



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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

“The wave of violence that affects many regions of the world has resulted in the annihilation of peoples and the persecution of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East. We especially pray for those Christians who have been martyred and address our appeal to all concerned for the cessation of hostility and criminal activity.

Our most holy Church prays for the peace of the whole world and considers the respect of human dignity and freedom as the foundational and indelible right of every person. There is no “sacred” war. Only peace is sacred, and it is the supreme obligation of all.”

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

INTRODUCTORY
LETTERS

2

PATRIARCHAL
NEWS

11

ARCHON
NEWS

25

Despite world-wide recognition of the status of His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and despite his being a Turkish citizen and having honorably served his country in the Turkish military, the government of Turkey will not officially recognize his status as the “Ecumenical” world-wide spiritual leader of all Orthodox Christians. It will give no legal status to his Ecumenical Patriarchate. It will not allow the complete freedom for the election of his successor as Ecumenical Patriarch. It will not allow the training of his clergy and the opening of the Halki Theological Seminary. It will not allow the return of all Greek Orthodox confiscated properties he needs to oversee without restrictions. His religious freedom remains compromised although the history of his country is tied to the historical doctrines and origins of Christianity.



To the honorable members of the Order of St. Andrew, esteemed Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate serving in America, our beloved in the Lord: May God's grace and peace be with you.

It is with sentiments of great paternal love and joy that we address all of you, dear sons of the Ecumenical Throne, on the occasion of your Annual Meeting and the official presentation of the Annual Report of the Order of St. Andrew for 2017.

As each of you well know, by being granted an honorary title of official rank by the Mother Church of Constantinople, each archon is called to both know and exemplify what it means to live in a manner that is pleasing to God. Every year, each of you strives to achieve this personally as well as collectively, together with your fellow archons. At this very time, though, having now entered into the new ecclesiastical year, we must not only ask you, but also encourage you in the Lord Jesus to continue to do this even more so than ever before.

Most likely, beloved Archons, many of you probably find yourselves already busy at the start of this year. Around the globe, it seems that everyone's schedules are easily being filled with endless lists of activities and responsibilities, interests and commitments. However, with our world facing so much distress and unrest at the same time, many of you can easily discern that what is indispensable right now is not so much the advancement of science and technology, or engineering and mathematics, even though they are significant as well. In truth, what our world needs today above all else is the advancement of spiritual work. And while the commandments and the basic tenets of our faith are absolutely essential and fundamental elements of Christian theology, they are not ends in themselves—not even means to an end either. They are merely a beginning.

Thus, as a life pleasing to God is by far the most defining characteristic of what it means to be a true Christian, we would like to beseech each and every one of you—having the distinct opportunity of communicating with you at the beginning of the new year—to continue to strive for holiness. Our world is desperately in need of Christian goodwill and kindness more than anything else, so in addition to all of the work that is to be done in the coming year, we must all simultaneously tend to the necessary spiritual work as well—that is, to the true spiritual needs and desires of our own hearts.

In order to navigate, then, through the harsh waters of today, the lamps of our hearts will need spiritual oil to shine brightly in the darkness, and the oars of our hearts will need to be spiritually propelled in order to move forward and make real progress. And together with our Patriarchal blessings and prayers, which we convey to all of you and your families, we beseech our loving Master to grant you strength and health, and to bless all of you with every good and perfect gift from above.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the twentieth of October, 2017

Your fervent supplicant before God,

✠ BARTHOLOMEW

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

October 20, 2017

*Based on the gift each one has received,
use it to serve others, as good managers of
the varied grace of God
(1Peter 4:10).*

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


I greet you in the love and peace of our Lord as you gather for the annual weekend of Archon meetings and activities.

Your service to the Church has distinguished you and earned you the noble title, Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. With this honor comes the responsibility and privilege of being in the service of the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople, the Sacred See of the First Called Apostle Andrew.

I extend to the Archons Elect who will be invested in the Class of 2017 my wholehearted welcome to New York and offer my heartfelt best wishes as you embark on this new path of Christian servanthood. You join a committed cadre of leaders who promote religious freedom and the well being and advancement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with the fervor that is characteristic of abiding love for the Church and esteem and respect for His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

I congratulate Archon John Catsimatidis for receiving the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. I wish him Godspeed as he continues to offer his bountiful God given talents and resources for the good of the Church. I am also thankful to God for each of you and pray for your continued strength and resolve as you work ceaselessly in support of the ministry of our Ecumenical Patriarchate.

With paternal love in Christ,


+ DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America



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

October 20, 2017

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew,
His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron 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 Presbyteres and
Brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America,

From the onset, let us all offer our profound gratitude for the extraordinary ministry of His All-Holiness BARTHOLOMEW, the 269th direct successor of Saint Andrew the First Called Apostle. The dynamic ministry of Martyria (witness) and Diakonia (service) of His All-Holiness is intrepid, sacrificial and inspiring. Our worldwide spiritual father continues to serve with unparalleled achievement, despite situated in a country noted for its profound religious freedom deficit and the number of journalists it has imprisoned (the most in the world). Εἰς πολλά ἔτη Δέσποτα.

It is with great joy that we offer heartfelt congratulations to our beloved Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America who observes the 50th Anniversary of his ordination into the episcopacy. Since 1999 he has served as Archbishop of America and Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with distinction and great piety introducing a broad range of ministries serving his flock in America. The Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine stands as an example par excellence of His Eminence's leadership in America. Εἰς πολλά ἔτη Δέσποτα.

The continued rebuilding of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine enabling its resurrection marks another milestone event for 2017. The fulfilled \$1 million commitment the Order made towards the rebuilding of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine marked a significant demonstration of collective Archon Stewardship supporting the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness. In this spirit, we Archons have taken the "ecumenical" in the Ecumenical Patriarchate and made it resound throughout our community, for Saint Nicholas will belong to the Nation and to the world, as a living embodiment of the highest values of the Great Church, and Her martyric, peace-loving presence in the oikoumene. Indeed, we look forward to the Thyranoxia scheduled in late 2018! We salute our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alexander Karloutsos for his dynamism and leadership in raising the funds necessary to build this living monument erected for the Glory of God.

The ensuing pages of our 2017 Annual Report review the 5 Issues of Concern that constitute the profound religious freedom deficit in Turkey, the major activities and initiatives of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW and a pictorial summary of the local and national activities of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America.

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 assisted by the Manatos Team and Archon John A. Catsimatidis who 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:

- Washington, DC Initiative, coordinated by Regional Commander Archon Andrew E. Manatos and Archon Mike Manatos
 - White House
 - State Department
 - Congress, including meetings with Speaker Paul Ryan and Congressional Foreign Policy leaders
 - 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 V. 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
- Patriarchal Properties and Minority Concerns Initiative, coordinated by Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis
- Social Media Initiative, coordinated by Archon John C. Metaxas, Esq. and initially generously funded by Archon Michael G. Psaros and expanded by Archon Theo Nicolakis, Archon James Gabriel, Fr. Constantine Lazarakis, Elizabeth L. Limberakis, MBA, social media coordinator Stavros Antoniou and John Mindala
- European Union Initiative
- Regional Religious Freedom Presentations throughout the United States
- Third Archon International Religious Freedom Conference, scheduled for December 4, 5 and 6, 2017 in Washington, DC, coordinated by Archon Andrew E. Manatos, Archon Mike Manatos, Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Archon John Zavitsanos, Archon George D. Gigicos, Archon Alexander Pritsos and Archon Andrew Veniopoulos.

This Annual Report also reviews the spiritual, educational and philanthropic activities of the Order during Archon Weekend, as well, including the Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet. The 2016 Athenagoras Human Rights Award was presented to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo who made possible the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, the only religious edifice that was destroyed at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001. Of the 56 governors since the founding of New York, Governor Cuomo stood out as an extraordinary advocate of religious liberty and human rights. It was nearly six years ago to the day on October 14, 2011 that Governor Cuomo in the presence of Archbishop Demetrios of America, the Holy Eparchial Synod and lay leaders of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese announced the Agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey regarding the rebuilding and resurrection of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center and Ground Zero.

During Archon Weekend 2016 twenty worthy churchmen were invested by the Exarch as Archons of the Great Church of Christ, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to each of them we again proclaim Ἀξιός!

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 seven years ago with the establishment of the Award. This year the 2017 Bouras Award will be presented to Archon John A. Catsimatidis, Chairman of the Order's Religious Freedom Committee, a most worthy honoree. 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.

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 human 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 whom we call upon for his sage advice; our hardworking functionaries, Historian Prof. George Demacopoulos, PhD, Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, Sergeant-At-Arms Alexander Pritsos and Assistant Treasurer Andreas

D. Comodromos, CPA; Members of the National Council and the Regional Commanders, including our Religious Freedom Chairman Archon John A. Catsimatidis, Archon Michael G. Psaros Athenagoras Human Rights Award Chairman and Banquet Underwriter along with Archon William P. Doucas and the Bouras Foundation; Archon John Zavitsanos who reorganized the Annual Exarch's Appeal and who now chairs the new Archon Boot Camp Committee, Archon John C. Metaxas coordinator of our Social Media Initiative and the hundreds of Archons throughout America who offer their *Time, Talent and Treasure* in service to the Great Church of Christ.

At this time it is fitting to pay tribute to three Archons who not only serve the Ecumenical Patriarchate with distinction, but have selflessly served our beloved nation, as well: Archon Reince Hercules Priebus, former White House Chief of Staff, Archon George D. Gigicos, former Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of White House Advance and Archon Michael A. Karloutsos, Acting Chief of Protocol, State Department! We all share in heartfelt brotherly pride in the ecclesiastical and patriotic achievements of these exemplary Archons!

The Archons of America, under the leadership of the Exarch Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America again pledge to all that we will relentlessly pursue the institutional human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate so that one day, the bells of religious freedom will be heard around the world emanating from the Patriarchal Cathedral of Saint George and may that sacred day soon come!

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" clearly visible at the end.

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Aktouarios
National Commander

5 ISSUES *of*



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.

CONCERN



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 administrativ

The Church of Constantinople was founded by St. Andrew, the first Apostle. The feast day of its patron is November 30. The first Bishop of Byzantium was Stachys (38-54), Andrew's disciple.

