

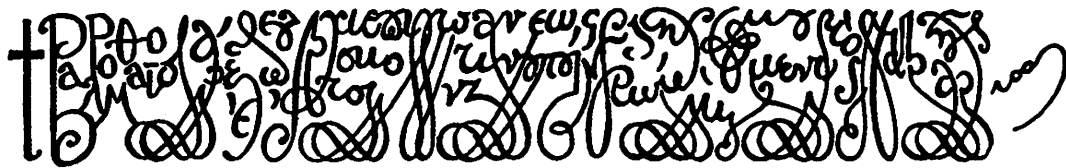


Archons OF THE Ecumenical Patriarchate

Protecting the Future of FaithSM

2023 Archon Annual Meeting Report

New York City • October 21, 2023



To the esteemed members of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, our beloved in the Lord: Grace and peace be unto you from God.

With heartfelt gratitude, we extend our sincerest congratulations to you, the Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew, on all you have achieved in support of the Mother Church of Constantinople this past year. Under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, your efforts to defend religious freedom worldwide are worthy of the highest praise.

The publication of the Order of Saint Andrew's 2023 Annual Report marks fifty-seven years of continued laudable work on behalf of Christ's Holy and Great Church both in the United States and in Constantinople, the Queen of Cities. We are most pleased to see the new initiatives that you have accomplished in 2023, especially the Archon Pilgrimage of Discovery Pilot Program, which saw five young adults visit our Venerable See at the Phanar, and look forward to your activities in 2024, notably the Fourth Archon International Religious Freedom Conference to be held in Athens in May.

We therefore warmly invoke upon all of you our paternal and Patriarchal blessing and pray that St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle, the patron of your beloved Order, intercede for you so that you might continue to serve our Ecumenical Patriarchate with devotion and diligence.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on the 7th of September 2023

Your fervent supplicant before God,

✠ BARTHOLOMEW

*Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch*



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP
Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

September 14, 2023

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

To the Esteemed Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle,
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

Beloved Brethren in Christ,

Every year I am always amazed by the activities and accomplishments of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as they pursue and support, with righteousness and a zeal according to knowledge, the purely spiritual mission of the Mother Church of Constantinople. In the pages that follow of this 2023 Annual Report, you will read in detail about these energetic and beneficial undertakings, which stretch across the country and around the globe, as the Archons relentlessly engage on behalf of religious liberty and unhindered expression of our Most Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The sustaining love and advocacy of the Archons for the Holy and Great Church of Christ are hallmarks of their every initiative. The creation and funding of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation is setting a transformational bar for Church at-large, and will give to each and every child of the Mother Church an opportunity to be involved with Her sacred mission. The Order of Saint Andrew is galvanizing the Archons around the globe to greater cooperative efforts, which will enhance all parties and ultimately benefit the Mother Church.

Our Spiritual Father, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, relies on the Order of Saint Andrew to muster the full energy of the laity in service to Great Church and Her mission to the world. I convey my heartfelt blessings, gratitude, and congratulations to the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Throne for all of their endeavors and enterprises, and I commend this 2023 Annual Report to the entire Church in America. May the Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercessions of His the First-Called Disciple Saint Andrew, the Founder of his eponymous See, grant good health and spiritual prosperity to all the Archons and their families, as they go from glory to glory for the sake of the Most Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Amen.

With blessings and gratitude in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



Archons
OF THE **Ecumenical**
Patriarchate

Protecting the Future of Faith™

September 30, 2023

**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,
Father Alex Karloutos, Spiritual Advisor and Reverend Clergy and beloved Presbyters and
Brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America and Friends,**

2023, though not yet completed as of this writing, has been an epic year in the annals of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate since its founding in the United States on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 10, 1966. In this, **our 57th year, we have witnessed a number of initiatives come to fruition to enhance our roles as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to Protect the Future of Faith.**

1. Completion of the first stage in the Archon Strategic Branding Initiative (archons.org/-/important-communication-1), led by **Archon John G. Gumas and his acclaimed marketing company**, in which the Archon Logo was refreshed; our tagline, our North Star, was established: *Protecting the Future of Faith*; all our electronic media including websites, social media channels and all written material are updated to align with our Archon Brand. The Gumas Team works closely with our **dedicated and hardworking Communications Committee** (**Archon Rocky Sisson, Chair; Archon Ted Vagelos, Archon John Mindala, Archon Jim Speros and Elizabeth Limberakis, MBA**) who meet religiously every Saturday morning, and the Archon Message, *Protecting the Future of Faith*, is reaching the four corners of the planet.



Protecting the Future of Faith™

Archon Gumas and branding team meeting in the Manhattan offices of Archon Michael Psaros.

2. Engagement Committees and Regional Commanders around the country offer poignant presentations on the Mother Church's importance, history and present-day situation.



**Women
In Orthodoxy**

The newly created **Women in Orthodoxy Engagement Committee** (archons.org/-/engagement-women-in-orthodoxy), chaired by Dr. Cary J. Limberakis and Dr. Elizabeth Prodrumou, Vice Chair, uniquely invites both Archons and non-Archons and men and women to join this Committee.

On March 16, 2023, more than 100 people attended **"Women In Orthodoxy Symposium," the New Jersey Archon Lenten Retreat**. The talented panel of speakers included Kyra Limberakis, MTS, Chief Operating Officer of Orthodox Volunteer Corps and daughter of Regional Commander Dr. Cary J. and Alexis Limberakis. Archon George A. Tsougarakis, Esq., Regional Commander for the Metropolis of New Jersey, who organized the event, stated: "One aspect that made this program particularly gratifying was the inclusion of our young adults, who comprised about half the audience."



***A Short History of Anger: A Hybrid Work of Poetry and Theatre* by Joy Manesiotis, a staged performance based on the destruction of Smyrna in 1922**, was presented on September 21, 2023 at the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, organized by Regional Commanders George A. Tsougarakis, Esq. of the Metropolis of New Jersey and Nikiforos Mathews, Esq. of the Direct Archdiocesan District.

The Southern California Regional Commanders Theodore Konopisos and Hon. Steven Counelis in the Metropolis of San Francisco convened, with the approval of the National Archon Office and the encouragement of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, the first and very successful **Archon Conference for the Southwest Region of the Metropolis of San Francisco**. Over thirty-five honored guests, Archons and spouses participated in the three-day Conference from September 8 to 10, 2023.



Academia
Symposia
Committee

On September 10, 2023, the **Academia Symposia Committee** presented a webinar panel discussion: **"30 Year Christian Genocide in the Late Ottoman Period, 1894-1924."** On the Feast Day of the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day, March 25, 2023, the Academia Symposia Committee presented an online webinar, **Religious Freedom, Self-Defense, and the Orthodox Communities in Ukraine**, on the importance of religious freedom to democracy.

Archon Regional Commanders Hon. Steven G. Counelis (San Francisco) and Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas (Denver), members of the **Youth Participation Activities Engagement Committee**, once again presented at the **2023 Metropolis of San Francisco YAL Conference**. With over 450 young adults in attendance during Labor Day Weekend in Orange County, California, they offered details of the 2023 Pilgrimage of Discovery to Constantinople and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Youth Participation
Activities
Committee



The **Youth Participation Activities Committee** organized the **Pilgrimage of Discovery pilot program**, which granted five young adults ages 23-28 an all-expenses-paid journey to Constantinople to meet with His All-Holiness and travel to ancient holy sites of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from July 31 to August 7, 2023. **On Sunday, May 21, 2023, Archon Pericles C. Siatis, Esq. from the Metropolis of Chicago gave a religious freedom presentation to youth and youth advisors at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Libertyville, Illinois.** Archon Siatis is a vice chair of the Youth Participation Activities Committee, which the Archons established in order to bring the message of religious freedom and the defense of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to youth committees and organizations throughout the United States.



The Archons and the American Hellenic Institute presented a webinar on the **Legal Status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate under the Treaty of Lausanne**, to which the government of Turkey today is still obligated to adhere, on June 9, 2023. Panelists included four leading scholars of these issues: Dr. Alexander Kitroeff of Haverford College; Dr. Alexandros Kyrrou of Salem State University; Dr. Andrew Novo of National Defense University; and Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou of Boston College.



On April 5, 2023, the Archons of the Metropolis of Boston hosted a Lenten Archon Retreat at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Weston, Massachusetts featuring Dr. Alexander Lingas, Archon Mousikodidaskalos, music director and founder of the world-renowned music ensemble Cappella Romana: **"Recovering the Lost Voices of Hagia Sophia: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross."** The event was organized and planned by the Metropolis of Boston Regional Commanders Emeriti, Archons Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou and Drake Behrakis, along with the newly appointed Regional Commanders for the Metropolis, Archbishops Costa Sideridis and James Speros.



The Archons and the Orthodox Christian Studies Center of Fordham University presented an online webinar, **Religious Freedom, Self-Defense, and the Orthodox Communities in Ukraine**, on March 25, 2023. Sponsoring this webinar was a member of the Academia Symposia Committee, Emmanuel Velivasakis, Archon Eftaxias.

Dr. Gregory Papadeas, a Regional Commander for the Metropolis of Denver and member of the **Youth Participation Activities Committee**, on Sunday, January 15, 2023 hosted a Young Adult League (YAL) In **Your Backyard Retreat in Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado** to discussed the work and mission of the Archons, as well as the difficulties that the Ecumenical Patriarchate faces today in Constantinople. Then on Saturday, February 11, 2023, Archon Gregory, along with Archon Dr. Demetrios Skedros, spoke at the Denver Metropolis YAL Snow Conference in Midway, Utah.



The Metropolis of Chicago Archons held their **Third Annual Archon Business Retreat** on February 24, 2023 at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville, Wisconsin. The retreat was organized by Regional Commanders Gus M. Pablecas and John G. Manos.

Chicago Archons participated in the **Young Adult League (YAL) Conference in Chicago** from February 17-19, 2023. During a lunchtime session, with the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, who was in attendance, Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD) Co-Chairs Archon Hon. Jeffrey Chrones and Hellena Chrones informed those attending the conference about the POD program. Archon National Secretary and Archon Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas and Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos offered an enlightening presentation entitled "What is an Archon." Archon Dr. John Fotopoulos also led a YAL workshop entitled, "Living Scripture and Our Path to Wellness."



On December 7, 2022, the Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago held their first **Christmas Meet & Greet at the National Hellenic Museum in Chicago**. Archon National Secretary and Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas and Regional Commander John G. Manos updated those present on Archon-related initiatives taking place at the Metropolis and national levels.



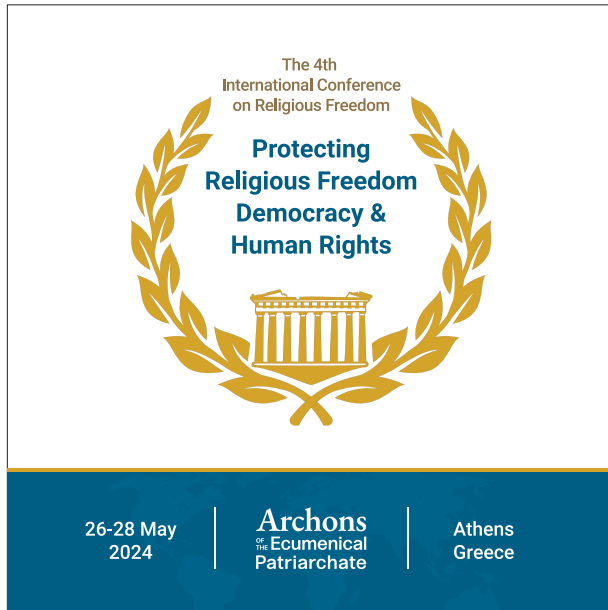
The Archons of Greater Philadelphia on November 19, 2022 presented a symposium on the life of the Ecumenical Patriarchate during the Ottoman period, as well as on the history and legacy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the ethnic cleansing of the Greek community in Smyrna in 1922, organized by Archon Cary J. Limberakis, Regional Commander for the Metropolis of New Jersey.



