# 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."

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His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

2020 Annual Report

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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 <u>not</u> legally recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a corporate entity with legal personality. Does <u>not</u> allow the free election for the selection of the Ecumenical Patriarch. Does not allowEthe local trainingtof Orthodoxcclergy and theCopening of thepHalki TheologicalcSeminary sincet1970.

Does <u>not</u> allow the lawful return of all Greek Orthodox properties confiscated by the Government





#### 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

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  $\tau \dot{\alpha}\gamma \mu \alpha$  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,

δ Αμερικής TTCOODODO

† ELPIDOPHOROS Archbishop of America



Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

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 longawaited 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, 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,

Arthony Tuleratis, no

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD Archon Aktouarios National Commander



721 Archons in the United States

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

#### 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.



Archons in the Metropolis of Atlanta 54

Archons in the Metropolis of Boston Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago

Archons in the Archdiocesan District Archons in the Metropolis of Detroit

45

Archons in the Metropolis of Denver



Archons in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh 70

Archons in the

Metropolis of San Francisco

Archons in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church

of the USA

4

Archons in the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese Archons in the Vicariate for the Palestinian/Jordanian Orthodox Christian Communities

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 wellknown 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 wellbeing and general welfare of the Christian Church.

#### Spiritual Leadership

- His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
- Father Alexander Karloutsos Spiritual Advisor

#### **Executive Committee**

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Aktouarios National Commander John Halecky, Jr., Ekdikos National Vice Commander Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Ekdikos National Secretary Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnimon National Treasurer

#### **Functionaries**

Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Notarios Legal Counselor

George E. Demacopoulos, PhD, Didaskalos Tou Genous Historian

Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon Sergeant-at-Arms

Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA, Dikaiophylax Assistant Treasurer

#### **National Council**

- 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

#### 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



# ARCHONS

CURRENT LISTING OF THE

of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle

lenders of the

#### Α

Mark Adam, Depoutatos Achilles G. Adamantiades, Prostatis Ton Grammaton John Alahouzos, 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 Dr. Vaios N. Athanasiou, Maestor Harry George Athanasiou, Eftaxias John Avdoulos, Maestor

#### В

Peter Baganakis, Hartoularios Bob Bakalis, Maestor Dean L. Bakes, Eftaxias Nicholas Balidis, Maestor Arthur Balourdos, Hypomnematrografos John S. Balourdos, Depoutatos Andrew T. Banis, Megas Hieromnimon Nick Bapis, Hartoularios Michael Nicholas Bapis, Depoutatos Fotios Barounis, Orphanotrofos Peter James Barris, Depoutatos Peter J. Bassett, Ekdikos Borys Bazylevskyi, Referendarios Dr. George S. Bebis, Didaskalos Tou Evangeliou Charles Leonard Beck, Jr., MD Aktouarios Drake G. Behrakis, Maestor

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List as of November 4, 2020

The Turkish government's decision was not 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



# 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.



# A DESPICABLE ACT of CUTURAL MEMORGD

## HAGHIA SOPHIA

The UNESCO **Heritiage 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."



Aldre by

Hank Hanegraaff, The Bible Answer Man



# The Order of Saint Andrew LAMENTS DECISION

## to Transform Hagia Sophia into a Mosque

The ediface 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 Haghia 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

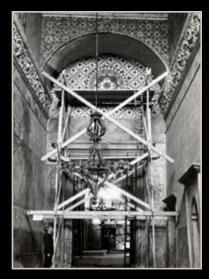


1453 ► The Ottomans conquer Constantinople on May 29 and shortly after it is converted to a mosque

Siege of Constantinople as depicted between 1453 and 1475

HACONOMIC SUPERIOR ALEXANDARY INC. ALEXANDARY AND ALEXANDARY ALEXA

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 memoricide. To obtain, contact the Archon Office at 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 thousand years as a center of Christian prayer and worship.

In advocacy of religious freedom,

Arthony Thulieratis, m

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 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".

66

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



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

66 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."

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."



Archbishop Elpidophoros and Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan



Mustafa Akyol, Contributing Writer, NY Times

# CHORA CHURCH NOSOUE switched to

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.





#### HAGHIA SOPHIA'S DARK DAY

#### 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. 붜



## 66

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.

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#### 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,

( Authony Amberatis, m

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD Archon Aktouarios National Commander

## An Uplifting Message from His All-Holiness

66 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

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 Spirt in these anguished days when the Great Church of Christ, the Patriarchal Cathedral of Holy Wisdom, Άγία 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:  $A\gamma$ ( $\alpha \Sigma o \phi$ ( $\alpha$  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 Ascension

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

the Ottoman period, the power of Άγία 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 Middles 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: "Τί 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 Άγία 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  $A\gamma i\alpha \Sigma o \phi i\alpha$  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 soundfrom 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.