Following its establishment as capital of the Roman Empire in 330, the status of "Constantinople-New Rome" was elevated to its current position. The 2nd Ecumenical Council (381) conferred on its Bishop second rank after the Bishop of Rome; the 4th Ecumenical Council (451) granted Constantinople equal ranking to Rome, expanding its jurisdiction.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate is referred to as the "Great Church of Christ," being the reference point for liturgical and administrative matters. It is also called the "Phanar" (or "lighthouse"), referring to the old Greek Orthodox neighborhood in Istanbul. Moreover, it is known as "the Great Monastery," functioning as a monastic brotherhood under the spiritual direction of the Ecumenical Patriarch.



PATRIARCHAL NEWS



BARTHO

A portrait of Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, an elderly man with a long white beard and glasses, wearing a black clerical hat and robe. His hands are clasped in front of him.

“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2Co 12:10)

PATRIARCHAL NEWS

BY EVAGELOS SOTIROPOULOS

On June 11th the Orthodox Church commemorates the Holy Apostle Bartholomew. One of the Twelve Great Apostles, he preached Christ and the good news of salvation throughout Asia, including India, and finally in Armenia. It was there, in Albanopolis of Armenia -- the first country to officially declare Christianity the state religion -- where Bartholomew was crucified, and where many miracles occurred over the sacred coffin containing his grace-filled relics.

June 11th is also the Name Day of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is named after the Glorious Apostle. Born on February 29, 1940, he grew up on the island of Imvros, in a small village named after Sts. Theodore, the Teron and Stratelates. Recommended by his local bishop and mentor, Meliton of Chalcedon (+1989), Demetrios, for that is Bartholomew’s baptismal name, completed high school and seminary studies at Halki.

It was there at the Theological School of Halki, in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, where in October 1969 the revered Metropolitan Meliton ordained Deacon Bartholomew to the holy priesthood. Before this, however, he would complete his mandatory

THE PATRIARCH

LOMMEW

two-year military service, and supplement his academic studies in Europe, including in Italy, Germany, and Switzerland. He eventually completed his doctoral thesis (The Codification of the Holy Canons and the Canonical Constitutions in the Orthodox Church) and returned to Constantinople in 1968 fluent in seven languages.

Since then, for a half-century, His All-Holiness has been at the centre of both the inner workings and initiatives, as well as the external activities, of the Ecumenical Patriarchate -- the first See of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. Whether it was learning from the erudite Ecumenical Patriarch, Athenagoras, or serving for almost two decades as the director of the Private Patriarchal Office for his immediate predecessor, Demetrios, Bartholomew exudes the unparalleled history and spirit emanating from the lighthouse that is the Phanar.

Elected 270th Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch on October 22, 1991, His All-Holiness was enthroned in the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George the Great Martyr eleven days later, on November 2nd. His longevity on the Ecumenical Throne alone is legendary -- and historical. According to the first-ever definitive biography of His All-Holiness published last year, Bartholomew: Apostle and Visionary, he is one of only four patriarchs to serve more than 25-years, joining Titus from the third century, Sergius (seventh), and Nicholas (twelfth).

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has not just survived since being enthroned, he has thrived. His well-known work ethic, strategic communication skills, and his ability to bridge differences and build consensus among disparate groups, has enabled his personal success as patriarch and, more importantly, a robust renewal of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

His accomplishments and accolades are too many to mention. He has received numerous state awards and honorary degrees from prestigious universities around the world. He has opened the door of Orthodoxy to many other Christian confessions and communities. He has engaged other faith communities with honesty and integrity; this includes organizing and participating in many interfaith conferences, including one shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks where he addressed a Conference on Peaceful Coexistence (Brussels, 2001) between Judaism, Christianity, and the Islamic world. He has been an unrelenting advocate for the environment, for God's creation, well before it became popular or trendy to do so.

He has strengthened the Patriarchate, internationally, but in and around Constantinople as well. He has established many new metropolitan dioceses, from Toronto to Korea, Singapore to Spain. From securing the return of the former Greek Orphanage on Buyukada Island to reviving the monastic life on Halki under the

spiritual guidance of Metropolitan Elpidophoros (the seminary regrettably remains closed, for now). Through his leadership, the Holy and Sacred Synod is electing and ordaining a new generation of learned hierarchs.

Within Orthodoxy, Bartholomew has made unity among the 14 autocephalous churches a cornerstone of his ministry, developing regular Synaxis of Primates -- His All-Holiness has convened and chaired six Synaxis of Primates since being enthroned as Ecumenical Patriarch. Most of all, it was the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church convened on the historic island of Crete where the Church manifested its unity on a world scale. Without His All-Holiness the Holy and Great Council would have remained an academic idea and an unreachable dream.

The power of an apostle, as described by St. Paul in his Second Letter to the Corinthians (cf. 4:7-15), and exemplified by St. Bartholomew and all of Christ's disciples, is to be hard-pressed yet not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has followed in the footsteps of his patron saint, the Holy Apostle Bartholomew, preaching Christ crucified. His steadfast faith, unwavering loyalty to Holy Orthodoxy, self-sacrifice and service to others, in addition to his love for man and creation, is to be admired and imitated.

Eis Polla Eti Despota!

OF OUR CENTURY

CONCORDIA SUMMIT



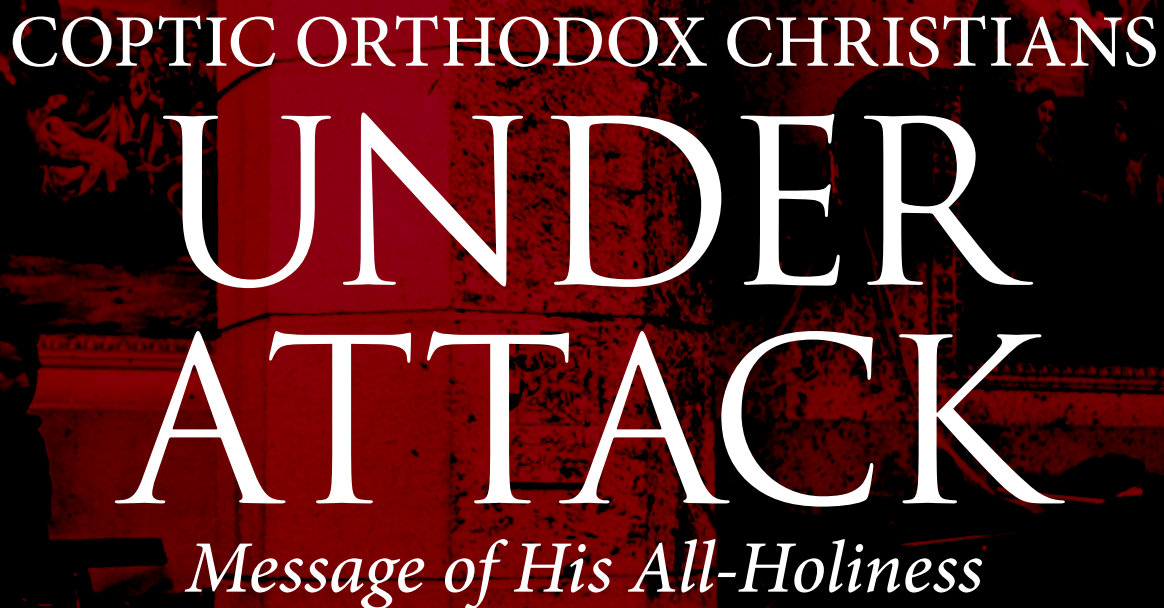
ATHENS

On June 7, 2017, His All-Holiness addressed the Concordia Europe Summit, in Athens, Greece. Concordia is a non-profit organization founded by Mr. Nick Logothetis and Mr. Matthew Swift that cultivates public-private partnerships in order to address issues challenging societies around the world. The Patriarch's remarks introduced a session focused on the refugee and migration crisis.



His All-Holiness with H.E. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of the Hellenic Republic.





COPTIC ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS UNDER ATTACK

Message of His All-Holiness

PATRIARCHAL
NEWS

EGYPT

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew traveled to Cairo and offered a message of support to Patriarch Tawadros II, of the Coptic Church in Egypt, after two horrific terrorist attacks that occurred on Palm Sunday at Churches in Tanta and Alexandria

Your Holiness Tawadros II, Pope and Patriarch of the Coptic Church in Egypt, our beloved brother in Christ: grace and peace from on high.

It was with a heavy heart that we learned of the terrorist attacks targeting your churches and faithful flock who, like us, gathered to pray and honor this most holy day of the ecclesiastical year marking the Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We witnessed in the media with great grief the destruction and mourning that these barbaric attacks have brought to your community, as well as to all of Christendom, and we hasten to convey our wholehearted condolences and the prayers of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. As a martyric Church, we also stand in solidarity with you and your people, who have prevailed courageously and faithfully for centuries over persecution and oppression.

The challenges posed to our present day and age by fundamentalism are great -- the pain of those mourning equally so. Yet, we understand that our responsibility to the contemporary world is to remain resilient in times of terror and faithful in times of doubt and unnerving circumstances. We worship the One who responded to the godless and unrepentant spirit of humanity, by descending from His heavenly abode to embrace us. He, for "us and our salvation", became man in order that "men might be like God". It was through His humility, forbearance, simplicity, and unceasing and inexhaustible love that He not only conquered sin, but also won for us the ability to be victorious with Him over sin and death.

Our victory through Christ Jesus was promised to us, most especially when persecuted for righteousness and because of His name. At this very moment, we remember His words: "Blessed are you when people insult you,



persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven..." (Matthew 5:11-12). May the promise of the Kingdom and the gift of grace be bestowed upon the victims of this tragedy and their

families, and may our Lord grant peace and refreshment to all those suffering. May their memories be eternal and may He who accepted to ride upon a colt "as though riding upon the cherubim" grant us all unending faith, courage, and patience to endure and transform

this "sinful and perverse generation".

Conveying to Your Holiness and the entire Coptic Church our sympathies once again, we embrace you with a "holy kiss" and remain with much love and fraternal honor.



His All-Holiness in Cairo

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Pope Francis and Pope Tawadros II, spiritual leader of Egypt's Orthodox Christians, celebrate a prayer service at the church hit in the December suicide bombing, on April 28, 2017 at St. Mark's Cathedral in Cairo.

A day earlier, His All-Holiness met with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, and attended an Interreligious Conference at Al-Azhar University, where he delivered an address in English on the topic "Religions and Peace".

Palm Sunday Massacre

A suicide bombing at St. George Church in Tanta, Egypt, April 9 left this young boy dead during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday.



GERMANY

On May 29, 2017, His All-Holiness travelled to Stuttgart, Germany, to visit the Evangelical Church in Germany, which is celebrating the 500-year anniversary since the Reformation. The Patriarch was invited by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm to attend the celebrations.