On November 10, 2022, the Archons of the Tampa Bay Area sponsored a presentation commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Catastrophe of Smyrna, **"Smyrna 1922: Memory and Erasure of a Greek Speaking Orthodox Christian Community."** Dr. Yiorgos Topalidis and Archon Regional Commander Theodore P. Vlahos, M.D., offered poignant and heartbreaking accounts of the tragic events of that period.



3. With the blessings of His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate are organizing the 4th International Archon Conference on Religious Freedom, *Protecting Religious Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights* (May 26-28, 2024) cosponsored by the Archons of Greece and Europe co-chaired by Archon Thanassis Martinos, President of Pammakaristos Archons and the Archons in America AND the first Global Summit of Archons (May 29, 2024) in Athens, Greece, the birthplace of democracy (archons.org/-/save-the-date-4th-conference). In fact, it was at the suggestion of the His All-Holiness (archons.org/-/hah-blesses-conference) that the Archons from around the world meet for the very first time to discuss the ways and means to develop synergy and dynamism in our global role to serve the needs of the Holy Mother Church.



4. Successful Completion of Pilgrimage of Discovery Pilot Program

(archons.org/-/pod-bartholomew) where 5 young adults and future leaders of our Church traveled to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, met with His All-Holiness BARTHOLOMEW and witnessed firsthand the historic, canonical and ecclesiastical significance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. As a result of the successful completion of the pilot program, plans are underway to permanently establish the Pilgrimage of Discovery for our young adults.



5. The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation continues to grow and will expand overseas in 2024. As of this writing, there are 205 FOUNDERS (\$100,000 pledge payable over 10 years) in good standing, with \$22.115 million pledged from all contributors. Full transparency and accountability are the foundational pillars of the EPBF which guide the Investment (Archon John S. Koudounis, Chair) and Audit (Archon Carl R. Hollister, Chair) Committees.



**ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEW FOUNDATION**
For the Sacred See of Saint Andrew

The EPBF Investment Committee (bartholomew.foundation/foundation-investment-update/) has done a masterful job in navigating a very challenging investment environment, characterized by many as the worst in 50 years. Under the Koudounis Team, working closely with Michael G. Psaros and the Investment Committee (Archon Robert A.

Buhler Vice Chair, Christopher Allwin, Archon Michael N. Bapis, Archon Frank D. Catricken, John A. Catsimatidis, Jr., Archon William H. Spell and Archon John A. Catsimatidis), and the J. P. Morgan Investment Bank, which holds the financial assets of the Foundation, the EPBF did not lose money during those difficult times; furthermore, the team has subsequently been able to make some nice returns. Kudos to Mr. Koudounis and his brilliant team!

The EPBF Audit Committee (Archon Carl R. Hollister, Chair; Archon Andrew C. Zachriades and Archon James Pantelidis of Blessed Memory) is working with FORVIS the audit, tax and consulting firm of FORVIS LLP, a top ten North American Audit firm to ensure complete transparency. FORVIS LLP was created out of the merger of Baird, Kurtz & Dobson (BKD) and Dickson, Hughes & Goodman (DHG). FORVIS LLP offers first-in-class audit experience with non-profit corporations, as well as the for-profit side.

A New Members Committee (bartholomew.foundation/newmemberscommittee/), Chaired by Archons Joseph J. Kokolakis, Esq., Markos K. Lagos, and Archon-elect Michael P. Neamonitakis was established; it is organizing the upcoming Cappella Romana Concert for Religious Freedom at the St. Nicholas National Shrine (bartholomew.foundation/concert-religious-freedom/) and developing strategies to enhance FOUNDER membership.

We deeply appreciate that hard work and extraordinary dedication of our Archon Staff: Archon John J. Mindala II, our creative and superlative graphic designer and Leah Kats, the Administrator of the AEP and EPBF, who works ceaselessly in support of the sacred mission of the AEP.



6. Three New Regional Commanders Appointed

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, three new Regional Commanders were appointed in two Metropolises. In consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, **Archons James D. Speros and Constantine Sideridis** (archons.org/-/boston-regional-commanders) were appointed Regional Commanders for the Order in the Metropolis of Boston.

Also with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and in consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, **Archon James A. Frangis** (<https://www.archons.org/-/frangis-regional-commander-atlanta>) was appointed Regional Commander of the State of Georgia in the Metropolis of Atlanta. Archon Frangis joins **Archons Theodore P. Vlahos, M.D.; Harry T. Cavalaris; G. Thomas Yearout, Esq.;** and **John C. Scurtis.**



These three men are superb choices to be Regional Commanders and are certain to distinguish this position with the dedication they have shown in other avenues of service to our Holy Mother Church.

7. Prince's Trust to receive 2023 Athenagoras Human Rights Award

(archons.org/-/2023-athenagoras-princestrust)

The Prince's Trust is a youth charity that was founded by His Majesty King Charles III, then The Prince of Wales, in 1976. Prince's Trust International has had a major positive impact upon Greece, particularly while that nation has been plagued with high unemployment rates. The Prince's Trust offers help to youths aged 11 to 30 by helping them get jobs, education and training. Each year it works with around 60,000 young people, and has helped over 1,000,000 young people transform their lives. The Prince's Trust has created 125,000 entrepreneurs and given business support to 395,000 people in the United Kingdom alone. From 2006 to 2016, the value of its charitable efforts for youth was estimated at £1.4 billion (\$1.75 billion).



Prince's Trust

8. Warmest congratulations are offered to **Archon George M. Marcus as the 2023 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship recipient.** (archons.org/-/marcus-to-receive-bourasaward)

Archon Marcus founded the National Hellenic Society and is also active in the Modern Greek Studies Foundation, the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute, the Metropolis of San Francisco, International Orthodox Christian Charities, and Elios Society of Northern California. He spearheaded efforts to rebuild the Church of Panagia of Pera, the Cathedral Church of the Ecumenical Patriarch, after a catastrophic fire; Archon Marcus donated \$500,000 for renovations.



Archon George M. Marcus is a Trustee Emeritus of California State University and a Regent Emeritus of the University of California. In 2018, The George and Judy Marcus Funds for Excellence in the Liberal Arts was established at San Francisco State University, which includes the George and Judy Marcus Awards for Faculty and Student Research. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Board of Directors of the Presidio Trust.

9. 32nd Anniversary of the Enthronement of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the 269th direct successor of Saint Andrew the First Called Apostle.

His All Holiness has been blessed with a grand vision that affects individuals from everyday people to the leaders of great nations, such as President Biden. Known as the "Green Patriarch," Bartholomew pioneered the call for the preservation of God's Creation. He bravely stood up to the Patriarch of the wealthiest and largest Church in the Orthodox World, Kirill, and to the most ruthless totalitarian leader in modern times, Putin. And it was out of his love of unity that he organized and presided over the Holy and Great Council in Crete, the first gathering of its kind in 1200 years. As Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we are grateful to be able to assist in the wise ministry of this holy and visionary Patriarch. **Εἰς πολλά ἔτη Δέσποτα.**



10. 4th Anniversary of the Enthronement of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

June 22, 2023 marked the fourth anniversary of the enthronement of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros as Archbishop of America and Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

When His Eminence arrived in America in June 2019, he was met with challenging concerns in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, concerns, which have all been addressed, and for which tremendous progress has been made. St. Nicholas National Shrine has been completed. The clergy pension plan finances have improved. Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology was accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) in March 2023 and is now in much better financial standing.

Εἰς πολλά ἔτη Δέσποτα.

11. 2023 Marks the 57th year of the Establishment of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

We remain singularly focused on Defending the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople and securing its religious freedom. It is a great privilege to work closely with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, whose insight is superlative, and we are especially thankful to our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alex Karloutsos, who in his trademark indefatigable way is always there for the Archons as we relentlessly launch domestic and international efforts for the good of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. I am personally indebted to our esteemed National Vice Commander Honorable B. Theodore Bozonelis with whom I personally consult on a daily basis regarding the operations of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America.



57 Years

Working side by side with the officers of the Order: National Vice Commander Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, National Treasurer Peter J. Skeadas, National Secretary Gus M. Pablecas, Legal Counselor Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq., Sergeant at Arms Alex Pritsos, Religious Freedom Chair John A. Catsimatidis, Historian Prof. George Demacopoulos, Assistant Treasurer Andreas Comodromos, CPA and the entire National Council, is a great blessing. We salute our dedicated National Treasurer, Archon Skeadas, and Assistant Treasurer Comodromos for their meticulous oversight of the financial books of the Order, as accountability and transparency are indispensable for our operations.

Our hard-working Sergeant-at-Arms Alex Pritsos deserves special recognition for once again carrying off the detailed logistics of Archon Weekend with aplomb! Thank you, Brother Archon Alex!

We are grateful for the contributions of the Regional Commanders, Archons Theodore P. Vlahos, M.D., Harry T. Cavalaris, G. Thomas Yearout, Esq., John C. Scurtis, James A. Frangis, James Speros, Constantine Sideridis, John G. Manos, Gus M. Pablecas, Gregory G. Papadeas, D.O., Christopher J. Pappas, Lazaros A. Kircos, Inspector John V. Kassimatis, Nikiforos Mathews, Esq., Cary J. Limberakis, D.M.D., Andrew E. Manatos, George A. Tsougarakis, Esq., Nicholas Terezis, Nicholas J. Tranto, Isidoros Garifalakis, Theodore Konopisos, Paul Sogotis, The Hon. Steven G. Counelis; Archon Thomas Constance, Esq. whose legal firm provided extensive pro bono professional services for the establishment of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation and the efficient and hardworking Archon staff at the Archdiocese: Graphic Designer Archon John J. Mindala II, Administrative Assistant Leah Kats, and Tsesme Consulting, which manages our social media initiatives and the ChristianPersecution.com website.

We offer gratitude to Archon Nick Furriss for his video and run-of-show contributions during Archon Weekend. The exemplary efforts of Archon Congressman Gus Bilirakis, as he carries the torch of religious freedom in the hallowed halls of Congress, are deeply appreciated! Finally, we thank our dedicated staff.

12. We offer thanksgiving to the ongoing legacy of Archon Stewardship to Nicholas J. Bouras of blessed memory.

The Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation, one of the premier philanthropic organizations providing much-needed aid to Greek Orthodox agencies, churches and human service organizations, has completed its one-million-dollar matching grant to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation. Through the efforts of Archon National Vice Commander Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, a Trustee of the Bouras Foundation, the Foundation pledged to match the FOUNDER donation of each Metropolis of the Archdiocese of America, up to \$1 Million. That pledge has now been fulfilled.



