

*The*  
**GREATEST**  
**CATHEDRAL**  
*in* CHRISTENDOM



ORDER *of*  
SAINT ANDREW  
THE APOSTLE

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

**2020 Annual Report**

“

Hagia Sophia can function  
as place and symbol of encounter,  
dialogue and peaceful coexistence of peoples  
and cultures, mutual understanding and  
solidarity between Christianity and Islam.”



His All-Holiness  
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



# ORDER *of* SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

**2020 Annual Report**    **Introductory Letters • 2**

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## PERSISTENT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DEFICIT IN TURKEY

Despite world-wide recognition of the of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as the spiritual leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, the government of Turkey:

Does not legally recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a corporate entity with legal personality.

Does not allow the free election for the selection of the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Does not allow the local training of Orthodox clergy and the opening of the Halki Theological Seminary since 1970.

Does not allow the lawful return of all Greek Orthodox properties confiscated by the Government



ΒΑΡΘΟΛΟΜΑΙΟΣ

## BARTHOLOMEW

By the Mercy of God,

Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

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

It is with distinct Patriarchal honor and paternal joy that we address you on the occasion of your Virtual Weekend Program, which is being organized under the spiritual leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America.

For yet another year, we have observed your tireless witness and relentless work in support of the venerable Mother Church, as well as your undivided devotion and distinguished commitment in service of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, most especially in highlighting and advocating against prevailing and persistent injustices in our world, particularly with regard to human rights and religious freedom.

Of course, this year has proved characteristically different and difficult for all of us, as we have faced the pandemic crisis of the novel coronavirus, which has profoundly touched human lives throughout the world and further increased the divide between rich and poor. Moreover, it has deeply impacted the life of the Church, which has been compelled to discover new ways of ministering to its faithful. Your own virtual program is in itself proof of this alternative reality that we experience.

Beyond this, however, there is another painful reality that we have all endured during these past months with the conversion of Haghia Sophia, from a museum that was open and accessible to people of all religions and cultures, into a mosque. We are both grateful and indebted to you for your contribution in defending the truth about the history and legacy, as well as the spiritual significance of this unparalleled architectural wonder. As we have repeatedly maintained, Haghia Sophia, as a classic monument of the universal civilization, belongs to all of humanity, standing and serving as a symbol of encounter, dialogue, and peaceful coexistence of peoples and cultures.

Therefore, dearest Archons, we wholeheartedly and fervently invoke upon all of you the strength of the Almighty God (Haghia Dynamis), the guidance of His Holy Wisdom (Haghia Sophia), and the peace from above (Haghia Irene), in order that you may continue to serve the Holy Great Church of Christ with your characteristic support and faithfulness. May the Lord bless you and your families with His abundant mercy, compassion, and love.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, October 13, 2020

Your fervent supplicant before God,

✠ BARTHOLOMEW

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome  
and Ecumenical Patriarch



## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 10, 2020

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the  
Order of Saint Andrew, the First-Called Apostle

Beloved Brothers in the Lord,

As the Annual Report of the Order of Saint Andrew reveals, the devotion and filial love of you, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, is limitless for the Holy Great Church of Christ, our Ecumenical Patriarchate. Despite the global pandemic, the Order has maintained its constant drumbeat on behalf of the human rights and religious liberty of the Mother Church of Constantinople. Your relentless dedication and zealous advocacy is evolving a new and profound ministry, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation for the Sacred See of St. Andrew, a permanent endowment for the spiritual mission of the First Throne of Orthodoxy.

The Order of Saint Andrew is leading the global τάγμα of Archons in this extraordinary commitment to the future of the Mother Church. Through this effort, the global Orthodox community which belongs to the Ecumenical Patriarchate will be able to participate in the mission of the Sacred See of St. Andrew, and extend the spiritual arm of the Church. Indeed, this could not be more appropriate, as the ecumenicity of the Church of Constantinople is truly transnational and rises above the mundane concerns of nationalism and ethnocentricity. The Archons by this visionary step, are raising to greater heights the horizon of our worldwide service to humanity.

Therefore, I embrace the not only the substance of this Annual Report, but even more so, the intentions and aims that stand behind it. They are revelatory of your deepest motivations, which are pure, virtuous and of the highest caliber of faith. May you always be blessed to serve the Great Church with such dedication and love, through the prayers of the First-Called Andrew, and through the intercessions of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary who is the Queen of the Queen of Cities.

With many blessings and love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America



# ORDER of SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

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November 21, 2020

*Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew,  
His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America,  
Members of the Holy Eparchial Synod,  
His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA,  
His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA,  
Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Spiritual Advisor to the Order and Vicar General of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America,  
Reverend Clergy and beloved Presbyteres and  
Brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America and Friends,

## Prologue

The year 2020 was unprecedented as the oikoumeni was confronted with extraordinary challenges:

- **A deadly worldwide pandemic** in which each of us experienced overwhelming concern for our personal safety and that of our beloved family members
- **The continued desecration of fundamental human rights and religious freedom** by the Republic of Turkey perpetrated against the Spiritual Center of World Orthodoxy, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other religious minorities with the **provocative conversion of Hagia Sophia and the Chora Church into functioning mosques**
- The **relentless persecution of Christians** throughout the world and the
- **Social unrest** that erupted throughout many communities in America

And yet, our Holy Orthodox Faith has survived and *grown* throughout the millennia overcoming worse challenges and existential threats, as the oikoumeni was always uplifted by the Risen Christ and the Empty Tomb to the extent that the Faithful *overcame* that which seemed insurmountable at the time.

**Let us never forget** when Christianity was at the verge of extinction, St. Constantine the Great, the Emperor of the Roman Empire issued the Edict of Milan in 313, the very first religious freedom resolution establishing religious tolerance and freedom of religion which resulted in the immediate cessation of Christian genocide which led to the unprecedented growth of Christianity in the known world!

**Let us never forget**, that despite the tragic Fall of Constantinople in 1453 and the ruthless torture and slaughter of countless Orthodox Christians by Ottoman Muslims, Orthodox Christianity survived throughout the centuries mainly due to the intrepid leadership of our spiritual fathers, first and foremost of whom is **His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the longest serving Ecumenical Patriarch in the history of Christianity!**

**Let us never forget**, that while Russian armored brigades and tanks were seizing Ukrainian sovereign territory, it was His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who granted religious freedom to the 45 million worthy Orthodox Faithful of Ukraine by bravely issuing the Tomos of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, ignoring the powerful objections of autocratic Russian political (Vladimir Putin) and religious leadership (Moscow Patriarch Cyril).

**And let us never forget**, that what seemed at the time an impenetrable Iron Curtain and insurmountable Berlin Wall, these symbols of totalitarian intolerance, ultimately did come crashing down because *good does triumph over evil*, as it did with the **Resurrection of the St. Nicholas National Shrine** under the **extraordinary leadership of our decisive Archbishop Elpidophoros of America**.

So, my beloved friends, **The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle stands optimistic and has abiding faith** that we will ultimately overcome the challenges that confront us today. We are encouraged and uplifted by the **words of our Lord and Savior spoken over 2000 years ago when He said that "everything is possible to one who has faith." Mark 9:23**, and that my beloved says it all!

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Once again, The Order offers our profound **gratitude to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew** as our worldwide spiritual father, for **selecting His Eminence Elpidophoros as Archbishop of America** and to the Holy Synod for their unanimous election of this true son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. His All-Holiness BARTHOLOMEW, the 269th direct successor of Saint Andrew the First Called Apostle is about to begin the 30th year of his Patriarchal Ministry, the longest in history! His recent decisions to grant autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, to select new primates in the Churches in America, Great Britain and Australia, to continue his strong advocacy to preserve God's creation and the protection of the environment and to promote the brotherly dialogue with all faiths, especially with Pope Francis have been inspiring. Let us not forget that His All-Holiness lives in a country noted for its profound religious freedom deficit and the number of journalists it has imprisoned (the most in the world).

The **first-year anniversary of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America** commemorated an impactful and decisive ministry addressing a number of issues confronting the Church in America:

- The interruption of the rebuilding of St. Nicholas National Shrine: in the first 45 days of 2020, His Eminence oversaw the successful raising of \$45 million dollars to re-institute the building of the Shrine for a scheduled completion of Fall 2021, 20 years after September 11, 2001. **Fr. Alex and the Archons led the way! Archons Dean and Michael Spanos with their sisters Dea and Alexis contributed \$10 million in honor of their beloved parents, Archon Alex and Faye Spanos of blessed memory. Archons Dennis Mehiel, Mike Psaros and John Catsimatidis spearhead the Friends of St. Nicholas Committee. The Order congratulations these extraordinary Archons!**
- The tenuous financial and accreditation standing of Hellenic College / Holy Cross School of Theology: **His Eminence appointed Archon George M. Cantonis**, a successful entrepreneur and past chair of the Tampa Bay Health System, as President of HC/HC who made difficult but necessary financial and staffing decisions that secured the future of this critical institution. **The Order congratulations Archon George for his dynamic and consequential leadership! We thank Archon George's beloved wife for her unwavering support and encouragement of her husband's extraordinary ministry.**
- The compromised financial status of the Clergy Pension Plan: vowing to overcome the financial challenges of the Clergy Pension Plan, Archbishop Elpidophoros is personally leading the effort to enhance the financial underpinnings of the Clergy Pension Plan. **The Order recognizes the invaluable assistance of the Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation and its trustees, William J. Crane, CPA and the Hon. Archon B. Theodore Bozonelis in facilitating the assessment and development of a strategic plan to safeguard the Clergy Pension Plan. The Order salutes Mr. Crane and Archon Judge Ted for their extraordinary stewardship and the Foundation's kickoff \$1 million commitment to the fundraising effort of the Clergy Pension Plan.**

- The areas of concern regarding the **Charter of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese**: pursuant to a long-awaited decision of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Archbishop has been charged to improve the Charter and correct areas of concern.

Among **the most significant and impactful initiatives of the Order of St. Andrew was the establishment of The St. Andrew Ecumenical Patriarchal Fund, Inc. (Fund)**, now renamed in honor of our beloved Bartholomew, **The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, for the Sacred See of St. Andrew** is an independent non-profit religious corporation established under the laws of the State of New York which this past year formally received approval of its 501C3 application from the Internal Revenue Service. The potential for The Foundation is limitless, as plans begin shortly to launch fundraising and development. With the successful establishment of The Bartholomew Foundation, the financial underpinnings for the Ecumenical Patriarchate will once and for all be firmly established!

The activities of the Order of Saint Andrew promoting religious freedom and the institutional human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate continue relentlessly, despite the challenges of 2020 and the global COVID-19 pandemic. Our multifaceted efforts have been directed to the White House Administration, the State Department, Congress, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, each of the 50 states of our beloved nation, the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe based in Warsaw, Poland) and the European Union where Turkey still seeks admission, albeit *virtual* efforts in many cases.

The Order is proud of our fulfilled \$1 million commitment towards the rebuilding of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine which is anticipated to have its Thyranixia (Opening of the Doors Services) in the fall of 2021. Sadly, because of the inherent dangers and personal safety concerns for His All-Holiness in Turkey, the Ecumenical Patriarchate required the acquisition of an armored car, as recommended by security consultants and The Order was honored to undertake this \$191,040 project for the protection of our worldwide Spiritual Father.

### The ensuing pages of our 2020 Annual Report

Highlights of the past year include the following:

- **The tragic and lamentable conversion of Hagia Sophia and the Chora Church** from neutral museums to functioning mosques, egregious acts of cultural memoricide and religious intolerance
- **The extensive work of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America raising the concerns of the American faithful regarding Turkey's relentless repression of religious freedom by personally meeting with President Trump, Vice President Pence and Secretary of State Pompeo. The Order recognizes the behind the scenes work of Archon John A. Catsimatidis and Fr. Alex in facilitating these historic and unprecedented meetings. This is Archon stewardship IN WORD, IN DEED AND THOUGHT directly benefitting the Mother Church!**
- Continued refinement of Archon website: archons.org by Archon John Mindala
- Prodigious social media posts on Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube and Instagram, including christianpersecution.com by Archon Rocky Sisson and his team.

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 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 that has now concluded and which had obtained 58 resolutions adopted by 46 states representing 93% of the United States population.
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Initiative, coordinated by Archon Constantine G. Caras, Esq and Archon Rocky Sisson.
- Patriarchal Properties and Minority Concerns Initiative, coordinated by Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis
- Social Media Initiative, Chaired by Archon Rocky Sisson and initially generously funded by Archon Michael G. Psaros and expanded by Archon Theo Nicolakis, Fr. Constantine Lazarakis, Elizabeth L. Limberakis, MBA, social media coordinator Tsesme Consulting and Archon John Mindala
- European Union Initiative
- Regional Religious Freedom Presentations throughout the United States by Regional Commanders

**The 2019 Athenagoras Human Rights Award was presented to His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine**, the highest distinction of the Orthodox Church in America. And by doing so, we not only honored His Beatitude, but we also honored the 45 million faithful Ukrainian People and their struggle for independence, self-determination, and the crowning achievement of the *Tomos* of Autocephaly for the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. In the words of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew upon signing the *Tomos* of Autocephaly, **“The pious Ukrainian people have awaited this blessed day for seven entire centuries.** And, behold, the fullness of time has come for them, too, just as so many Orthodox peoples beforehand, **to enjoy the sacred gift of emancipation, independence and self-governance, becoming free from every external reliance and intervention,** which have not always been nurturing and respectful of their own identity;” truly a profound and poignant statement by His All-Holiness. Archbishop Elpidophoros of America stated so aptly: **“Despite the pens that would re-write history, we know very well from which πηγή the Ukrainian Church sprang – the Life-Giving Fountain of the Queens of Cities, Constantinople – and how it is that Kyiv is the mother of Moscow, and not the reverse!”**

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 during his lifetime nine years ago with the establishment of the Award. **The 2019 Award was presented to Archon John Socrates Zavitsanos, Esq.,** a most worthy honoree. His All-Holiness stated of Archon John that “He has offered his services on an international level—beyond the borders of his local community—in order to aid the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s pursuit to reclaim the historic Prinkipo Greek Orphanage, and to raise awareness on the basic human and religious rights of Christians in the Middle East.” Archbishop Elpidophoros in his presentation remarks stated to Archon Zavitsanos: “By your faithful διακονία in the Order of Saint Andrew, Archon John, you have demonstrated your worthiness to join the ranks of George Behrakis, the first recipient, and all the others including our Vice Chairman of the Archdiocese Council John Catsimatidis, and last year’s honoree, George Safiol.”