During his visit, the Patriarch met with the Minister President of the state of Baden-Württemberg, His Excellency Winfried Kretschmann, received an honorary



President of Germany

His All-Holiness with His Excellency Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

doctorate from the historic University of Tübingen, and traveled to Berlin where he was invited by the Konrad Adenauer foundation to deliver a lecture entitled “Or-

thodoxy and Human Rights”. The Patriarch also met with the new President of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Frank-Walter Steinmeier.



Minister President of the state of Baden-Württemberg

His All-Holiness with His Excellency Winfried Kretschmann



Honorary Doctorate

Rt. Rev. Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm and Prof. Michael Tilly, Dean of the Protestant Faculty, awarded His All-Holiness an honorary doctorate of the Tübingen Eberhard Karls University.

ITALY



Lecce and Bari

On Thursday evening, December 1, 2016, His All-Holiness departed by plane for Brindisi, Italy, and then by car to Lecce for an official visit to the Grecia Salentina region in order to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Salento and attend the celebrations for the feast day of Saint Nicholas in Bari.



HUNGARY

President of Hungary

Hungarian President Janos Ader at the Presidential Alexander Palace in Budapest, Hungary, Sunday, Aug. 20, 2017.

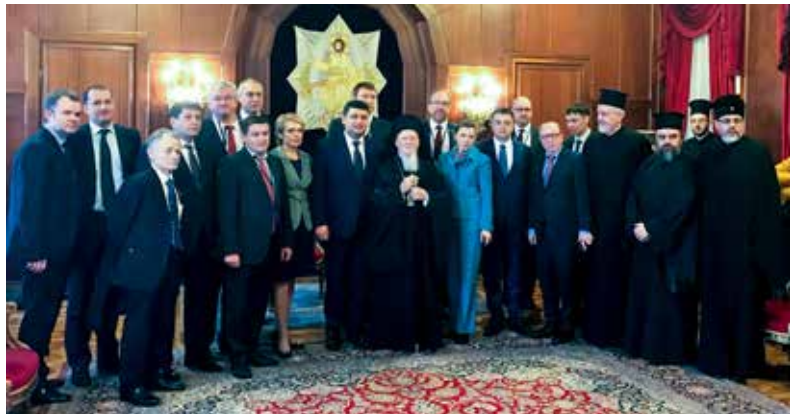


Sins Before Our Eyes

From February 6-7, 2017, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew hosted a Forum on Modern Slavery, co-sponsored by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church of England. The aim of this gathering was to bring together distinguished scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from around the world to discuss modern slavery and emphasize the protection of human dignity and freedom as of vital importance for the Church as well as worldwide religious and human-rights communities.

Prime Minister of Ukraine at Phanar

On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, His All-Holiness received the Prime Minister of Ukraine, His Excellency Volodymyr Groysman, at the Phanar, as a part of the Prime Minister's official visit to Turkey.



President of the Hellenic Republic

On Monday, May 22, 2017, His Excellency Prokopis Pavlopoulos, President of the Hellenic Republic, made an official visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, accompanied by His Excellency Terence Quick, Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Loukakis, Ambassador to Turkey, and Evangelos Sekeris, Consul General in Istanbul. The President was in Turkey for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Summit.



Ecumenical Patriarch endorses CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has officially endorsed a commentary on climate change that appeared in *Nature* (June Issue)—the international weekly journal of science.

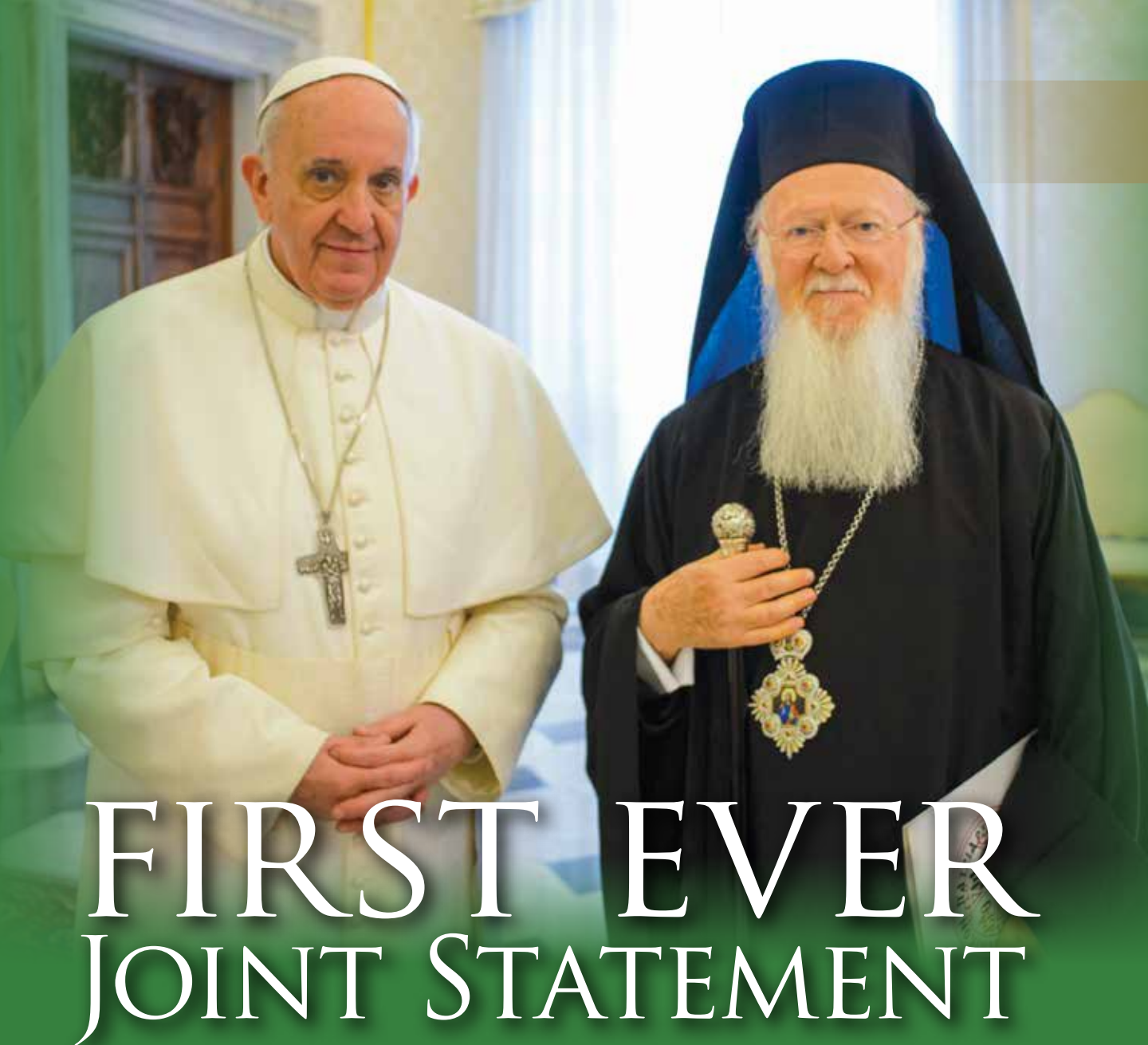
On behalf of His All-Holiness, Archdeacon John Chrysavgis collaborated with Christiana Figueres -- former director of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, principal architect of the Paris Agreement, and current convenor of Mission 2020 -- on a six-point plan entitled "Three Years to Safeguard our Climate." The sixty-two signatories include distinguished scientists, business leaders, prominent economists,

religious leaders, representatives of non-government organizations and former heads of State, making the article one of the most significant pieces on climate change to date.

For over twenty-five years -- even before the United Nations realized the severity of environmental degradation -- the Green Patriarch has emphasized the need for a collaborative and concerted response to caring for God's creation. More recently, he was instrumental in the process leading up to the Paris Agreement, participating in several events in Paris and Manila, where he accompanied President Hollande of France.

"The way we respond to the natural environment is directly reflects the way we treat human beings. The willingness to exploit the environment is revealed in the willingness to permit avoidable human suffering. So the survival of the natural environment is also the survival of ourselves.

When we will understand that a crime against nature is a crime against ourselves and sin against God?"



FIRST EVER JOINT STATEMENT

On World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Holiness Pope Francis have issued a joint statement on the "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation". This is the first time ever that the two leaders of the Catholic and Orthodox communities have jointly issued a statement exclusively on the environment; previously each had issued their own individual statement.



PATRIARCHAL NEWS



The story of creation presents us with a panoramic view of the world. Scripture reveals that, "in the beginning", God intended humanity to cooperate in the preservation and protection of the natural environment. At first, as we read in Genesis, "no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up -- for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground" (2:5). The earth was entrusted to us as a sublime gift and legacy, for which all of us share responsibility until, "in the end", all things in heaven and on earth will be restored in Christ (cf. Eph. 1:10). Our human dignity and welfare are deeply connected to our care for the whole of creation.

However, "in the meantime", the history of the world presents a very different context. It reveals a morally decaying scenario where our attitude and behavior towards creation obscures our calling as God's co-operators. Our propensity to interrupt the world's delicate and balanced ecosystems, our insatiable desire to manipulate and control the planet's limited resources, and our greed for limitless profit in

markets -- all these have alienated us from the original purpose of creation. We no longer respect nature as a shared gift; instead, we regard it as a private possession. We no longer associate with nature in order to sustain it; instead, we lord over it to support our own constructs.

The consequences of this alternative worldview are tragic and lasting. The human environment and the natural environment are deteriorating together, and this deterioration of the planet weighs upon the most vulnerable of its people. The impact of climate change affects, first and foremost, those who live in poverty in every corner of the globe. Our obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly implies the recognition of and respect for all people and all living creatures. The urgent call and challenge to care for creation are an invitation for all of humanity to work toward sustainable and integral development.

