THE ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE, ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE IN AMERICA | WINTER 2018



# THE PERSECUTION of CHRISTIANS

## IN THE HOLY LANDS AND THE MIDDLE EAST

An extraordinary, historic and watershed event was held in Washington, D.C. bringing awareness to our persecuted brothers and sisters in the Middle East.





#### Christianity Is Under Serious Attack in Jerusalem

24 The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem as well as other churches in the Holy Land face a crisis that could lead to the disappearance of the Christian presence in the very lands where Christianity began.

#### Annual Archon Weekend

28 The Athenagoras Human Rights Award, The Nicholas J. Bouras Award and the Investiture of the Class of 2017, plus additional coverage



ANNUAL

ARCHON

#### **Executive Committee Changes**

**46** The Order recognized Archon James C. Fountas for his long-standing and distinguished service as Treasurer to the organization, who is retiring from this post. Peter J. Skeadas has been elected new Treasurer.

#### 🔆 ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT 🎉 HANK HANEGRAAFF—THE BIBLE ANSWER MAN

#### **Energize Your Orthodoxy!**

39 Join us once again in fellowship and prayer with your brother Archons and their families as we listen and learn from Hank Hanegraaff, "The Bible Answer Man," who will serve as Retreat Speaker for our annual Archon Lenten Retreat, March 16-18, at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Southampton.



**Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate:** His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America

**Spiritual Advisor:** Rev. Alexander Karloutsos

National Commander: Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Aktouarios

National Vice Commander: John Halecky, Jr., Ekdikos

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Editor & Graphic Designer: John J. Mindala II

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

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## THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ARCHON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE <sup>ON</sup> RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

#### **DECEMBER 4–6, 2017 | WASHINGTON, D.C.**

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America hosted The Third International Conference on Religious Freedom: "The Persecution of Christians in the Holy Lands and the Middle East: Consequences and Solutions" held in Washington, D.C. This conference, under the chairmanship of Archon Mike Manatos, was an extraordinary, historic and watershed event, just as the first and second religious freedom conferences were in November 2010 at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium and December 2013 in Berlin, Germany.

Open Doors USA, the California-based non-profit that has tracked Christian persecution for the past 25 years, points out that millions of Christians face interrogation, arrest, torture, and/or death because of their religious convictions and cultural or ethnic identification. The U.S. State Department reports that Christians face persecution in more than 60 countries with Pew Research noting that between 2007 and 2014, Christians have been targeted for harassment in more countries than any other religious group.

The 3rd Conference was a direct response to Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who expressed their "shared profound concern for the situation of Christians in the Middle East and for their right to remain full citizens of their homelands."

#### Let us stand together to #EndPersecutionOfChristians

conference.archons.org

Article contributors: Harry Moskos and Theo Nicolakis Photos by: Dimitrios Panagos, John Mindala and Bill Petros

THE TARGETING OF CHRISTIANS CAN NEVER BE JUSTIFIED IN THE NAME OF ANY RELIGIOUS CREED OR CONVICTION. WHAT WE ARE WITNESSING IS THE UPROOTING NOT ONLY OF A RELIGIOUS MINORITY, BUT OF AN ENTIRE CIVILIZATION. THE EXTERMINATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER - MUCH MORE SO IN THE SUPPOSED NAME OF RELIGIOUS CONVICTION - IS THE ELIMINATION OF THE FUTURE. IT MUST BE CHARACTERIZED AS NOTHING LESS THAN GENOCIDE."

**Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew** 

Wrecked by Hate

Icons with eyes gouged out depict the thoughtless vandalism etched on the walls and frescoes inside Sumela Greek Orthodox Monastery, which was founded in AD 386, near the Turkish Black Sea Coast.



## THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

#### **IN THE HOLY LANDS & THE MIDDLE EAST**

While about 30 percent of the world's population identifies as Christian, 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination are directed at Christians. Christians face persecution in more than 60 Countries

Source: U.S. State Department

Millions of Christians face interrogation, arrest, torture, and/or death because of their religious convictions and cultural/ethnic identification

Source: Open Doors USA

Source: International Society for Human Rights

> Between 2007 and 2014, Christians have been targeted for harassment in more countries than any other religious group.

Christian responses to persecution are almost always nonviolent and, with very few exceptions, do not involve acts of terrorism.

Source: Pew Research

Source: Under Caesar's Sword

#### WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR SPONSORS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

List complete as of December 15, 2017

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VIOLENCE ARISING FROM RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE IS A HUGE GLOBAL PROBLEM. THE TRUTH IS THAT FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND BELIEF ARE THE UNDERPINNING OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE AND VIBRANT ECONOMIES IN HUMAN HISTORY - THE UNITED STATES AMONG THEM," ROSS SAID. "THAT IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY WHY IT IS TROUBLING TO SEE A RESURGENCE IN THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN RECENT YEARS."

#### U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TROUBLED BY PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

"Violence arising from religious intolerance is a huge global problem," U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross pointed out at the opening session of the three-day International Conference on Religious Freedom in the nation's capital on Monday, December 4.

"The truth is that freedom of thought and belief are the underpinning of the most innovative and vibrant economies in human history – the United States among them," Ross said. "That is at least partially why it is troubling to see a resurgence in the persecution of Christians in recent years."

The Secretary of Commerce was welcomed by Mike Manatos, Conference Chairman, along with Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis.















#### HANK HANEGRAAFF ADDRESSES CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, a breakfast was held at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. Hank Hanegraaff, President of the Christian Research Institute, and popularly known as "The Bible Answer Man," was the featured speaker that morning. Hanegraaff, a a recent convert to the Orthodox Christian Faith, was also joined by members of his family.

ISLAM HAS NOT ONLY ADVANCED BY SWORD, IT CONTINUES TO ADVANCE THROUGH MIGRATION WITHOUT ASSIMILATION, WELL DESCRIBED AS THE PYTHONS SWALLOWING ITS PREY WITH A LONG SLOW DIGESTION. AND WHILE POLYGAMOUS MUSLIMS BOAST A ROBUST BIRTHRATE, NATIVE WESTERNERS ARE MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARDS SELF EXTINCTION. TO PUT IT PLAINLY NOT ONE SINGLE POST CHRISTIAN NATION HAS A BIRTHRATE SUFFICIENT TO KEEP IT ALIVE. JOHN PAUL II SUMMED IT UP SUCCINCTLY WHEN HE SAID A NATION THAT KILLS HIS OWN CHILDREN IS A NATION WITHOUT HOPE."

Hank Hanegraaff

#### Paula White

Archbishop Demetrios greets Pentecostal televangelist, Paula White after the breakfast.



## HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

This first session offered an objective assessment on the historical dynamics that help to explain the current plight of Christians in the Middle East. The session included both the multi-century historical factors shaping Christian-Muslim interaction in the region (such as the Crusades and European colonialism of the Near East) as well as more recent twentieth- and twentyfirst-century changes in the region. The panel included experts for a variety of religious minorities in the region, including Armenian, Coptic, Greek, and Syrian Christians.