### Significant Meetings

- An Archdiocesan delegation comprised of **Fr. Alex, the National Commander and leading Archons of The Order of St. Andrew accompanied His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Belgium on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary/Golden Jubilee of the Orthodox Archdiocese of Belgium November 9 through 11, 2019.** The Brussels visit afforded the Archons the opportunity to meet with His All-Holiness and discuss various issues of concern.
- **His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America led a Pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate comprised of Archons and clergy November 17 through 23, 2020.** It was a unique opportunity for The Order under the leadership of His Eminence to personally demonstrate our love, fidelity and devotion to the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople, the Spiritual Center of World

Orthodoxy. National Treasurer Peter J. Skeadas, accompanied by his wife Aphrodite, past President of National Philoptochos and current member of the Board of Trustees of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, was the senior member of the Order accompanying His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros to the Phanar. The pilgrims were fortunate to be among the very last visitors of the sacred Hagia Sophia, prior to its infamous conversion to a functioning mosque.

#### November 2020 – an historic month

The Order notes that within ten days of November 2020 two historic events took place:

1. President Donald Trump's Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Phanar (see Annual Report page 46); and
2. The Order's 2015 Athenagoras Human Rights Award recipient, then Vice President Joe Biden, was declared the 46th President-Elect of the United States.

On October 17, 2015 National Commander, Dr. Limberakis who together with Archbishop Demetrios formerly of America, presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to then Vice President Biden and said, **"Mr. Vice President, thank you for all you have done, are doing now, and will do in the future to ensure the rights and liberty of every person. And from all of us this special evening, thank you for what you do for the sacred person of His All-Holiness Bartholomew and the Ecumenical Throne of Constantinople, the Spiritual Center of the World's 300 million Orthodox Christians!"**

Then Vice President Biden responded by saying, **"This is may be the greatest honor I have ever received in my public life."** Previously, Vice President Biden had said that as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Vice President of the United States he had the opportunity to meet virtually every leader in the world. And, he said **that he found Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to be one of the two most Christ-like people he had ever met. Joe Biden was the first sitting Vice President in history to visit the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He visited twice as sitting Vice President.**



December 3, 2011



October 17, 2015

## Words of Gratitude to Team Archon

To our National Archon Office Team, headed by Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos and joined by Graphic Designer Archon John Mindala II, Administrator Christa Pourou and consultant Archon Andrew Veniopoulos 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., National Secretary Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis whom we call upon for his sage advice and National Treasurer Peter J. Skeadas who offers tremendous stewardship and frugality in his oversight of the Order's treasury; 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 Chair Archon John A. Catsimatidis, Archon Michael G. Psaros Athenagoras Human Rights Award Chair and Archon Weekend Underwriter along with the Bouras Foundation; Archon John Zavitsanos who reorganized the Annual Exarch's Appeal and was the 2019 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship recipient; Archon Rocky Sisson coordinator of our Social Media Initiative, Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq. who chairs the Audit Committee; Constantine G. Caras, Esq. who chairs the Archon Selection Committee and the hundreds of Archons throughout America who offer their *Time, Talent and Treasure* in service to the Great Church of Christ.

Special words of gratitude are offered to the Bouras Foundation which for the 22nd time donated an Archon Weekend \$100,000 sponsorship and to Archon Mike Psaros who for the fifth time has donated a \$100,000 Archon Weekend sponsorship.

It is fitting to pay tribute to four Archons who not only serve the Ecumenical Patriarchate with distinction, but have selflessly served our beloved nation, as well: Archon Gus Bilirakis, Congressman from Florida and co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus in the US House of Representatives, 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, former Acting Chief of Protocol, State Department! We all share in heartfelt brotherly pride in the ecclesiastical and patriotic achievements of these exemplary Archons!

The Order extends our heartfelt gratitude to our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Vicar General of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for his continuous and essential guidance, dedication and commitment to the Sacred Mission of the Order to Defend the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople.

The Order conveys our profound gratitude to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America for his unprecedented leadership, devotion and concrete input to the activities and initiatives of the Archon pursuit of the wellbeing and religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Archons of America, under the leadership of the Exarch Archbishop Elpidophoros of America to whom we offer our profound respect, affection and gratitude, 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,



Anthony J. Limberakis, MD  
Archon Aktouarios  
National Commander



ORDER of  
SAINT ANDREW  
THE APOSTLE

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

721

Archons in the United States

**The ancient order of Archons is, in fact,  
the oldest and most prestigious honor that can be bestowed  
upon a layman in the entire Christian world.**

108

Archons in the  
Metropolis of Atlanta

54

Archons in the  
Metropolis of Boston

65

Archons in the  
Metropolis of Chicago

162

Archons in the  
Archdiocesan District

46

Archons in the  
Metropolis of Detroit

45

Archons in the  
Metropolis of Denver

130

Archons in the  
Metropolis of New Jersey

33

Archons in the  
Metropolis of Pittsburgh

70

Archons in the  
Metropolis of San Francisco

4

Archons in the  
American Carpatho-Russian  
Orthodox Diocese

1

Archons in the  
Vicariate for the Palestinian/Jordanian  
Orthodox Christian Communities

3

Archons in the  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
of the USA

Statistics as of November 13, 2020

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

*It is by the grace of God that he, has been able to offer his good works and deeds of faith. Further, it is the affirmation of each 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 inalienable rights of human kind wherever and whenever they are violated - and the well-being and general welfare of the Christian Church.*

## Spiritual Leadership

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His Eminence Archbishop  
Elpidophoros of America,  
Exarch of the Ecumenical  
Patriarchate

Father Alexander Karloutsos  
Spiritual Advisor

## Executive Committee

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Anthony J. Limberakis, MD,  
Aktouarios  
National Commander

John Halecky, Jr., Ekdikos  
National Vice Commander

Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis,  
Ekdikos  
National Secretary

Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnimon  
National Treasurer

## Functionaries

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Christopher Stratakis, Esq.,  
Notarios  
Legal Counselor

George E. Demacopoulos, PhD,  
Didaskalos Tou Genous  
Historian

Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon  
Sergeant-at-Arms

Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA,  
Dikaiophylax  
Assistant Treasurer

## National Council

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Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis,  
Ekdikos

Thomas S. Cappas, Esq.  
Nomophylax

Constantine G. Caras, Esq.,  
Skevophylax

John A. Catsimatidis, Notarios

Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA,  
Dikaiophylax

George E. Demacopoulos, PhD,  
Didaskalos Tou Genous

Theofanis V. Economidis, Ekdikos

Stephen A. Georgeson, Esq.,  
Ekdikos

John Halecky Jr., Ekdikos

Carl R. Hollister, Referendarios

Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq,  
Nomophylax

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD,  
Aktouarios

Nicholas G. Loutsion, DVM,  
Aktouarios

John G. Manos, Eftaxias

Gus M. Pablecas, Ostiarios

Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon

Michael G. Psaros, Ostiarios

George E. Safiol, Archiophylax

Franklin (Rocky) Sisson,  
Prepositos

Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnimon

Christopher Stratakis, Esq,  
Notarios

George A. Tsougarakis, Esq,  
Dikaiophylax

Stephen J. Yallourakis, MD, DDS,  
Aktouarios

John S. Zavitsanos, Esq, Ekdikos

## HONORARY EMERITUS MEMBERS

Stephen Cherpelis, Dikaiophylax,  
Emeritus

Nikitas Drakotos, Depoutatos,  
Emeritus

## Regional Commanders

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### DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

Inspector John V. Kassimatis,  
Depoutatos  
Nikiforos Mathews, Esq., Ekdikos

### METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

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

### METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

Drake G. Behrakis, Maestor  
Aristotle Papanikolaou, Ph.D.,  
Prostatis Ton Grammaton

### METROPOLIS OF DENVER

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

### METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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

### METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

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

### METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Peter C. Papadakos, Esq., Ekdikos

### METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

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

### METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

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



CURRENT LISTING OF THE

# ARCHONS

of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle

*Defenders of the Faith*

## A

Mark Adam, Depoutatos  
Achilles G. Adamantiades,  
Prostatis Ton Grammaton  
John Alahouzou, Depoutatos  
Harold V. Anagnos, Depoutatos  
Ernest W. Anast, Kastrinsios  
Ernie Anastos, Hieromnimon  
George J. Anderson, Maestros  
Nick Andriotis, Depoutatos  
Leon William Andris, Ostiarios  
Andrew C. Andron, Depoutatos  
Mike Angeliades, Skevophylax  
William John Antholis, PhD,  
Prostatis Ton Grammaton  
Constantine A. Anthony, Notarios  
Arthur C. Anton, Jr., Kastrinsios  
Prof. John Antonopoulos, P.E.,  
Hartophylax  
Gregory N. Apostle, Depoutatos  
James Michael Arakas, Kastrinsios  
Andrew P. Arbes, Depoutatos  
Peter Theodore Arbes,  
Hartoularios  
Kostandinos M. Arger, MD,  
Aktouarios  
Clifford Argue, Eftaxias  
Hon. George Leon Argyros,  
Notarios  
Hon. Andrew S. Armatas, JD,  
Ekdikos  
Lewis A. Assaley, Ph.D, Eftaxias

Dennis Assanis, Ph.D, Prostatis  
Ton Grammaton  
Aristides P. Assimacopoulos, MD,  
Aktouarios  
Basil M. Assimakopoulos,  
Depoutatos  
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Megas Logothetis  
Anthony T. Saris, Aktouarios  
Prof. John C. Sarkioglu, Exarchos  
Nicholas C. Sarris, Maestor  
Dr. William M. Scaljon, Aktouarios  
Nicholas George Scandalios,  
Skevophylax  
Steven G. Scarvelis, Exarchos  
Byron Alexander Scordelis,  
Hypomnematoğrafos

John C. Scurtis, Hartoularios  
Dr. Nicholas Seketa, Ritor  
Steven N. Sellas, Hieromnimon  
Theodore Sepsis, Ostiarios  
Demetrios Seremetis,  
Hypomimniskontos  
Robert J. Serko, Depoutatos  
Robert G. Shaw, Megas Proto  
Ekdikos  
Harry G. Siafaris, Depoutatos  
George Siamboulis, Ostiarios  
Pericles Chris Siatis, Esq.,  
Hieromnimon  
Constantine Sideridis, Proto  
Notarios  
Paul Sieben, Aktouarios  
George A. Sifakis, Nomophylax  
Louis S. Sinopulos, Primikirios  
Franklin Gay Sisson Jr.,  
Prepositos  
John Sitalides, Referendarios  
Christos Skeadas, Eftaxias  
Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnimon  
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  
John J. Spanos, Depoutatos  
Dean Spanos, Maestor  
Nicholas Spanos, Hartophylax  
Michael A. Spanos, Depoutatos  
Raymond E. Speicher, Notarios  
William H. Spell, Laosynaktis  
James D. Speros, Kastrinsios  
Spiro Spireas, Ph.D. Aktouarios  
Christos Spyropoulos, Proto  
Notarios  
George Paul Stamas,  
Nomophylax  
George Alexander Stamboulidis,  
Ekdikos

Angelo Stamis, Hartoularios  
Gregory J. Stamos, Proto Ekdikos  
Angelo A. Stamoulis, Notarios  
Lambros K. Stassinios,  
Hypomnematografos  
Demetrios Stathopoulos,  
Referendarios  
Dr. Panos Stavrianidis, Aktouarios  
Peter G. Stavropoulos,  
Depoutatos  
Gus Stavropoulos, Depoutatos  
Mark D. Stavropoulos,  
Referendarios  
William S. Stavropoulos,  
Skevophylax  
Andreas Stavrou, Dikaiophylax  
Dr. George Stefanidakis , Ph.D.,  
Archon Aktouarios  
Athanasios Stefanopoulos,  
Depoutatos  
Michael L. Stefanos, Lambadarios  
Michael N. Stefanoudakis , JD,  
Orphanotrofos  
George R. Stephanopoulos,  
Megas Nomophylax  
Wesley Andrew Stinich,  
Referendarios  
John C. Stratakis, Dikaiophylax  
Christopher Stratakis, Notarios  
Thomas M. Suehs, Skevophylax  
William G. Sutzko, Notarios  
George Svokos, Aktouarios