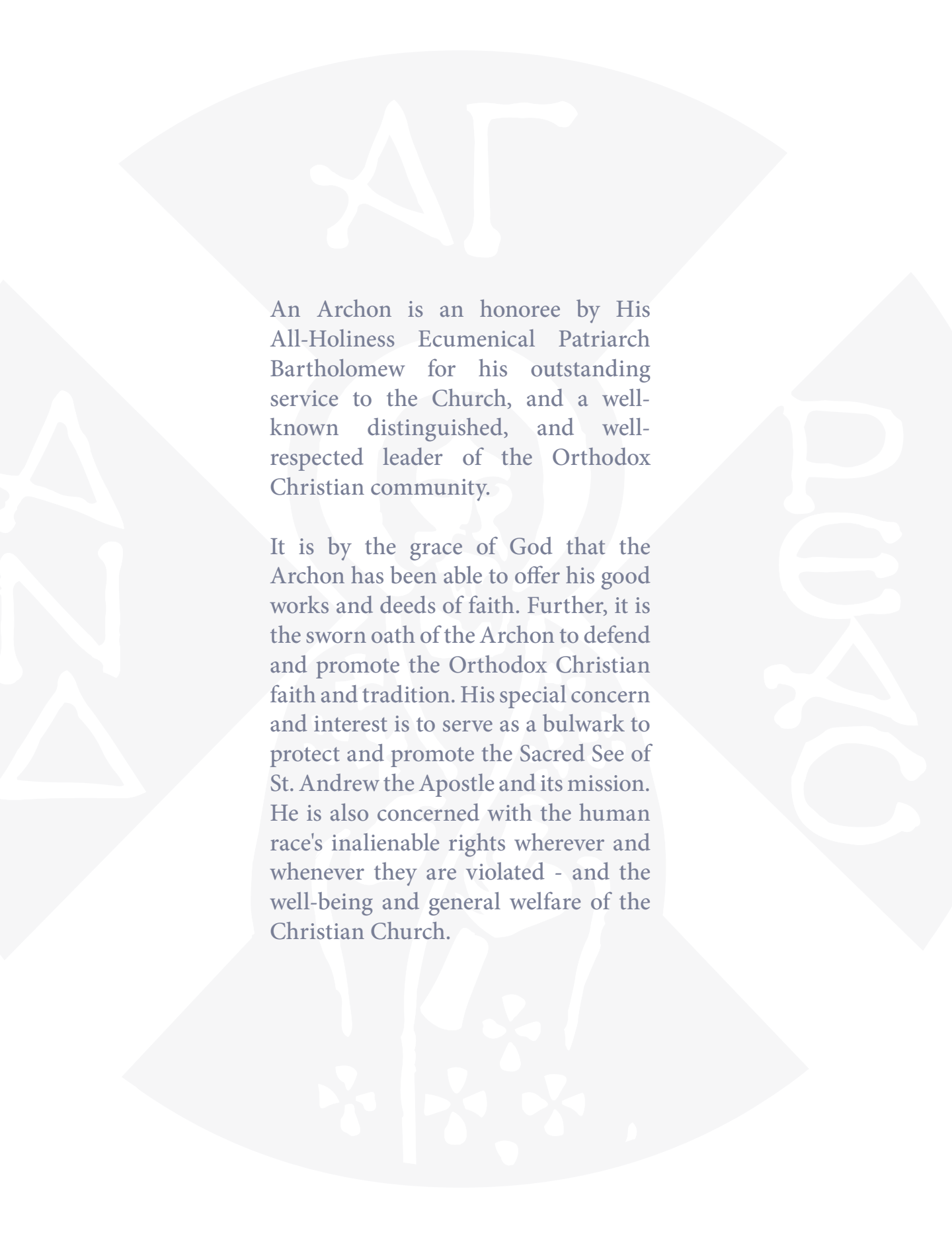
Therefore, united by the same concern for God's creation and acknowledging the earth as a shared good, we fervently invite all people of goodwill to dedicate a time of prayer for the environment on September 1st. On this occasion, we wish to offer

thanks to the loving Creator for the noble gift of creation and to pledge commitment to its care and preservation for the sake of future generations. After all, we know that we labor in vain if the Lord is not by our side (cf. Ps. 126-127), if prayer is not at the center of our reflection and celebration. Indeed, an objective of our prayer is to change the way we perceive the world in order to change the way we relate to the world. The goal of our promise is to be courageous in embracing greater simplicity and solidarity in our lives.

We urgently appeal to those in positions of social and economic, as well as political and cultural, responsibility to hear the cry of the earth and to attend to the needs of the marginalized, but above all to respond to the plea of millions and support the consensus of the world for the healing of our wounded creation. We are convinced that there can be no sincere and enduring resolution to the challenge of the ecological crisis and climate change unless the response is concerted and collective, unless the responsibility is shared and accountable, unless we give priority to solidarity and service.

From the Vatican and from the Phanar, 1 September 2017

POPE FRANCIS AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW



An Archon is an honoree by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community.

It is by the grace of God that the Archon has been able to offer his good works and deeds of faith. Further, it is the sworn oath of the Archon to defend and promote the Orthodox Christian faith and tradition. His special concern and interest is to serve as a bulwark to protect and promote the Sacred See of St. Andrew the Apostle and its mission. He is also concerned with the human race's inalienable rights wherever and whenever they are violated - and the well-being and general welfare of the Christian Church.



ARCHON NEWS





THE ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

747

Archons in the United States

115

Archons in the
Metropolis of Atlanta

59

Archons in the
Metropolis of Boston

70

Archons in the
Metropolis of Chicago

153

Archons in the
Archdiocesan District

44

Archons in the
Metropolis of Detroit

50

Archons in the
Metropolis of Denver

140

Archons in the
Metropolis of New Jersey

36

Archons in the
Metropolis of Pittsburgh

80

Archons in the
Metropolis of San Francisco

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 Hieromnimon
 John Moscahlaidis, Depoutatos
 Theodoros Moschokarfis,
 Hieromnimon

Demitrios M. Moschos,
 Dikaioφylax
 James H. Moshovitis, Depoutatos
 Harry Moskos, Depoutatos
 Basil Mossaidis, Maestor
 Ted Moudis, Maestor
 Dr. Nick Michael Moustoukas,
 Orphanotrofos
 Chris J. Moutos, Lambadarios
 Bert W. Moyer, Hartoularios
 Daniel J. Mucisko, Depoutatos

N

Dr. Steven Naltsas, Aktouarios
 Andrew Stephen Natsios,
 Referendarios
 James S. Nicholas, Kastrinsios
 Nicholas Nichols, Orphanotrofos
 Anthony A. Nichols, Notarios
 Stratton J. Nicolaides, Depoutatos
 George N. Nicolaides, Depoutatos
 Theo Nicolakis, Kastrinsios
 Louis Nicozisis, Primikirios
 Dr. C. L. Max Nikias, Didaskalos
 Tou Genous
 Tom Nixon, Dikaioφylax
 Gregory Nodaros, Orphanotrofos

O

George J. Omiros, Orphanotrofos
 Dr. Harry Oryhon DDS, Aktouarios

P

Gus M. Pablecas, Ostiarios
 Steve C. Padis, Exarchos
 Michael H. Pahos, Ekdikos
 Anthony Palmieri, Depoutatos
 Victor A. Panagos, Architekton
 Dimitrios Panagos, Kastrinsios
 George N. Panas, Depoutatos
 Christos T. Panopoulos,
 Orphanotrofos
 James Pantelidis, Notarios

George Pantelidis , Hartoularios
 Peter Clyde N. Papadakos Esq.,
 Ekdikos
 Hon. Nicholas P. Papadakos, Ekdikos
 Steven P. Papadatos, Ostiarios
 Dr. Gregory George Papadeas DO,
 Aktouarios
 Stavros S. Papadopoulos, Aktouarios
 Fotios Papamichael, Depoutatos
 Panayiotis Papanicolaou,
 Laosynaktis
 Aristotle Papanikolaou Ph.D.,
 Prostatitis Ton Grammaton
 Nikos S. Papathanasiou, Primikirios
 Christos Papoutsy, Depoutatos
 John G. Pappajohn, Laosynaktis
 Christopher James Pappas, Prostatitis
 Ton Grammaton
 Harris James Pappas, Notarios
 Peter J. Pappas Sr., Exarchos
 T. Peter Pappas, Exarchos
 William C. Pappas, Hartophylax
 George Stephen Pappas, Ostiarios
 Ted P. Pappas, Depoutatos
 Steve George Pappas, Depoutatos
 Peter G. Pappas, Exarchos
 Harry J. Pappas, Referendarios
 Harry L. Pappas, Lambadarios
 John T. Pappas, Primikirios
 Dr. James Pete Pappas, Depoutatos
 Peter Pappas Jr., Notarios
 William Pappas, Depoutatos
 George M. Pappas, Exarchos
 Christopher J. Pappas, Maestor
 Dr. Stephen G. Pappas, Aktouarios
 Nicholas L. Papson, Nomophylax
 Lt. Col. George Parandes Ret., USAF,
 Ekdikos
 Panagiotis Parthenis Sr.,
 Referendarios
 John Paterakis, Exarchos
 John G. Patronis, Depoutatos
 Jimmy T. Patronis Sr., Exarchos
 Prof. Lewis J. Patsavos, Proto
 Ekdikos
 Solon P. Patterson, Skevophylax

Dr. Michael John Patzakis,
Didaskalos Tou Genous
Paul Pavlides, Nomophylax
John A. Payiavlax, Depoutatos
James Pedas, Hypomnematografos
Theodore Pedas, Exarchos
Harold A. Peponis, Depoutatos
Constantinos Perdikakis, Ostiarios
Gus G. Perdikakis, Depoutatos
Pantelis Perdikaris, Depoutatos
Constantine A. Pereos, Hartoularios
John Perros, Depoutatos
Chris Peters, Notarios
Panayiotis Peters, Laosynaktis
Harry M. Petrakis, Notarios
Dr. Marinos A. Petratos, Aktouarios
Nicholas J. Philopoulos, Depoutatos
Manuel Pihakis, Maestor
James J. Pitchell, Exarchos
William P. Planes, Notarios
Harry G. Plomarity, Ekdikos
Paul J. Plumis, Ekdikos
John Poles, Ipomnimon
Constantine V. Politis, Referendarios
Dean Poll, Kastrinsios
Demetrios Polos, Hieromnimon
Arthur Poly, Hartophylax
Captain Mark J. Poneros, Maestor
Theodore J. Poplos, Hartophylax
George Possas, Depoutatos
Dr. Steve Poulos, Ekdikos
Harry Steven Poulos, Ostiarios
Nicholas Poulos, Exarchos
Peter E. Prevolos, Hartophylax
Reince Priebus, Nomophylax
Apostolos Pries, Skevophylax
Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon
John Megris Psaltos, Hartophylax
Gus P. Psaras, Depoutatos
John Psaras, Eftaxias
Michael G. Psaros, Ostiarios
George Chris Psetas, Nomophylax
George Peter Psihogios, Kastrinsios
Konstantinos Pylarinos, Hagiografos