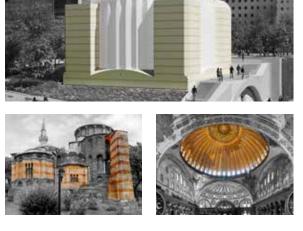
We will never give up our hope, never give up our faith; and we will never give up our love.

Σοφία, Όρθοί!

66 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."



#### **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.



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew 뉴

# 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.



# 66



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  $\pi\eta\gamma\dot{\eta}$ 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.

THE ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

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



# 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 66 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 these 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





# 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."



#### 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.



# 66

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

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

Sergio Deligianis Archon Depoutatos Flushing, NY

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

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

> James Alexander Frangis Archon Notarios, Marietta, GA

Theodore Germanakos, MDiv Archon Hartoularios Bronx, NY

> Peter John Gouris Archon Prepositos Elkins Park, PA

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

Arthur Thomas Katsaros Archon Ostiarios Naples, FL

Issam Hanna Khoury Archon Quaistor Hillsborough, CA

Michael Thomas Koinis Archon Kastrinsios Houston, TX

Nicholas Fotios Kourtis, Esq. Archon Protekdikos Weston, MA

> Girard Mitchell Archon Exarchos Boca Raton, FL

Jeremy Oryhon, MD Archon Dierminefs Palatine, IL

Stephen Petrick, Esq. Archon Dikaiophylax Bayonne, NJ Nicholas Rallis, DDS Archon Aktouarios Port Washington, NY

Nicholas George Scandalios Archon Skevophylax Southampton, NY

> Perry Chris Siatis, Esq. Archon Hieromnimon Palatine, IL

Nikolaos Spanos Archon Hartophylax Manhattan, NY

Lambros K. Stassinos Archon Hypomnimatografos Plymouth, MI

> Stephanos Tenedios Archon Primikerios Tenafly, NJ

Theodore Vavoulis Archon Depoutatos Pasadena, CA

Demetrios John Ziozis Archon Eftaxias Manhasset, NY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# SECRETARY OF STATE POMPEO OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



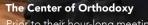
The Secretary of State of the United States of America, His Excellency Michael R. Pompeo, paid a visit to the holy See of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Phanar on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 and was received with special honor. He was accompanied by his wife Mrs. Susan Pompeo and the US Ambassador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





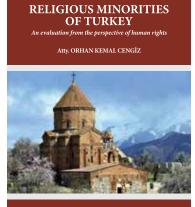




Prior to their hour-long meeting, a tour was offered on the Patriarchal Cathedral's rich history and the holy relics and spiritual items treasured in it.



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



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

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 (Diyanet), 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, especia-Ily 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 mi-

Turkey has made

little or no progress

norities 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-yearold 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, isolated 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 or-

ganization, "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 local branches the of the Anatolian Youth Association and National Youth Foundation. 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.

MEN7

OF STAR



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





#### 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.

# Archbishop Elpidophoros leads **PILGRIMAGE** 10 CONSTANTINOPLE

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-





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.



66 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."

# PILGRIMAGE TO CONSTANTINOPLE



# **Educating the Pilgrims**

Archbishop Elpidophoros offers a historical lesson in one of the Churches



## **Divine Liturgy**

His Grace Bishop Apostolos and Father Andreas Vithoulkas, 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 Elpidophoros Archbishop 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 Presbytera 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.



#### **Our Hosts**

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

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.



















# 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 joined 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, Arhon Michael Psaros, and Prime Minister Mitsotakis.



National Commander Limberakis greets Vice President Mike Pence.



National Commander Limberakis with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

# NEWS



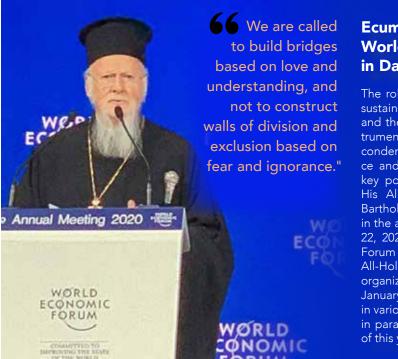
# The Director-General of UNESCO

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.



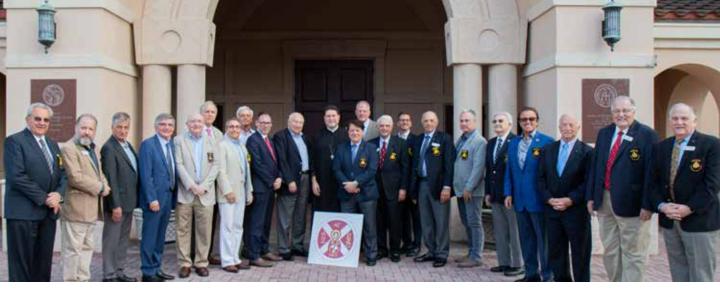
# **Ambassador Philip T. Reeker**

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.