George E. Demacopoulos

Fr. John Meyendorff & Patterson Family Chair of Orthodox Christian Studies at Fordham University



Sidney H. Griffith Professor of Early Christian Studies, Catholic University



Mark L. Movsesian Frederick A. Whitney Professor and Director of the Center for Law and Religion, St. John's University



Samuel Tadros Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute



James C. Skedros Professor of Byzantine Studies, Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, WHEN WE LOOK TO THE CHALLENGES FACING RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WE FAIL TO TAKE A LONG VIEW OF HISTORY, INCLUDING EVIDENCE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF MULTI-RELIGIOUS COHABITATION, WHICH EXISTED IN THE MIDDLE EAST FOR A THOUSAND YEARS."

**George Demacopoulos** 

#### **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN THE EAST**

#### Church of the East (Syriac)

So-called 'Nestorians'; instructed by the exegessi and doctrinal language of Theodore of Mopsuestia as articulated in the synods of Seleucia-Ctesiphon.

#### The Maronites (Syriac, Arabic)

So-called because of their ancestral, charismatic leader St. Maron.

#### The Oriental Orthodox Churches (Syriac, Armenian, Coptic)

So-called 'Jacobites' instructed

#### by the theology of St. Cyril of Alexandria.

#### The Middle Eastern Council of Churches

A modern ecumenical organization whose members include both Catholic and non-Catholic families of churches, and churches with parental relationships to Protestant churches in Europe and America.

IN THE HULT LAND

#### The Orthodox Churches (Greek, Syriac, Arabic, Old Church Slavonic)

Unil 18th century called 'Melkites' in Arabic-speaking milieux; instructed by the decisions and definitions of the seven councils

#### Mozarabs

A term used by modern historians to refer to the Arabic-speaking Christians of Muslim Spain.

## Consequences and Solutions

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WHAT WE SEE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS UNACCEPTABLE. IF WE DON'T TAKE ANY ACTION, WE CONDONE THAT ACTIVITY. THE UNITED STATES MUST TAKE THE LEADERSHIP. THOSE COMMITTING ATROCITIES SHOULD NOT GET A PASS."

Senator Ben Cardin

THIS CONFERENCE COMES AT A CRITICAL TIME. WE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. WASHINGTON CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE THE DIFFERENCE. I WANT TO SALUTE YOU FOR YOUR FAITH. IT IS INSPIRING, BUT ALSO KNOWING THAT WE NEED TO DO TANGIBLE DEEDS, AS IT SAYS, 'FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD.' WE ARE LACKING IN THE WORKS."



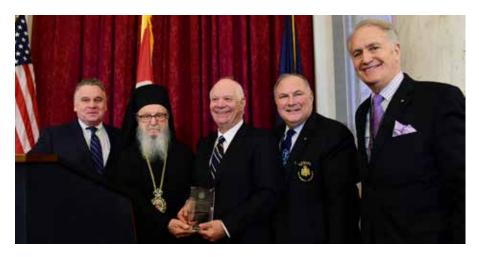
Congressman Chris Smith





#### POLICYMAKERS ADDRESS PARTICIPANTS ON CAPITAL HILL

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, a lunch was held at the United States Senate Caucus Room. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and former Chairman, Helsinki Commission and Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) offered remarks.



#### **Kennedy Caucus Room**

The Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building, pictured below, is one of the grandest and most historic rooms in the nation's capital. As its name implies, the Caucus Room was originally intended for party caucuses or meetings where members of the same party decided upon their candidates, policies, and legislative matters.



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#### SESSION TWO

## PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS



William Antholis CEO of the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs



Archbishop Dionysius Kawak Archbishop and Patriarchal Vicar, Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of the Eastern United States



Archbishop Angaelos Coptic Orthodox Bishop of London



V. Rev. Fr. Isaac Crow Ss. Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church



Anna Koulouris Communications Advisor, Patriarchate of Jerusalem



Johny Messo President, World Council of Arameans (Syriacs)

This ecumenical panel brought together religious leaders and representatives from the various Christian communities of the Middle East, including Syria, Turkey and Egypt. The voices of ancient eastern Christian communities were joined by those of modern western Christianity. Members of the Coptic, Syriac, and Greek Orthodox Churches, together with Protestant representatives will bring to light the persecution endured by these communities. The discussion also highlighted steps being taken to raise global awareness of the plight of Christians. Moreover, the discussion also introduced initiatives to preserve the region's pluralistic fabric and interfaith peace building.

OUR GOAL AS MIDDLE EAST CHRISTIANS IS TO TEACH EVERYONE TO ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER. [WE MUST] COLLABORATE TO HELP THOSE THAT NEED THE MOST HELP." Archbishop Dionysius John Kawak





[THIS CONFERENCE] GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO VOICE. IF YOU LOOK AT SYRIA AND IRAQ TODAY WE HAVE TO HOPE THE SITUATION CAN BE STABILIZED SINCE VERY FEW CHRISTIANS ARE LEFT. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ACT NOW - NOT TOMORROW." Johny Messo



THESE MEN HAVE BECOME ICONIC-THE MARTYRS OF LIBYA-THEY CHANGED THE WORLD. TYPICALLY AND TRADITIONALLY, COPTIC CHRISTIANS WOULD HAVE A CROSS TATTOOED ON THEIR WRISTS.... JUST AS A SIGN THAT'S WHO THEY ARE. I GREW UP IN AUSTRALIA, I DIDN'T HAVE ONE, DIDN'T SEE THE NEED. BUT WHEN I WATCHED THIS VIDEO, AND THE INCREDIBLY COURAGEOUS MAN IN THE MIDDLE HAVING TO MASK HIS FACE, SO THAT HE WOULD NOT BE KNOWN, POINTED THAT KNIFE AND SAID 'WE ARE AFTER YOU THE NATION OF THE CROSS,' I FELT A NEED TO GET THIS CROSS, FOR THEM."

Archbishop Angaelos

THE 3<sup>RD</sup>ARCHON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE <sup>ON</sup> RELIGIOUS FREEDOM





#### **CONFERENCE BANQUET**

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, a Banquet, hosted by the Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation, was held at the Trump International Hotel. Remarks were offered by the Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Jordan Sekulow, Executive Director, American Center for Law and Justice and by Reince Priebus, Former White House Chief of Staff.

THIS CONFERENCE PROVIDES THE CONTEXT FOR INTENSIFYING OUR PRAYERS TO GOD FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF ALL CHRISTIANS CONFRONTED BY FORCES OF HATRED, RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE AND WILD FANATICISM."

Archbishop Demetrios

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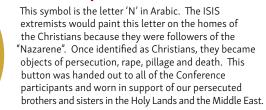




#### UNLESS WE COMMIT TO PROTECTION OF ALL RELIGIOUS SITES - WHATEVER THEIR RELIGIOUS OR FAITH ORIGIN - WE CANNOT PROTECT ANY."