13. We express profound gratitude to our beloved wives and families (! save the best for last)! Being an Archon is a commitment of service not just to our God and our Church, but to our families. Without the ongoing love, encouragement, patience and understanding of our wives and families, we could not stand as Defenders of the Faith, determined to protect and defend our Holy Mother Church of Constantinople. We should all recognize the sacrifices that this entails for our beloved wives and children, and express to them our gratitude. Even our children can join in this great work, contributing what they can, either to the Exarch's Appeal (as my children do) or donating their talents (my daughter Elizabeth, who has an MBA in digital communications and marketing, never misses an Archon Communications Committee meeting). I habitually consult my wife and family for guidance – as we all should, being **grateful to God for His gift of their presence in our lives!**

In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Megas Aktouarios
National Commander



Archons
OF THE Ecumenical
Patriarchate

Protecting the Future of FaithSM

History of National Commanders



Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
(1998–Present)
Archon Megas Aktouarios



† Chris Philip, DDS
(1989–1997)
Archon Megas Aktouarios



† Anthony G. B. Borden, MD
(1976–1989)
Archon Megas Aktouarios



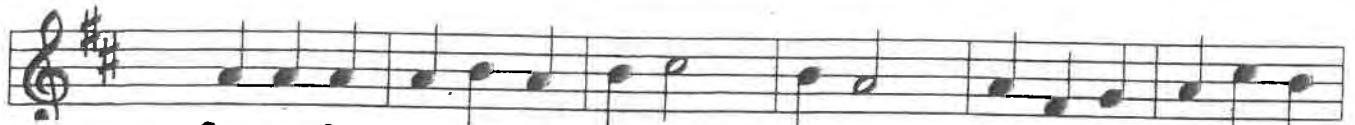
† Pierre A. Demets
(1966–1975)
Archon Skevophylax



ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW

ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Agios, Agios, Agios



Ως των Α - πο-στο-λων πρω-το - κλη-τος και του κο - ρυ-φαί-ου

Os ton A - po-sto-lon pro - to - kli - tos ke tu ko - ri - fe - ou



αυ - τα - - δελ - φος. Τω Δεσ-πο - τη των ο - λων Αν - δρε

Af - ta - - del - fos. To des - po - ti ton o - lon An - dre



-α | ΚΕ - - - τευ - ε, ει - ρη - νην τη

-α | ke - - - ten - e, I - ri - nin ti



οί-κου-μέ - νη δω - ρη - - σα - σθαι και ταις ψυ-χαις η - μων το με -

I - kou - me - ni tho - ri - - sa - the ke tes psi - hes I - mon to me -



γα ε - - - λε - ος.

ga e - - - le - os.

Apostle Andrew, November 30

Troparion, Tone 4

Fr. Lawrence Margitich
"Greek Chant"

F

As the first-called of the A - post - les, and bro-ther of their

D C D

Lead-er, O An - drew; en-treat the Mas-ter of all that peace

F D C F

be grant-ed un-to the world and great mer-cy to our souls.



Archons
OF THE **Ecumenical**
Patriarchate

Protecting the Future of Faith™

**Annual Meeting Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
A Joint Assembly of
Archons, Archons-elect and Spouses
New York Hilton Midtown, Trianon Ballroom, 3rd Floor
October 21, 2023**

AGENDA

1. **Invocation & Opening Remarks** – His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco
2. **Welcome** – *Archon* Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, *National Commander*
3. **Patriarchal Exhortation** – Commander Dr. Limberakis
4. **Archiepiscopal Exhortation** – *Archon* Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Jr., *National Vice Commander*
5. **Introduction of National Council & Regional Commanders** – Commander Dr. Limberakis
 - a. Welcome new Regional Commanders
 - i. *Archon* James D. Speros – Metropolis of Boston
 - ii. *Archon* Constantine Sideridis – Metropolis of Boston
 - iii. *Archon* Jimmy Frangis – Metropolis of Atlanta
6. **Approval of October 8, 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes** – *Archon* Kosmas (Gus) M. Pablecas, *National Secretary*
7. **Approval Treasurer's Report** – *Archon* Peter J. Skeadas, *National Treasurer and National Assistant Treasurer* Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA
 - a. Presentation and Approval of Audited Financial Report for 2021
 - b. Audit Committee Report – *Archon* Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq.
 - i. Report of Independent Audit Firm – BDO USA, LLP
 - ii. Insurance Coverage of Order: update

Please note: Individual Archon Portraits for Archons-elect (mandatory) and Archons (voluntary for updated photo) are available throughout the meeting in adjacent room)

8. **Presentation of Archon Class of 2023** – *Archon* Constantine G. Caras, Esq.
a. **As your name is announced, please step forward to the podium area for an Archon Class of 2022 group picture**

Archon Class of 2023

Michael D. Amiridis, Ph.D

Columbia, SC
Metropolis of Atlanta

Louis G. Apostol, Esq.

Northfield, IL
Metropolis of Chicago

Gerasimos Athanasatos

Fort Lee, NJ
Metropolis of New Jersey

John Michael Athas, MD

New York, NY
Direct Archdiocesan District

Robert Peter Badavas

Farmingham, MA
Metropolis of Boston

Michael Dimitri Bousis

Lake Forest, IL
Metropolis of Chicago

Michael Damian Camarinos, Esq.

Alpine, NJ
Metropolis of New Jersey

Christos Frank Chrisafides

Nashua, NH
Metropolis of Boston

Thomas J. Cox

Valley Forge, PA
Metropolis of New Jersey

Spiro Ioannis Dongaris
Tenafly, NJ
Metropolis of New Jersey

Apostolos Fisfis
Richboro, PA
Metropolis of New Jersey

Craig Lawrence Godshall, Esq.
Philadelphia, PA
Metropolis of New Jersey

Gregory James Halvatzis
Houston, TX
Metropolis of Denver

Spiro Kailas
San Diego, CA
Metropolis of San Francisco

Nicholas Spyridon Kass, Esq.
Wood Dale, IL
Metropolis of Chicago

James Ketis
Naples, FL
Metropolis of Atlanta

Dimitri Kyriazis, MD
Mobile, AL
Metropolis of Atlanta

John Konstantine Lazares
Maineville, OH
Metropolis of Detroit

Nicholas Letsios
Whitestone, NY
Direct Archdiocesan District

George P. Liakeas, MD
New York, NY
Direct Archdiocesan District

Nabeel J. Mandanat
Burlingame, CA
Palestinian Jordanian Vicarate

Vasilios G. Marutsos
Torrance, CA
Metropolis of San Francisco

Antonis Mistras
Wilmington, DE
Metropolis of New Jersey

Michael P. Neamonitakis
Brooklyn, NY
Direct Archdiocesan District

Chris G. Pallis
Mercer Island, WA
Metropolis of San Francisco

Peter John Panton, MD
River Forest, IL
Metropolis of Chicago

George Nicholas Papas
Park Ridge, NJ
Metropolis of New Jersey

George N. Pappas, CPA
Mount Laurel, NJ
Metropolis of New Jersey

Nicholas James Pappas, Esq.
Sea Bright, NJ
Metropolis of New Jersey

Jimmy Theo Patronis Jr.
Panama City Beach, FL
Metropolis of Atlanta

Anthony John Payiavlas
Warren, OH
Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Philip J. Philliou
Cresskill, NJ
Metropolis of New Jersey

George Peter Psefteas
Danville, CA
Metropolis of San Francisco

Harry Gregory Ruska
Powell, OH
Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Samuel William Spanos
Sewickley, PA
Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Theodore Speros
Belmont, MA
Metropolis of Boston

Andrew Nick Theodore
Columbia, SC
Metropolis of Atlanta

John Vasiliou
Haverford, PA
Metropolis of New Jersey

Kevin M. Wilcox
Little Rock, AR
Metropolis of Detroit

9. **Exarch's Appeal, Update** – *Archon John Zavitsanos, Esq.*
 - a. **Refresh of Exarch's Appeal Day Sponsorship Program initiated in 2014**
 - i. Raise \$3,000 Day Sponsorship to \$4,000, endorsed by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and approved by National Council
 - ii. An increase of 3.67%/year
 - iii. Exarch's Appeal Pledge Cards at each seat; kindly complete and will be collected during meeting

10. **Athenagoras Human Rights Award** – *Archon Michael G. Psaros, Chair and Co-Chair Archon Alexander Pritsos*
 - a. **2023 Recipient:** The Prince's Trust
A youth charity, founded by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, now His Majesty King Charles III. His Majesty then founded The Prince's Trust International in order to share his successful programs and experience with strategic partners in countries outside the United Kingdom, including Greece and the international community.

 - b. A portion of this year's sponsorship and ticket funds net of expenses will be restricted for the sole use of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.

 - c. **Banquet Underwriters (\$100,000) to whom we express deep gratitude**
 - i. Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation (each year since 1998!)
 - ii. *Archon Michael G. and Robin Psaros* (each year since 2016!)

11. **2023 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship** –
Congratulations to Archon George M. Marcus, a most worthy recipient! AXIOS

12. **Archon Agape Luncheon and Presentation of Archon Sophia Award for Excellence to Cappella Romana, featuring Dr. Alexander Lingas, Archon Mousikodidaskalos, music director and founder of the world-renowned music ensemble Cappella Romana who participated in the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III**

13. **Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation for the Sacred See of St. Andrew** –
Archon Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Chair
 - a. Established by the Order of St. Andrew to ensure the economic security of the Ecumenical Patriarchate *in perpetuity* and named in honor of the longest serving Ecumenical Patriarch in history
 - b. An independent, separate entity with its own Board of Trustees established as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of New York
 - c. 501(c)3 status from IRS
 - d. The Fund received over \$1 million at the 2018 Athenagoras Human Rights Award Presentation to Fr. Alexander Karloutsos and Presbyteria Xanthi Karloutsos
 - e. **FOUNDERS**
 - i. 205 faithful who have pledged \$100,000 payable over 10 years

- ii. Pledged amount: \$22.115 million
- f. BUILDERS
 - i. Donations at levels below \$100,000

14. National Council Committee Reports from Chairs

a. **Nominating Committee** – *Archon* Gus M. Pablecas

This Committee presents the following current National Council Members who have expressed their willingness to continue to serve as National Council Members:

- i. Constantine C. Caras, Esq.
- ii. George Demacopoulos, Ph.D.
- iii. John G. Gumas
- iv. Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq.
- v. John G. Manos
- vi. Kosmas (Gus) M. Pablecas
- vii. Alexander Pritsos
- viii. Michael G. Psaros

b. **Bylaws Committee** – *Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis* and *Archon* Kosmas (Gus) M. Pablecas

Proposed changes (requires two thirds vote of those present at Annual Meeting):

The current bylaws are set forth at length for review at:

archons.org/bylaws

The language as amended in the following incorporates the name Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, eliminates the citizen and resident of the United States member qualification, and includes all Orthodox Churches under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

PREAMBLE

We, the Archons and members (hereinafter “Members”) of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc. (hereinafter the “Order”), united in a common bond of love and loyalty to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States, and other Orthodox Churches under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, do hereby establish and adopt the following Bylaws of the Order.