## T

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John Tangalos, Dierminefs  
James Tasios, Kastrinsios  
Tim Tassopoulos, Maestor  
George S. Tavlak, Ekdikos  
Stephanos Tenedios, Primikerios  
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  
Nikitas Theologitis, Ekdikos  
Theodore J. Theophilos,  
Dikaiophylax  
Patrick Nickolas Theros,  
Referendarios  
Dr. Gregory A. Thomas,  
Hartouarios  
James G. Thomas, Depoutatos  
James Thomas, Hieromnimon  
Anthony Thomopoulos,  
Laosynaktis  
Manuel N. Tissura, D.D.S, Ekdikos  
George Tita, Hartouarios  
Peter Toutoulis, Exarchos  
Andreas Touzos, Ostiarios  
William G. Tragos, Depoutatos  
Costas N. Trataros, Notarios  
Constantine M. Triantafilou,  
Orphanotrofos  
Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, Ekdikos  
Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, Eftaxias  
George S. Tsandikos,  
Hartouarios  
Nicholas Tsapatsaris, Kastrinsios  
Ernest N. Tsaptsinos, Ostiarios  
Elias Tsekerides, Depoutatos  
Dr. Nicholas Tsirilakis, Aktouarios  
Savas Tsivicos, Kastrinsios  
George A. Tsougarakis,  
Dikaiophylax  
Dr. Elias N. Tsoukas, Aktouarios  
Peter A. Tsudis, Depoutatos  
George James Tsunis,  
Hypomnematografos  
John C. Tsunis, Orphanotrofos  
Dr. Manuel Tzagournis,  
Aktouarios  
Adam M. Tzagournis, Quaistor  
Dr. Andreas G. Tzakis, Aktouarios  
Haralambos D. Tzanetatos,  
Exarchos

## V

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Dr. Dean Vafiadis, Hieromnimon  
Dr. Sotirios John Vahaviolos,  
Hartouarios  
Nikiforos Valaskantjis,  
Depoutatos  
Sarantos Vallas, Eftaxias  
Demosthenes Vasiliou,  
Depoutatos  
Argyris Vassiliou, Notarios  
James D. Vavas, Maestor  
Theodore Vavoulis, Depoutatos  
Emmanuel E. Velivasakis, Eftaxias  
Konstantine L. Vellios,  
Depoutatos  
Peter L. Venetis, Ekdikos  
Andrew Veniopoulos,  
Hartouarios  
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.,  
Hartouarios  
George Peter Vittas, Ekdikos  
Peter A. Vlachos, Ostiarios  
Dr. Theodore P. Vlahos,  
Aktouarios  
Thomas Vlahos, Aktouarios  
Mr. Peter Vlitas, Hartouarios  
Dr. Elmer B. Vogelpohl Jr.,  
Aktouarios  
John P. Volandes, Hartophylax  
George P. Vourvoulis Jr.,  
Primikirios  
George Voutiritsas, Depoutatos  
Bill J. Vranas, Notarios  
Gus Vratsinas, Ostiarios  
Constantine N. Vrettos, Notarios  
Gary M. Vrionis, Eftaxias

## W

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Michael Wesko, Notarios  
Howard E. West Jr., Notarios

## X

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Basil P. Xeros, Depoutatos

## Y

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Nicholas Yakubik, Referendarios  
Dr. Stephen James Yallourakis,  
Aktouarios  
Philip G. Yamalis, Proto Ekdikos  
G. Thomas Yearout, Ekdikos  
Dr. Chris Yiantsou, Aktouarios

## Z

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Andrew Chris Zachariades,  
Kastrinsios  
James B. Zafiros,  
Hypomnematografos  
George Peter Zaharas, Myrepso  
Theodore K. Zampetis,  
Kastrinsios  
Leonard Zangas, Hieromnimon  
Dr. Theodore J. Zaravinos,  
Aktouarios  
John Zavitsanos, JD, Ekdikos  
Peter D. Zavitsanos, Ph.D.,  
Kastrinsios  
Steve E. Zeis, Skevophylax  
Dr. Nicholas T. Zervas, Ostiarios  
Steve Zervoudis, Hartophylax  
Tikey A. Zes , Ph.D., Lambadarios  
Dr. George Peter Zimmar , Ph.D.,  
Prostatis Ton Grammaton  
Demetrios John Ziozis, Eftaxias  
Constantinos Modestos  
Zografopoulos, Eftaxias  
Demetrius C. Zonars, Maestor  
Dimitrios Zyggouris, Proto  
Notarios

List as of November 4, 2020

The image shows the interior of a large, domed church. The central feature is a large mosaic of the Virgin Mary seated on a throne, holding the Christ Child on her lap. The mosaic is set against a golden background. The dome is decorated with intricate geometric and floral patterns in various colors. There are several arched windows around the dome, some of which are partially covered by a dark green fabric with white Arabic calligraphy. The overall atmosphere is one of historical and religious significance.

“

The Turkish government's decision was not a courageous act, but a deeply ill-advised act of memoricide that ignores Turkey's rich Christian history and further threatens the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the remaining Christians of that land."



National Commander  
Anthony J. Limberakis

**BEFORE**

The image shows the interior of the Hagia Sophia dome, looking upwards. The dome is covered in intricate mosaics and frescoes. A large, ornate cross symbol is positioned at the top center. Below it, the title "HAGIA SOPHIA'S DARK DAY" is written in large, bold, white and grey letters. The word "DARK" is significantly larger and more prominent than the others. The background is dark, with light streaming through several arched windows, creating a dramatic effect. A large, dark, circular object with Arabic calligraphy is visible on the right side of the frame.

# HAGIA SOPHIA'S DARK DAY

## Shameful Vandalism

Turkish government officials brazenly obstruct the view of sacred iconography within Hagia Sophia, including the magnificent mosaic of the Mother of God and Christ Child, using drapery and lasers.

## AFTER



# A DESPICABLE ACT *of* **CULTURAL MEMORICIDE**

## HAGHIA SOPHIA

**The UNESCO  
Heritage Site  
re-converted  
from museum  
to mosque**

On July 10, 2020, Turkish President Erdogan announced the conversion of the Hagia Sophia into a mosque. The decision is a deeply ill-advised act of memoricide that ignores Turkey's rich Christian history and further threatens the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the remaining Christians of that land.







“ [Visitors to Hagia Sophia could] experience what has been aptly described as the “Sound, Space & Spirit” — “the shimmering marble a kind of icon of the Holy Spirit ‘hovering over the primordial ocean.’” As of July 24, **the reverberant acoustics are muted by prayer rugs.**”



Hank Hanegraaff,  
The Bible Answer Man





# The Order of Saint Andrew LAMENTS DECISION to Transform Hagia Sophia into a Mosque

The edifice has been a bridge between Christianity and Islam as well as a symbol of Turkey's shift to secularism.

The Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, notes with great sorrow Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's signing Friday of a decree that converts Hagia Sophia, the foremost Christian Cathedral in the entire world for nearly a millennium, into a mosque.

Amid the pain and grief of this day, we take comfort from

Almighty God, aware that the light of Hagia Sophia continues to shine in Orthodox Christian churches throughout the world, and cannot be extinguished, and that the voices of praise for our Lord Jesus Christ that once resounded there still proclaim our Orthodox Faith all over the globe. In whatever guise, Hagia Sophia still stands as a beacon of light, a monument of faith and of

the power of God in the hearts of human beings.

At the same time, we call upon international bodies and the governments of the world to recognize that this unwise decision casts a shadow over the commitment of the government of Turkey to religious tolerance and religious freedom. Hagia Sophia, as the foremost Cathedral in the Christian world for so many centuries, conti-



**537** ► Built by 10,000 workers on the order of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian, it immediately became the largest and most influential church in the Christian world and remained so for more than 900 years

*The Emperor Justinian, as depicted in a Hagia Sophia mosaic, presents the Church to the Most Holy Theotokos*



**1204** ► Occupied by Crusaders in 1204, recovered in 1261

*The siege and attack of the world's largest Christian city of Constantinople in 1204, by Palma il Giovane*



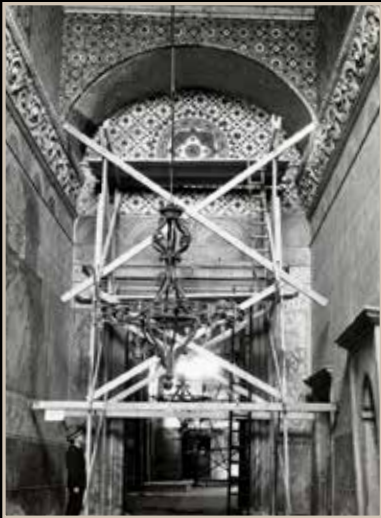
**1453** ► The Ottomans conquer Constantinople on May 29 and shortly after it is converted to a mosque

*Siege of Constantinople as depicted between 1453 and 1475*

Cards highlighting the history and significance of Hagia Sophia were created by National Council member Archon Rocky Sisson, Communications Committee Chair. These pocket size cards are a great reference to be freely distributed to anyone wishing to learn more about the painful conversation of Hagia Sophia to a mosque—an act of blatant, cultural genocide.

To obtain, contact the Archon Office at [info@archons.org](mailto:info@archons.org)





nues to be a source of inspiration for billions of Christians and people of other faith traditions worldwide. To claim it as the property of one faith group alone is to deny its longstanding status as a living symbol of respect for all faiths and a part of our collective heritage.

The Turkish government's decision today was not a courageous act, but a deeply ill-advised act of memoricide that ignores Turkey's

rich Christian history and further threatens the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the remaining Christians of that land. It was undertaken in defiance of the United States, Russia, France, Greece and many others.

We urgently hope that if this decision is not rescinded, that it will be implemented in a manner that continues to acknowledge and respect Hagia Sophia's thou-

sand years as a center of Christian prayer and worship.

In advocacy of religious freedom,

*Anthony Limberakis, MD*

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD  
Archon Aktouarios  
National Commander



**1935** ► Transformed to a museum by order of Turkish President Kemal Ataturk, founder of secular Turkey. Has stood since then as a monument to religious tolerance and to the resilience of the human spirit, open to people of all faiths.

*Archbishop Elpidophoros led a pilgrimage to Constantinople in early 2020. Here, Archons, clergy and pilgrims visited the museum.*



**2020** ► Re-converted to a mosque by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on July 10, first Friday prayers held on July 24

*Imam Ali Erbaş, President of Religious Affairs, bears a sword during the first prayer service held in 86 years, later saying, "This is a tradition in mosques that are a symbol of conquest. For 481 years without interruption, [imams] went with a sword [to the minbar]. Inshallah, we will continue this tradition from now on."*

**Mosaics Covered**

Hagia Sophia's southern vestibule depicts a mosaic, above, of the Emperor Justinian I presenting a model of Hagia Sophia to the Mother of God enthroned. This 11th century Byzantine model shows the Church painted in two shades of blue with windows set in white marble frames. The mosaic would be one of the first things visitors would see as they enter this primary entrance from outside the Church into the narthex.

In Ottoman times, the mosaic was covered in plaster, above left. In the 1930's it was restored by the Byzantine Institute, as depicted above middle. Now today, in 2020, the mosaic is covered again, pictured above right, as the Church has been converted into a mosque.



# INTERNATIONAL OUTCRY

The decision to convert Hagia Sophia from a museum into a mosque has sparked an outcry from the majority of the international community, whereas Turkish President Erdogan said in a statement that through the decision, Turkey was "exercising its sovereign rights".



Instead of uniting,  
a 1,500-year-old heritage is dividing us.  
I am saddened and shaken."



His All-Holiness  
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

“ The Hagia Sophia is an architectural marvel and a treasured holy site for people of many faiths... I deeply regret the Turkish government's decision to convert it into a mosque and urge President Erdoğan to reverse his decision.”



Former Vice President  
Joe Biden, now President-elect

“ The United States views a change in the status of the Hagia Sophia as diminishing the legacy of this remarkable building and its unsurpassed ability—so rare in the modern world—to serve humanity as a much-needed bridge between those of differing faith traditions and cultures.”



Secretary of State  
Mike Pompeo



“ The ruling by the Turkish Council of State to overturn one of modern Turkey's landmark decisions and President Erdoğan's decision to place the monument under the management of the Religious Affairs Presidency, is regrettable.”



European Union  
High Representative /  
Vice-President Josep Borrell

“ Hagia Sophia is an architectural masterpiece and a unique testimony to interactions between Europe and Asia over the centuries. Its status as a museum reflects the universal nature of its heritage, and makes it a powerful symbol for dialogue.”



UNESCO  
Director-General Audrey Azoulay

“

The sea carries my thoughts farther, to Istanbul.  
I think of Hagia Sophia, and I am very saddened.”



His Holiness Pope Francis

“ We stand together as brothers in faith, and in solidarity with all people of good will and good faith, so that Hagia Sophia may remain what She is – a symbol of encounter, history, spiritual aspiration, and human achievement of the highest order, glorifying the One God Who has made us all to be sisters and brothers of one human family.”



Archbishop Elpidophoros and  
Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan

“ If we Muslims really want to revive something from the past, let's focus on the model initiated by the Prophet [Muhammad] and implemented by Caliph Umar. That means no shrines should be converted — or reconverted. All religious traditions should be respected. And the magnanimity of tolerance should overcome the pettiness of supremacism.”



Mustafa Akyol,  
Contributing Writer, NY Times

# CHORA CHURCH *switched to* MOSQUE

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reconverted the historic Chora Church, one of Istanbul's most celebrated Byzantine buildings, into a mosque a month after opening the Hagia Sophia to Muslim worship.

**Killing the character and artistic value of the building**

Automated screens are now installed to cover the Chora Church's iconography.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



### The Kariye Mosque

The Church of Chora, now being referred to as the Kariye Mosque, has served as a museum since 1945 and contains some of the oldest and finest surviving Byzantine Christian mosaics and iconography.