# 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 Ostiarios.

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 +James C. Fountas Emeritus National Treasurer



Archon Stephen Cherpelis Emeritus National Council





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 Nikitas Drakotos Emeritus National Council



Archon Dr. James G. Kallins Emeritus Regional Commander



# SAINT NICHOLAS Greek orthodox church & National Shrine

# 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 Elpidopho announce construction to resume on St. Nicholas Greek

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 Offikion date: 10/20/13 Evris Kontos, Aktouarios Offikion date: 03/16/97

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

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

Demetreos 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 Offikion date: 03/08/98

George Possas, Depoutatos 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.

## List complete as of Nov 6, 2020

List includes: Donor Name • Residence • Offikion date Each day sponsored represents at least a \$3,000 pledge donation.

# 33 Days Sponsored

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

# **10 Days Sponsored**

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

# 8 Days Sponsored

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

Michael G. Psaros • Purchase, NY • 10/19/14

George E. Safiol • Weston, MA • 3/16/97

Estate of Mary Athanasakes

# 7 Days Sponsored

John C. Kulis Charitable Foundation • Chicago, IL • In memory of Spiros Livanis • Princeton, NJ •

Dr. Spiros Spireas • New Hope, PA • 10/31/10

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Dr. Stephen J.Yallourakis • Kingsport, TN • 10/23/05

# **3 Days Sponsored**

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Harold Anagnos • Bonita Spirngs, FL • 10/28/07

Stephen Cherpelis • Douglaston, NY • 2/18/01

Peter Chiopelas • Beechhurst, NY • 10/16/16

Stephen A. Georgeson • Atlanta, GA • 3/9/03

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

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

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

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

Dr. Michael J. Patzakis • San Marino, CA • 10/22/06

Paun Peters • Fort Worth, TX • 10/19/14

Perry Siatis • Northbrook, IL • 10/20/19

Franklin Sisson • Paradise Valley, AZ • 10/16/16

Peter J. Skeadas • Greenwich, CT • 10/10/04

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Themis Fotieo • Grand Rapids, MI • 10/22/17

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

Dr. Kenneth Frangadakis • Saratoga, CA • 3/5/00

Fotios John Frangakis • Hermitage, PA • 10/28/18

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Isam Khoury • Hillsborough, CA • 10/20/19

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Michael Koinis • Bellaire, TX • 10/20/19

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

Nick Latousakis • Weirton, WV • 10/16/16

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

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John Louizos • Stamford, CT • 10/28/18

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

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John Mindala • Astoria, NY • 10/28/18

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Ted Moudis • Manhasset, NY • 10/16/16

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Anthony Pantazopoulos • Lower Gwynedd, PA • 10/28/18

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John Sitilides • McLean, VA • 10/22/17

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Dean Spanos • San Diego, CA • 6/6/04

Michael Spanos • Stockton, CA • 6/6/04

Nicholas Spanos • New York, NY • 10/20/19

James D. Speros • Wellesley, MA • 3/10/02

Christos Spyropoulos • Old Brookville, NY • 11/1/09

George Stamboulidis • Rockville Centre, NY • 10/16/16

Lambros K. Stassinos • Plymouth, MI • 10/20/19

Demetrios Stathopoulos • Victor, NY • 10/19/14

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

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Thedore 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

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

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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 •

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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. Chiligiris • 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

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

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

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

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Ted Germanakos • •

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

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

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

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

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

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Demetrius G. Kalamaras • Staten Island, NY •

Harry Kalas • Astoria, NY •

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Stephen S. Kalivas, R. Ph. • Peabody, MA • 10/21/12 William Kallinikos • Oceanside, NY • 10/23/05

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Peter Maris • Garden City, NY •

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Arthur Poly • Boca Raton, FL • 10/26/08

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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. Siafaris • Los Angeles, CA • 3/3/96

Louis S. Sinopulos • Deerfield Beach, FL • 1/1/68

George Skoufis • Atlanta, GA • 3/5/00

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



# Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

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

P: 212 570 3550 F: 212 774 0214 info@archons.org

www.archons.org

## **Office Contacts**

Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos, Office Manager Christa Pourou, Administrator Archon John J. Mindala II, Graphic Designer Archon Andrew Veniopoulos, Consultant

# The 2020 Annual Report

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# The Annual Report

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