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis

#### The Nazarene Symbol



高生 男



WE WEAR THIS BUTTON TONIGHT-THE NAZARENE BUTTON-THIS WAS A NEGATIVE, PUT FORWARD BY ISIS. LIKE THE OLD TESTAMENT, WHEN THE JEWS WERE TOLD TO PAINT THE BLOOD OVER THEIR DOOR, ISIS SWITCHED THINGS AROUND, AND THEY SAID, 'PUT THIS NAZARENE ON YOUR DOOR.' WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? 'JESUS OF NAZARETH. YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN FAMILY, WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU.' TO WEAR THIS SYMBOL, EVEN TODAY AS ISIS IS ON THE RUN, IS VERY IMPORTANT." Jordan Sekulow



#### SENATOR RUBIO URGES HELP FOR DISPLACED MIDDLE EAST CHRISTIANS

Sen. Marco Rubio emphasized that with the increasing persecution of Christians in the Middle East, complacency with the current situation is not an option for the United States.

"We must move on with a sense of urgency," the Republican senator from Florida, who serves as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Human Rights Subcommittee and as Helsinki Commission Commissioner.

"Will we stand with our persecuted brothers and sisters in the hour of their suffering? I pray the answer is yes," said the senator.

"The issue of international religious freedom is deeply personal to me, and something that I have dedicated much of my time advancing since first joining the Senate," he said, adding that religious freedom is at the center of America's own experiment in self-governance.

Rubio noted that violations of religious

freedom occur daily around the globe at the hands of state and non-state actors alike. "No faith and no region are untouched, but it is the persecution of Christians which has reached staggering levels."

He pointed out that in 2015 alone it is estimated that more than 7,000 Christians died for their faith with this figure not including the millions more who were attacked, imprisoned, forcibly displaced or otherwise harmed.

While noting that numerically there has been a precipitous decline in the Christian population throughout the Middle East that predates ISIS, Rubio emphasized that this decline will not end with the eventual military defeat of ISIS.

"The full measure of human suffering exacted against these innocent people of faith remains truly incalculable. As it relates to ISIS atrocities, they have rightly been called genocide by the Obama administration and also the Trump administration," Rubio said. "But words alone are hollow unless action follows and we must be moved to action to preserve the very cradle of our faith."

"If the United States fails to take meaningful steps to support these communities, including ensuring their access to humanitarian assistance and resources they need to rebuild, even more of them will be forced to abandon their ancient homeland."

Rubio said he appreciated Vice President Mike Pence's "personal commitment to this issue," noting that the vice president will travel to the region later this month "in part to draw attention to the plight of persecuted Christians and religious minorities across the Middle East."

"As we in the West encounter the bold and unapologetic faith of believers dwelling in lands where their identity as Christians makes them susceptible to displacement, attack, persecution and even death, we can't help but wonder at their courage and steadfastness," Rubio added.







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## \* RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

IF THE US FAILS TO TAKE MEANINGFUL STEPS TO SUPPORT THESE COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING ENSURING THEIR ACCESS TO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES TO REBUILD, EVEN MORE OF THEM WILL BE FORCED TO ABANDON THEIR ANCIENT HOMELAND."

**Senator Marco Rubio** 

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#### Welcoming the Senator

Opposite page, above, Father Alexander Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor, is joined by Dr. Limberakis, Archons Mike Manatos and Michael Karloutsos as they welcome Senator Rubio. Far left, Karloutsos, U.S. Acting Chief of Protocol, introduces the Senator. Archon Andrew E. Manatos makes introductions, middle. Archon Elias Damianakis of Florida welcomes his Senator, right. SESSION THREE

## FREEDOMS OF RELIGION AND THE PRESS

Government and private sector experts will discuss the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in comparison with global issues of freedom of religion, speech, and the press. The panel will explore how these fundamental rights are impacted by the persecution of Christians through threats and acts of violence and the failure to punish those responsible, defamation, economic suppression, and State sponsored blasphemy laws and other regulations which promote majority State religions in education and government institutions. The panel will conclude with a discussion of the response by Christians and other Faiths to these acts of discrimination and offering potential solutions, including methods for survival, association and confrontation.



Lauren Green Chief Religion Correspondent, Fox News



Kristina Arriaga Vice Chairwoman, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom



Nathaniel Hurd Policy Advisor, Commission on Security & Cooperation

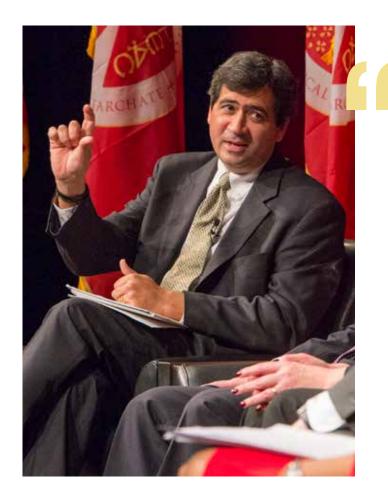
in Europe, US Helsinki Commission



Gene Policinski Chief Operating Officer, Newseum Institute



Timothy Samuel Shah Senior Director, Religious Freedom Institute



#### 20% OF THE GLOBAL CHRISTIAN POPULATION LIVES IN COUNTRIES WHERE THEY ARE SUBJECT TO SEVERE PERSECUTION."

Dr. Timothy Samuel Shah





#### JAY SEKULOW ADDRESSES PARTICIPANTS AT NEWSEUM

LITTLE

A luncheon was held at the Newseum and sponsored by AHEPA. Carl Hollister, Supreme President, Order of AHEPA offered welcoming remarks and Jay Alan Sekulow, Chief Counsel, American Center for Law & Justice and the European Centre for Law and Justice was keynote speaker.



Andrew J. Ekonomou, JD, PhD Introductory remarks were offered by Archon Ekonomou, who serves as senior counsel to both the American Center for Law and Justice in Washington, D.C., and the European Centre for Law and Justice in Strasbourg, France.

#### High above the Capital

Archbishop Demetrios is joined by Archons, clergy and Conference participants on the rooftop of the Newseum with the Capital building behind them.



YOU PASS ALL THE LEGISLATION IN THE WORLD. YOU CAN HAVE THE STRONGEST ARMIES IN THE WORLD. BUT TO THOSE PEOPLE THAT ARE BEING PERSECUTED BY ISIS, AL QAEDA, GOVERNMENTS... FOR THOSE PEOPLE, LEGISLATION RIGHT NOW ISN'T GONNA MEAN A LOT. THEY NEED HOPE."

Jay Alan Sekulow





In Recognition

Archbishop Demetrios, together with National Commander Limberakis and Carl Hollister, AHEPA President, present Jay Sekulow with a commemorative plaque.

## SESSION FOUR SACRED SITES AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Experts from religious and practitioner communities were brought together to discuss the impacts of property rights regimes and protection of religious sites on the survival and vitality of Christian communities across the Middle East. The panel analyzed differences between punitive versus inclusive property rights regimes for the sustainability of Christians in their lands of origin, and explored the legal frameworks for recovery of stolen and trafficked Christian religious artifacts, as well as the security and assistance approaches to reconstruction and use of Christian religious sites in post-conflict situations. The focus on property rights and sacred sites for Christians introduced the broader significance for a religiously plural and stable Middle East.