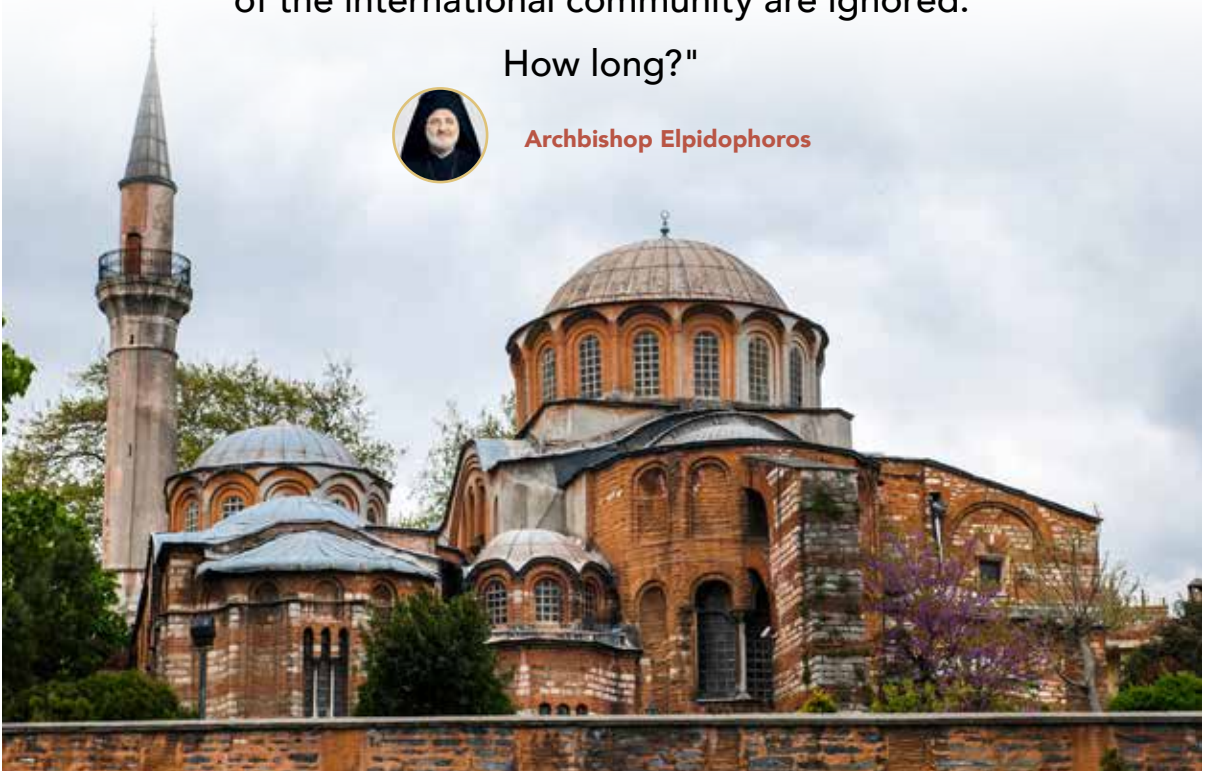
“

After the tragic transgression with Hagia Sophia, now the Monastery of Chora, this exquisite offering of Byzantine culture to the world! The Turkish people do not deserve such a narrow-minded policy. The pleas and exhortations of the international community are ignored.

How long?"



**Archbishop Elpidophoros**





# ANOTHER CONTEMPTUOUS ACT AGAINST RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



### Will History Repeat Itself?

When the Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople in 1453, the magnificent Christian mosaics were plastered over, as depicted in this artist's rendering.

## Order of Saint Andrew Condemns Conversion of ancient Chora Church into a Mosque

The Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, notes with dismay Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's decision Friday, August 21, 2020 to convert Istanbul's historic and renowned Church of the Holy Savior in Chora to a mosque, just weeks after converting Hagia Sophia into a mosque as well. This is yet another contemptuous act against religious freedom perpetrated by the government of Turkey; the Order strongly condemns this action.

The Church of the Holy Savior in Chora was built in the fourteenth century on the site of churches that date back to the fourth century. It was one of the most celebrated churches in Constantinople, as it contained mosaic icons and frescoes that are some of the foremost examples anywhere in the world of Byzantine iconography.

When the Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople in 1453, that magnificent Christian art was plastered over, but was revealed to the world again when the Turkish government designated the building a museum in 1945.

Now that artwork, part of the creative heritage of the entire world, risks being lost. Contrary to assurances, Erdogan has not yet made the icons and frescoes of Hagia Sophia available for viewing since he converted that historic and magnificent cathedral to a mosque. The Church of the Holy Savior in Chora contains even more breathtaking examples of Byzantine iconography. If international human rights organizations do not act now, they could never be seen again.

This ill-advised decision once again makes a mockery of the Turkish government's commitment to religious tolerance and religious freedom. Hagia Sophia and the Chora Church have for centuries been a source of inspiration and enlightenment not only for millions of Orthodox Christians, but for people of other faith traditions all over the world. The Turkish government's appropriation of both as the property of one faith group not only constitutes yet another sign of that government's contempt for Turkey's rich Orthodox Christian heritage, but further imperils the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the remaining Christians of that land.

We urgently call upon international organizations and governments of the world that are committed to religious freedom to compel the Turkish government to reverse this decision as well as the conversion of Hagia Sophia to a mosque, and to reestablish both with a status that respects their entire history, including their many centuries as centers of Christian prayer and worship.

In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

*Anthony J. Limberakis, MD*

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD  
Archon Aktouarios  
National Commander



### What will happen to the art and mosaics?

Mosaics, with faces of the seraphim were discovered by Gaspare Fossati during its restoration, and uncovered in 2009—and now re-covered with star medallions.

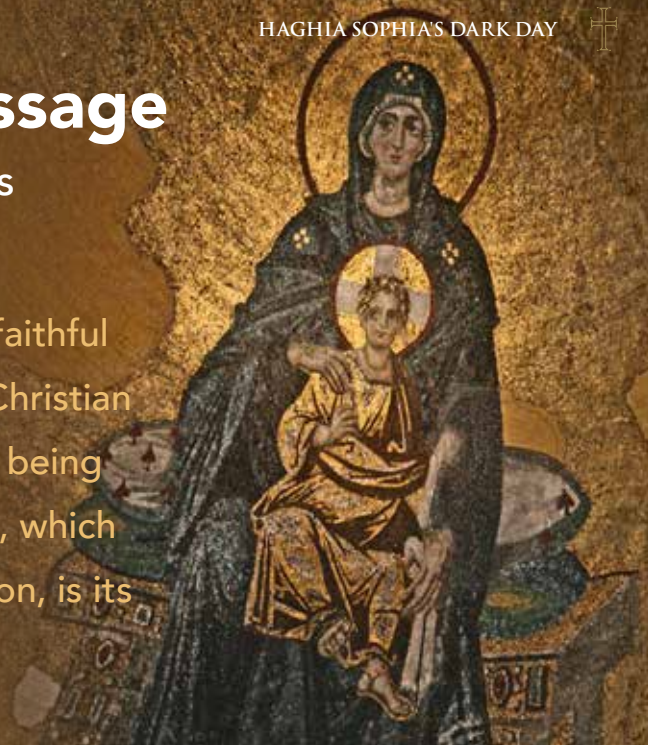




# An Uplifting Message

## from His All-Holiness

“For 481 years, while Hagia Sophia was converted into a Mosque, the Muslim faithful prayed within a Christian church, in a Christian environment, despite the iconography being covered. The only use of Hagia Sophia, which respects and exemplifies its true mission, is its use as a Christian house of worship.”



Regarding the Hagia Sophia and Chora Ancient Churches recent setbacks, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew offered an uplifting message to the worldwide faithful and reminds us that Hagia Sophia, “as an architectural expression of the salvation of mankind and all of creation in Christ, belongs to all of humanity.”

To the Most Honorable Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Archon Aktouarios of our Holy and Great Church of Christ, Commander of the Order of St. Andrew, beloved child in Christ of our Modesty, may the blessing and peace of God be with you.

We thank you whole-heartedly for your Statement, through which you express your deep sadness regarding the recent decision of the state government to convert the Museum of Hagia Sophia into a Muslim Mosque.

Christian church architecture is

an unsurpassed theological language, which through architectural inspiration expresses rightly the faith of our Church in the Triune God, in the ever-saving incarnation of God the Logos, and in the eschatological fulfillment and fullness of the Divine Oikonomia in the Kingdom of God.

It is this truth that the Sacred Church of the Holy Wisdom of God represents and declares in its unique way. No intervention whatsoever is able to obscure, alter, or eliminate the evangelical message and mission of this Church, for wisely it has been said that it constitutes “the architectural expression of the dogma [of the Ecumenical Council] of Chalcedon”, that is, the belief in the “perpetual mystery” of the God-Man, in the union and co-existence of both the human and divine natures in the one person of God the Logos, “unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably”.

In this spirit, the use of this wonderful holy structure as a Christian house of worship corresponds to its essence and salvific witness. In this all-holy space, all things praise Christ, the Word made flesh, Who was in the beginning and Who is to come. This truth, which is the core of Christian faith in the Triune God, is rejected

by Islam. For 481 years, while Hagia Sophia was converted into a Mosque, the Muslim faithful prayed within a Christian church, in a Christian environment, despite the iconography being covered. The only use of Hagia Sophia, which respects and exemplifies its true mission, is its use as a Christian house of worship.

The Church of the Holy Wisdom of God, as an architectural expression of the salvation of mankind and all of creation in Christ, belongs to all of humanity. Its recognition as a World Heritage Site expresses indirectly this truth, and is not linked only to the incomparable greatness of its architecture, its iconography and rich adornment.

With these thoughts, we thank you all once again for your profound and honest expression of love and support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The spirit of Hagia Sophia is always present in the life and daily witness of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in its unwavering faith for the Apostolic traditions, and its tireless concern for every human person.

In conclusion, we extend to you our whole-hearted paternal and Patriarchal blessing, and we invoke upon you the grace and infinite mercy of God.



# WE MUST ARISE

By Archbishop Elpidophoros of America



## A Message of Hope Following Conversion of Hagia Sophia

### The Ascension

An icon depicting the Ascension of Christ, inside the Chora Church.

We, the Members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, under the presidency of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, write to you in the power of the Holy Spirit in these anguished days when the Great Church of Christ, the Patriarchal Cathedral of Holy Wisdom, Ἁγία Σοφία, institutionalized for the past ninety years as a museum and world cultural monument, has been re-converted into a mosque. This egregious and unnecessary action has gravely wounded all Orthodox Christians, indeed all Christians around the world and all people of faith and good will.

As your Shepherds and the guardians of the Faith, we mourn with you. But we all know the truth: Ἁγία Σοφία was built as a Christian Church, the greatest Christian Church for a thousand years, until it became the spoils of war and was converted into a mosque. It was the glory of the civilized Christian world for centuries, an architectural marvel of the transfiguration of terrestrial into the manifestation of

the celestial. From its central dome, borne aloft on clouds of light, the Great Church comprised a vision of Heaven on earth, and its Liturgy was the most magnificent the world has ever seen. As the embassy of Saint Vladimir, Prince of Kyiv and All Rus uttered after being present for the Divine Service: "We did not know whether we were on earth or in heaven!" Such is the spiritual intensity of every aspect of the Great Church. Her iconography is a crowning spiritual aesthetic, achieving the vision, the *θεωρία* of God among humankind. Through the centuries, all who approached Constantinople by sea or land beheld her towering majesty rising above the massive walls that encircled the Queen of Cities. She was a reminder of the triumph of Resurrection over sin and death, and the surety of God's love and care for His People. She was and indeed still is the very heart of Orthodoxy, for she manifests even now the way to be true co-creators with the Creator of all of a truly Christian culture, civilization, and polity.

Even during the centuries of

the Ottoman period, the power of Ἁγία Σοφία, although now used as an Islamic shrine, was unmistakable, and unmistakably Christian. Throughout the Orthodox world the Great Church remained a symbol of the Orthodox Faith of the Ecumenical Councils which bound the far flung Orthodox Peoples together. Even the stunning design of the Church was repeated across the Islamic world in every city and town, as the overwhelming beauty of its presence inspired builders throughout what we now call the Middle East.

But let us make it very clear. For the Orthodox Christian, there is only one Great Church of Christ. There would be many other "Hagia Sophias" built around the world; most notably in Kyiv for the People of Rus, but none dared to imitate the original. She was to stand alone, at the center of the circle of the Orthodox World for all to relate to as do the spokes on a wheel. We are all connected to the Great Church, whether we know and acknowledge this or not.



Therefore, in response to what has happened, we also ask the question posed to the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost: “Τὶ ποιήσομεν, ἄνδρες ἀδελφοί – Brethren, what then must we do?” (Acts 2:37). First and foremost, we must bend our knees before the Holy Wisdom of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, and beseech Him through the intercessions of His Holy Mother to protect the Great Church of Christ that lives on in the person of our Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. We must pray that God will arise and scatter every ill intention that may manifest toward our community of faith and indeed all the religious minorities in Turkey.

And we must arise, beloved Christians. We must arise and speak out for the silent stones of Ἁγία Σοφία. We must go to our Christian

neighbors and friends here in this free land of America, and ask for their prayers and their help. We must arise and speak to our elected leaders and demand that they act in conscience and righteousness to protest by every means possible this defiance of the modern sensibility which respects not only diversity, but the status quo that allows for the peaceful and harmonious cohabitation of nations, religions, races, and ethnicities.

We must arise and as the People of God, make our voices heard from Washington State to Washington, DC, and not lose heart, lose faith, or lose courage because, though our struggle may be long, it is not without our ultimate hope. Remember that there is no one alive today who remembers Ἁγία Σοφία as either a Church or a mosque. Everyone knows it as the former of both which

was honored as an international monument, on par with the Parthenon and the Pyramids of Egypt. It should be allowed to retain its status quo as a place of encounter for Christians and Muslims, and for all people who desire to behold how faith in God can transform the world.