The Order and its Members adopt the business name of Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. References to the Order throughout these Bylaws shall also mean Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. (Amended October 21, 2023)

ARTICLE II DEFINITION

Members of the Order known as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate shall be only those individuals who have been bestowed with the offikion of Archon and are distinguished with the following:

- (a) Possess an official document, signed and sealed by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople proclaiming them Archons with specific titles and provided further that they continue to remain in good standing.
- (b) By their actions, have become defenders of the Orthodox Faith; exemplary Orthodox Christian Stewards offering their time, talents and treasures to the Mother Church of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America or other Orthodox Dioceses under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; well respected by their fellow citizens and known for their high degree of dignity, morality and upright character; and proclaim, support, participate and practice in the educational and philanthropic activities, as well as the liturgical and sacramental life of their local Orthodox Parishes.
(Amended October 21, 2023)

MISSION

The mission of the members of the Order, in their capacity as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, shall be to actively support and defend the Mother Church of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America or other Orthodox Dioceses under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; provide for and contribute towards the general welfare of the poor, handicapped and disadvantaged; and proclaim, observe and practice devotion, fidelity, obedience and love to the Orthodox Christian Church, its teachings, dogmas, traditions and sacraments through spiritual, educational and philanthropic activities. (Amended October 21, 2023)

- c. **Communications Committee** – *Archon Rocky Sisson*
 - i. **Special Presentation** – **Archon Branding Initiative, Archon John G. Gumas**
 - ii. **Commentary**
- d. **Religious Freedom Initiatives** – *Archon John A. Catsimatidis*
 - i. **International Religious Freedom Conference Co-Sponsored by Order of St. Andrew and Archons Pammakaristos of Europe, President Archon Thanassis Martinos** – Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, National Secretary assisted by Archon George C. Rockas, Esq. and Archon Constantine Sideridis
 - 1. **See Save the Date link:**
<https://www.archons.org/-/save-the-date-4th-conference>
 - 2. Where: Athens, Greece
 - 3. When: May 26 ~ 30, **2024**
 - 4. **Extraordinary Venues with endorsement of the highest religious and government leaders in the Hellenic Republic**
 - 5. **First Global Summit of Archons from Europe, Canada, Australia and the United States**

6. **Two advance visits (January 2023 and September 2023)**
7. **Special acknowledgement to Father Alex and Presvytera Xanthi**
- ii. **Meeting with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Pyrgos, Greece reviewing Conference and Global Archon Summit**
 1. Patriarchal Divine Liturgy Pyrgos September 3, 2023 with Fr. Alex the single celebrant with His All-Holiness Chorostasia at Episcopal Throne; very moving tribute to Fr. Alex
 2. Surprise special recognition by His All-Holiness who conferred Special Honor Upon Archon Commander Dr. Limberakis with the Offikion of *Megas Aktouarios*
 3. *Archondissa* Dr. Maria A. Limberakis recognized for her devotion to the Holy Mother Church with Ecclesiastical Holy Water Vessel presented by His All-Holiness
- iii. **OSCE Human Rights Meetings, Warsaw, Poland – Archon Rocky Sisson and Archon Hon. Steve G. Counelis**
- iv. **Washington Initiative - Archon Andrew E. Manatos**
- e. **Archon Spirituality Committee – Archon Peter J. Skeadas, Chair and Archon Michael G. Psaros, Co-Chair**
 - i. **When: Friday, April 19, 2024 through Saturday, April 20, 2024**
 - ii. **Where: Dormition Greek Orthodox Church of the Hamptons, NY**
 - iii. **Who: Father Nicholas and Presvytera Dr. Roxanne Louh**
 - iv. **What: Renewing Your Marriage**
- f.
- g. **Archon Engagement Committees – Archon Stephen A. Georgeson, Esq., Chair; Archon Dr. Nicholas Loutsion, Co-Chair & Archon Rocky Sisson, Co-Chair**
 - i. **11 Engagement Committees with Chairs and Vice Chairs completed 3-hour meeting Thursday, October 19**
 - ii. **Over 400 Archons actively engaged with programing throughout the country**
 - iii. **One (of many) Highlights: Pilgrimage of Discovery Pilot Program organized by AEP in Chicago Metropolis**
 1. **July 31 to August 7, 2023.** POD granted five young adults ages 23-28 from the Metropolis of Chicago an all-expenses-paid round-trip journey to Constantinople to meet with His All-Holiness and travel to ancient holy sites of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, included the forcibly closed Halki School of Theology. Participants went through a thoughtful and thorough selection process, including a comprehensive application, recommendations submitted by their parish priests and upstanding faithful of the Metropolis of Chicago, and a thorough vetting procedure.

2. The five young adults who participated in this inaugural POD program were Cally Kobza of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Wauwatosa, WI; Deanna Kolas of St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, MN; Christen Massouras of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, IL; Dr. Demetri Maroutsos of All Saints Greek Orthodox Church in Peoria, IL; and George Valcarcel of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, also in Chicago.

3. Brief Presentation

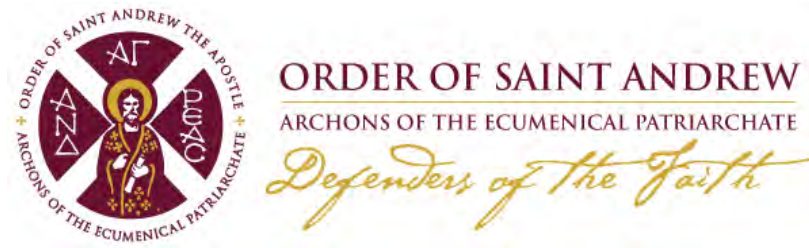
- h. **Regional Commanders Liaison Committee** – Archon Nicholas G. Loutsion, VMD, Chair and Archon John G. Manos, Vice Chair
 - i. **Regional Commanders held 3-hour joint meeting with National Council yesterday to review their initiatives past and going forward**
- ii. Old/New Business
- iii. **Trisagion for departed Archons** – His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

DEPARTED ARCHONS **December 31, 2022 to October 2, 2023**

Mr. Henry Angelo, Jr., *Archon Depoutatos*, FL, Offikion Date: 02/18/01
Mr. Robert D. Cosgrove, *Archon Laosynaktis*, FL, Offikion Date: 02/17/01
Dr. Michael P. Gabriel, *Archon Aktouarios*, NY, Offikion Date: 06/19/05
Mr. Nicholas Galifianakis, *Archon Depoutatos*, NC, Offikion Date: 10/10/15
Mr. George Gazis, *Archon Ostiarios*, TX, Offikion date: 10/01/11
Mr. George Gritsonis, *Archon Ekdikos*, IL, Offikion Date: 10/16/11
Mr. George M. Kalambokis, *Archon Depoutatos*, MA, Offikion Date: 03/04/90
Mr. Andrew G. Kampiziones, *Archon Depoutatos*, SC, Offikion Date: 03/26/83
Mr. Constantine P. Kanakis, *Archon Notarios*, AL, Offikion Date: 03/23/86
Mr. John Kost, *Archon Depoutatos*, PA, Offikion Date: 02/17/01
Mr. Peter E. Kistorizos, *Archon Exarchos*, MA, Offikion Date: 03/08/87
Mr. Michael Kundrat, *Archon Hartoularios*, NY, Offikion Date: 02/08/99
Mr. Arthur Labros, *Archon Nomophylax*, WI, Offikion Date: 10/31/10
Mr. Emmanuel Leventelis, *Archon Depoutatos*, PA, Offikion Date: 03/07/82
Mr. Emanuel N. Logothetis, *Archon Depoutatos*, FL, Offikion Date: 02/28/88
Mr. George G. Makris, *Archon Orphanotrofos*, NJ, Offikion Date: 10/23/05
Mr. Anastasios E. Manassis, *Archon Megas Depoutatos*, NY, Offikion Date: 10/21/12

Mr. Stephen A. Manta, *Archon Laosynaktis*, IL, Offikion Date: 03/05/00
Mr. Victor A. Panagos, *Archon Architekton*, MD, Offikion Date: 03/09/03
Mr. James Pantelidis, *Archon Notarios*, NY, Offikion Date: 10/21/12
Mr. John Pappajohn, *Archon Laosynaktis*, IA, Offikion Date: 02/18/01
Mr. Louis D. Pappan, *Archon Depoutatos*, PA, Offikion Date: 02/18/01
Mr. John Perros, *Archon Depoutatos*, VA, Offikion Date: 03/03/96
Mr. Emil Skocypec, *Archon Notarios*, AZ, Offikion Date: 10/31/10
Mr. Haralambos Tzanetatos, *Archon Exarchos*, Panama, Offikion Date: 06/09/05

iv. Benediction – His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco



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

New York Hilton Midtown Hotel
New York City, New York
October 8, 2022

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM

With a quorum being established, the National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis called the Joint General Assembly meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. E.D.T. with the Invocation given by His Grace Bishop Joachim, assisted by Fr Alex Karloutsos, OSA, Spiritual Advisor. The National Commander then led the Assembly in chanting the Hymn to Saint Andrew.

WELCOME

The National Commander welcomed His Grace Bishop Joachim, Archons, Archons-elect and Spouses and conveyed the greetings from His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros who was escorting His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore II of Alexandria and all Africa to Ground Zero.

PATRIARCHAL EXHORTATION

The National Commander presented the Patriarchal Exhortation on behalf of His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

ARCHIEPISCOPAL EXHORTATION

The National Vice Commander Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Jr. presented the Archiepiscopal Exhortation on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL, REGIONAL COMMANDERS, CHAIRS & VICE CHAIRS OF ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEES

The National Commander introduced to the General Assembly the National Officers, National Council Members, Regional Commanders, Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Engagement Committees, and Archons in attendance. The National Commander further welcomed two (2) new National Council members Archon George G. Gumas, San Francisco, and Archon John S. Koudounis, Chicago.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 29, 2021

National Secretary Gus M. Pablecas presented for review the minutes from the December 29, 2021, Annual Assembly. The National Commander asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Archon John Psaltos moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Archon Ted Theophilos. The National Commander asked for any questions, corrections, or comments, there being none, a vote was taken at which time the General Assembly unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT / AUDIT REPORT

National Treasurer Peter J. Skeadas reviewed the financial reports and advised that the financial status of the Order was excellent and that the Order met all its 2022 financial obligations. He further reported, including, but not limited to the \$525,000 in donations made to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including the \$50,000 to the Ukrainian Relief Fund and \$100,000 to assist in the Balikli Hospital Fire Relief Fund. Treasurer Skeadas detailed the protocol in approving of the Order's expenses. He concluded by thanking the Exarch's Appeal sponsors for their important support.

Archon Peter Kakoyiannis, Chair of the Audit Committee introduced Jeremy Meisel representing the firm of BDO who explained the results of their Audit Report and review of the years ending December 31, 2021, and 2020. Mr. Meisel pointed out that as stated in the Financial Statements that the financial statements present fairly in all material respects, the financial position of the Order as of years ending December 31, 2021, and 2020, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Archon Assistant Treasurer Andreas D. Comodromos moved to accept the Treasurer and BDO reports as presented, seconded by Archon Carl R. Hollister. The National Commander asked for any questions, corrections, concerns, or comments, there being none, a vote was taken at which time the General Assembly unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF THE ARCHON CLASS OF 2022

Archon Constantine G. Caras, presented the Archon Class of 2022. AXIOS

(Attached and made part of the minutes are the names of the 2022 Archons-elect)

EXARCH'S APPEAL

Archon John Zavitsanos, Chair of the Exarch's Appeal Committee, welcomed the Archons-elect and discussed time, talent, and treasure in detail. He enlightened the Assembly of the challenges facing the Patriarchate and the required funding needed for the Order to continue its duty to defend and protect the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archon Zavitsanos outlined the Sponsor A Day Program where if every Archon sponsored at least one day at \$3,000 per year, or \$250 per month, the Order could cover the entire operating budget. Archon Zavitsanos went on to stress the importance of the program and that the class of 2022 should strive for 100% participation in becoming a Sponsor.

ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Archon Michael G. Psaros welcomed the Assembly back to the Hilton Midtown after closure due to Covid. He welcomed the Archons-elect and commented what it means to be an Archon and of the awesome responsibility once Invested.

Archon Psaros thanked Fr Alex Karloutsos, Presbytera Xanthis and others involved in the Athenagoras Human Rights Award evening presentation in honoring His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore II of Alexandria and All Africa. He continued to thank all who helped raise over approximately \$650,000 for the evening's event. The National Commander expressed his deep gratitude to the Underwriters of the Banquet, Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation and Archon Michael G. Psaros.

2022 NICHOLAS J. BOURAS AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY ARCHON LEADERSHIP

The National Commander commented on the memorable evening and congratulated honoree Archon Michael G. Psaros for his extraordinary display of time, talent and treasure and extended heartfelt gratitude for Archon Psaros' service.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW FOUNDATION

The National Commander provided a detailed report describing the creation, accomplishments, and transparency of the Foundation and of the continued growth with currently 187 FOUNDERS at \$100,000 each with pledges exceeding \$20,000,000. He further described the FOUNDERS and BUILDERS program and commended the exceptional work of the Officers, Committee Chairs, and staff by name.

NATIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

National Secretary Gus M. Pablecas, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of members of the Order as approved by the National Council who have expressed their willingness to serve as Directors on the National Council for the three-year term 2023-2025 to be confirmed by the General Assembly:

Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis; John Catsimatidis; Stephen Georgeson; John S. Koudounis; Theodore J. Theophilos; George Safiol; Peter J. Skeadas; Stephen Yallourakis.