**Elizabeth Prodromou** 

**Tufts University Fletcher** 

of Conflict Resolution

School for Law & Diplomacy

**Visiting Associate Professor** 



#### Archbishop Vicken Aykazian

Diocesan Legate in Washington, D.C. and Ecumenical Director of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) USA



Kate Nahapetian Executive Director of the Armenian Legal Center for Justice and Human Rights



Rabbi Arthur Schneier President and Founder, Appeal of Conscience Foundation



Ambassador Patrick N. Theros U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) to Qatar

#### **DESTRUCTION OF SACRED SITES IS A** FORM OF MEMORYCIDE. IT KILLS THE MEMORY OF PEOPLE ON A SITE."

**Elizabeth Prodromou** 

**TERNATION** 

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WE TAKE FREEDOM FOR GRANTED AND WHEN WE GET UP EARLY IN THE MORNING, THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO IS SAY "THANK GOD FOR ANOTHER DAY. THANK GOD THAT WE CAN RISE, WE CAN SEE, WE CAN HEAR, WE CAN WALK, WE CAN APPRECIATE THE BLESSINGS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US, AND WHAT A BLESSING TO BE IN THE UNITED STATES, THE LAND OF FREEDOM."

> THE PARTION ERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Rabbi Arthur Schneier** 

### THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIAN IN THE HOLY LANDS & THE MIDDLE EAST

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Consequences and Solutions

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN URGES MORE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE AND CHRISTIANS IN TURKEY DURING FAREWELL BANQUET

LOVE IS ACCEPTANCE. LET THAT BE A GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR US ALL AS WE REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO END RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN ALL ITS OVERT AND SUBTLE FORMS, AS WE HONOR THE LEGACY OF THOSE FIRST CHURCH LEADERS BY PROMISING FREEDOM OF RELIGION FOR ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD."

**Rep. Ed Royce** 

The chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee expressed concern over "oppressive tactics that impede freedom" for Orthodox Christian believers within Turkey, as well as the 300 million Orthodox believers around the world.

Rep. Ed Royce, R-California, speaking at the closing session of the Third Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom held in Washington, emphasized that there "must be change and it must be now. I have met with the Ecumenical Patriarch (His All-Holiness Bartholomew) and there is no one more willing to engage with Turkish leaders and the community to promote peace, tolerance, and inter-faith dialogue."

The three-day conference, attended by some 250 people, was sponsored by the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Sessions were held at various venues in Washington, D.C. The closing event was held at the U.S. Institute for Peace.

"Last week, we marked the Feast Day of Apostle St. Andrew, who in the first century A.D. courageously and freely shared his religious beliefs, leading thousands into the faith and establishing the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Byzantium -- Istanbul in modern day Turkey," the congressman noted. "It is a tragedy today's inheritors of this great legacy are so thoroughly constrained in the practice of their beliefs. The Turkish government has placed many regulations that prevent the free election of their religious leaders."





OUR SINGULAR PURPOSE IS TO SENSITIZE THE WORLD ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE EAST." John Zavitsanos

#### In Recognition

Archon Mike Manatos, Conference Chairman, is joined by his wife, Laura, and father Andrew as he is recognized for his efforts in organizing the Conference over the last half year.

Rep. Royce also pointed out these issues facing Christianity in Turkey;

- Orthodox churches and properties have been confiscated and vandalized, left to ruin, or converted into mosques, museums and even casinos.
- Religious icons have been destroyed or sold on the black market.
- The lack of official legal status has meant that the church cannot raise and manage funds to maintain its properties.
- Its priests who cannot obtain legal residency must rely on tourist visas, which must be frequently renewed in order to serve the church in Turkey.
- The Ecumenical Patriarchate has also been unable to train its own clergy in Turkey, as the only Orthodox seminary in the country located on the island of Halki has remained closed for more than 40 years.

"There must be change and it must be now," Royce added. "Yet he needs our help. At every opportunity I have pressed Turkish leaders to lift these onerous restrictions and restore religious liberty to Orthodox believers." Royce said he has asked the Secretary of State to use all his diplomatic leverage to press Turkish leaders to abandon plans to convert Hagia Sophia into an operational mosque.

In his talk, Royce also stressed the United States has a special responsibility to lead the world to put a stop to mass genocide against Christianity in the Middle East, adding there is a rising tide of persecution in the region resulting in a dramatic decrease in the Christian population.

"We have witnessed that cruelty by the hands of ISIS fighters, who over the past few years have conducted a targeted campaign of genocide against Christian believers," Royce said. "These terrorists have even coerced children to carry out their atrocities, in a twisted attempt to corrupt future generations with their warped ideology. In the face of such atrocity, we must speak out and we must act."

Royce recently held a hearing on what he termed the "dire situation" confronting Christians in Iraq and Syria. One of those who appeared at the congressional hearing was a Christian sister who testified that ISIS' brutality was "cultural and human genocide," adding that the only Christians that remain in the Plain of Ninevah are those who are held as hostages.

Royce closed his presentation with a quote from Saint Andrew the Apostle, "Love is acceptance.," adding, "let that be a guiding principle for us all as we redouble our efforts to end religious persecution in all its overt and subtle forms, as we honor the legacy of those first church leaders by promising freedom of religion for all oppressed people around the world."

Also speaking at the closing session were His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, head of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, and Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle.

The Archbishop said despite the dire situation in the Holy Lands and Middle East that Christianity "will prevail with a terrific weapon -- truth and love of life. Everything is possible for those who believe."

Dr. Limberakis also stressed the need for "more urgent conversations on Christianity in the lands of its birth and growth," adding that "our inspiration is to forge ahead with our mission until the darkness of hate and prejudice fails."

# WILL CHRISTIAN CHRISTIAN CHURCHES DISAPPEAR from Jerusalem's Horizon?

Proposed legislation will allow the Israeli government to confiscate any leased property held by any church and to set the compensation, all without recourse.

Article contributors: Ambassador Patrick Theros Harry Moskos and Anna Koularis



The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem as well as other churches in the Holy Land face a crisis that could lead to the disappearance of the Christian presence in the very lands where Christianity began.

"This is a major problem that needs international attention," warned Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National commander of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, adding that the issue centers on property ownership and efforts to confiscate much land. "We are not picking a fight but are rather trying to save Israel from being pushed into a self-damaging position by extremists," said Archon Patrick N. Theros, an expert on Middle East affairs. He served in the U.S. Foreign Service for 36 years including as ambassador to Qatar and as director of the State Department's counterterrorism office. Theros also represents the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, headed by Patriarch Theophilos III, in the United States.

The Patriarchate of Jerusalem and all the other churches in the Holy Land depend on the real estate holdings for their existence and to support missions.

Government institutions, however, hold very cheap long-term leases on properties obtained from the Churches in the early days of the State of Israel. Now the Churches want fair market value but instead are facing new legislation that with slight amendment could let the government confiscate the leased properties.