R

John C. Rakkou, Depoutatos
Dino A. Ralis, Depoutatos
Lee G. Rallis, Ostiarios
Dr. Michael G. Rallis M.D.,
Referendarios
Gerry Ranglas, Depoutatos
John G. Rangos Sr., Exarchos
Harry Raptakis, Exarchos
George Timothy Reganis,
Referendarios
James A. Regas, Ekdikos
Michael Ristvey Jr, Nomophylax
Constantine M. Rizopoulos,
Didaskalos Tou Genous
George C. Rockas Esq., Dikaiophylax
Constantine M. Rogdakis,
Skevophylax
Christopher George Rongos,
Primikirios
Eugene T. Rossides, Ekdikos
Prof. John C. Rouman Ph.D,
Prostatis Ton Grammaton
Dr. Louis J. Roussalis, Aktouarios
Nicholas Royce, Depoutatos

S

Deacon Oleh Saciuk, Nomophylax
George E. Safiol, Archiophylax
Nicholas J. Sakellariadis,
Dikaiophylax
Arthur P. Sakellaris, Orphanotrofos
George Sakellaris, Ostiarios
John Sakellaris, Hypomnematografos
Dr. Costas Sarantopoulos,
Aktouarios
The Hon. Paul S. Sarbanes, Megas
Logothetis
Anthony T. Saris, Aktouarios
Prof. John C. Sarkioglu, Exarchos
Dr. Arthur L. Sarris, Aktouarios
Nicholas C. Sarris, Maestor
Michael C. Savvides, Exarchos
Dr. William M. Scaljon, Aktouarios

Dr. Peter Scamagas M.D., Aktouarios
Steven G. Scarvelis, Exarchos
James S. Scofield, Megas Ekdikos
Byron Alexander Scordelis,
Hypomnematografos
John C. Scurtis, Hartoularios
John H. Secaras, Depoutatos
Steven N. Sellas, Hieromnimon
Theodore Sepsis, Ostiarios
Demetrios Seremetis,
Hypomimniskontos
Michael Serko Jr., Mousikodidaskalos
Robert J. Serko, Depoutatos
Robert G. Shaw, Megas Proto
Ekdikos
Harry G. Sifaris, Depoutatos
George Siamboulis, Ostiarios
Constantine Sideridis, Proto
Notarios
Paul Sieben, Aktouarios
Louis S. Sinopulos, Primikirios
Franklin Gay Sisson Jr., Prepositos
Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnimon
Christos Skeadas, Eftaxias
Senator Dean Skelos, Hieromnimon
Emil Skocypec, Notarios
George Skoufis, Dierminefs
Michael A. Smisko, Aktouarios
Nick Smyrnis, Ekdikos
Paul Peter Sogotis, Orphanotrofos
Michael S. Sophocles, Ekdikos
George A. Sotir, Depoutatos
Hon. Michael Sotirhos, Depoutatos
John J. Spanos, Depoutatos
Alex G. Spanos, Depoutatos
Michael A. Spanos, Depoutatos
Dean Spanos, Maestor
Raymond E. Speicher, Notarios
Harry W. Spell, Notarios
William H. Spell, Laosynaktis
James D. Speros, Kastrinsios
Spiro Spireas Ph.D., Aktouarios
Arthur G. Spirou, Depoutatos
Christos Spyropoulos, Proto
Notarios

George Paul Stamas, Nomophylax
 George Alexander Stamboulidis, Ekdikos
 Angelo Stamis, Hartoularios
 Constantine Stamis, Megas Depoutatos
 Gregory J. Stamos, Proto Ekdikos
 Angelo A. Stamoulis, Notarios
 Demetrios Stathopoulos, Referendarios
 Panos Stavrianidis Ph.D., Aktouarios
 Peter G. Stavropoulos, Depoutatos
 Gus Stavropoulos, Depoutatos
 Mark D. Stavropoulos, Referendarios
 William S. Stavropoulos, Skevophylax
 Andreas Stavrou, Dikaiophylax
 Nicholas Stecopoulos, Depoutatos
 Dr. George Stefanidakis Ph.D., Aktouarios
 Anthony Stefanis, Hieromnimon
 Athanasios Stefanopoulos, Depoutatos
 Michael L. Stefanos, Lambadarios
 Michael N. Stefanoudakis, Orphanotrofos
 George R. Stephanopoulos, Megas Nomophylax
 Wesley Andrew Stinich, Referendarios
 Angelo G. Stoulis, Depoutatos
 Christopher Stratakis, Notarios
 John C. Stratakis, Dikaiophylax
 Nick M. Stratas, Depoutatos
 Thomas M. Suehs, Skevophylax
 William G. Sutzko, Notarios
 George Svokos, Aktouarios

T

John Tangelos, Dierminefs
 James Tasios, Kastrinsios
 Tim Tassopoulos, Maestor
 George S. Tavlaz, Ekdikos
 Dr. William Tenet, Primikirios
 Nicholas E. Terezis, Ekdikos
 Nick A. Theodore, Depoutatos

Ted J. Theodore, Didaskalos Tou Genous
 Basilios C. Theodosakis, Depoutatos
 Dr. Theoharis Theoharides, Hieromnimon
 Theodore J. Theophilos, Dikaiophylax
 Patrick Nickolas Theros, Referendarios
 Dr. Gregory A. Thomas, Hartoularios
 James G. Thomas, Depoutatos
 James Thomas, Hieromnimon
 Anthony Thomopoulos, Laosynaktis
 Dr. Manuel N. Tissura D.D.S., Ekdikos
 George Tita, Hartoularios
 Sirio Tonelli, Exarchos
 Peter Toutoulis, Exarchos
 Andreas Touzos, Ostiarios
 Mr. William G. Tragos, Depoutatos
 Costas N. Trataros, Notarios
 Constantine M. Triantafilou, Orphanotrofos
 Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, Ekdikos
 Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, Eftaxias
 George S. Tsandikos, Hartoularios
 Nicholas Tsapatsaris, Kastrinsios
 Ernest N. Tsaptsinos, Ostiarios
 Elias Tsekerides, Depoutatos
 Dr. Nicholas Tsirilakis, Aktouarios
 Savas Tsivicos, Kastrinsios
 Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas, Hartoularios
 George A. Tsougarakis, Dikaiophylax
 Dr. Elias N. Tsoukas, Aktouarios
 George James Tsunis, Hypomnematoγραφος
 Dr. Manuel Tzagournis, Aktouarios
 Adam M. Tzagournis, Quaistor
 Dr. Andreas G. Tzakis, Aktouarios
 Haralambos D. Tzanetatos, Exarchos
 George Tzikas, Depoutatos

V

Dr. Dean Vafiadis, Hieromnimon
 Dr. Sotirios John Vahaviolos, Hartoularios
 Nikiforos Valaskantjis, Depoutatos
 Demosthenes Vasiliou, Depoutatos
 Argyris Vassiliou, Notarios
 Peter N. Vatsures, Kastrinsios
 Emmanuel E. Velivasakis, Eftaxias
 Konstantine L. Vellios, Depoutatos
 Peter L. Venetis, Ekdikos
 Andrew Veniopoulos, Hartoularios
 George C. Venizelos, Referendarios
 George J. Veras, Maestor
 Stefanos Vertopoulos, Ostiarios
 Theodore D. Veru, Maestor
 George M. Ververides, Depoutatos
 Dr. Nick S. Vidalakis Ph.D., Hartoularios
 Peter A. Vlachos, Ostiarios
 Thomas Vlahos, Aktouarios
 Dr. Theodore P. Vlahos, Aktouarios
 John B. Vlahos, Nomophylax
 Theodore D. Vlahos, Hartoularios
 Peter Vlitaz, Hartoularios
 Dr. Elmer B. Vogelpohl Jr., Aktouarios
 John P. Volandes, Hartophylax
 George P. Vourvouliaz Jr., Primikirios
 George Voutiritsas, Depoutatos
 Bill J. Vranas, Notarios
 Gus Vratsinas, Ostiarios
 Constantine N. Vrettos, Notarios
 Gary M. Vrionis, Eftaxias

W

Michael Wesko, Notarios

X

Basil P. Xeros, Depoutatos

Y

Nicholas Yakubik, Referendarios
 Dr. Stephen James Yallourakis,
 Aktouarios
 Philip G. Yamalis, Proto Ekdikos
 G. Thomas Yearout, Ekdikos
 Stephen G. Yeonas, Ostiarios
 Nickas J. Yiannias, Depoutatos

Z

Andrew Chris Zachariades,
 Kastrinsios
 Prof. Stamos O Zades, Depoutatos
 James B. Zafiros,
 Hypomnimatografos
 George P. Zaharas, Myrepso
 Theodore K. Zampetis, Kastrinsios
 Leonard Zangas, Hieromnimon
 Xenophon Zapis, Ekdikos
 Dr. Theodore J. Zaravinos,
 Aktouarios
 James Zathas, Notarios
 John Zavitsanos, Ekdikos
 Peter D. Zavitsanos Ph.D.,
 Kastrinsios
 Dr. Nicholas T. Zervas, Ostiarios
 Steve Zervoudis, Hartophylax
 Tikey A. Zes Ph.D., Lambadarios
 George Peter Zimmar Ph.D.,
 Prostatos Ton Grammaton of the
 Great Church
 Constantinos Modestos
 Zografopoulos, Eftaxias
 Demetrius C. Zonars, Maestor
 Dimitrios Zygouris, Proto Notarios