Therefore, let us arise – as Orthodox Christians, as people of conscience with a righteous cause. Let us make our presence and our voices known. Your every breath expended will add to “a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind” (Acts 2:2) that will sweep across the world carrying our message. Not one of hate but one of love, of decency, of understanding, and of mutual respect.

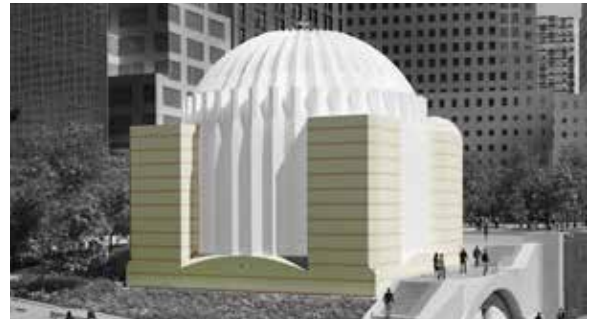
We will never give up our hope, never give up our faith; and we will never give up our love.

Σοφία, Ὁρθοί!

“The fact is that the conversion of Hagia Sophia and now, of the Monastery of Chora, into mosques, has deeply pained us. **The incomparable mosaics and their other icons, are for the soul heavenly food and inexhaustible joy for the eyes;** they belong to the entire world’s cultural heritage.”



**His All-Holiness  
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew**



#### Preserving History

Saint Nicholas National Shrine at The World Trade Center, above, will have alternating bands of stone on the corners echoing the walls of the Chora Church, above left, and 40 ribs simulating the dome of Hagia Sophia, above right.



# The Exarch brings the struggle to WASHINGTON

Over the last several months, Archbishop Elpidophoros and Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Archon Spiritual Advisor, met with Washington officials on the concerns of the

*for* **ACTION &  
CONSIDERATION**

Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese over the seizure and re-conversion of the Hagia Sophia into a mosque. His Eminence was later quoted, saying, "I am grateful to have met with President Trump and Vice President Pence in the White House and communicated our grave dismay at the re-conversion of Hagia Sophia into a mosque, as well as ongoing security concerns for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and issues of religious liberty."





## Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Petitions UN Experts to Hold Turkey Accountable for Violating Cultural and Religious Rights

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announced that it is petitioning the United Nations Experts to hold the Republic of Turkey accountable for its deliberate policies to erase the cultural heritage of Orthodox Christians. This petition rebukes the recent unilateral decision of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to reconvert United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO") World Heritage Sites, Hagia Sophia ("Holy Wisdom"), into a mosque.

Commenting on the peti-

tion, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America said: "Turkey's reconversion of the Hagia Sophia into a mosque is a radical misappropriation of the Orthodox Christian cultural heritage and living Christian communities in Turkey. The treatment and change in status of UNESCO World Heritage Sites is a concern for the international community as a whole."

In a statement UNESCO expressed its concerns surrounding the change to Hagia Sophia's status and called upon Turkish authorities to prevent any detrimental effect

on the universal value of this exceptional heritage. "States have an obligation to ensure that modifications do not affect the Outstanding Universal Value of inscribed sites on their territories. UNESCO must be given prior notice of any such modifications, which, if necessary, are then examined by the World Heritage Committee." The unilateral conversion will be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its next session.



### Meeting with the Vice President and the Secretary of State

Archbishop Elpidophoros met with Vice President Mike Pence, left, and also US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a month later, above, saying, "It is our earnest desire that the US government continue its work to ensure respect for international law, dialogue without threats from Turkey, and for peaceful relations between Turkey, Greece and Cyprus, and the entire Eastern Mediterranean region."

“

As I told Archbishop Elpidophoros today, America will stand firm with the Greek Orthodox Church in the call for Hagia Sophia to remain accessible as a source of inspiration and reflection for every person of every faith."



Vice President Mike Pence





# ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

**Athenagoras Human Rights Award bestowed upon His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine**

Archbishop Elpidophoros together with the Order of Saint Andrew's National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine during the annual Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet held at the New York Hilton Hotel on October 19, 2019, with over 600 Archons and guests in attendance.





“ Despite the pens that would re-write history, we know very well from which πηγή the Ukrainian Church sprang – the Life-Giving Fountain of the Queens of Cities, Constantinople – and how it is that Kyiv is the mother of Moscow, and not the reverse!”

Archbishop Elpidophoros

In a message commemorating the occasion, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew stated: “This honor is, as we note, rightful and deserving for the leader of a fledgling Autocephalous Church, which the Mother Church of Constantinople has in its loving concern nurtured for millennia and navigated in recent decades to self-governance and self-determination, just as it has done in many similar circumstances for other Autocephalous Orthodox Churches throughout the world.”

In presenting the Award, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros said: “Tonight we celebrate not only your person, Your Beatitude, but we celebrate as well the Pious and Faithful

People of Ukraine, whose aspirations for religious independence and control over their own future and spiritual destiny were realized by the loving, pastoral, and indeed maternal care of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Holy and Sacred Synod of Constantinople.”

In his remarks on presenting the Award, National Commander Limberakis paid tribute to His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy and declared that “in his person we also honor the faithful Ukrainian People and their struggle for religious independence, self-determination, and the crowning achievement of the Tomos of Autocephaly for the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.” Dr. Limberakis

noted that “by the grace of God and with the spiritual leadership of Metropolitan Epiphaniy, the centuries old dream of a united autocephalous Orthodox Church in Ukraine is now a reality, and Ukraine is now on the path to a unified Orthodox witness for this noble and historic Orthodox People. Critical to this path of unity for the Orthodox Church of Ukraine was the actual granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly, the certificate of autocephaly if you will, issued earlier this year by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, under the inspired leadership of the spiritual father of us all, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.”

“ The Ecumenical Patriarch has the prerogative and the responsibility of granting autocephaly status to local churches based on Canon 28 passed by the Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon in 451, that’s 1568 years ago! And we as Archons must defend that prerogative, as WE are THE Defenders of the Faith.... That’s who we are and that’s what we do!”

Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D.







“ If this award were for me alone, I would hardly dare to accept it, as I do not consider myself worthy to be placed among the ranks of the eminent persons and institutions who have been so honored in the previous thirty years. However, I do accept it, gratefully, not as a reward for me personally, but as a mark of the fruition of the work of hundreds of thousands - and even millions - of Ukrainian Orthodox believers in the Motherland and in the Diaspora. The Local Ukrainian Orthodox Church, fifteenth in the Diptych of Sister Churches, is the youngest to be proclaimed, but is ancient and glorious in its history.”



**Metropolitan Epiphaniy**



**The Church of Ukraine, fifteenth in the Diptych of Sister Churches**

On January 6, 2019, His Beatitude received the Tomos of the autocephaly of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine from the hands of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.



# THE BOURAS AWARD



**Axios!**

Archon Zavitsanos is joined by his family, officers and past recipients of the Award.

## John Socrates Zavitsanos honored with the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship

John Socrates Zavitsanos, Archon Ekdikos, is the 2019 recipient of The Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship for his outstanding service to the Orthodox Church as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The Award was presented to Archon Zavitsanos on October 18 by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and the National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, in a ceremony at the New York Metropolitan Club as part of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle's annual three-day assembly, Archon Weekend.

In a message commemorating the occasion, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew noted of the late Archon Nicholas

“ He has offered his services on an international level—beyond the borders of his local community—in order to aid the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s pursuit to reclaim the historic Prinkipo Greek Orphanage, and to raise awareness on the basic human and religious rights of Christians in the Middle East.”

### Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

J. Bouras that his “spirit of charity, generosity and philanthropy still resonates deeply within the echelons of your distinguished body, and constitutes the noble ethos that each of you aspires to attain and exemplify.” His All-Holiness continued: “Indeed, for more than fifteen years, Zavitsanos has embodied and promoted the-

se qualities in both his service to the Church and to the community at large. As an accomplished lawyer and prominent attorney in the state of Texas, he has represented numerous individuals over the years, many times without accepting any monetary compensation in return. He has exhibited a great amount of zeal and enthusiasm in



ΑΡΧΩΝ  
ΟΙΚΟΓΕΝΙΚΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΥ



### He Is Worthy!

Archon John Zavitsanos was invested an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 2004. In 2007, he was elected to the National Council. Since then, he has worked to help enact efficiencies and updates in Archon administration and policies.

upbuilding and enhancing the induction process of new Archons, so that in deepening their knowledge and understanding of the Great Church of Christ, a stronger bond may then be forged between them. He has even offered his services on an international level—beyond the borders of his local community—in order to aid the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s pursuit to reclaim the historic Prinkipo Greek Orphanage, and to raise awareness on the basic human and religious rights of Christians in the Middle East.”

At the ceremony, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros stated: “By your faithful *διακονία* in the Order of Saint Andrew, Archon John, you have demonstrated your worthiness to join the ranks of George Behrakis, the first recipient, and all the others including our Vice Chairman of the Archdiocese Council John Catsimatidis, and last year’s honoree, George Safiol. Your philanthropic offering is worthy of the memory of Nicholas J. Bouras, and the excellence of your life and work speak of your humility and graciousness in living up to your high calling in Christ.”

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., praised Archon Zavitsanos’ “tremendous stewardship of time, talent and resources in support of the Mother Church of Constantinople, the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the United States, and to the mission of the Order of Saint Andrew in which all children of God should be granted religious

freedom as a fundamental, inalienable human right.”

Archon Zavitsanos’ daughter Anastasia noted that he “believes in the basic rights and freedoms of every human being, and vocalizes and lives that truth, even when it could be dangerous for him...His resume is unbelievable. He’s created the Sponser A Day Program, raising over one million dollars for the Order. He’s helped reclaim an orphanage for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, after successfully suing the government of Turkey. He’s a member of Leadership 100. He’s helped the Annunciation Cathedral in Houston in so many ways, but especially through making it one of the largest stewardship programs in the country.”

“I am personally honored, humbled and happy to receive this Award,” Zavitsanos said in an interview after the ceremony, “particularly considering for whom the Award has been established, Nicholas J. Bouras.”

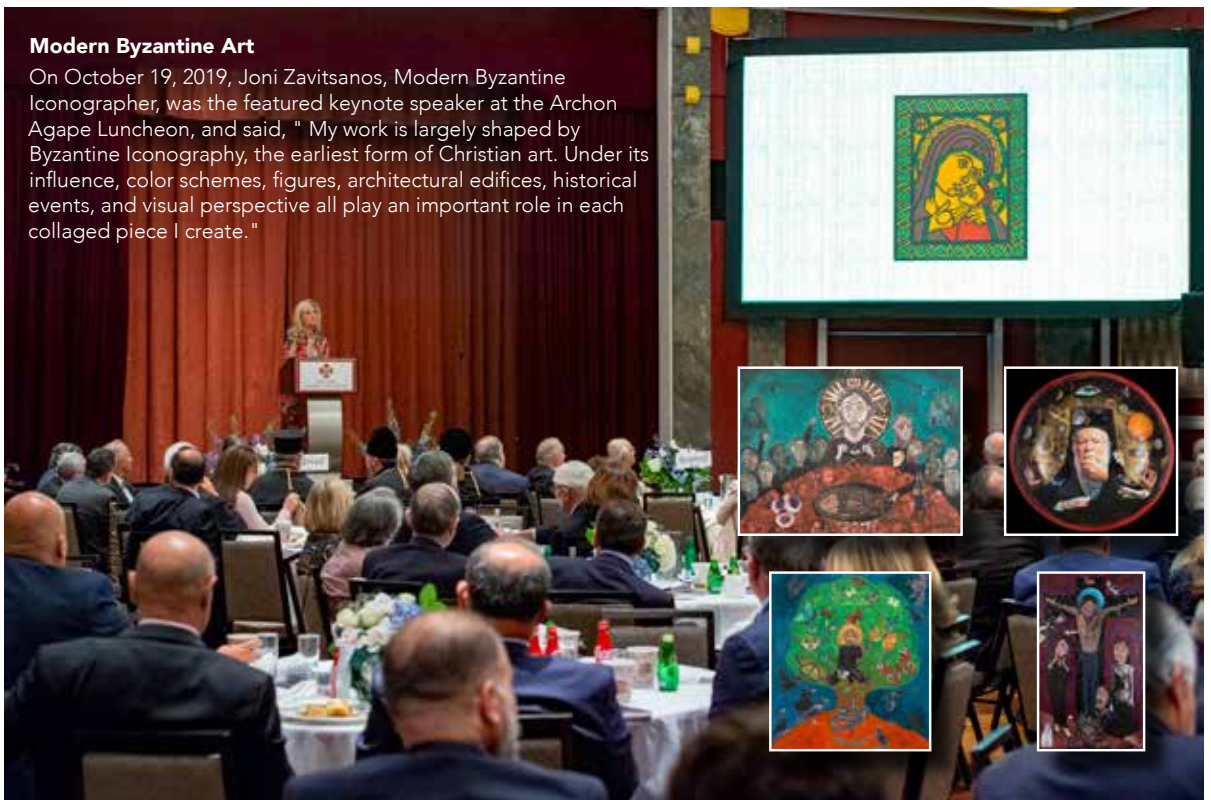


**Axios!**

Archon Zavitsanos and his family

**Modern Byzantine Art**

On October 19, 2019, Joni Zavitsanos, Modern Byzantine Iconographer, was the featured keynote speaker at the Archon Agape Luncheon, and said, " My work is largely shaped by Byzantine Iconography, the earliest form of Christian art. Under its influence, color schemes, figures, architectural edifices, historical events, and visual perspective all play an important role in each collaged piece I create."