Archon Steven G. Scavelis, moves to confirm the slate, with a second from Archon John G. Manos. The National Commander asked for any other nominations, questions, concerns, or comments, there being none, a vote was taken at which time the General Assembly unanimously approved.

Bylaws Committee

Vice Commander Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis reviewed Article XII of the Bylaws and the Order's compliance with said Article, and continued to describe the proposed Amendments to the Bylaws as recommended by the National Council for approval by the General Assembly as follows:

ARTICLE II, 4.

Applicable amended language allows for virtual video, certified mail, and overnight delivery.

EXPULSION

.... provided, however, that prior to a final determination by the National Council, such Member is afforded an opportunity to appear either in person or by virtual video or by certified mail or by overnight delivery before the National Council and rebut any and all accusations made against him. (Amended Oct. 27th, 2007; Oct. 27th, 2018, October 8, 2022).

ARTICLE IV, 4.

Applicable amended language clarifies that email notice is allowed for the Annual Meeting.

The Secretary (as hereinafter defined) shall cause to be mailed or emailed to every Member in good standing and at the address appearing on the membership rolls of the Order, by first class mail, or email, a notice stating the date, time, and place of the Annual Meeting not later than three (3) weeks before the date of the meeting. Notice, as hereinabove above provided, of any Special Meetings of the Order shall be given not later than seven (7) days before such meeting. No Member shall be allowed to appear at any meeting through a proxy. Amended (Oct. 27th, 2007; Oct. 27th, 2018, October 8, 2022).

ARTICLE V-9

Applicable language allows for virtual video attendance when in person is not available.

PROCEDURE

.....Furthermore, as a condition to remaining in good standing, each calendar year, members residing less than 300 miles from New York City, must personally attend two (2) meetings of the National Council. Those residing more than 300 miles, must personally attend one (1) meeting only. Personal attendance shall mean in person or by virtual video when in person is not available. Amended (Oct. 21st, 2008, Oct. 19th, 2019, October 8, 2022).

ARTICLE VII-9

Applicable language adds Regional Commander attendance at National Council meetings under the same procedure as Article V-9.

REGIONAL COMMANDERS

.... In addition, he shall maintain regular communications with and report to the National Commander with regard to his activities in the region and attend National Council meetings pursuant to the procedure set forth in Article V- 9. Amended (October 8, 2022).

ARTICLE IX-3

Applicable language changes the quota of Archon candidates allowed to 35.

COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND NEW ARCHONS

.... It is recommended that a quota of no more than thirty-five (35) new Archons be observed for investiture each year. Amended (October 8, 2022).

ARTICLE XII

Applicable language allows email notice for amendments to the bylaws.

AMENDMENTS

Subject to the prior written approval by the Exarch, these Bylaws may be amended by the vote of two-thirds of all Members attending a regularly called General or Specially called meeting of the Order; provided, however, that the text of each proposed amendment shall be mailed, by first class mail, or emailed, to each Member of the Order, not later than fifteen (15) days before the convening of such meeting. Amended (October 8, 2022).

Archon Georgios Kyvernitis moved to approve the proposed Bylaw Amendments as presented, seconded by Archon Nicholas J. Furriss. Vice Commander Bozonelis asked for any discussion or questions as to the Amendments, there being none, a vote was taken at which time the motion was approved by 2/3 of the General Assembly.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM INITIATIVE

**Archon Religious Freedom Mission to Romania, Bulgaria
and Greece, June 8 ~ 19, 2022**

The National Commander detailed the trip and the importance of the delegation mission where Christianity is under attack. The National Commander conveyed special recognition to Archon-elect Dr. Nawaf and Rim Salameh

(Romania) and Archon Boris and Youlianna Gurov (Bulgaria) who hosted the Archon delegation in respective countries. He also conveyed his gratitude to the US Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic, Archon Hon. George J. Tsunis who hosted a reception at the Embassy Residence, Athens and dinner at Niarchos Foundation in honor of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Washington Initiative

Archon Andrew E. Manatos presented the Committee's Report and described the various aspects and the importance on how the leaders in Washington can help defend the Patriarchate, coupled with the efforts of the Archons.

OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe)

Archon Hon. Steven G. Counelis summarized the Committee's Report that reflected the activities of Archon Counelis and Archon Rock Sisson at the OSCE Conference held in Warsaw Poland from September 25-30, 2022. The Archons made oral presentations to the assembled nations, civil society organizations, plenary session of the Conference and human rights advocates, submitted detailed reports for the record of the proceedings, advocated one on one with other attendees and worked in concert with the United States delegation.

Archon Engagement Committee

The National Commander summarized the newly formed and developing Archon Engagement Committees and its ten categories that will report in greater detail at the 2023 General Assembly.

New Archon Boot Camp

The National Commander covered aspects of the scheduled Archon Boot Camp and the protocol of activities for the Investiture taking place on Sunday.

Archon Strategic Branding

The National Commander detailed the development of an Archon Branding program headed by Archon John S. Gumas, a well-known and respected industry leader. This continues to be a work in progress.

Archon Youth Committee

Archon Nicholas J. Tranto, on behalf of the Committee, summarized the Archon Youth Committee Report based on the initiative of education and awareness. This includes: the creation of the SPROUT Program; creating an Archon FAQ Document for consistent answers to questions; development of an “age appropriate” PowerPoint and Video Presentation; formation of a team of regional Archons to make presentation; and, with the assistance of Committee member Ms. Katina Tsatalos of Annunciation GOC, Dayton, Ohio, the creation of the “Sunday School Lessons” for children for grades PreK- 12.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS - TRISAGION

The National Commander asked for any old or new business, being none His Grace Bishop Joachim, along with Father Alex Karloutsos led the **Trisagion Service** for the departed Archons Falling Asleep in the Lord, followed by the Benediction and National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis’ closing remarks honoring the memory of Vice Commander Archon John Halecky Jr. May their memories be eternal.

(Attached and made part of the minutes are the names of the departed Archons)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Archon Steven G. Scavelis, second by Archon John G. Manos. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 A.M. E.D.T.

Respectfully submitted,

Gus M. Pablecas,
National Secretary

(NOTE: All Committee Report as submitted in accordance with the Agenda are made part of and included in the “2022 Annual Meeting Report” binder and maintained at the National office.)

Minutes 10.8.22 Final revised title 9/30/23

ARCHON CLASS OF 2022

Theodore John Angelis, Esq.
Seattle, WA
Metropolis of San Francisco

Constantine Michael Boukidis, Esq.
Altadena, CA
Metropolis of San Francisco

George Dangas, M.D.
New York, NY
Archdiocesan District

Damon Diamantaras
Houston, TX
Metropolis of Denver

Andrew John Eliopoulos
Stevenson Ranch, CA
Metropolis of San Francisco

Stephen Ferranti
Tappan, NY
Archdiocesan District

Spyros Georgopalis
Syosset, NY
Archdiocesan District

John Henry Goutanis, Esq.
Chicago, IL
Metropolis of Chicago

Alexandros John Haralambides, Esq.

Miami, FL
Metropolis of Atlanta

Kyriakos Karabelas, Esq.
Whitestone, NY
Archdiocesan District

Sotiris Kolokotronis
Sacramento, CA
Metropolis of San Francisco

George Steve Kounoupis, Esq.
Bethlehem, PA
Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Alexandros Kosmas Kyrou, Ph.D.
Bedford, MA
Metropolis of Boston

James George Lakerdas, Esq.
Chicago, IL
Metropolis of Chicago

Stamatios Lerakis, M.D.
New York, NY
Archdiocesan District

Thomas Makkos
New York, NY
Archdiocesan District

Thrasyvoulos Maroulis
Norfolk, VA
Archdiocesan District

Anthony William Megas
Jacksonville, FL
Metropolis of Atlanta

Philip Nicolaides
Broomall, PA
Archdiocesan District

Anthony Papamarkos
Lyndhurst, NJ
Metropolis of New Jersey

Basil Pappas
Fallston, MD
Archdiocesan District

George Postolos, Esq.
Houston, TX
Metropolis of Denver

Robert Benjamin Powell
Palmetto, FL
Metropolis of Atlanta

Nawaf Salameh, M.D.
Brooklyn, NY
Archdiocesan District

Charles Peter Sandilos, Esq.
Cherry Hill, NJ
Metropolis of New Jersey

James Nicholas Schooley, DDS.
Columbus, OH
Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Yianni Sianis
Chicago, IL
Metropolis of Chicago

James Constantine Skedros, Ph.D.
Sudbury, MA
Metropolis of Boston

George Syros, M.D.
New York, NY
Archdiocesan District

Peter Tarhanidis, Ph.D.
Chatham, NJ
Metropolis of New Jersey

Romey Terezi
Bonita Springs, FL
Metropolis of Atlanta

Nikolaos Theofanis
Camp Hill, PA
Metropolis of Pittsburgh

John Thomas M.D.
New York, NY
Archdiocesan District

Peter Ernest Tiboris
Wellington, FL
Metropolis of Atlanta

Elias Demetrios Trahanas, Esq.
Great Neck, NY
Archdiocesan District

Stephanos Gus Trakas
Greer, SC
Metropolis of Atlanta

George James Vlahakos, Esq.
Houston, TX
Metropolis of Denver

Thomas Williams, DDS, M.D.
Naples, FL
Metropolis of Atlanta

James Ernest Zaferis
Los Angeles, CA
Metropolis of San Francisco

George Nicholas Zapantis, Esq.
Long Island City, NY
Archdiocesan District

End of list

DEPARTED ARCHONS
1/2022 ~ 9/2022

Mr. Ernest W. Anast, *Archon Kastrinsios*, CA, Offikion Date: 3/3/1996
Dr. George S. Bebis, *Archon Didaskalos Tou Evangeliou*, MA, Offikion Date: 6/1/1976
Mr. Alex R. Breno, *Archon Ekdikos*, MD, Offikion Date: 3/3/1996
Mr. Steve J. Costas, *Archon Depoutatos*, CT, Offikion Date: 4/1/1972
Mr. Peter M. Dion, *Archon Depoutatos*, FL Offikion Date: 3/23/1986
Mr. Aristides Duzoglou, *Archon Maestor*, NJ, Offikion Date: 3/23/1974
Mr. John Gidicsin, *Archon Hartoularios*, NY, Offikion Date: 2/17/2001
President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, *Archon Great Orator*, RUS, Offikion Date: 10/22/2005
Mr. John Halecky Jr., *Archon Ekdikos*, NJ, Offikion Date: 7/20/1982
Mr. Gabriel G. Habib, *Archon Notarios*, VA, Offikion Date: 7/7/1992
Mr. John C. Hrapchak, *Archon Ekdikos*, AZ, Offikion Date: 2/28/1999
Mr. Theodore S. Johnson, *Archon Depoutatos*, FL, Offikion Date: 3/8/1987
Mr. John A. Kapioltas, *Archon Hartoularios*, FL, Offikion Date: 6/13/1989
Mr. George L. Karagias, *Archon Exarchos*, NJ, Offikion Date: 3/7/1993
Prof. Peter Karavites, *Archon Notarios*, MA, Offikion Date: 3/5/2000
Dr. Harry T. Kolendrianos, *Archon Notarios*, VA, Offikion Date: 2/18/2001
Mr. John D. Malatras, *Archon Notarios*, NC, Offikion Date: 2/28/1999
Mr. Nicholas Mihalios, *Archon Notarios*, NY, Offikion Date: 3/4/1990
Mr. Chris J. Moutos, *Archon Lambadarios*, NC, Offikion Date: 3/16/1997
Mr. Christos T. Panopoulos, *Archon Orphanotrofos*, MI, Offikion Date: 2/18/2001
Mr. Peter Clyde N. Papadakos, Esq., *Archon Ekdikos*, PA, Offikion Date: 10/22/2006
Dr. John C. Rouman, *Archon Prostatitis Ton Grammaton*, NH, Offikion Date: 10/16/2011
Mr. Nicholas Royce, *Archon Depoutatos*, CA, Offikion Date: 3/3/1985
Mr. Harry G. Siafaris, *Archon Depoutatos*, CA, Offikion Date: 3/20/1994
Mr. Nick Smyrnis, *Archon Ekdikos*, IN, Offikion Date: 3/11/1984
Mr. John J. Spanos, *Archon Depoutatos*, VA, Offikion Date: 3/25/1986
Mr. Raymond E. Speicher, *Archon Notarios*, OH, Offikion Date: 2/28/1999
Mr. Theodore D. Veru, *Archon Maestor*, NJ, Offikion Date: 10/28/2007

End of list



REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF

THE ORDER OF ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE, INC.