IN MEMORIAM

May Their Memory Be Eternal

October 2016–September 2017

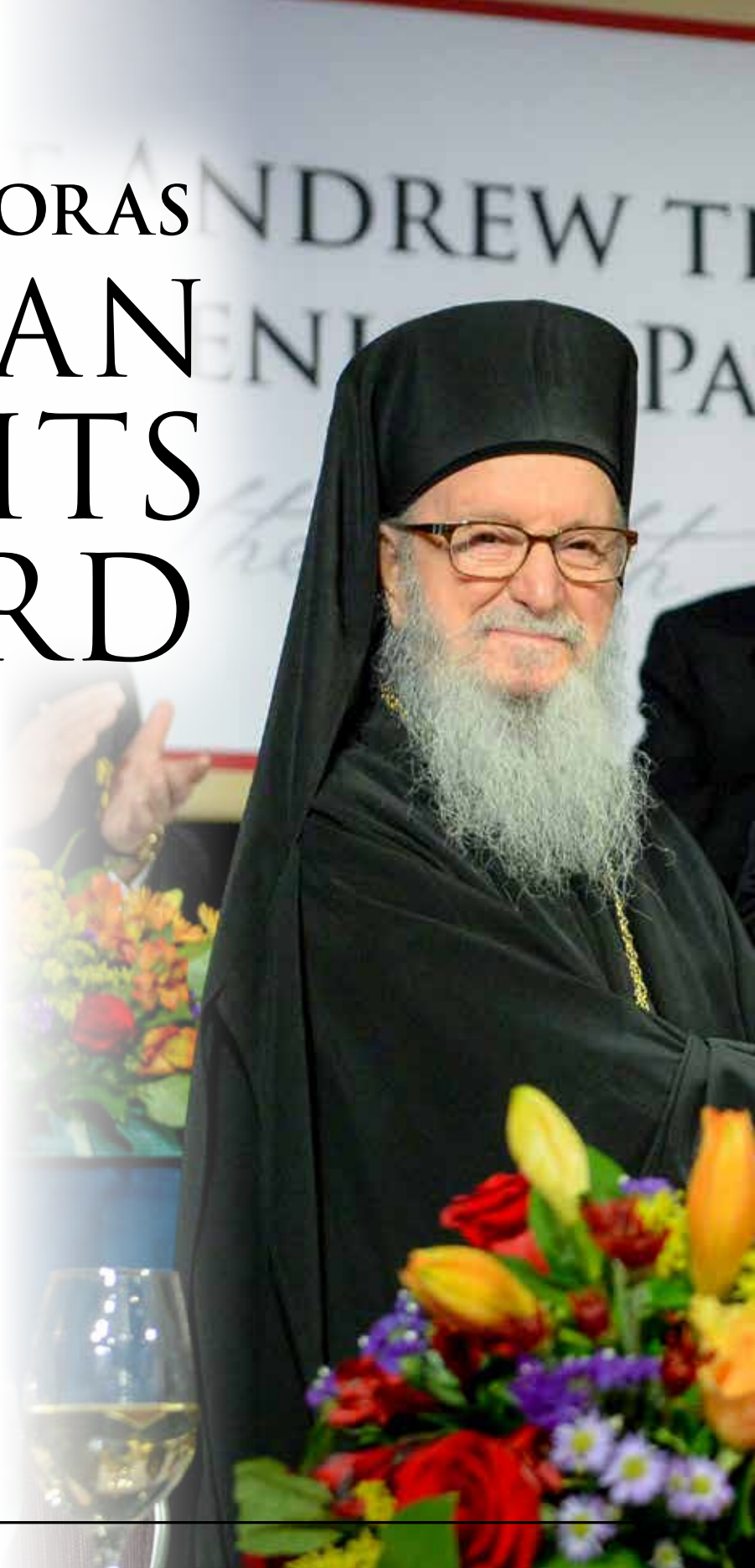
List as of September 19, 2017

Nikolas Agathis, Exarchos <i>Offikion date: 2/28/1988</i>	George J. Kostas, Myrepso <i>Offikion date: 3/10/2002</i>
Theodore Anastasopoulos, Depoutatos	John E. Kusturiss, Depoutatos <i>Offikion date: 1977</i>
Louis Anderson, Depoutatos <i>Offikion date: 6/14/1981</i>	Charles T. Masterpolis, Depoutatos <i>Offikion date: 3/19/1989</i>
James A. Argeros, Notarios <i>Offikion date: 3/19/1989</i>	George J. Miller, Nomophylax <i>Offikion date: 10/23/2005</i>
Chris W. Caras, Sr., Hartoularios <i>Offikion date: 2/18/2001</i>	Photis Nichols, M.D., Depoutatos <i>Offikion date: 1955</i>
George A. Collias, Depoutatos <i>Offikion date: 10/23/1982</i>	William J. Oldham, Laosynaktis <i>Offikion date: 2/28/1999</i>
Andreas Costea, Depoutatos <i>Offikion date: 2/24/1991</i>	Hon. Nicholas Papadakos, Ekdikos <i>Offikion date: 2/28/1999</i>
Costas Costidis, Ipomnimon <i>Offikion date: 3/16/1997</i>	William C. Pappas, Hartophylax <i>Offikion date: 3/11/1984</i>
George S. Coumantaros, Megas Skeophylax <i>Offikion date: 1/29/1968</i>	Basil Skelos, Eftaxias <i>Offikion date: 10/26/2008</i>
Gregory G. Demetrakas, Archon Depoutatos <i>Offikion date: 1973</i>	George A. Smisko, Maestor <i>Offikion date: 2/28/1999</i>
Louis A. Gaitanis, Nomophylax <i>Offikion date: 3/9/2003</i>	Anthony Vasilas, M.D., Aktouarios <i>Offikion date: 1978</i>
John Haretakis, Depoutatos <i>Offikion date: 7/4/1982</i>	Basil Yanakakis, Hypomnematoğrafos
Nick H. Katapodis, Hartophylax <i>Offikion date: 11/1/2009</i>	Louis D. Zakas, Referendarios <i>Offikion date: 3/12/1995</i>
George S. Kleris, M.D., Proto Notarios <i>Offikion date: 3/10/2002</i>	

ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

*Honoring
Andrew M. Cuomo
NY Governor*

Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate together with Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo at the New York Marriott Marquis, Oct. 15, 2016. Governor Cuomo has been a strong advocate for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and was the instrumental person in the process of securing an agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey regarding the rebuilding and resurrection of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National





Axios! Axios! Axios!

Archbishop Demetrios of America together with Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis present the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

Shrine at the World Trade Center--the only house of worship destroyed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

In recognizing the Governor's long history and connection to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the National Commander said, "[In 1990] Governor Mario Cuomo and his beloved wife Matilda, hosted Patriarch Dimitrios, Metropolitan Bartholomew of Chalcedon, and the entire Patriarchal retinue at the World Trade Center. It was a quintessential New York moment, and in the midst of that fellowship and fraternity high atop the Twin Towers, who could have ever imagined that those Towers would come crashing down in the most horrific attack on United States soil in our history, ripping away three thousand lives... and one small church."

Dr. Limberakis praised Governor Cuomo, saying, "And then decades later, after the terror of those days, the continuous healing for the bereft families, and the long struggle to rebuild Ground Zero back into the World Trade Center, it was you, Governor Cuomo, in the same position as your ever-memorable father, who led the way to a solution for the little Church that ultimately comes under the Ecumenical Patriarch. You provided the Solomon-like wisdom that we needed to bring the Church and the Port Authority to the very happy conclusion that Saint Nicholas would be rebuilt at Ground Zero. You brought



The Governor has had a long family history of working with the Greek Orthodox Church. In 1990, his father, Governor Mario M. Cuomo of blessed memory, along with his gracious wife Matilda, hosted a dinner in honor of His All-Holiness Patriarch Dimitrios, attended by now Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center attended by Archons and religious, political and community leaders.

“The cause of our rejoicing today is that we see both the gratitude and esteem you have for Governor Cuomo as well as the deep respect and appreciation that has been expressed by him and his beloved father, former Governor Mario Cuomo of blessed memory, over the years to the entire Greek Orthodox community in the United States.”

His All-Holiness



Archon Michael G. Psaros, Banquet Chairman, introduces the dais.



Father Alexander and Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos speaking to the Governor.

“As Governor, his steadfast leadership in establishing the right of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at Ground Zero to be rebuilt and his prudent and wise guidance that is bringing the rebuilding of this National Shrine of the Holy Archdiocese of America to a reality demonstrates unequivocally his courageous support of religious freedom.”

National Commander Dr. Limberakis





Archons Alex Pritsos, John A. Catsimatidis, National Commander Limberakis, Archbishop Demetrios, Governor Cuomo, and Dennis Mehiel. Above left: Archon Dennis Mehiel with Steve Plate, Deputy Chief of Capital Planning / Director of World Trade Center Construction.

full circle the hospitality of your father at the World Trade Center... by finding a just and equitable solution for the World Trade Center. You merit our thanks and our praise for your central role in providing fairness and justice to the decision process surrounding Saint Nicholas. Perhaps in this we see a small consequence of the fact that your name is “Andrew,” the first-called Disciple who founded the Church of Constantinople, and that your birthday is December 6th, the Feastday of Saint Nicholas whose Shrine is now rising in Liberty Park, casting its light over all who come to pay their respects and tributes at the 9/11 Memorial.”

In his response, Governor Cuomo said, “When Archbishop Demetrios spoke about St. Nicholas, I heard Archbishop Iakovos’ voice, I heard my father’s voice. I heard them saying what better place than 9-11 to have a monument, a sanctuary that says we are all one people and all are invited to one, holy place. St. Nicholas is going to be the only Church

on Ground Zero with a beautiful history, there since 1916, one of the first places that the Greek immigrants would visit. The first touch stone, they would land on Ellis Island and they would take a ferry over and St. Nicholas was right there downtown so they could get off that boat and they could step into a Church where they felt comfortable and they felt reassured with the peace of home. A beautiful history, but also a beautiful future.”

The Governor continued, “Because the new St. Nicholas is going to be bigger and better than ever. Saying on the side of 9-11, the side of the greatest hate, I offer you love. That’s what St. Nicholas is going to say, because love is better than hate. I offer you inclusion, because inclusion is better than exclusion. I offer you good, because good defeats evil. And I give you a place of holiness and beauty to say, ‘we are one and let us come together and focus on our similarities and let’s disregard our differences’. That is St. Nicholas. That’s why Archbishop

Demetrios stayed on this project with his quiet persistence year after year, after year. That’s why the State of New York made a terrible mistake for all those years where they didn’t honor their original agreement to build St. Nicholas. And that’s why as Governor of the State of New York, one of a handful of beautiful accomplishments that I’ll have for the rest of my life, is being able to visit that new St. Nicholas. Knowing what it stands for. Knowing who built it. Knowing what it means to the Greeks. Knowing what it means to the world. I ask for one thing: In one corner, a little picture of two great friends, two great men who always believed we could be better than we are--Archbishop Iakovos and Mario Cuomo.”

Archon Michael Psaros, Banquet Chair, introduced the dais guests at the beginning of the program, the national anthems were sung by Eva Agathis. Archon Ernie Anastos, Emmy Award Winner, Fox 5 News, served as the Master of Ceremonies.



Governor Cuomo, a strong advocate for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was the instrumental person in the process of securing the agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey regarding the rebuilding and resurrection of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center.