"On a separate track an extremist organization, Ateret Cohanim, is trying to grab church property in the Old City by all means fair and foul as part of an attempt to drive out the non-Jewish populations," Theros noted. Ateret Cohanim is considered an extremist Israeli settler organization with a history of securing East Jerusalem properties and then harassing the Christian and Muslim neighbors. The organization fraudulently obtained a power of attorney from the then Patriarch Irineos and used the document to secure 198-year leases of five valuable pieces of properties around Jerusalem's Jaffa Gate, the primary entrance to the Christian holy sites.

Israeli Journalists discovered the fraud and Jerusalem's Holy Synod went to court to nullify the leases. Ateret Cohanim, however, delayed the court process for twelve years until a sympathetic judge heard the case. That judge ruled



#### An Attempt to Drive Out Christianity

An extremist organization, Ateret Cohanim, is trying to grab church property in the Old City by all means fair and foul as part of an attempt to drive out the non-Jewish populations

against the church, ignoring evidence that the leases had been obtained through fraud. The Patriarchate has appealed. There is concern if the Church loses the appeal that Ateret Cohanim would continue past practices, using the Jaffa Gate properties to make it impossible for Christian clergy, worshippers and pilgrims to access Holy Sites.

Theros believes there is little doubt that the Israeli government disapproves of the proposed legislation to confiscate the leased properties but explains that the government depends on a seven-party coalition and that one defection would bring it down. The forty cosponsors of the bill belong to several coalition parties. THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM AND ALL THE OTHER CHURCHES IN THE HOLY LAND DEPEND ON THE REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS FOR THEIR EXISTENCE AND TO SUPPORT MISSIONS.

"Equally worrisome, the Israeli government has rarely disciplined Ateret Cohanim, seeing it as a useful tool to prevent Palestinian access to any part of Jerusalem," Theros added.

All the Churches in Jerusalem, unified for the first time in hundreds of years, denounced both the proposed legislation and the Jaffa Gate case and are demanding that the government restore the rule of law. The Heads of Churches and Patriarchs of Jerusalem, under the leadership of Patriarch Theophilos, are rallying the worldwide leadership of Christianity. Patriarch Theophilos has already visited the Vatican, Canterbury, Constantinople and Moscow, all of which have made it clear that they find the Israeli action an unacceptable threat to the Christian presence in Jerusalem.

The land issue goes back decades. The Jewish National Fund and other Israeli Institutions hold long-term leases of vast tracts of Church property in Israel, Occupied Territories, Jerusalem and Gaza. In Rehavia, one west Jerusalem property leased from the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, the Jewish National Fund subleased land to the Jewish State and private developers. Israel built its Knesset (Parliament), the National Museum and the President's residence on the leased land. The lease, signed in 1951 expires in 2050. The Patriarchate will not foreclose on Israeli public buildings when these leases ex-



ALL THE CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM, UNIFIED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HUNDREDS OF YEARS, DENOUNCED BOTH THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND THE JAFFA GATE CASE AND ARE DEMANDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT RESTORE THE RULE OF LAW.

pire but does want to receive market value on the privately developed parcels. The Patriarchate tried to legally do so on the Rehavia property recently in question, but was frivolously fined tens of millions of dollars as a result of their action. In 1999, an Israeli court jailed two persons acting on behalf of the Jewish National Fund for forging the then Patriarch's signature so as to extend the leases. Now the Jewish National Fund has found another way to get the properties -- by proposed legislation that with slight amendment could allow the Israeli government to confiscate any leased property held by any church and to set the compensation, all without recourse. Archons must join the effort to protect the holy sites in Jerusalem where Christianity began. All the Churches of the Holy Land depend on real estate to provide the major source of revenues that maintain more than 600 holy sites ranging from one-monk monasteries to the Church of the Resurrection which houses the Holy Tomb of Christ, as well as schools and charitable institutions. Our friends in the American Jewish community have much to gain from speaking out against the injustices that threaten the Christian presence in the Holy Land. X

#### **Archon Support**

The Order of Saint Andrew has always been a strong supporter of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, as evidenced from their visit with Patriarch Theophilos in June 2009.





#### Honoring

The People of Lesbos and the Greek Islands **EMILIA KAMVISI** and **EFSTRATIOS VALIAMOS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINEES** 

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, GeronofAmerica, Exarchofthe Ecumenical Patriarchate, together with National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to Efstratios Valamios and Emilia Kamvisi. This year's Honorees are completely unique among recipients of the Award; a Greek fisherman and grandmother from the island of Lesbos. The duo does not receive the Award for



themselves, but as representatives of the fishermen and residents of Lesbos and the Greek islands who have intervened in the refugee crisis, using their boats and fishing equipment to save thousands of refugees attempting the short but dangerous crossing from Turkey to Greece.

PEOPLE SAY 'YOU'RE A HERO,' BUT THIS ISN'T HEROISM, IT'S THE NORMAL THING TO DO. WHEN YOU'RE FISHING AND A BOAT IS SINKING NEXT TO YOU AND THEY'RE SCREAMING FOR HELP, YOU CAN'T PRETEND TO NOT HEAR THEM.

Efstratios Valiamos



## HONORING A MODERN DAY HERO

Efstratios Valamios, center, is presented with the Athenagoras Human Rights Award, and joined by [L-R] Dr. Konstantinos Koutras, Consul General of Greece; Archon John A. Catsimatidis, recipient of the Nicholas J. Bouras Award; Archon Reince Priebus; Archbishop Demetrios; National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis; and Archon Mike Emanuel, Chief Congressional / Senior Political Correspondent at FOX News and evening Master of Ceremonies.

ore than 800,000 refugees have landed on the tiny island of Lesbos since the crisis began in 2015, and thousands of those have been rescued by Greek fishermen from rickety boats, rubber rafts, and capsized vessels. Archon Reince Priebus introduced the Award recipients, saying, "You didn't do what you did to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, or to receive this Award. You did it because it was right." Not only have the fishermen of the Greek islands, Lesbos being the closest to Turkish shores, saved thousands of refugees, but islanders have opened their homes, their hospitals, their schools, and their pantries to the flood of refugees. The crisis has strained the infrastructure of the islands but also pro-

vided an opportunity for the fishermen and their families to demonstrate the Gospel in action, as National Commander Limberakis said, "[in] the martyria of simple fishermen and a humble yiayia, we behold the best of the Christian and Hellenic ideals: philotimo, philanthropia and philoxenia. As too many in the world turned a blind eye to the six million Syrians who have had to flee their homeland, our fellow Hellenes opened their eyes, their arms, and their hearts to the plight of their fellow human beings." Archbishop Demetrios praised the fishermen, stating, "These people have loved the refugees more than themselves... We bow down before this type of love, heroism, and offering to humanity." Upon receiving the Athenagoras Human Rights Award, Mr. Valamios' comments were brief and heartfelt. Of his heroic acts and those of his compatriots, he said, "Every person in the world is entitled to the same respect and help when they are in need. I think we did the least amount possible of what could have been done for these people." X

#### **Keynote Speaker**

As a son of Mytilene, Archon Reince Priebus addresses the Banquet guests.