# THE CLASS *of* 2019



## Archbishop Elpidophoros of America Presides at Investiture of Twenty-Four New Archons

The Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, in the presence of His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine, presided at the Investiture of twenty-four new Archons from throughout the United States, following the Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, on Sunday, October 20, 2019.



“

Your Office as an Archon is part of the healing,  
 an antidote to the poisons of duplicity and falsehood  
 that is being perpetrated in the Church today.

Embrace your Offikion with that joy of the Resurrection!

It is none other that His All-Holiness himself who chose the title for you,  
 out of his love for you and appreciation of your dedication to the  
 Great Church of Christ. You are all most worthy of this noble honor!"



Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

Nicholas Balidis  
 Archon Maestor  
 Rye, NY

John T. John, Esq.  
 Archon Protonotarios  
 Seattle, WA

Nicholas Rallis, DDS  
 Archon Aktouarios  
 Port Washington, NY

Mark S. Boardman, Esq.  
 Archon Ekdikos  
 Birmingham, AL

Arthur Thomas Katsaros  
 Archon Ostiarios  
 Naples, FL

Nicholas George Scandalios  
 Archon Skevophylax  
 Southampton, NY

Sergio Deligianis  
 Archon Depoutatos  
 Flushing, NY

Issam Hanna Khoury  
 Archon Quaistor  
 Hillsborough, CA

Perry Chris Siatis, Esq.  
 Archon Hieromnimon  
 Palatine, IL

George G. Demos, Esq.  
 Archon Nomophylax  
 Sacramento, CA

Michael Thomas Koinis  
 Archon Kastrinsios  
 Houston, TX

Nikolaos Spanos  
 Archon Hartophylax  
 Manhattan, NY

Stilianos Evangelos Efstratiadis, MD  
 Archon Hypomimneskon  
 St. Louis, MO

Nicholas Fotios Kourtis, Esq.  
 Archon Protekdikos  
 Weston, MA

Lambros K. Stassinios  
 Archon Hypomnimatografos  
 Plymouth, MI

James Alexander Frangis  
 Archon Notarios,  
 Marietta, GA

Girard Mitchell  
 Archon Exarchos  
 Boca Raton, FL

Stephanos Tenedios  
 Archon Primikerios  
 Tenafly, NJ

Theodore Germanakos, MDiv  
 Archon Hartoularios  
 Bronx, NY

Jeremy Oryhon, MD  
 Archon Dierminefs  
 Palatine, IL

Theodore Vavoulis  
 Archon Depoutatos  
 Pasadena, CA

Peter John Gouris  
 Archon Prepositos  
 Elkins Park, PA

Stephen Petrick, Esq.  
 Archon Dikaiophylax  
 Bayonne, NJ

Demetrios John Ziozis  
 Archon Eftaxias  
 Manhasset, NY

# SECRETARY OF STATE POMPEO

## OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



The Secretary of State of the United States of America, His Excellency Michael R. Pompeo, paid a visit to the holy See of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Phanar on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 and was received with special honor. He was accompanied by his wife Mrs. Susan Pompeo and the US Ambassador to Ankara, Mr. David Satterfield.

At the center of their hour-long discussion, were issues that concern the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Omogeneia of Istanbul and the Orthodox faithful in the country. They also discussed Orthodoxy in the world, and the course of inter-Christian dialogue. Regarding the USA, His All-Holiness referred to the multifaceted work of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, but also of the Omogeneia, which is a brilliant and dynamic part of American society. They also had the opportunity to discuss issues of wider interest, such as the initiatives of the Ecumenical Throne to raise global public awareness of the need to preserve the Creation and the protection of the natural environment, as well as the Interreligious Dialogue aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence and reconciliation between different peoples and cultures. In this context, there was an exchange of views on the issue of respect for fundamental rights and religious freedom in the world, which the United States is known to have an interest in strengthening. His All-Holiness stressed the need to protect Christians, but also all religious communities in the Middle East, which in recent years have been severely tested by war, with a large number of them experiencing uprooting and refugee status.





**The Center of Orthodoxy**

Prior to their hour-long meeting, a tour was offered on the Patriarchal Cathedral's rich history and the holy relics and spiritual items treasured in it.



**A Warm Welcome**

Secretary of State Pompeo, and his wife Susan, are welcomed by His All-Holiness.

**New Book on the Human Rights of Religious Minorities in Turkey, by Human Rights Attorney Orhan Kemal Cengiz**

**RELIGIOUS MINORITIES OF TURKEY**

*An evaluation from the perspective of human rights*

Atty. ORHAN KEMAL CENGİZ



Ankara, 2020

*Religious Minorities of Turkey: An evaluation from the perspective of human rights* by Orhan Kemal Cengiz, is a succinct, must-read primer on the human rights abuses and religious persecution perpetrated by the government of Turkey.

Orhan Kemal Cengiz is a well-respected and internationally known human rights attorney who resides in Ankara and is a longtime friend of the Archons. In this critically important report, he provides a history of the treatment of religious minorities in the Republic of Turkey and highlights the ongoing plight of those minorities, in particular the Orthodox Christian community and the official difficulties confronted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

He considers, among other important issues, three key questions that stand out from the rest: "Why are historical churches and monasteries owned by the State rather than by religious communities?" "Why does the government interfere in patriarchal elections when these should be, at every step, an internal matter for the religious community?" and "Why does hate speech targeting religious minorities go unpunished?"

[Read at archons.org/publications](http://archons.org/publications)

## State Department 2019 Report on International Religious Freedom Executive Summary: Turkey

This Executive Summary of the 2019 State Department Report on Religious Freedom in Turkey provides evidence that nothing has changed: Turkey has made little or no progress, and as in past years, continues to be listed as an egregious violator of religious freedom. The Order reiterates our hope that the international human rights community will direct its attention to the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and of all Christians and other religious minorities in Turkey, and that the Turkish government will heed the repeated calls to grant full religious freedom to its embattled Christian minority.

### Executive Summary

The constitution defines the country as a secular state. It provides for freedom of conscience, religious belief, conviction, expression, and worship and prohibits discrimination based on religious grounds. The Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyamet), a state institution, governs and coordinates religious matters related to Islam; its mandate is to promote and enable the practice of Islam. The government continued to limit the rights of non-Muslim religious minorities, especially those not recognized under the government's interpretation of the 1923 Lausanne Treaty, which includes only Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Christians, Jews, and Greek Orthodox Christians. Media outlets and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) reported an accelerated pace of entry bans and depor-

tations of non-Turkish citizen leaders of Protestant congregations. The government did not recognize the right to conscientious objection to military service. In January the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled the government violated the European Convention on Human Rights because it refused to allow Seventh-day Adventists to establish a foundation. In October a court ruled the Ministry of Interior and the eastern city of Malatya, Malatya Governorate, were not liable in a 2007 case involving the killings of three persons in an attack on a Christian publishing house. The Armenian Apostolic Orthodox community elected a new patriarch in December; members of the community and rights organizations criticized government interference in the election process. Minority communities continued to object to the prevention of governing board

elections for religious foundations. The government continued to restrict efforts of minority religious groups to train their clergy, and the Greek Orthodox Halki Seminary remained closed. Religious minorities again reported difficulties opening or operating houses of worship; resolving land and property disputes and legal challenges of churches whose lands the government previously expropriated; operating or opening houses of worship; and obtaining exemptions from mandatory religion classes in schools. The government did not return any church properties seized in previous decades. Religious minorities, particularly members of the Alevi community, raised challenges to religious content and practices in the public education system. In March President Recep Tayyip Erdogan publicly raised the possibility the status of the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul could be changed from a museum to a mosque. With President Erdogan in attendance, the Syriac Orthodox community broke ground in August on a new church in Istanbul, the first newly constructed church since the country became a republic in 1923. In May President Erdogan inaugurated the country's largest mosque, which may accommodate up to 63,000. The government continued to provide security support for religious minority communities and paid for the renovation and restoration of some registered religious properties.

In May a Muslim televangelist associated with a private television station converted a 13-year-old Armenian boy living in Turkey to Islam during a live broadcast without his parents' permission. Members of the Armenian community and members of parliament (MPs) denounced the action. According to media reports, iso-

### Turkey has made little or no progress

lated acts of vandalism of places of worship continued to occur. In October unidentified individuals wrote on the door of the home of the president of Bursa's Pir Sultan Abdal Association, an Alevi organization, "It is your time for death." In February an unidentified person or persons sprayed graffiti on the Surp Hreshdagabet Armenian Church in the Balat District of Istanbul with derogatory messages on the door and walls. Anti-Semitic discourse continued in public dialogue, particularly on social media. In July a video posted on social media showed children at an apparent summer camp being led in chants calling for "death to Jews." In January the premier of the film Cicero generated controversy and condemnation when the scenery for the premier's red-carpet walk depicted features of a concentration camp, including striped uniforms draped on barbed-wire fencing and guard dogs. Some progovernment news outlets published conspiracy theories involving Jews and blamed Jews for the country's economic difficulties and potential sanctions. In October social media users and media outlets shared photographs of anti-Christian and anti-Semitic posters hung at municipal bus stops in the central Anatolian town of Konya by the local branches of the Anatolian Youth Association and National Youth Foundation. In December the local prosecutor's office in Konya said in a statement it would not pursue prosecution in the case because the act in question did not present "a clear and eminent threat to the public safety."

The Ambassador, visiting senior U.S. officials, and other embassy and consulate officials continued to engage with government officials to emphasize the importance of respect for religious diversity and equal treatment under the law. Embassy and consulate representatives and visiting U.S. government officials urged the government to lift restrictions on religious groups, make progress on property restitution, and address specific cases of religious discrimination. Senior officials continued to call on the government to allow the reopening of Halki Seminary and to allow for the training of clergy members from all communities in the country. Embassy and consulate officials also met with a wide range of religious community leaders, including those of the Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Armenian Apostolic Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Alevi, and Syriac Orthodox communities, to underscore the importance of religious freedom and interfaith tolerance and to condemn discrimination against members of any religious group.





ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

# BARTHOLOMEW FOUNDATION

FOR THE SACRED SEE OF SAINT ANDREW

## Foundation established to Aid the Financial Independence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

On December 13, 2019, the inaugural meeting of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation for the Sacred See of Saint Andrew, a new initiative to enhance and contribute to the financial independence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in its worldwide mission and ministries, was held in the Conference Room of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in New York City. This historic undertaking represents the very first such charitable entity in the world established to secure the financial underpinnings of the Spiritual Center of World Orthodoxy. The Foundation



is incorporated as a Not-For-Profit Corporation in the state of New York.

At the meeting, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros presented a November 21, 2019 letter from His All-Holiness approving the proposed bylaws

of the Foundation, and appointing His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros as the Ecumenical Patriarchal Board member and representative serving at the pleasure of His All-Holiness and, under the proposed bylaws, not subject to term limits.

*The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation has been established as an endowment by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Ours is a global mission and invitation for everyone across the various Eparchies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to be united as one. Together, we can ensure that the Ecumenical Patriarchate, "the Light - continues to shine in the darkness."*

## The Foundation will help the Mother Church and Sacred See of Saint Andrew, by...



### Grant Economic Independence

Provide financial resources to sustain, in perpetuity, the religious, educational and philanthropic institutions of the Mother Church.



### Increase Orthodox Christian Presence on Global Stage

Offer support to the Ecumenical Patriarchate to encourage their presence around the globe. This will increase opportunities for dialogue with various world, environmental, and religious leaders, without being asphyxiated by financial restrictions.



### Foster Increased Inter-Orthodox Dialogue

Supply economic assistance necessary for the Sacred Throne of Andrew to sponsor international conferences and meetings, amongst all jurisdictions, thereby strengthening the unity of the worldwide Orthodox Church.



### Expand Charitable and Humanitarian Aid

As Ecumenical Patriarch, representing Orthodox faithful throughout the world, we offer His All-Holiness our prayers and financial support, so he may extend philanthropia on our behalf to those in need.

The Light  
shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has  
not overcome it.

John 1.5





# Archbishop Elpidophoros leads **PILGRIMAGE** *to* CONSTANTINOPE

Archbishop Elpidophoros of America led an Archon Pilgrimage to Constantinople from November 17 to 23, 2019 to receive the blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. During the private audience, His All-Holiness told the pilgrims: "Here in the Mother Church of Constantinople there is a concentrated wisdom and the experience of many centuries. We are instruments of divine providence, we ourselves, to carry on this long tradition. And for you, it is an honor and privilege to belong to

this First-Throned Church."

In his address, His All-Holiness once again praised the gifts and abilities of the new Archbishop of America, as well as his willingness to strengthen the links between his Ecclesiastical Province and the venerable Center, reviving the tradition of regular pilgrimage visits to the City.

Archbishop Elpidophoros noted that the Archons "have one common characteristic: they're all devoted to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. They have the ferven-



## **Halki Seminary**

Archbishop Elpidophoros, above, explains about the the historical theological school which has been closed for over 40 years.

## **Holy Wisdom of Christ**

Pilgrims, right, have a special tour of Hagia Sophia—one of the last times witnessed in its glory before becoming a mosque.





cy of a soldier, but they are not simple soldiers. They are your officers, Your All-Holiness, and they always look at you, your face, to receive your orders, to feel your concerns, for you to show the way for them to follow you...and to do whatever is good for the Mother Church of Constantinople." He said that the Ecumenical Patriarchate "is the center of faith, the foundation of hope and the source of love for all believers in the United States." He also expressed his gratitude to the Lord for the valuable time the

Archons have devoted to the purposes of the Church and to the support of those in need.