“As Governor of the State of New York, one of a handful of beautiful accomplishments that I’ll have for the rest of my life, is being able to visit that new St. Nicholas. Knowing what it stands for. Knowing who built it. Knowing what it means to the Greeks. Knowing what it means to the world.”

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

“I extend the profound gratitude of the Church to our precious friend, Governor Cuomo, who understood the human need to rebuild a church lost to national tragedy and resurrect a symbol that represented to the world the bonds that unite the many into one people who cherish liberty for all.”

Archbishop Demetrios





The NICHOLAS J. BOURAS AWARD

FOR EXTRAORDINARY ARCHON STEWARDSHIP

Honoring Theofanis V. Economidis

Archon John Metaxas,
National Commander
Limberakis, Metropolitan
Gerasimos, Roberta
Hariklia, Theofanis
Economidis, Archbishop
Demetrios and George
Marcus.

His Eminence Arch-bishop Demetrios of America joined the Order of Saint Andrew in honoring Theofanis V. Economidis 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 Marriott Marquis, which launched the An-

nual Archon Weekend on Friday, October 14, 2016.

Archon Theofanis was joined by his daughter, Roberta, as he received the prestigious Award.

Mr. Economidis has been an active member of the Greek American Community including: Past President of the United Hellenic Societies Federation of Northern California; Founding member and Chairman of the Board of the Elios Society

since its inception for sixteen years ; President of the Board of Hellenic Journal, the only Greek American newspaper west of Chicago; Member of the Metropolis Council of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco for over thirty years where he has been serving as Vice President since 1996; and Member of the Board and Managing Director of St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center.



Archon George Marcus, Mae and John Calamos, Archbishop Demetrios, Theofanis Economidis, Dean Metropoulos, Judy Marcus, National Commander Limberakis and Mrs. Virginia and Dr. James Kallins.



In 1996, he was bestowed the title of Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He is a member of Leadership 100, member of the Executive Committee of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Regional Commander of the Archons of the Metropolis

of San Francisco, and since 2006 he is also a member of the National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In November of 2006 with the blessing of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, he served as one of the two main ushers during the visit of Pope Benedict XVI at the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople (Istanbul), Turkey. In December of 2006 he was elected to serve as the General Chairman of the "International Convention of Hellenes Abroad (SAE)" in Thessaloniki, Greece and in the same year he received the highest honor by the Organization of the Retired Greek Artillery General Officers in Athens, Greece. From 2008 -

2013, he was assigned by the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle to represent the Ecumenical Patriarchate and defend its Religious and Human Rights at the annual meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) comprised of 54 European nations, the US, Canada and 15 other nations around the world in Warsaw, Poland. In November of 2009 he presented the problems facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the annual meeting of the European Parliament in Venice, Italy.

In 1968 Fanis married Cynthia (Efsthia) Bagles from Sheboygan, Wisconsin and they enjoyed 46 years of marriage until her passing in 2014. Cynthia had a prestigious 34-year tenure of service at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee where she was a professor in The Helen Bader School of Social Welfare. They have one daughter, Roberta (Hariklia), who is a prominent attorney in San Francisco.

The INVESTITURE

On Sunday morning, Oct. 16, Archbishop Demetrios presided at the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City. Following the Divine Liturgy the ceremony of investiture of the new Archons took place.



*of
the* CLASS OF 2016





*It is the Archon who is the most ardent supporter
of the Ecumenical Patriarchate...*





*...and serves as a goodwill ambassador
of the Phanar in his daily life.*

Peter G. Chiopelas
Archon Ostiarios
Elmhurst, Illinois

Zenon Christodoulou
Archon Skevophylax
North Branch, New Jersey

Frank N. Demeris
Archon Orphanotrofos
Houston, Texas

John A. Hilaris
Archon Asekretes
Elmhurst, Illinois

Michael Gene Kavourias
Archon Nomophylax
Manhasset, New York

John Spiro Koudounis
Archon Eftaxias
Chicago, Illinois

Nicholas George Latousakis
Archon Ieromnimon
Weirton, West Virginia

William George Lianos
Archon Exarchos
Grosse Pointe, Michigan

Richard Kelly McGee
Archon Referendarios
Houston, Texas

Peter Mesologites
Archon Depoutatos
Kings Point, New York

Ted Moudis
Archon Maestor
Manhasset, New York

Tom Nixon
Archon Dikaiphylax
Charlotte, North Carolina

Christopher George Rongos
Archon Primikirios
Huntertown, Indiana

Byron Alexander Scordelis
Archon Hypomnematografos
Saratoga, California

Franklin Gay Sisson, Jr.
Archon Prepositos
Paradise Valley, Arizona

George Alexander Stamboulidis
Archon Ekdikos
Rockville Centre, New York

George Svokos
Archon Aktouarios
Franklin Lakes, New Jersey

Andrew Veniopoulos
Archon Hartoularios
New York, New York

Andrew Chris Zachariades
Archon Kastrinsios
Brick, New Jersey

Steve Zervoudis
Archon Hartophylax
Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey

LENTEN RETREAT

The 14th Annual Archon Lenten Retreat took place at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Southampton, NY, March 31-April 1, 2017. Fr. Christopher T. Metropoulos, president of Hellenic College Holy Cross served as retreat master, focusing on the topic, "Three Things Are Needed: Prayer, Virtue And Humility".



Annual Archon Lenten Retreat

Fr. Christopher Metropulos, left, president of Hellenic College Holy Cross, offers the sermon following the Divine Liturgy. Robert Spencer, right, the Director of Jihad Watch, a program of the David Horowitz Freedom Center, was a guest speaker during the Retreat. He has led seminars on Islam and jihad for the FBI, the United States Central Command, United States Army Command, amongst many other organizations and is a baptized Greek Orthodox Christian and a faithful member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



Superb Leadership

The retreat was organized under the chairmanship of Archon Peter J. Skeadas, left, and co-chairman Archon Michael G. Psaros, right.



DEFENDERS *of the* FAITH



- ▶ With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta a symposium was held at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in New Port Richey, FL on February 7, which focused on the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and religious freedom issues affecting minorities in the Middle East. The symposium was organized by Archon Elias Damianakis who worked in cooperation with the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle.



- ▶ On March 26, Archon Mike Manatos spoke to the community of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, DC about "Our Church in Crisis: The Future Survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople." The event was organized by Saint Sophia's Young Adult League (YAL) and was attended by over 90 YAL members and cathedral parishioners. From left to right, Father Dimitrios Lee, John Pappas, Archon Mike Manatos, Stephanie Zevitas, John Zevitas, Father Steven Zorzos, Parish Council President Ted Planzos.

During the course of the year, Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew have continued their martyria (witness) and diakonia (service) and organized several symposiums and presentations throughout the Archdiocese of America, advocating for basic human rights and religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople.



- ▶ With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, a symposium was held at the Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral, Denver, CO, on Saturday, January 28 attended by over 85 people, which included 14 Archons, led by Regional Commander Dr. Gregory Papadeas. The symposium focused on the historical, canonical and ecclesiastical significance of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, which concluded in June 2016, including a review of the previous seven Ecumenical Councils.



CALIFORNIA

- On February 19-21, 2017, the Faith. Dance. Fellowship. (FDF) was held in San Diego, CA. National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis delivered a religious freedom presentation to the Archons of the Metropolis of San Francisco and was welcomed by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and Regional Commander Theofanis V. Economidis along with several other Archons of the Metropolis of San Francisco.



INDIANA

- A presentation covering the issues of concern facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate was held at St. Iakovos Greek Orthodox Church in Valparaiso, IN, following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 26. Archon Regional Commanders Gus Pablecas and John Manos delivered the presentation and also focused on Indiana Senate Resolution 2. Several Indiana State Senators and Representatives were invited to the special presentation which was attended by over 100 parishioners.



NEW YORK

- On February 15, seminarians of Holy Cross/Hellenic College gathered at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America where they had the opportunity to become further educated on the work of the Order of Saint Andrew. National Vice Commander John Halecky, Archon Alexander Pritsos, Sergeant at Arms and Archon Theo Nicolakis offered presentations on the work of the Order and the religious freedom issues effecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



CONNECTICUT

- A lecture and dialogue was held at Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, Orange, CT, on February 15, focusing on twenty-five years of leadership, accomplishments and environmental activism of His All-Holiness. The lecture was presented by the Historian of the Order, Archon Prof. George E. Demacopoulos, right. Regional Commander Nikiforos Mathews, left, offered an overview on the facets of the denials of religious freedom under which the Ecumenical Patriarchate labors while Archon Gregory Stamos, middle, past Supreme Counselor for the Order of AHEPA, served as moderator.



Archon Leadership goes

ABOVE & BEYOND

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America are leading the rebuilding effort of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the rebuilt World Trade Center. Not only has the Order raised to date \$1,039,500 from its members, exceeding its pledge of \$1,000,000, but many Archons have answered the call above and beyond the Order's million-dollar pledge.

\$1,039,500

Archon Pledges

Received as of Sep. 7, 2017



SAINT NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
AND
NATIONAL SHRINE
AT THE
WORLD TRADE CENTER

stnicholaswtc.org/donate

*The Church has
signed a 198-year
lease with the
Port Authority
with an option to
purchase the land
at any time for...*

\$1.00

ARCHON NEWS

Altogether, Archons and their families have committed at least \$25,710,865. Those who have pledged or given one-million or more directly to St. Nicholas are:

Michael Jaharis Family
Nicholas J. Bouras Foundation
Paul Bregianos and Family
John Calamos Family
George Coumantaros Family
William Doucas Family
John Georges Family
George Marcus Family
Dean Metropoulos Family
John Pappajohn Family
John Payiavlas Family
Michael Psaros Family
George Sakellaris Family
Alexander Spanos Family
Nicholas Tsakalos Family

Because of you ...
the Shrine is being raised up
to the glory of God.

... our Faith will be known
across our Nation and the world.

... Saint Nicholas will be the only
house of worship at Ground Zero.



The Sphere

The great bronze sculpture that stood between the Twin Towers and though severely damaged, survived that fateful day – is facing our Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine.

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
**the cross,
the protector**
of the city.




Topping Off Ceremony

Archbishop Demetrios blessed the temporary Cross at the Topping Off Ceremony in December 2016.



The 2017

PRESIDENTIAL



Up Close and Personal

Invited by the Presidential Inauguration Committee, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, attends the Presidential Inauguration. He was accompanied by Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor, both of whom were seated at the prominent dignitaries platform at the U.S. Capitol.