## KAILASH, WHEN IT RISES

by

FATHER NICHOLAS SAMARAS SS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

West Nyack, New York

-MA

The white froth of sea surf kills with its rising.

Any water—a sea, a strait, even a puddle is an ocean if it's deep enough to drown a soul.

We were helpless helpers on an island

and there were bodies in the blue water-floating hyphens of inarticulationtheir small faces equally blue.

We couldn't leave them. We pulled their dead weight by their arms to the pebbled shore—they were that close. We pulled them into our smallest caiques, the lapping tide still rising, the numbers of their bodies still rising.

What is this sacrificial risk and unnecessary loss for the world to wake and pay attention?

I had to be there, helping and not helping. I held my breath at the wet magnitude.

I cradled the dead baby's body from her mother's arms. I held her small body until it dried and turned into wind.



YOU DIDN'T DO WHAT YOU DID TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, **OR TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD. YOU DID IT BECAUSE IT WAS RIGHT.**"

**Archon Reince Priebus** 

[IN] THE MARTYRIA OF SIMPLE FISHERMEN AND A HUMBLE YIAYIA, WE BEHOLD THE BEST OF THE CHRISTIAN AND HELLENIC IDEALS: PHILOTIMO, PHILANTHROPIA AND PHILOXENIA. AS TOO MANY IN THE WORLD TURNED A BLIND EYE TO THE SIX MILLION SYRIANS WHO HAVE HAD TO FLEE THEIR HOMELAND, OUR FELLOW HELLENES OPENED THEIR EYES, THEIR ARMS, AND THEIR HEARTS TO THE PLIGHT OF THEIR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS."

National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis





Archon Harry George Athanasiou and his family.



Archons George Sifakis and Reince Priebus with their spouses.



#### ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS GERON OF AMERICA

COS

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS! Εις πολλά έτη Δέσποτα

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America was honored by The Order during the Athenagoras Human Rights Award banquet with an episcopal staff, in commemoration of his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Episcopate.



His Eminence was elected to the Episcopacy on June 20, 1967 and consecrated as Bishop on September 17 of that same year. He was elevated to Metropolitan on August 20, 1991 and enthroned as Archbishop of America on September 18, 1999. On November 26, 2015, by a unanimous decision, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate bestowed upon Archbishop Demetrios the high title of Geron in recognition of his invaluable services to the Mother Church.







Archons and their family.

## THE NICHOLAS J. BOURAS AWARD for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship

## JOHNA. CATSIMATIDIS Archon Notarios and chairman of the Order's Religious Freedom Initiative



Master of Ceremonies Archon John Metaxas

Andrea and John Jr., who introduced their father, as he received the prestigious Award.

Mr. Catsimatidis has been an active member of the Greek American Community in New York, throughout the U.S. and abroad. Proud of his New York upbringing and his Greek Heritage, Archon Catsimatidis is the son of Greek immigrants, having arrived in the U.S. at six months old. While pursuing and electrical engineering degree at NYU, Archon Catsimatidis learned the grocery business during his night shifts. Today, John's company, Red Apple Group, is a diversified, international corporation with holdings in retail, energy, and real estate.

A strong supporter of the Church with a

strong sense of civic duty, Archon John has served as chairman of the Archdiocesan Council, a board member of the Leadership 100, and he is a founding member of the FAITH Endowment. He is a strong supporter of the Police Athletic League, he is on the board of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and the Hellenic Time Scholarship Fund.

Archon Catsimatidis was bestowed with the title Archon Notarios and serves as the Religious Freedom Chairman for the Order of St. Andrew. He spearheaded and fulfilled a \$50,000 matching funds grant for the new class of Archons in 2016, appealing that each new Archon sponsor at least one day for the Order of St. Andrew. The response from the new Archons was nearly 100% and this year, through his generosity, Archon John has agreed to match the campaign again. X













ARCHON JOHN, WHO SERVES AS THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CHAIRMAN FOR THE ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW, FULFILLED A \$50,000 MATCHING GRANT ENCOURAGING ALL NEWLY-ELECTED ARCHONS OF 2016 TO SPONSOR AT LEAST A ONE-DAY PLEDGE OF \$3,000 FOR THE EXARCH'S APPEAL. THERE WAS NEARLY A 100% RESPONSE BY THE NEW ARCHONS.

aint Andrew the Apostle



# **TWENTY-FOUR ARCHONS INVESTED**

On Sunday morning, October 22, 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.







**Dennis N. Assanis, Ph.D.** Prostatis Ton Grammaton Newark, DE

**Harry George Athanasiou** Eftaxias Pittsburgh, PA

**Michael Nicholas Bapis** Depoutatos Manhasset, NY

**Frank Paul Boardman** Maestor Charlotte, NC

**Justin Koutras Bozonelis** Kastrinsios New York, NY

**Philip John Economopoulos** Hypomnematografos Montara, CA **George Cepynsky** Depoutatos Leslie, IL

**Themis James Fotieo** Nomophylax Grand Rapids, MI

**John Fotopoulos, Ph.D.** Didaskalos Tou Evangeliou Munster, IN

**Thomas George Gatzunis** Hartoularios Marlborough, MA

**Carl Robert Hollister** Referendarios Mason, OH

**Demetrius G. Kalamaras** Dikaiophylax Staten Island, NY **William Michael Korchak** Ostiarios Seaford, NY

**John Koutsoupis** Eftaxias Boca Raton, FL

**Constantine Steve Liollio** Hartophylax Houston, TX

**George Nicholas Marinides, MD, Ph.D.** Aktouarios East Amherst, NY

**Jeffrey Vasilios Michals** Ieromnimon Wall, NJ

**George Harry Mitsanas** Referendarios Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA Alfred Alexandros Dwayne Peters Notarios Toms River, NJ

**George Anthony Sifakis** Nomophylax Arlington, VA

**John Sitilides** Referendarios Washington, DC

**Peter Angelo Tsudis** Depoutatos Pittsburgh, PA

**John C. Tsunis** Orphanotrophos Port Jefferson, NY

**George Peter Vittas** Ekdikos Redford, TX

## ADDITIONAL ARCHON WEEKEND COVERAGE





#### **Archon Bootcamp**

On Saturday, October 21, 2017, John Zavitsanos, far right, along with National Council member Rocky Sisson, left, and Regional Commanders Gus Pablecas and John Manos, middle, addressed Archons-elects on their serious responsibilities to defend the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople.



#### Aristotle Papanikolaou speaks at Archon Luncheon

On Saturday, October 21, 2017, Aristotle Papanikolaou, the Archbishop Demetrios Chair in Orthodox Theology and Culture at Fordham University, was the featured keynote speaker at the Archon Luncheon during Archon Weekend at the New York Hilton Hotel. A gift was also presented to His Eminence by Dr. Maria A. Limberakis and the spouses of National Council members.