AUDIT WRAP-UP:
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022



Contents

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FULL REPORT

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Section 2 - Audited Financial Statements

The following communication was prepared as part of our audit, has consequential limitations, and is intended solely for the information and use of those charged with governance (e.g., Board of Directors and Audit Committee) and, if appropriate, management of the Client, and is not intended and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Welcome

September 15, 2023

To the National Council of
The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc., Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
New York, NY

Professional standards require us to communicate with you regarding matters related to the audit, that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. On June 27, 2023 we presented an overview of our plan for the audit of the financial statements of The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc., Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (the “Order”) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, including a summary of our overall objectives for the audit, and the nature, scope, and timing of the planned audit work.

This communication is intended to elaborate on the significant findings from our audit, including our views on the qualitative aspects of the Order’s accounting practices and policies, management’s judgments and estimates, financial statement disclosures, and other required matters.

We are pleased to be of service to the Order and look forward to meeting with you to discuss our audit findings, as well as other matters that may be of interest to you, and to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

BDO USA, P.C.

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Executive Summary

Status of Our Audit

We have completed our audit of the financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022. Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. This audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.

- ▶ The objective of our audit was to obtain reasonable - not absolute - assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements.
- ▶ The scope of the work performed was substantially the same as that described to you in our earlier Audit Planning communications.
- ▶ We issued an unmodified opinion on the financial statements and released our report in August 2023.
- ▶ All records and information requested by BDO were freely available for our inspection.



Results of the Audit

ACCOUNTING PRACTICES, POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

The following summarizes the more significant required communications related to our audit concerning the Order’s accounting practices, policies and estimates:

The Order’s significant accounting practices and policies are those included in Note 2 to the financial statements. These accounting practices and policies are appropriate, comply with the applicable financial reporting framework and industry practice, were consistently applied, and are adequately described within Note 2 to the financial statements.

- ▶ A summary of recently issued accounting pronouncements is included in Note 2 to the Order’s financial statements.
- ▶ The Order adopted *Presentation and Disclosures by Not-for-Profit Entities for Contributed Nonfinancial Assets (Topic 958)* and *Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842)*. The adoption of these standards did not have a material impact on the financial statements.
- ▶ There were no other changes in significant accounting policies and practices during 2022.

Significant estimates are those that require management’s most difficult, subjective, or complex judgments, often as a result of the need to make estimates about the effects of matters that are inherently uncertain. The Order’s significant accounting estimates, including a description of management’s processes and significant assumptions used in development of the estimates, are disclosed in Note 2 of the financial statements.

Significant Accounting Estimates

Allocation of functional expenses

Useful life of fixed assets

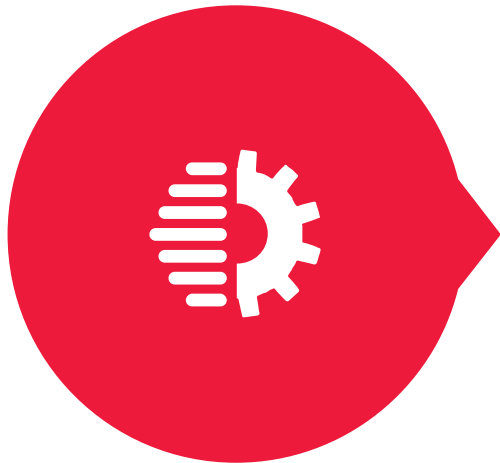
Valuation of donated services

- ▶ Management did not make any significant changes to the processes or significant assumptions used to develop the significant accounting estimates in 2022.

Results of the Audit

QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF THE ORDER'S FINANCIAL REPORTING

A discussion was held regarding the quality of the Order's financial reporting, which included:



Qualitative Aspects of
Significant Accounting Policies
and Practices



Our Conclusions Regarding
Significant Accounting
Estimates



Financial Statement
Presentation and Disclosures



New Accounting Pronouncements

Results of the Audit

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

There were no corrected misstatements, other than those that were clearly trivial, related to accounts and/or disclosures that we brought to the attention of management.

There were no uncorrected misstatements, other than those that were clearly trivial, related to accounts and/or disclosures that we presented to management, except as follows:

Item #	Account Name and Adjustment Description	Debit	Credit
1	Human Rights Banquet Sponsors	\$ 8,800	
1	Net Assets		\$ 8,800
<i>To adjust revenue for prior year revenue recorded in the current year.</i>			



Results of the Audit

Assets				
	2022	2021	Change	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 507,434	\$ 1,139,130	\$ (631,696)	(a)
Pledges receivable	52,286	126,748	(74,462)	
Other assets	24,891	101,806	(76,915)	
Fixed assets, net	11,912	16,657	(4,745)	
Total Assets	\$ 596,523	\$ 1,384,341	\$ (787,818)	

(a) Cash balances decreased in 2022 due to a large amount of 2021 accrued expenses that were paid off.

Liabilities				
	2022	2021	Change	
Due to the Archdiocese	\$ 31,357	\$ 15,524	\$ 15,833	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	158,067	797,735	(639,668)	(b)
Total Liabilities	\$ 189,424	\$ 813,259	\$ (623,835)	

(b) The decrease in accounts payable and accrued expenses in 2022 was due to a large amount of 2021 accrued expenses that were paid off.

Results of the Audit

Support & Revenue				
	2022	2021	Change	
Special event revenues				
Annual Archon weekend, net of costs of				
direct benefits to donors of \$365,007 and \$387,315	\$ 386,996	\$ 195,723	\$ 191,273	(a)
Annual appeal contributions	1,240,265	1,019,638	220,627	
Contributions - Chicago Archons	15,050	47,150	(32,100)	
Contributions - Regional Archons	11,250	-	11,250	
Contributions - Other	68,150	477,572	(409,422)	(b)
Sale of religious material	5,700	887	4,813	
Interest income	2,593	951	1,642	
Donated services - Religious Freedom Programs, public relations	418,600	413,000	5,600	
Total Support and Revenues	\$ 2,148,604	\$ 2,154,921	\$ (6,317)	

(a) The increase in special event revenues from the Annual Archon Weekend was due to the Athenagoras and Boras events that were held during 2022.

(b) The decrease in Contributions - Other was due to a large one-time unrestricted bequest of \$431K received in 2021.

Results of the Audit

	Expenses			
	2022	2021	Change	
Program expenses	\$ 1,579,897	\$ 1,332,392	\$ 247,505	(a)
Management and general expenses	501,389	474,795	26,594	
Fundraising expenses	231,301	225,765	5,536	
Total Expenses	\$ 2,312,587	\$ 2,032,952	\$ 279,635	

Selected Financial Ratios

Program to Total Expenses	68.32	65.54 (b)
Supporting services to Total Expenses	31.68	34.46 (c)

(a) The increase in program expenses was due to travel and conferences resuming after the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, there were large donations made by the Order for Ukraine as well as to Church of Alexandria and Balikli Hospital.

(b) Program Expenses to Total expenses = Program Services/ Total Expenses

(c) Supporting services to Total expenses = (Total of Fundraising Expenses and Management & General) / Total Expenses

Results of the Audit

	Net Assets		
	2022	2021	Change
Net Assets Without donor restrictions	\$ 309,260	\$ 448,932	\$ (139,672)
Net Assets With donor restrictions	97,839	122,150	(24,311)
Total	\$ 407,099	\$ 571,082	\$ (163,983)

Reconciliation of the Change in Net Assets

Change in Net Assets	\$ (163,983)	\$ 121,969	\$ (285,952)	(a)
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(a) The following represents significant fluctuations in the change in net assets from the prior year:

Increase in Special events Revenue	\$ 191,273
Increase in Annual appeal contributions	220,627
Decrease in Contributions - Chicago Archons	(32,100)
Increase in Contributions - Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Inc.	11,250
Decrease in Contributions - Other	(409,422)
Increase in Sale of religious material	4,813
Increase in Interest income	1,642
Increase in Donated services - Religious Freedom Programs, public relations	5,600
Increase in Program expenses	(247,505)
Increase in Management and general expenses	(26,594)
Increase in Fundraising expenses	(5,536)
	<u>\$ (285,952)</u>



Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Order’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Order’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Order’s internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses.

We are required to communicate, in writing, to those charged with governance all material weaknesses and significant deficiencies that have been identified in the Order’s internal control over financial reporting. The definitions of control deficiency, significant deficiency and material weakness follow:

Category	Definition
Control Deficiency	A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis.
Significant Deficiency	A deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.
Material Weakness	A deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Order’s financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In conjunction with our audit of the financial statements, we noted no material weaknesses. We do, however, have the below business recommendation and control deficiencies resulting from the audit.

Business Recommendation:

Observation	Recommendation
BDO noted that there is no record of who prepared and approve journal entries booked. Journal entries are prepared by Andrew Pavlak and approved by Kelly Peters.	We recommend the Order to formalize the journal entry process, documenting who prepared, reviewed, and approved all nonstandard journal entries booked, to clearly demonstrate and improve the controls in place and segregation of duties over adjustments to the general ledger.

Control Deficiencies:

Observation	Recommendation
BDO noted that credit card receipts are received and kept in emails. There were receipts missing due to no access to former admin's emails after termination.	We recommend the Order to keep track of credit card receipts outside of emails and to establish proper retention of documents, which serves as an accounting record and facilitates future follow-up as well as additional insight for other users.
BDO noted a check that was dated 2021 and received in March 2022 was not properly accounted for in 2021 pledge receivables. 2021 pledge receivables was calculated using only January and February 2022 deposits and 2021 checks held past the first two months were not anticipated. This resulted to the prior year pledge receivables balance to be incomplete and understated.	We recommend the Order to extend the months that subsequent deposits are examined when calculating the balance of pledge receivables to ensure proper cutoff of transactions and that all contributions subsequently deposited are considered.
BDO noted that the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOA) used a rate of 7.8% instead of 7.65% when billing the Order for one of the sampled employee's FICA expenses.	We recommend the Order to request for payroll details and review the payroll invoices monthly to ensure the amounts billed are accurate before processing for payment.



Additional Required Communications

Other Required Communications

Following is a summary of other required items, along with specific discussion points as they pertain to the Order:

Requirement	Discussion Point
Significant changes to planned audit strategy or significant risks initially identified	There were no significant changes to the planned audit strategy or significant risks initially identified and previously communicated to those charged with governance as part of our Audit Planning communications.
Obtain information from those charged with governance relevant to the audit	There were no matters noted relevant to the audit, including, but not limited to: violations or possible violations of laws or regulations; risks of material misstatement, including fraud risks; or tips or complaints regarding the Order's financial reporting that we were made aware of as a result of our inquiry of those charged with governance.
Nature and extent of specialized skills or knowledge needed related to significant risks	There were no specialized skills or knowledge needed, outside of the core engagement team, to perform the planned audit procedures or evaluate audit results related to significant risks.
Consultations with other accountants	We are not aware of any consultations about accounting or auditing matters between management and other independent public accountants. Nor are we aware of opinions obtained by management from other independent public accountants on the application of requirements of an applicable financial reporting framework.
Significant findings and issues arising during the audit in connection with the Order's related parties	We have evaluated whether the identified related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately identified, accounted for, and disclosed and whether the effects of the related party relationships and transactions, based on the audit evidence obtained, prevent the financial statements from achieving fair presentation.
Significant findings or issues arising during the audit that were discussed, or were the subject of correspondence, with management	There were no significant findings or issues arising during the audit that were discussed, or were the subject of correspondence, with management.
Disagreements with management	There were no disagreements with management about matters, whether or not satisfactorily resolved, that individually or in aggregate could be significant to the Order's financial statements or to our auditor's report.
Significant difficulties encountered during the audit	There were no significant difficulties encountered during the audit.