INAUGURATION

of Donald J. Trump



National Prayer Service

His Eminence participated in the National Prayer Service for the new President at Washington's National Cathedral. National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Secretary Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis and Regional Commanders of Chicago Gus Pablecas and John Manos were in attendance.



Meeting the President

President Donald Trump meets with the Archbishop and Father Alex, above left, prior to Greek Independence Day Celebrations in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House, March 24. Archon Priebus with Archon John and Margo Catsimatidis, above right.

ERDOGAN'S ATTACK

on U.S. Citizens



Videos and photos tracked the actions of 24 men, including armed members of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's security detail, who attacked protesters in Washington in May. Many of the protesters were American citizens. The men kicked people lying on the ground and put a woman in a chokehold just a mile from the White House. They outnumbered the protesters nearly two to one. The State Department condemned the episode, and some American lawmakers have called for the men to be prosecuted. But none were charged with a crime.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Attorney General Sessions and Secretary Tillerson:

We write today to express our outrage over the remorseless acts of violence inflicted upon individuals exercising their Constitutionally-protected First Amendment right to free speech outside the Washington, D.C. residence of the Turkish Ambassador on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Widely circulated video evidence shows and subsequent reports confirm that several members of Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's security detail physically assaulted multiple individuals leaving them bloodied and bruised with some having to be hospitalized due to the severity of their injuries.

This behavior is the second time in two years that Turkish security forces have threatened and assaulted U.S. citizens and legal residents on American soil. This is unacceptable in any situation, but even more so when Turkish leaders come and claim to be faithful allies to the United States. This clear disrespect for our laws and those who enforce them, especially during National Police Week, is intolerable.

The individuals involved in Tuesday's attacks on Americans on U.S. soil must be identified and brought to justice. Turkish personnel based in the U.S. who were involved in the attacks should be declared *persona non grata* and expelled from the U.S. immediately. Turkish personnel not based in the United States who were involved in the attacks should be barred from entry into the U.S. in the future. Foreign nationals who cannot respect the rule of law of this great country should not be allowed to enjoy the rights and privileges it affords.

Allies do not threaten U.S. troops and allies do not attack U.S. citizens on American soil. We ask you to uphold law and order and demand accountability from the Erdogan government.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

National Commander issues statement regarding remarks of Turkish President Erdogan on so-called lack of “freedom of religion” in the United States

The remarks this week by Turkish President Erdogan on the so-called lack of “freedom of religion” in the United States over a single Iftar-dinner at the US State Department have demonstrated once again the absurdity of the Turkish position on human rights and religious liberty. To this very minute, Turkey’s oldest religious institution, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, goes unrecognized, harassed, and its purely Theological School on the island of Halki remains closed for nearly fifty years.

Throughout the history of the modern Turkish state, the person of the Ecumenical Patriarch has been disrespected by the formal disallowance of his rightful title, “Ecumenical,” a title belonging to his office for 1,400 years. President Erdogan demands every accommodation for his co-religionists and countrymen in the United States and around the world, and indeed anyone who has been to the Ottoman-style Turkish religious compound in the DC suburb of Lanham, Maryland (diyanetamerica.org) can see for themselves the Ame-

rican respect for all religions at work. However, he has proven nothing less than a hypocrite in his own country, which contains the sacred center of Orthodox Christianity, the second largest Christian faith in the world. President Erdogan would do well to look at his own house first, and acknowledge the abuses of the past and make corrections now and for the future in his own country, if he wishes to be taken seriously when he speaks of religious freedom.





ARCHON NEWS

The OSCE has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities. All 57 participating States enjoy equal status, and decisions are taken by consensus on a politically, but not legally binding basis.

Ecumenical Patriarchate's Religious Freedom issues presented by Archons at annual OSCE Human Rights Conference in Warsaw, Poland

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) convenes its Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw, Poland annually. HDIM is Europe's largest annual human rights and democracy conference and is a platform for the 57 OSCE participating nation states, international organizations and other relevant actors to take stock of the implementation of the OSCE human dimension commitments.

Since 2005, the Order has sent a delegation to the OSCE meetings, to present to the international community the Turkish Republic's continuing violations of human rights and religious freedom asphyxiating the Ecu-

menical Patriarchate. Archons Constantine G. Caras, Esq. and Dr. Stamatios V. Kartalopoulos represented the Order at this year's 2017 OSCE Conference in Warsaw.

Archons Caras and Kartalopoulos each participated in the assembly on September 13-14, submitted written statements, and presented oral arguments on September 14th detailing the discrimination and impediments to religious freedom faced by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey today. Many of the 57 participating nation states send ambassadors to the OSCE. The Turkish ambassador to the OSCE, who always attends during presentations by the Order, is offered the oppor-

tunity to respond and does so.

Because of the stature that the conference enjoys, the US State Department sends a delegation to monitor the meetings as well. The Archons representing the Order conferred with the participating U. S. State Department representatives, 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.

Archons Caras and Kartalopoulos also conferred with the Ambassador of the Greek Republic to the OSCE, and others in attendance who are sympathetic to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Indiana State Senate Judiciary Committee passes resolution in support of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate

In 2006, the National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew initiated the Religious Freedom Resolution project. The goal of this project, which represents one component of the overall, multi-faceted Religious Freedom Initiative, is the adoption of Religious Freedom Resolutions in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in each individual state within the United States. The project has been overseen nationally by Archon Stephen Georgeson. The five other States which have not passed a Religious Freedom Resolution include: Montana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Maryland and Hawaii.



The Indiana State Senate Judiciary Committee has recently adopted SR2, a religious freedom resolution in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Once the resolution has been adopted by the Indiana State Senate, then 55 such resolutions will have been adopted by 45 states. Indiana has yet to join this group, in part because the state is divided between the jurisdictions of the Metropolis of Chicago and Metropolis of Detroit. Their Eminences Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago and Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit have been working together to see Indiana become the 45th state to pass this important resolution.

The resolution calls on the Turkish government to respect the religious freedoms and rights of the minority Greek Orthodox Church in the predominantly Muslim nation following decades of legal disputes, confiscation of

properties, and the closing of the only seminary serving Orthodox Christians in Turkey in 1971.

Under the guidance of His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, chancellor of the Metropolis of Chicago and Fr. Dean Hountalas, chancellor of the Metropolis of Detroit, Archon Regional Commanders Gus M. Pablecas, John G. Manos, and Lazaros Kircos joined numerous Greek Orthodox clergy and parishioners in testifying before the Indiana State Senate Judiciary Committee. These members included Archon Chris Rongos, along with Fr. Hountalas, Fr. William Bartz, Fr. Lucas Christensen, Fr. Andrew Walsh, and John Ackerman.

The legislative effort was led by Indiana State Senator Lonnie Randolph and State Representative Bob Morris, who also committed to moving the resolution through the Indiana House of Representatives soon.

HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

This past year, several Archons were recognized for their outstanding achievements due to their hardwork and dedication towards public service, both professionally and in their local and national Church.



DR. ANTHONY J. LIMBERAKIS
20 Years invested as an Archon

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander was honored at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity's Cathedral Gala on Saturday, June 10, 2017 at Guastavino's in New York. He was recognized for his 20 years of martyria (witness) and diakonia (service) as a 'Defender of the Faith' for the Mother Church of Constantinople.



THE HONORABLE ARCHON MICHAEL KARLOUTSOS
U.S. State Department Deputy Chief of Protocol and Acting Chief

The Honorable Archon Michael Karloutsos is the new Deputy Chief of Protocol for the U.S. State Department, headed by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. In his new capacity, Archon Karloutsos, who assumed his position on July 23, will be directly involved in promoting cross-cultural exchanges and building new bridges of understanding between people and governments throughout the world.



Regarding his new position, Archon Karloutsos said in an interview with The National Herald, "This is a dream come true. My entire life I wanted to serve our country, the United States of America, and to be able to do it right now under the current administration under these circumstances in which the world finds itself is an incredible honor, but also a great challenge."

"The selection of Archon Karloutsos for this important position in the U.S. State Department is a major achievement for him and as well as for the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate," said Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander.







HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

ARCHON REINCE PRIEBUS

Former White House Chief of Staff

Archon Reince Priebus was selected by President Donald J. Trump as White House Chief of Staff in November 2016. Archon Priebus is known for his devotion to our Holy Orthodox Faith and his patriotism, and reflective of this he keeps on his office lectern The Holy Bible, a copy of the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom and of course, as former Chairman of the Republican Party, a copy of the Republican Party Platform. Archon Priebus ended his tenure with the White House in July 2017.



ARCHON ANDREW E. MANATOS
Lifetime Achievement Award

On June 17, Archon Andy Manatos received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Greek America Foundation's GABBY (Greek America's Best and Brightest) Awards before 700 people at Carnegie Hall in New York City. He is pictured here with his son, Archon Michael.



HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

ARCHON-ELECT GEORGE SIFAKIS **Former Director of the Office of Public Liaison**

Archon-elect George Sifakis is a government relations professional and the current Director of the Office of Public Liaison. He was appointed by Donald Trump on March 6, 2017.



ARCHON GEORGE GIGICOS **Former White House Director of Scheduling and Advance**

Archon George Gigicos was named deputy assistant to the president and director of Advance in January 2017. He was Donald Trump's director of advance operations and was one of the first associates in Donald Trump's team, since the presidential campaign began in 2015. Archon Gigicos ended his tenure with the White House in July 2017.



ARCHON JOHN PAPPAGOHN

One of the most charitable Greek Americans in the nation

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation held their 2017 Awards Ceremony and Gala on Saturday, June 17, at the Hilton Chicago for an attendance of 560 contributors, guest and scholarship recipients. The foundation awarded its 2017 Paradigm Award to Archon John Pappajohn of Des Moines, Iowa, one of today's leaders in investing, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy. As passionate philanthropists, John Pappajohn and his wife Mary have gifted more than \$100 million to various causes.



The Medal of Saint Paul

On January 20, Archbishop Demetrios bestowed the Medal of Saint Paul, the highest honor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, to Archons Reince Priebus, Congressman Gus Bilirakis and George Gigicos. Upon receiving the Award, both Archons Priebus and Bilirakis spoke about their deep connection with their Orthodox Christian faith and Hellenic heritage. Archon Gigicos was unable to make the event, due to his involvement in inauguration preparations. His parents Fr. Dean Gigicos, above, and Presvytera Elaine received the medal on his behalf.



**THE ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE
ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE IN AMERICA**

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Defenders of the Faith