**Annual Archon Meeting** Archons listen to various reports discussed during sessions at the Annual Assembly.





# THE 15TH ANNUAL ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT

MARCH 16–18 · SOUTHAMPTON, NY

## HANK HANEGRAAFF "THE BIBLE ANSWER MAN"

Hank Hanegraaff, a recently Chrismated Orthodox Christian, serves as president and chairman of the board of the North Carolina-based Christian Research Institute. He is also host of the nationally syndicated Bible Answer Man radio broadcast, which is heard daily across the United States and Canada-and around the world via the Internet at equip.org.

Widely regarded as one of the world's leading Christian authors and apologists, Hank is deeply committed to equipping Christians to be so familiar with truth that when counterfeits loom on the horizon, they recognize them instantaneously. Through his live call-in radio broadcast, Hank equips Christians to mine the Bible for all its wealth, answers questions on the basis of careful research and sound reasoning, and interviews today's most significant leaders, apologists, and thinkers.

**RETREAT LOCATION** 

Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church 111 Saint Andrews Road, Southampton, NY 11968

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

Southampton Inn, 91 Hill Street, Southampton, NY 11968 631-283-6500. Room rate \$125 with group code "Archons". Limited availability.

#### **RSVP NO LATER THAN MARCH 7. 2018**

\$50 per person, check payable to "Order of St. Andrew".

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

Salutations Service, Fellowship Dinner and First Session

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Divine Liturgy, Daily Sessions and **Optional Dinner** 

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

**Divine Liturgy** 



# EXARCH'S APPEAL

List complete as of January 10, 2018

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

# Archon Catsimatidis fulfills \$50,000 Challenge Grant, renews challenge to Archons sponsoring one day

Archon John A. Catsimatidis, Religious Freedom Chairman, fulfilled his \$50,000 matching grant commitment, encouraging all newly-elected Archons to sponsor at least a one-day pledge of \$3,000 for the Exarch's Appeal. There was nearly a 100% response by the new Archons. This resulted in a \$50,000 contribution from Archon Catsimatidis.

Archon Catsimatidis has once again challenged newly invested Archons, along with all Archons, to pledge their support towards the vital religious freedom initiatives of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle by sponsoring one or more days.

#### 33 Days Sponsored

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

#### **16 Days Sponsored**

John A. Catsimatidis • New York, NY • 2/28/88

#### **12 Days Sponsored**

John C. Kulis Charitable Foundation • Chicago, IL

**<u>11 Days Sponsored</u>** George M. Marcus • Palo Alto, CA • 2/24/91

#### 8 Days Sponsored

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

#### 6 Days Sponsored

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

#### **5 Days Sponsored**

James & Theodore Pedas Family Foundation • Washington, DC • 10/31/10

Michael G. Psaros • Purchase, NY • 10/19/14 Spiridon Spireas, Ph.D. • New Hope, PA • 10/31/10

#### **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 Christ Stratakis • New York, NY • 3/8/98 Tim Tassopoulos • Atlanta, GA • 10/28/07

#### 2 Days Sponsored

Peter J. Barris • McLean, VA • 10/10/04 Stephen Cherpelis • Douglaston, NY • 2/18/01 Nicholas E. Chimicles • Devon, PA • 10/10/13 Peter Chiopelas • Beechhurst, NY • 10/16/16 Stephen A. Georgeson • Atlanta, GA • 3/9/03 Demitrios Halakos • Greenville, DE • 10/18/15 Nicholas Karamatsoukas • Gladwyne, PA • 10/23/05 Theodore D. Konopisos • Newport Beach, CA • 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 Harry W. Spell • Edina, MN • 10/16/11 William Spell • Edina, MN • 10/18/15 Demosthenes Vasiliou • Upper Darby, PA • 10/31/10 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 Merkourios Angeliades • Sands Point, NY • 10/20/13 Henry Angelo, Jr. • Miami, FL • 2/18/01 Peter T. Arbes • Chatam, NJ • 10/31/10 Lewis A. Assaley, Ph.D. • Cincinnati, OH • 10/26/08 Dionissios Assanis, Ph.D. • Newark, DE • 10/22/17 Harry G. Athanasiou • Pittsburgh, PA • 10/22/17 Bob Bakalis • Brooklyn, NY • 2/18/01 Arthur Balourdos • Lincolnwood, IL • 10/26/08 Michael Bapis • Manhasset, NY • 10/22/17 Nick Bapis • Salt Lake City, UT • 10/28/07 Charles Beck • Holladay, UT • 10/31/10 Drake Behrakis • Sudbury, MA • 10/16/11 Dr. Gerald Biernacki • Toledo, OH • 10/21/12 Frank Boardman • Charlotte, NC • 10/22/17 Dr. Nicholas Bournias • Birmingham, MI • 10/18/15 Dimitris Bousis • Northbrook, IL • 10/23/05 Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis • Chatam, NJ • 10/28/07 Justin Bozonelis • New York, NY • 10/22/17 Paul A. Bregianos • Brooklyn, NY • 10/18/15 Anthony Brigis • Sea Cliff, NY • 10/18/15

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Stilianos Efstratiadis • Quincy, IL •

John P. Eliopoulos, M.D. • Swampscott, MA • 10/31/10

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Peter J. G. Maris, M.D. • Garden City, NY • 3/7/93 Nikiforos Mathews • Stamford, CT • 11/1/09 Richard K. McGee • Houston, TX • 10/16/16 Peter Mesologites • Kings Point, NY • 10/16/16 C. Dean Metropoulos • Greenwich, CT • 10/23/05 Jeffrey Michals • Wall, NJ • 10/22/17 Frank Mihalopoulos • Dallas, TX • 10/31/10 Michael H. Missios, Ph. D. • Huntsville, AL • 10/19/14

George H. Mitsanas • Palos Verdes Est., CA • 10/22/17

Ted Moudis • Manhasset, NY • 10/16/16 James S. Nicholas • Grand Rapids, MI • 3/10/02 Anthony A. Nichols • Skokie, IL • 2/24/91 Tom Nixon • Charlotte, NC • 10/16/16 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 Christopher J. Pappas • Houston, TX • 10/26/08 Peter G. Pappas • Centerville, MD • 3/23/86 Pete Parthenis, Sr. • Inverness, IL • 10/28/07 Solon P. Patterson • Atlanta, GA • 3/9/03 Gus G. Perdikakis • Maineville, OH • 3/7/82 Demetrios Polos • Highland Park, NJ • 10/19/14 Theodore J. Poplos • Memphis, TN • 10/19/14 Gerry Ranglas • Rancho Santa Fe • 3/10/02 Dr. John C. Rouman • Durham, NH 03824 • 10/16/11 George Sakellaris • Milton, MA • 10/28/07 Costas Sarantopoulos, M.D. • Youngstown, OH • 1975