Other Required Communications

Following is a summary of other required items, along with specific discussion points as they pertain to the Order:

Requirement	Discussion Point
Matters that are difficult or contentious for which the auditor consulted outside the engagement team	There were no difficult or contentious matters that we consulted with others outside the engagement team that we reasonably determined to be relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process.
Other matters significant to the oversight of the Order’s financial reporting process, including complaints or concerns regarding accounting or auditing matters	There are no other matters that we consider significant to the oversight of the Order’s financial reporting process that have not been previously communicated.
Representations requested from management	Please refer to the management representation letter.

Independence

Our engagement letter to you dated April 12, 2023 describes our responsibilities in accordance with professional standards and certain regulatory authorities with regard to independence and the performance of our services. This letter also stipulates the responsibilities of the Order with respect to independence as agreed to by the Order. Please refer to that letter for further information.



Audit Firm System of Quality Management

An audit firm's system of quality control (aka system of quality management) is essential to how the firm conducts audits and is in place to protect donors, stakeholders and other users of financial statements.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

In June 2022, the AICPA Auditing Standards Board (ASB) issued the following interrelated standards on audit quality management (collectively, the QM standards), which are designed to improve a CPA firm's risk assessment and audit quality. The effective date of the QM standards is December 15, 2025.

Statement on Quality Management Standards (SQMS) No. 1	Statement on Quality Management Standards (SQMS) No. 2	Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) No. 146
<i>A Firm's System of Quality Management</i>	<i>Engagement Quality Reviews</i>	<i>Quality Management for an Engagement Conducted in Accordance With Generally Accepted Auditing Standards</i>

BDO has assessed the requirements of the QM standards and has analyzed our firm's current system of quality management to identify changes and improvements necessary for compliance. This includes the identification of quality objectives, quality risks and the assessment of those quality risks, and responses to address those risks. We are further working with BDO Global to appropriately integrate processes deployed at a global level into our firm's system of quality management.

2020 BDO AUDIT QUALITY REPORT

CONTINUING TO BUILD TRUST



We will continue to provide you with updates on our progress. Currently, you may find discussion of BDO's system of quality control within our annual [Audit Quality Reports](#), the most recent of which is accessible [here](#).

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Material discussed in this publication is meant to provide general information and should not be acted on without professional advice tailored to your needs.

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2023 Archon Selection Committee Report

Submitted by:
Constantine G. Caras, Archon Skevophylax

As early as 1,000 years ago, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople honored those who demonstrated exceptional zeal and devotion for the common good and extraordinary beneficial service to the Church with the Offikion of Archon. In turn, a new Archon renewed his commitment to his fellow man and the mission of the Great Church. This tradition continues to this day. The role of the Committee to Recommend New Archons (the Committee) is to assist His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros in recommending candidates to His All-Holiness, worthy of investiture as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Investiture as an Archon is necessary for admission to the Order.

The members of the Committee are Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Theodore Bozonelis, Peter Skeadas, Gus Pablicas, Alexander Pritsos, John Zavitsanos, and Constantine G. Caras.

The protocol for the selection of new Archons is as follows. Once a year the National Commander invites members of the Order to identify worthy candidates desiring to serve the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Credentials Forms are available on line. The candidates then mail their completed Credentials Forms to the Archon National Office. In addition to biographical information, the candidates are asked to

describe their service to the Church and answer questions, evidencing their desire to become Archons. Each candidate must be nominated and endorsed by Archons, and the approval of the Regional Commander and the nominee's parish priest are requested. The Committee weighs heavily the answers to these questions and the supporting statements submitted by the Archons nominating and endorsing the candidates. The Metropolitans of the Eparchial Synod also are invited to recommend candidates, who are then asked to submit Credentials Forms. After carefully weighing the credentials of each candidate, subject to the guidance of the Archbishop who participates in all Committee deliberations, the credentials of those selected are sent to the Ecumenical Patriarch for his consideration and approval.

As stated in the By Laws, candidates must also present the following qualifications:

- (a) Citizenship and/or permanent residency of the United States.
- (b) A record of being a practicing and devout Orthodox Christian and a member in good standing of his local Church.
- (c) Demonstrable love, devotion and support to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its institutions.
- (d) By deeds and record, demonstrable support, devotion, and sustained service to his local parish, Metropolis, and the Archdiocese.
- (e) A record devoid of any type of criminal conviction and a reputation of unqualified respect and high regard from his fellow parishioners.
- (f) Demonstrable leadership qualities and achieved success in his chosen field of endeavor.
- (g) A high degree of dignity in a manner consistent with the mission of the Order, and
- (h) A commitment to become a vibrant and enthusiastic member of the Order, who will respond positively to the appeals of his Regional Commander and of the National Council.

The Committee also performs the following specific tasks: (a) communicates with Archons throughout the country to ensure that all the documentation has been submitted on a timely basis, (b) reviews the Credentials Forms and supporting documentation in the most objective manner possible to ensure that all questions have been answered and that the necessary nominations and endorsements are in order, and (c) reports its recommendations to the National Council.

This year, 39 worthy Orthodox faithful were thus selected. Their names and all relevant information were then submitted to the Ecumenical Patriarch through

the Exarch, who now, on behalf of His All Holiness, confers upon them the Offikion of Archon of the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople.

The 39 new Archons are as follow:

Michael Amiridis, Ph.D
Louis George Apostol, Esq.
Gerasimos Athanasatos
John Michael Athas, MD
Robert Peter Badavas
Michael Dimitri Bousis
Michael Damian Camarinos, Esq.
Christos Frank Chrisafides
Thomas John Cox
Spiro Ioannis Dongaris
Apostolos Fisfis
Craig Lawrence Godshall, Esq.
Gregory James Halvatzis
Spiro Kailas
Nicholas Spyridon Kass
James Ketis
Dimitris Kyriazis, MD
John Konstantine Lazares
Nikolaos Letsios
George Panagiotis Liakeas, MD
Nabeel Jameel Issa Madanat, MD

Vasilios George Marutsos
Antonis Mistras
Michael P. Neamonitakis
Chris G. Pallis
Peter John Panton, MD
George Nicholas Papas
George N. Pappas
Nicholas James Pappas, Esq.
Jimmy Theo Patronis, Jr.
Anthony John Payiavlas
Phillip J. Philliou, Esq.
George Pete Psefteas
Harry Gregory Ruska
Samuel William Spanos
Theodore Speros
Andrew Nick Theodore
John Vasiliou
Kevin M. Wilcox



November 1, 2023

Dear Brother Archons:

2023 has seen the Order take an enormous step forward. More Archons are directly involved in spreading our message and mission than at any time in our history. This is taking place in the many active committees and subcommittees, local symposiums, meetings with elected officials at the local and national level and participation in many organizations around the world that focus on human rights. There is a definite buzz and sense of excitement that is present any time 2 or more of us gather to carry out our mission.

Much of our success is due to the fact that we now have the resources to do more. In the past, the Order struggled to simply keep the lights on --- but over the last 8 years we have seen more of us step up to become sponsors (pledging \$3,000 or more). This has enabled us to actually carry out objectives we only dreamed about previously.

Now, of course, we are fighting for the survival of the Mother Church on 2 fronts: The Turks and the Russians. Between the Turkish and Russian governments, over \$150 million is being spent through shadowing organizations to destroy the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Make no mistake: our very survival is on the line. And, the ONLY organization singularly focused on our survival is us.

10 years ago, our budget was about \$1mm. That was woeful and we had no room to pursue most of the great ideas that would enable us to effectively engage decision makers in institutions and governments that matter. So, we came up with the sponsor program to allow each of us the opportunity to sponsor one or more days of the Order's expenses. That was \$3000 per day at that time. The response was overwhelming. Many Archons sponsored multiple days. Attached here is the list of 2023 sponsors. If your name is not on that list, why not? We do not receive funding from anybody else and can only move forward if each of us steps up.

The time has come to bump up the sponsor level. Our budget now is over \$3mm/year. Accordingly, becoming a one-day sponsor will now involve a commitment of \$4000 a year beginning in 2024. If you are currently a one-day sponsor, moving up to the new level means an additional \$85 a month. New pledge cards will be mailed to all Archons and we ask each of you to please respond by sponsoring at least 1 day. I am currently a 2-day sponsor and will maintain that same level next year. We cannot meet next year's budget unless all of us become sponsors. I implore all my brothers to commit to one or more days. One day equals about \$330 per month. With such a commitment, we can continue to elevate the influence and effectiveness of the Order.

I look forward to seeing all of you this weekend.

Sincerely yours,

John Zavitsanos
Archon Ekdikos

Title	First Name	MI	Last Name	Offikion	Offikiondas
			33 day sponsor		
	Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation				
			10 day sponsor		
Archon	Peter		Karmanos Jr.	<i>Hypomimneske</i>	05/06/15
Archon	George	M.	Marcus	<i>Exarchos</i>	02/24/91
Archon	George	E.	Safiol	<i>Archeiophylax</i>	03/16/97
Archon Dr.	Spiro		Spireas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/10
			8 day sponsor		
Archon	John	A.	Catsimatidis	<i>Notarios</i>	02/28/88
Archon	Michael	G.	Psaros	<i>Ostiarios</i>	10/19/14
			6 day sponsor		
Archon	William	H.	Spell	<i>Laosynaktis</i>	10/18/15
			5 day sponsor		
Archon	Nicholas	I.	Karamatsoukas	<i>Ostiarios</i>	10/23/05
Archon	Pericles	C.	Siatis, Esq.	<i>Hieromnemon</i>	10/20/19
			4 day sponsor		
Archon Dr.	Stephen	J.	Yallourakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/23/05
Archon	Theodore	K.	Zampetis	<i>Kastrinsios</i>	10/28/07
			3 day sponsor		
Archon	Thomas	S.	Cappas	<i>Nomophylax</i>	10/10/04
Archon	Michael	S.	Johnson	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/10/79
Archon	Arthur	T.	Katsaros	<i>Ostiarios</i>	10/20/19
Archon	Peter		Mesologites	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/16/16
Archon Hon.	Matthew		Mirones	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon Dr.	Michael	J.	Patzakis	<i>Didaskalos</i>	10/22/06
Archon	Nicholas	G.	Scandalios	<i>Skevophylax</i>	10/20/19
Ms.	Elena		Stefanopoulos		
Archon	Tim		Tassopoulos	<i>Maistor</i>	10/28/07
Archon Dr.	Chris		Vasilakis	<i>Imnodos</i>	10/31/21
			2 day sponsor		
Archon	Harold	V.	Anagnos	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/28/07
Archon	Peter	J.	Barris	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/10/04
Archon	Robert	A.	Buhler	<i>Referendarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Nicholas	E.	Chimicles, Esq.	<i>Nomophylax</i>	10/20/13
Archon	Peter	G.	Chiopelas	<i>Ostiarios</i>	10/16/16
Archon	Thomas	E.	Constance	<i>Nomophylax</i>	10/23/05
Archon	Steven	M.	Laduzinsky	<i>Nomophylax</i>	11/01/09
Archon	Nicholas	L.	Lekas	<i>ProtoNotarios</i>	10/20/13
Archon	Constantine	S.	Liollio	<i>Hartophylax</i>	10/22/17
Archon	Christos	G.	Miliotes	<i>Hartophylax</i>	03/16/97
Archon	James		Pedas	<i>Hypomnimatos</i>	10/31/10
Archon	Theodore		Pedas	<i>Exarchos</i>	10/31/10
Archon	Paun (Panayiotis)		Peters	<i>Laosynaktis</i>	10/19/14

