an ardent American patriot and a passionate promoter of Hellenism and its universal values. Certainly he set a brilliant example of a genuine Greek Orthodox Christian stewardship to be followed by as many as possible. May his memory be eternal."

Archon Jaharis has been intimately involved with the Greek Orthodox Church for many years. He has served faithfully as the Vice-President of the Archdiocesan Council since 2002. He led the effort to see New York City's St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, the sole church destroyed in the 9/11 attacks at Ground Zero, rebuilt near its original site. "When finished," Archon Jaharis told the Archdiocesan Council in 2012, the new structure will



provide "a shining spotlight on the Greek Orthodox faith and our core values of love, respect, peace, healing, and forgiveness."

He is survived by his wife Mary Jaharis, his son Dr. Steven Jaharis (Elaine) and his daughter Kathryn Jaharis and five grandchildren. ■

Our Hagia Sophia — The Archetype of Our Faith

by Father Alexander Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor

As we enter into the Summer and the work at our National Shrine continues, I think it is important to pause for a moment and consider the true import of our cause. We are building the equivalent of our own Hagia Sophia for the New World.

The level of commitment and faith that this takes says a great deal about who we are and what we believe to the world at-large. Perhaps the costliest church construction project to date in our Archdiocese, but surely the most important as well. Compare what we are doing to what the Turkish government recently did in Lanham, Maryland.

On April 3, 2016 – one day before the 30th annual White House celebration of the March 25th Greek Independence Day (which celebrates the rebirth of Greece after 400 years of Ottoman occupation), the "Diyanet (religious) Center of America" was opened



by the President of Turkey less than fifteen miles away from the Oval Office. To the right is a picture from the eleven-acre site, the largest in the Western Hemisphere, which cost over 100 million dollars. The central building is of course, a mosque (of more than 20,000 square feet), fashioned to resemble a 16th Century prototype, which, like all Turkish mosques – large and small – are ersatz imitations of Hagia Sofia.



In addition to the mosque, the campus features a cultural center, Ottoman style guest homes, and an underground sports complex. As an eyewitness recently remarked, "If I wandered into this average suburban neighborhood, I would think I had time traveled to Ottoman Constantinople."



« continued from page 23

What we are seeing with this “Religious Center” is more than the wholesale appropriation of our own Orthodox Christian tradition, a wholesale counterfeiting of our architectural tradition which commenced when the Ottomans conquered Asia Minor. What we are witnessing is the export of that appropriation to our country by taking advantage of the freedom of religion and conscience that are enshrined in the America Constitution’s Bill of Rights. The obvious irony is that Turkey regularly suppresses the rights of anyone but the state-approved version of Islam. This naked hypocrisy of the Turkish government should cause any person of real conviction a sense of outrage.

But as Greek Orthodox Christians, who as an Archdiocese publicly have consistently defended the rights of Muslims and all peoples of faith, even as forces in our own government agencies tried to block the rebuilding of St. Nicholas, we press on, inspired by the true and deepest meaning of our traditions. Our creed is love, our faith is Orthodox, and our tradition is not a hollow shell but the full expression of human and Divine in the Θεάνθρωπος – the God-Man, Jesus Christ. ■



Above, the formworks for the stairs for St. Nicholas begin to emerge.

A Thought about the Shrine

ὥς εἰς τὸ ἀναχῆς ὁ οἶκος ἀνέωγε, κύτους
 μὲν εὐρύτητα ἔχων ὥς πολλὰς ἀν
 σωμάτων μυριάδας ἐγκυμονεῖν.

**“The building opens up to immensity;
 the breadth of its hollows is such that it could be
 pregnant with many thousands of bodies.”**

Indeed, this powerful image conveys the image of the Church as a Mother whose womb – the Baptismal Font – give birth to us as Christians through the Mysteries. It calls to mind the idea that the Church, though inanimate in material, is alive; a ναὸς ἐμψυχος, a living temple. The Church is the liminal space where we encounter Divinity, where we all become “capax Dei,” “having the capacity to be like God.”

Writing in the 6th Century in his poem entitled, The Magnificence of Hagia Sophia, Paul the Silentiary (a court official sworn to secrecy), praises the dome of the Great Church of Christ in this way:

Above all rises into the immeasurable air the great helmet [of the dome], which, bending over, like the radiant heavens, embraces the church. And at the highest part, at the crown, was depicted the cross, the protector of the city. And wondrous it is to see how the dome gradually rises wide below, and growing less as it reaches higher. it does not however spring upwards to a sharp point, but is like the firmament which rests on air, though the dome is fixed on the strong backs of the arches.... Thus through the spaces of the great church come rays of light, expelling clouds of care, and filling the mind with joy.