William Scaljon • Atlanta, GA • 3/3/96 Dr. Peter Scamagas • Fresno, CA • 10/28/07 Byron Scordelis • Saratoga, CA • 10/16/16 John C. Scurtis • Miami, FL • 10/28/07 Constantine Sideridis • Salem, MA • 10/18/15 Franklin Sisson • Paradise Valley, AZ • 10/16/16 John Sitilides • McLean, VA • 10/22/17 Peter J. Skeadas • Greenwich, CT • 10/10/04 Alex Spanos • Stockton, CA • 1/14/72 Dean Spanos • San Diego, CA • 6/6/04 Michael Spanos • Stockton, CA • 6/6/04 James D. Speros • Wellesley, MA • 3/10/02 Christos Spyropoulos • Old Brookville, NY • 11/1/09 George Stamboulidis • Rockville Centre, NY • 10/16/16

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#### All Exarch's Appeal Participants (continued)

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 Andreas Touzos • Virginia Beach, VA • 2/18/01 Costas N. Trataros • Boca Raton, FL • 3/20/94 Constantine Triantafilou • Lutherville, MD • 10/22/06

Kyriakos Tsakopoulos • Sacramento, CA • 10/22/06 George Tsandikos • New York, NY • 3/20/94 Elias Tsekerides • Brewster, NY • 10/19/14 Savas Tsivicos • Wayside, NJ • 3/16/97 Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas • Rego Park, NY • 3/8/87 George A. Tsougarakis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/11 Adam M. Tzagournis • Dublin, OH • 10/18/2015 Manuel Tzagournis, M.D. • Columbus, OH • 3/9/03 Andreas G. Tzakis, M.D. • Columbus, OH • 3/9/03 Andreas G. Tzakis, M.D. • Miami, FL • 10/10/04 George A. Tzikas • Sacramento, CA • 3/5/00 Dr. Sotirios J. Vahaviolos • Princeton, NJ • 10/10/04 Argyris Vassiliou • Stamford, CT • 10/16/11

Demosthenes Vasiliou • Upper Darby, PA • 10/31/10 Emmanuel E. Velivasakis • Scarsdale, NY • 3/10/02 Kostas Vellios • Brooklyn, NY • 1969 George Venizelos • Sparta, NJ • 10/20/13 Stefanos Vertopoulos • Vancouver, WA • 10/28/07 Theodore Veru • Fort Lee, NJ • 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 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 Philip G. Yamalis • Pittsburgh, PA • 10/21/12

G.Thomas Yearout • Birmingham, AL • 3/8/98 Stephen G. Yeonas • McLean, VA • 3/3/96 Nickas J. Yiannias • Dubuque, IA • 10/23/82 Andrew Zachariades • Brick, NJ • 10/16/16 James B. Zafiros • White Plains, NY • 10/31/10 George P. Zaharas • Cheyenne, WY • 10/16/11 Theodore K. Zampetis • Bloomfiled Hills, MI • 10/28/07

Leonard Zangas • Manhasset, NY • 10/31/10 Theodore Zaravinos, MD • Fort Lauderdale • 3/3/96 John Zavitsanos • Houston, TX • 10/10/04 Marina Zazanis • Vero Beach, FL •

Steve Zervoudis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/16 George P. Zimmar, Ph.D. • Briarcliff Manor, NY • 10/23/05

Constantinos M. Zografopoulos • Chicago, IL • 11/1/09

Demetrius C. Zonars • Dayton, OH • 3/9/03

AHEPA Omega Chapter 371, Inc. • Harrison Township, MI •

The Nicholas J. & Anna K. Bouras Foundation, Inc.  $\bullet$  Summit, NJ  $\bullet$ 

Georgi Georgiev • Orpington, UK •

John C. Kulis Charitable Foundation • Chicago, IL • In Memory of George Kleris • Atlanta, GA • Air Force Chaplain Corps • JBSA Randolph, TX • 💥

# IN MEMORIAM

March 2017–January 2018 List as of January 10, 2017

Louis Anderson, Depoutatos Charleston, NC Departed on 5/31/2017

Tom Angelos, Eftaxias Elmhurst, IL Departed on 12/29/2017

James A. Argeros, Notarios Danvers, MA Departed on 6/4/2017

Chris Brous, Architekton Farmington, CT Departed on 11/23/2017

George A. Collias, Depoutatos Lake Bluff, IL Departed on 6/13/2017

John Haretakis, Depoutatos Riverside, CA *Departed on 7/10/2017*  John P. Koclanes, Maestor Denver, CO Departed on 12/12/2017

George Koukounaris, Ostiarios Nahant, MA Departed on 1/5/2018

John E. Kusturiss, Depoutatos Newtown Square, PA *Departed on 8/8/2017* 

Charles T. Masterpolis, Depoutatos Savannah, GA Departed on 7/17/2017

Dr. Photis Nichols, Depoutatos Jacksonville, FL Departed on 8/21/2017

George J. Miller, Nomophylax Charlotte, NC Departed on 1/28/2017

Hon. Nicholas Papadakos, Ekdikos McKeesport, PA Departed on 9/11/2017 Peter J. Pappas Sr., Exarchos New York, NY *Departed on 11/23/2017* 

Basil Skelos, Eftaxias Rockville Centre, NY Departed on 3/16/2017

Angelo G. Stoulis, Depoutatos Drexel Hill, PA Departed on 12/21/2017

Lt. Col. George Parandes, Ekdikos Jacksonville, FL Departed on 11/11/2017

John B. Vlahos, Nomophylax San Mateo, CA Departed on 10/29/2017

Basil Yanakakis, Hypomnematografos Coral Gables, FL Departed on 5/8/2017



8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075-0106

**Photo Briefs** 



#### National Council Members honor Archon Fountas

On January 18, 2018, members of the National Council recognized Archon James C. Fountas, Treasurer, for for his long-standing and distinguished service to the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle as Treasurer. Archon Fountas was presented with a commemorative crystal plaque to for his 'good health, abundant blessings and continued commitment to our Orthodox Christian Faith through the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its Apostolates.' Archon Fountas, together with his wife, Jean, will be moving to be closer to his children. He will remain as a member of the National Council. Archon Peter J. Skeadas has been elected to replace him as Treasurer. Archon Skeadas is a parishioner of the Church of Our Savior in Rye, NY and a member of Leadership 100. He has served on the Archdiocesan Council, as past Archon Regional Commander for New York and Connecticut and has been on the National Council for many years.



#### **Celebrating the Feastday of Saint Andrew**

On November 30, 2017, Archons from South Florida gathered at Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church in Boca Raton, Florida, for the Divine Liturgy in honor of Saint Andrew the First-Called Apostle. Fr. Mark Leondis, welcomed the Archons and their spouses, offering a sermon on Saint Andrew and the role of the Archon today. Also present were Fr. Alexander and Presbytera Mary Leondis, and Fr. Steven Klund.



**Bringing Christmas Cheer** On December 24, 2017, His All-Holiness greeted children from the nearby area while distributing gifts and singing Christmas carols.



#### The Apostolic Journeys of Pope Francis in 2016

The Vatican has released a colorful stamp series celebrating Pope Francis' trips in 2016, among them were visits to Mexico, Poland, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Sweden and Greece. The stamp dedicated to Greece, right, depicts the Pope with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Eminence Archbishop leronymos of Athens and All Greece visiting Syrian refugees in April 2016.