On behalf of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archon Peter Skeadas stated: "The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America express our agape, respect, and supreme gratitude to our worldwide spiritual father, Your All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, for selecting His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros, as our beloved Archbishop." He expressed the

**Archbishop of Constantinople and New-Rome**

Archons with His All-Holiness, Bartholomew.

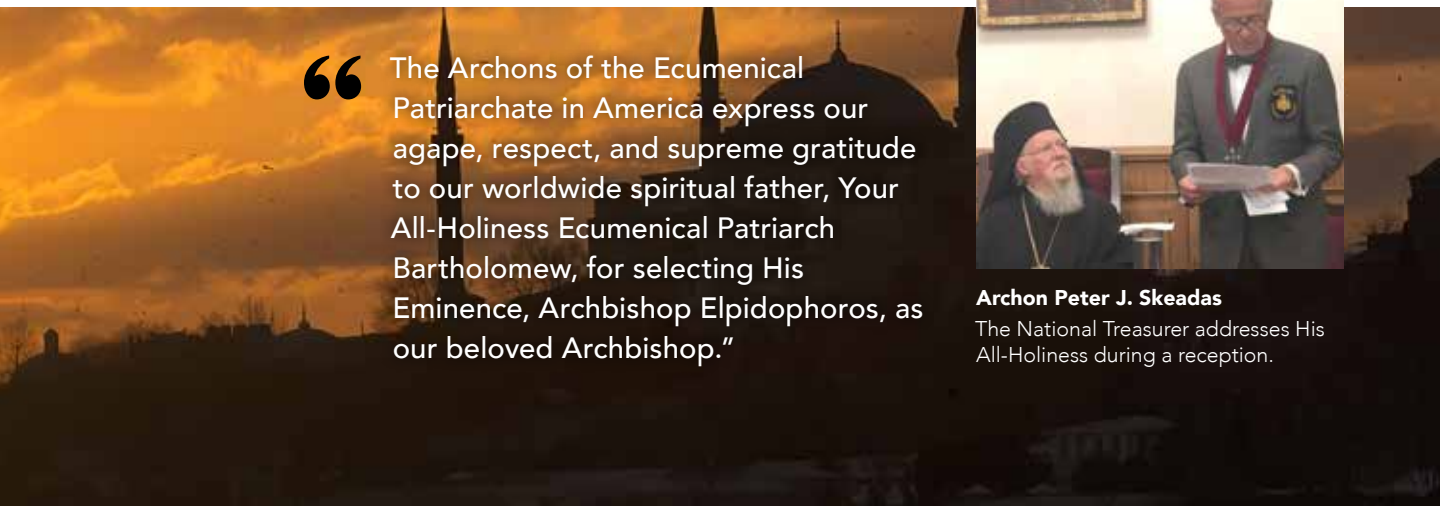
dedication of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the U.S. to the person of His All-Holiness, and spoke of their efforts to strengthen and protect religious freedom around the world.



**Archon Peter J. Skeadas**

The National Treasurer addresses His All-Holiness during a reception.

“ The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America express our agape, respect, and supreme gratitude to our worldwide spiritual father, Your All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, for selecting His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros, as our beloved Archbishop.”





**Educating the Pilgrims**

Archbishop Elpidophoros offers a historical lesson in one of the Churches



**Divine Liturgy**

His Grace Bishop Apostolos and Father Andreas Vithoukias, Chancellor, lead Archons, left, to Saint George Cathedral for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, at the Ecumenical Patriarchate in celebration of the Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.





**Zoodochos Peghe Monastery at Balukli**

Pilgrims pray at the grave of Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, the former Archbishop of America.



**Traveling by Sea**

Pilgrims on a boat ride to Halki.

# Archdiocesan Delegation accompanies His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to **BELGIUM**



With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, an Archdiocesan delegation accompanied His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Brussels, Belgium from November 9 to 11, 2019 on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary/Golden Jubilee of the Orthodox Archdiocese of Belgium. His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras of Belgium hosted the delegation, which was led by Father Alexander Karloutsos, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of America and Spiritual Advisor of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, and Presbyteria Xanthi Karloutsos.

Distinguished delegates in atten-

dance were the National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis and Dr. Maria A. Limberakis, Archon John A. Catsimatidis, Vice-Chairman of the Archdiocese, and Margo Catsimatidis, Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, National Secretary of the Order and Secretary of the Archdiocese, and Helen Bozonelis, Archon Michael and Libby Angeliades, Archon William and Elizabeth Doucas, Archon Dr. George Korkos, Archon John and Marisa Payiavlas, Maria Allwin, Dr. Peter Michalos and Jillian Nelson.

The delegates were greeted in Brussels on Saturday, November 9 by Archon Boris Gurov of the Holy Metropolis of Belgium and his wife, Youlianna Gurov, who assisted the

## **Private Breakfast in honor of His All-Holiness**

National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis offers words during a private breakfast in honor of His All-Holiness

delegation and also served as its host in Belgium, accompanying the delegation to all events and participating in them.

Upon their arrival in Belgium, the delegation traveled to Kasterlee, Belgium, where they attended a luncheon in honor of His All-Holiness hosted by Archon Theo Roussis of the Metropolis of Belgium. Each delegate had an opportunity to introduce himself or herself to His All-Holiness, and to express their respect and love to him.



Later in Brussels, the delegation attended Vespers, led by His All-Holiness at the Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Archangels in the presence of Belgian authorities, diplomats, representatives of other denominations, and the Orthodox faithful.

Thereafter, Archon Boris and Youlianna Gurov hosted a dinner in honor of the delegaton at which discussions centered on religious freedom, the European Union, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate were deliberated.

On Sunday November 10, the delegation attended Matins and Divine Liturgy presided by His All-Holiness at the Orthodox Cathedral

of the Holy Archangels, with multiple Orthodox bishops and clergy. An official banquet in honor of His All-Holiness, was hosted by the Metropolis of Belgium, with over 1000 in attendance. In his remarks, His Eminence recognized the participation of and expressed gratitude to the Archdiocesan delegation of America and the Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle.

On Monday, November 11, the Order, led by National Commander Limberakis, hosted a private breakfast in honor of His All-Holiness, in which each delegate was given time to address His All-Holiness on issues of concern for the Archdiocese



#### Belgium Hospitality

Metropolitan Athenagoras of Belgium with Archon Theo Roussis of Belgium.

of America and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The delegates engaged in candid and frank discussions with His All-Holiness on various important and pertinent matters, and all expressed their gratitude to His All-Holiness for the election and enthronement of Archbishop Elpidophoros. His All-Holiness listened intently and made remarks as each delegate spoke of their concerns. His All-Holiness commented upon and clearly recognized the importance of the issues.

The delegation concluded the events with a luncheon hosted by Belgians Alexander and Catherine Kartalis at their home in Brussels as discussions summarized the importance of all events attended and the special and productive time spent with His All-Holiness.



#### Our Hosts

Archon Boris Gurov, and his wife Youlianna, of the Holy Metropolis of Belgium, were the hosts to the Archdiocesan delegation.







## Archon Activities in Washington, D.C. with Archbishop Elpidophoros, Prime Minister Mitsotakis, Vice President Pence and Secretary of State Pompeo

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, on January 8, 2020, co-sponsored a Luncheon in Washington, D.C. in honor of His Excellency Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic and his wife, Mrs. Mareva Mitsotakis.

The Order's Archon Delegation attending was led by National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis joi-

ned by National Secretary Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Sergeant-at-Arms Alexander Pritsos, and National Council member Rocky Sisson. Regional Commander Andrew Manatos and Archon Michael Manatos who were instrumental in organizing the event and head the Order's Washington D.C. initiatives also joined the Delegation.



### Senate Policy Advisor Murphy

Issues were discussed and detailed in a meeting with Damian Murphy, Senior Policy Advisor to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who was very familiar with the key issues, and offered proposals to further the efforts for religious freedom in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



### Congressman Engel

The Delegation met with Congressman Eliot Engel, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to address the ongoing suppression of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey.



### The Vice President's Offices

At Vice President Pence's offices, the delegation addressed religious freedom and the planning for the upcoming visit with the White House point persons on religious freedom, Sarah Makin, the Vice President's Director of Public Liaison, Amanda Robbins, the White House Faith Community Liaison, Alexandra Veletsis, the White House Office of Public Liaison, Director of Operations, and Eleni Roumel Olmen, Deputy Counsel to the Vice President and confirmed to be a Federal Judge in the U.S. Court of Claims.



Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis speaks in the Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room at the State Department, flanked by Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.



Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis with Archon Reince Priebus.



The Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Archon Michael Psaros, and Prime Minister Mitsotakis.



National Commander Limberakis greets Vice President Mike Pence.



National Commander Limberakis with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

# NEWS



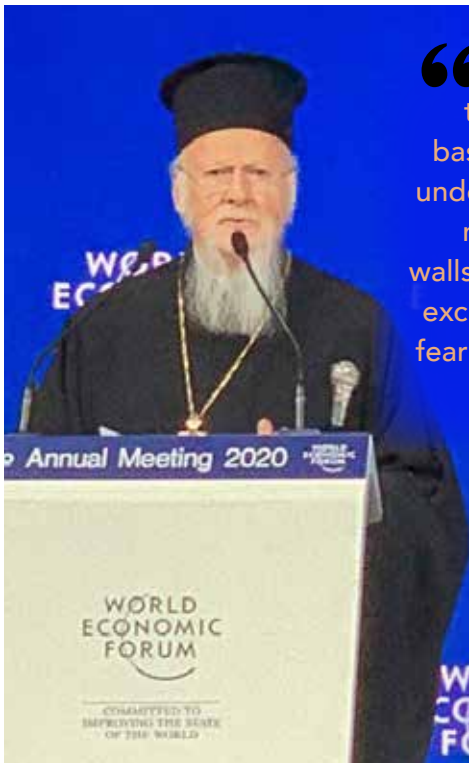
## The Director-General of UNESCO

On October 7, 2020, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received the Honorable Mounir Bouchenaki, Special Adviser to the Director-General of UNESCO, at the Holy Monastery of Balukli, during a break in the morning session of the Holy and Sacred Synod. The Ecumenical Patriarch discussed with him issues of common interest, including the recent conversion of Hagia Sophia and the Monastery of Chora into mosques.



## Ambassador Philip T. Reeker

His Excellency Ambassador Philip T. Reeker, who is in charge of European and Eurasian affairs for the U.S. State Department, visited the Sacred See of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on Saturday, October 3, 2020, accompanied by the U.S. Ambassador to Ankara, Mr. David Satterfield.



“ We are called to build bridges based on love and understanding, and not to construct walls of division and exclusion based on fear and ignorance.”

## Ecumenical Patriarch at World Economic Forum in Davos

The role of religious faith in creating a sustainable world with social cohesion and the value of dialogue as a key instrument in this regard, as well as the condemnation of all forms of violence and religious intolerance, were the key points of the keynote address by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, which took place today, in the afternoon of Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at the 50th World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland. His All-Holiness, who was invited by the organizers, has been in Davos since January 20, and has already participated in various Forum Committees, as well as in parallel events held on the occasion of this year's anniversary event in Davos.





## All-Florida Archon Retreat a success in Naples

The weekend of January 18-19, 2020 saw more than 50 Archons and their families from all over the US gather in Naples, Florida to attend the first-ever All-Florida Archons Retreat, co-sponsored by the Florida Archons and the Christian Rights and Freedom Institute (CRFI), a ministry of the Metropolis of Atlanta at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Naples.

Archons arrived from as far away as Denver, Philadelphia, and New York, with the majority driving across the state from the Miami area. The speakers were Lauren Green, Chief Religion Correspondent of Fox News, and Archon Dr. George Demacopoulos of Fordham University. Other honored guests included Hank Hanegraaff; National Council Member Dr. Nicholas Loutsion, Regional Commander Dr. Gregory Papadeas and Regional Commander John Scurtis, a co-organizer of the event.



The weekend of reflections and celebrations proceeded with the blessings of the Father Philemon Patitsas, presiding priest of St. Katherine; the leadership of Archon Fotios Frangakis, President of the Parish Council; Archon Steve Ramphos, Chairman of CRFI; Archons Dr. John Eliopoulos and Art Katsaros; and Archon Dr. Harry Dimopoulos, organizer, Master of Ceremonies and Chairman Emeritus of CRFI.



## Two New National Council Members Appointed; Four Honored with Emeritus Status

With gratitude to God, the National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, welcomes its two newest members, Regional Commanders John G. Manos, Archon Eftaxias, and Gus M. Pablecas, Archon Ostiaros.

Meanwhile, Emeritus status has been bestowed upon Stephen Cherpelis, Dikaiophylax; Nikitas Drakotos, Archon Depoutatos; and Regional Commander Dr. James G. Kallins, Archon Exarchos; as well as upon James C. Fountas, Archon Depoutatos and National Treasurer, of blessed memory.

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, stated: "We offer heartfelt congratulations to our two newest National Council members, and we look forward to working with them in defense of the Mother Church and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We are grateful to our Lord



**Archon John G. Manos**



**Archon Gus M. Pablecas**

Jesus Christ for the tireless and sacrificial service of our Archons Emeriti, and thank them for making their considerable talents available on the National Council for this most important of causes."



**Archon  
+James C. Fountas**  
Emeritus National Treasurer



**Archon  
Stephen Cherpelis**  
Emeritus National Council



**Archon  
Nikitas Drakotos**  
Emeritus National Council



**Archon  
Dr. James G. Kallins**  
Emeritus Regional Commander



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

### Friends of St. Nicholas Board Now in Place to Oversee Financing and Construction of Major Effort

The Friends of St. Nicholas will be responsible for the timely rebuilding of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. The new organization will: raise money for the re-building of St. Nicholas; fund the re-building of St. Nicholas; oversee construction of St. Nicholas; and conduct appropriate audits.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros (Lambriniadis) of America will serve as the Honorary Chairman on behalf of Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The 13-member board is chaired by Archon Dennis Mehiel. Other board members include: Board Vice Chairman Archon Michael Psaros, as well



#### **Governor Cuomo**

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and Archbishop Elpidophoros announce construction to resume on St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at World Trade Center

as Archons John Calamos, John Catsimatidis, John Georges, George Marcus, George Mihaltses, John Payiavlas, Dean Spanos and George Stamboulidis, and the Rev. Father Alexander Karloutsos, Spiritual Advisor of the Friends of St. Nicholas and Vicar General of the Archdiocese.



# IN MEMORIAM

October 2019–November 2020

Dr. Menelaos A. Aliapoulios,  
Aktouarios  
Offikion date: 02/24/91

Arthur C. Anton, Sr., Depoutatos  
Offikion date: 04/07/76

Bill V. Aspros, Depoutatos  
Offikion date: 10/30/83

Nicolaos P. Bissias, Depoutatos  
Offikion date: 03/20/94

Tykye G. Camaras, Lambadarios  
Offikion date: 03/12/95

Dr. George Christakis, Aktouarios  
Offikion date: 02/24/91

Dr. John Collis, Aktouarios  
Offikion date: 03/06/93

Christo Daphnides, Kastrinsios  
Offikion date: 01/01/72

Michael Firilas, Depoutatos  
Offikion date: 02/24/91

James C. Fountas, Depoutatos  
Offikion date: 06/14/81

Stratos E. Inglesis, Depoutatos  
Offikion date: 11/08/98

Dr. John Kalucis, Aktouarios  
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Evris Kontos, Aktouarios  
Offikion date: 03/16/97

Arthur G. Koumantzelis,  
Depoutatos  
Offikion date: 03/03/85

Thomas C. Kyros, Depoutatos  
Offikion date: 01/01/78

Demetrios Anthony Limberakis,  
Hartoularios  
Offikion date: 10/31/10

Jerry O. Lorant, Hartophylax  
Offikion date: 03/07/82

Costas T. Los, Exarchos  
Offikion date: 03/04/90

Paul G. Manolis, Megas  
Hypomnematografos  
Offikion date: 01/01/71

Michael H. Pahos, Ekdikos  
Offikion date: 02/28/88

Jimmy T. Patronis Sr., Exarchos  
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Offikion date: 03/23/86

Dr. Steve Poulos, Ekdikos  
Offikion date: 03/19/89

Gus P. Psaras, Depoutatos  
Offikion date: 03/03/85

Eugene T. Rossides, Ekdikos  
Offikion date: 03/10/02

Michael C. Savvides, Exarchos  
Offikion date: 03/23/86

James S. Scofield, Megas Ekdikos  
Offikion date: 08/10/68

John H. Secaras, Depoutatos  
Offikion date: unknown

Harry W. Spell, Notarios  
Offikion date: 10/16/11

Arthur G. Spirou, Depoutatos  
Offikion date: 03/04/90

Anthony Stefanis, Hieromnimon  
Offikion date: 03/20/94

George Tzikas, Depoutatos  
Offikion date: 03/05/00

Peter N. Vatsures, Kastrinsios  
Offikion date: 10/16/11

Stephen Yeonas, Ostiarios  
Offikion date: 03/3/96

*Eternal be their memory!*

# EXARCH'S APPEAL

It costs over \$3,000 a day to operate the Order of Saint Andrew.  
We thank those who contributed this past year to the Exarch's Appeal.

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## List complete as of Nov 6, 2020

List includes: Donor Name • Residence • Offikion date  
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- Michael Stefanoudakis • Denver, CO • 10/18/15
- John Stratakis • Manhasset, NY • 10/26/08
- Thomas M. Suehs • Austin, TX • 10/16/11
- George Svokos • Franklin Lakes, NJ • 10/16/16
- Stephanos Tenedios • New York, NY • 10/29/19
- Nicholas E. Terezis • Pittsburgh, PA • 10/18/15
- Theodore J. Theophilos • Hinsdale, IL • 10/23/05
- Nicholas Tsapatsaris • Ridgewood, NJ • 10/26/08
- Peter A. Tsudis • Pittsburgh, PA • 10/22/17
- George A. Tsougarakis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/11
- Adam M. Tzagournis • Dublin, OH • 10/18/15
- Dr. Chris Yiantsou • Bedford, TX • 10/28/18
- Sarantos Vallas • Brooklyn, NY • 10/28/18
- James Vavas • Brooklyn, NY • 10/28/18
- Andrew Veniopoulos • New York, NY • 10/16/16
- George Vittas • Bedford, TX • 10/22/17
- Peter A. Vlachos • New York, NY • 2/18/01
- Dr. Theodore Vlahos • Safety Harbor, FL • 10/22/06
- Gus Vratsinas • Little Rock, AR • 3/10/02
- Gary M. Vrionis • Danville, CA • 10/23/05
- Howard West • Amity, PA • 10/28/18
- Andrew Zachariades • Brick, NJ • 10/16/16
- Theodore Zaravinos • Fort Lauderdale, FL • 3/3/96
- Leonard Zangas • Manhasset, NY • 10/31/10
- Steve Zervoudis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/16
- George P. Zimmar, Ph.D. • Briarcliff Manor, NY • 10/23/05
- Demetrios J. Ziozis • Manhasset, NY • 10/20/19

## Participants below 1 Day

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- Ernest W. Anast • Yorba Linda, CA • 3/3/96
- Ernie Anastos • Armonk, NY • 3/8/87
- William Antholis • Charlottesville, VA
- Arthur C. Anton Jr. • Carlisle, MA • 10/20/13
- Prof. John Antonopoulos • Staten Island, NY • 3/15/92
- James A. Arakas • Myrtle Beach, SC
- Andrew P. Arbes • Manasquan, NJ • 6/14/81

## Below 1 Day (continued)

Clifford Argue • Mercer Island, WA • 10/10/04

Hon. Andrew S. Armatas • Denver, CO • 3/7/82

Peter Baganakis • New Milford, NJ • 3/9/03

Arthur Balourdos • Lincolnwood, IL • 10/26/08

John Balourdos • Chicago, IL •

Anastasios S. Betzelos • Chicago, IL • 3/19/89

Michael Bilirakis • Tarpon Springs, FL • 3/23/86

Alex Breno • Mount Airy, MD •

Emil Bzdil • Freeland, PA • 2/17/01

Michael L. Carousis • Manasquan, NJ • 1/1/70

James T. Cavalaris • Charlotte, NC • 3/3/85

Harry T. Cavalaris • Charlotte, NC • 3/6/93

Paul G. Chiligris • Decatur, IL • 10/31/10

Zenon Christodoulou, Ph.D. • North Branch, NJ • 10/16/16

Gerald B. Clonaris • Charlotte, NC • 3/3/96

Peter J. Condakes • Weston, MA • 10/26/08

Demetrios P. Constantinides • Brookhaven, GA • 4/3/16

Prof. Demetrios Costaras • Beechhurst, NY • 3/11/79

George Danigeles • Elmhurst, IL • 10/28/07

George J. Dariotis • Manhasset, NY • 2/18/01

Jimmy C. Daskalos • Albuquerque, NM • 10/31/10

John Daskos • Hartsdale, NY • 10/22/06

George Demacopoulos Ph.D. • Commack, NY • 10/31/10

James Dimitrion • Waretown, NJ • 3/5/00

George N. Donkar • Savannah, GA • 10/21/12

Poti G. Doukas • Littleton, CO • 10/18/15

Steven Doulaveris • Florence, SC • 11/1/09

Victor J. Economy • Decatur, GA • 10/10/04

Anastasius Efstratiades, J.D. • Cherry Hill, NJ • 10/19/14

Michael S. Emanuel • McLean, VA • 11/1/09

Antonios J. Emmanouilidis • Paramus, NJ • 3/7/93

John Fotopoulos, Ph.D. • Munster, IL • 10/22/17

Phillip T. Frangos • East Lansing, MI • 10/20/13

Nick Furriss • Jacksonville, FL • 10/23/05

Michael P. Gabriel, M.D. • Brooklyn, NY • 1997

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

Ted Germanakos • •

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

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

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

Dn. Stephen E. Hall • Millsboro, DE • 2/28/99

Marinos Hionis, MD • Aventura, FL • 3/12/95

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

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

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

Demetrius G. Kalamaras • Staten Island, NY •

Harry Kalas • Astoria, NY •

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

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

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

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

Michael Kapeluck • Carnegie, PA • 10/31/10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

John Kost • Freeland, PA •

John Koutsoupis • Boca Raton, FL • 10/22/17

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

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

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

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

William G. Lianos • Grosse Pointe, MI • 10/16/16

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

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

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

Steven Lukac • Hubbard, OH • 10/16/11

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

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



## Below 1 Day (continued)

- Mike A. Manatos • Bethesda, MD • 10/22/06
- Christopher Mandalieris • Greensboro, NC •
- Franklin Manios • Warren, OH • 3/18/05
- William B. Marianes • Tucker, GA • 2/18/01
- Peter Maris • Garden City, NY •
- Nick Mihalios • Malba, NY • 3/4/90
- Theodoros Moschokarfis • Beechhurst, NY •
- James H. Moshovitis • Washington, DC • 2/28/88
- Chris J. Moutos • Asheville, NC • 3/7/93
- Bert W. Moyer • Cleveland Heights, OH • 1/1/96
- Theo Nicolakis • Woodbridge, CT • 10/16/11
- George J. Omiros • Uniontown, PA • 2/18/01
- Harry Oryhon • Franklin, TN •
- Dr. Gregory Papadeas • Greenwood Village, CO • 11/1/09
- Dr. James P. Pappas • Norman, OK • 10/26/08
- Nicholas L. Papson • Washington Township, NJ • 3/10/02
- Dr. Lewis Patchiavos • Cambridge, MA •
- James & Theodore Pedas Family Foundation • Washington, DC • 10/31/10
- John Perros • Virginia Beach, VA •
- Alfred Peters • Toms River, NJ • 10/22/17
- Dr. Marinos A. Petratos • New York, NY • 3/8/87
- Manuel Pihakis • Canonsburgh, PA •
- Paul J. Plumis • Seattle, WA • 10/16/11
- Arthur Poly • Boca Raton, FL • 10/26/08
- Alexander Pritsos • Bayside, NY • 3/15/1992
- George C. Psetas • Port Richey, FL •
- George P. Psihogios • Lake Oswego, OR • 10/26/08
- Harry Raptakis • Mineola, NY • 3/15/92
- George Reganis • Chesterbrook, PA •
- Michael Ristvey, Jr. • Hermitage, PA • 3/15/92
- George Rockas • Lynnfield, MA • 10/22/06
- Dr. John C. Rouman • Durham, NH 03824 • 10/16/11
- Louis J. Roussalis, M.D. • Casper, WY • 3/15/92
- Anthony T. Saris • Mill Valley, CA • 3/10/02
- Prof. John C. Sarkioglou • Meadowbrook, PA • 3/7/93
- Nicholas C. Sarris • Tyngsboro, MA • 3/10/02
- John C. Scurtis • Miami, FL • 10/28/07
- Steven N. Sellas • Bridgeport, WV • 11/1/09
- Theodore Sepsis • Elmhurst, IL • 10/23/05
- Demetrios Seremetis • Canton, MA • 11/1/09
- Michael Serko, Jr. • Endwell, NY • 3/5/00
- Robert J. Serko • Endwell, NY • 3/5/00
- Harry G. Sifaris • Los Angeles, CA • 3/3/96
- Louis S. Sinopulos • Deerfield Beach, FL • 1/1/68
- George Skoufis • Atlanta, GA • 3/5/00
- In memory of Constantine Stamis • Northbrook, IL • 1973
- Gregory J. Stamos • Woodbridge, CT • 10/16/11
- Angelo A. Stamoulis • Holliston, MA • 3/23/86
- Panos Stavrianidis, Ph.D. • Somerset, NJ • 2/18/01
- George Stefanidakis, Ph.D. • Houston, TX • 10/20/13
- Wesley A. Stinich • Westchester, IL • 10/22/06
- John Tangalos • Shelby Township, MI • 10/31/10
- Basilios Theodosakis • Brooklyn, NY • 3/19/78
- Manuel N. Tissura, D.D.S. • Roswell, GA • 3/19/89
- George Tita • Ellwood City, PA •
- Elias Tsekerides • Brewster, NY • 10/19/14
- Savas Tsivicos • Wayside, NJ • 3/16/97
- John Tsunis • Islandia, NY •
- George A. Tsougarakis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/11
- 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
- Thomas Vlahos • Bronx, NY • 2/18/01
- Bill J. Vranas • Skokie, IL • 3/20/94
- Constantine N. Vrettos • Charlotte, NC • 10/23/05
- Nicholas Yakubik • Cary, NC • 10/28/07
- James B. Zafiros • White Plains, NY • 10/31/10
- Demetrius C. Zonars • Dayton, OH • 3/9/03



# ORDER *of* SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE

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The image features a warm, golden-orange sky filled with soft, billowing clouds. On the right side, a tall, slender minaret with a pointed top rises above a large, domed structure, likely a mosque. The foreground is filled with dense, dark green trees and bushes, partially obscuring the base of the building. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

*Defenders of the Faith*

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