Archon	Gerry		Ranglas	<i>Depotatos</i>	03/10/02
Archon	Franklin	G.	Sisson Jr.	<i>Prepositos</i>	10/16/16
Archon	Peter	J.	Skeadas	<i>Hieromnemon</i>	10/10/04
Archon	Demosthenes		Vasiliou	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/31/10
Archon	Theodore		Vavoulis	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/20/19
Archon	John		Zavitsanos, Esq.	<i>Ekdikos</i>	10/10/04
			1 day sponsor		
Archon	John		Alahouzos	<i>Depotatos</i>	06/10/09
Archon	Nicholas		Alexos		
Archon	Nikolaos		Anagnostopoulos	<i>Hartoularios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	George	J.	Anderson	<i>Maistor</i>	09/27/06
Archon	Leon	W.	Andris	<i>Ostiarios</i>	03/09/03
Archon	Mike		Angeliades	<i>Skevophylax</i>	10/20/13
Archon	Theodore		Angelis, Esq.	<i>Ekdikos</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Arthur	C.	Anton, Jr.	<i>Kastrinsios</i>	10/20/13
Archon	Peter	T.	Arbes	<i>Hartoularios</i>	10/31/10
Archon	Soterios	T.	Argeroplos	<i>Eftaxias</i>	10/31/21
Archon Dr.	Lewis	A.	Assaley	<i>Eftaxias</i>	10/26/08
Archon Dr.	Dennis		Assanis	<i>Prostatis Ton C</i>	10/22/17
Archon	Harry	G.	Athanasiou	<i>Eftaxias</i>	10/22/17
Archon Hon.	Alex	M.	Azar II	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Nicholas		Balidis	<i>Maistor</i>	10/20/19
Archon	Arthur		Balourdos	<i>Hypomnemato</i>	10/26/08
Archon	Nick	M.	Bapis	<i>Hartoularios</i>	10/28/07
Archon	Michael	N.	Bapis	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/22/17
Archon Dr.	Charles	L.	Beck, Jr.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/10
Archon Dr.	Gerald	J.	Biernacki	<i>HHieromnemo</i>	10/21/12
Archon	Mark	S.	Boardman, Esq.	<i>Ekdikos</i>	10/20/19
Archon	Frank	P.	Boardman	<i>Maistor</i>	10/22/17
Archon	Constantine	M.	Boukidis, Esq.	<i>Nomophylax</i>	10/9/22
Archon Dr.	Nicholas	J.	Bournias	<i>Prostatis Ton C</i>	10/18/15
Archon	Dimitris		Bousis	<i>Maistor</i>	10/23/05
Archon Dr.	George	K.	Bovis	<i>Ostiarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Justin	K.	Bozonelis	<i>Kastrinsios</i>	10/22/17
Archon Hon.	B. Theodore		Bozonelis	<i>Ekdikos</i>	10/28/07
Archon	Paul		Bregianos	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/18/15
Archon	Daniel	A.	Breno	<i>Depotatos</i>	11/01/09
Archon	Anthony	X.	Brigis	<i>Hartoularios</i>	10/18/15
Archon	Robert	M.	Buchanan Jr.	<i>Hartoularios</i>	10/20/13
Archon	John	P.	Calamos, Sr.	<i>Eftaxias</i>	10/18/15
Archon	Michael		Camarinos		
Archon	Ronald	E.	Canakaris	<i>Ekdikos</i>	10/31/10
Archon	Constantine	G.	Caras	<i>Skevophylax</i>	03/08/98

Archon	Nicholas	A.	Carras	<i>Ekdikos</i>	10/23/05
Archon Dr.	Spyros		Catechis	<i>Referendarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Frank	D.	Catrickes	<i>Kastrinsios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	James	C.	Catrickes	<i>Maistor</i>	10/18/15
Archon	Arthur	N.	Chagaris	<i>Notarios</i>	03/09/03
Archon	Anthony	F.	Chapekis	<i>Dikaiophylax</i>	03/09/03
Archon Hon.	Jeffery	G.	Chrones	<i>Dikaiophylax</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Vassos		Chrysanthou	<i>Maistor</i>	10/23/05
Archon	John	N.	Colis	<i>Notarios</i>	10/20/13
Archon	Andreas	D.	Comodromos	<i>Dikaiophylax</i>	03/03/96
Archon	Demetrios		Constantinides	<i>Referendarios</i>	04/03/16
Archon	Peter	J.	Couchell	<i>Hartoularios</i>	03/08/98
Archon	Jon	J.	Couchell	<i>Dikaiophylax</i>	10/21/12
Archon Hon.	Steven	G.	Counelis	<i>Nomophylax</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Patrick	R.	Crosson	<i>Hartoularios</i>	11/01/09
Archon	Elias		Damianakis	<i>Maistor</i>	10/31/10
Archon	Damon		Diamantaras	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Jimmy		Daskalos	<i>Ostiaris</i>	10/31/10
Archon	Frank	N.	Demeris	<i>Orphanotroph</i>	10/16/16
Archon	John	W.	Demetropoulos	<i>Kastrinsios</i>	10/10/04
Archon	George	G.	Demos, Esq.	<i>Nomophylax</i>	10/20/19
Archon	George	C.	Demos, Esq.	<i>Dikaiophylax</i>	10/20/13
Archon Dr.	Harry	G.	Dimopoulos	<i>Hartophylax</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Nikitas		Drakotos	<i>Depotatos</i>	03/03/85
Archon	Philip	J.	Economopoulos	<i>Hypomnemato</i>	10/22/17
Archon	Michael	E.	Economou	<i>Skevophylax</i>	10/31/21
Archon Dr.	Stilianos		Efstratiadis	<i>Hypomimneska</i>	10/20/19
Archon Dr.	John	P.	Eliopoulos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/10
Archon	Andrew	J.	Eliopulos	<i>Hartoularios</i>	10/9/22
Mr.	Antonios	J.	Emmanouilidis	<i>Primikirios</i>	03/07/93
Archon	Stephen	E.	Ferranti	<i>Referendarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon Dr.	Kenneth		Frangadakis	<i>Ostiaris</i>	03/05/00
Archon	Fotios	J.	Frangakis	<i>Skevophylax</i>	10/28/18
Archon	James	A.	Frangis	<i>Notarios</i>	10/20/19
Archon Dr.	Michael	P.	Gabriel	<i>Aktouarios</i>	06/19/05
Archon	Sam	E.	Galeotos	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Isidoros		Garifalakis	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/10/04
Archon	Thomas	G.	Gatzunis	<i>Hartoularios</i>	10/22/17
Archon	Davis		Gdovin		
Archon	Leslie	P.	George	<i>Ekdikos</i>	10/22/06
Archon	John	D.	Georges	<i>Kastrinsios</i>	10/22/06
Archon	Stephen	A.	Georgeson	<i>Ekdikos</i>	03/09/03
Archon	Spyros		Georgopalis	<i>Skevophylax</i>	10/9/22

Archon	Alexander	A.	Gianaras	<i>Laosynaktis</i>	02/18/01
Archon	Peter	J.	Gouris	<i>Prepositos</i>	10/20/19
Archon	John	H.	Gountanis, Esq.	<i>Dikaiophylax</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Geofrey		Greenleaf		
Archon	Vassilios	B.	Grous	<i>Eftaxias</i>	10/28/07
Archon	Gary	C.	Grysiak	<i>Aktouarios</i>	02/28/99
Archon	John	G.	Gumas	<i>Hartophylax</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Demitrios	V.	Halakos	<i>Skevophylax</i>	10/18/15
Archon	John		Halecky III	<i>Notarios</i>	10/20/13
Archon	Alexandros		Haralambides, Esq.	<i>Nomodotis</i>	10/9/22
Archon	John	C.	Harbilas	<i>Eftaxias</i>	10/28/18
Mrs.	Sheila		Harpchak	<i>IN Memory of John</i>	
Archon	Stavros		Haviaras	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/20/13
Archon	John	A.	Hilaris	<i>Asekretes</i>	10/16/16
Archon	Carl	R.	Hollister	<i>Referendarios</i>	10/22/17
Archon	George	G.	Horiates	<i>Notarios</i>	10/21/12
Archon Dr.	Elias	A.	Iliadis	<i>Exarchos</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Timothy	J.	Joannides	<i>Maistor</i>	10/23/05
Archon	Phillip	M.	Kafarakis	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Peter		Kakoyiannis	<i>Nomophylax</i>	03/08/98
Archon	Theodore	M.	Kakoyiannis	<i>Dikaiophylax</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Constantine	J.	Kalaris	<i>Laosynaktis</i>	10/31/21
Archon	William	C.	Kallinikos	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/23/05
Archon Dr.	James	G.	Kallins	<i>Exarchos</i>	03/03/96
Archon Dr.	George	J.	Kallins	<i>Eftaxias</i>	10/31/10
Archon	Chris		Karamanos	<i>Eftaxias</i>	10/16/11
Archon Dr.	Stamatios	V.	Kartalopoulos	<i>Exarchos</i>	02/28/99
Archon	Ilias		Katsos	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Michael		Kavourias	<i>Nomophylax</i>	10/16/16
Archon	Theodore	X.	Koinis	<i>Ekdikos</i>	10/21/12
Archon	Michael	T.	Koinis	<i>Kastrinsios</i>	10/20/19
Archon Dr.	Dennis	D.	Kokenes	<i>Asingritis</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Joseph	J.	Kokolakis	<i>Depotatos</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Sotiris	K	Kolokotronis	<i>Ostiarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Theodore	D.	Konopisos	<i>Hieromnemon</i>	10/18/15
Archon	William	M.	Korchak	<i>Ostiarios</i>	10/22/17
Archon	George		Kossaras	<i>Ostiarios</i>	03/10/02
Archon	John	S.	Koudounis	<i>Eftaxias</i>	10/16/16
Archon	Mihail		Koulakis	<i>Hieromnemon</i>	11/01/09
Archon Dr.	George	M.	Koulianos	<i>Ostiarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon Dr.	George	T.	Koulianos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/07
Archon	George	S.	Kounoupis, Esq.	<i>Dikaiophylax</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Nicholas	F.	Kourtis, Esq.	<i>ProtEkdikos</i>	10/20/19

Archon	Christ	G.	Kraras	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/12/95
Archon	Michael	J.	Kratsios	<i>Kastrinsios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Frank	L.	Kuchuris	<i>Depotatos</i>	02/24/91
Archon	Kyriacos	C.	Kyriacou, Esq.	<i>Ekdikos</i>	10/31/21
Archon Dr.	Nicholas	C.	Kyriazi	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Markos	K.	Lagos	<i>Maistor</i>	10/19/14
Archon	James	G.	Lakerdas, Esq.	<i>Asingritis</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Elias	J.	Lambiris	<i>Nomophylax</i>	10/18/15
Archon	Louis	J.	Laros	<i>ProtoNotarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Nicholas	G.	Latousakis	<i>Hieromnemon</i>	10/16/16
Archon Dr.	Stamatios		Lerakis, M.D.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon Dr.	Cary	J.	Limberakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/10/04
Archon Dr.	Anthony	J.	Limberakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/08/87
Archon Dr.	John		Lingas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	01/01/85
Archon	Andrew	N.	Liveris	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/10
Archon	Emanuel	N.	Logothetis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	02/28/88
Archon	Arthur		Loridas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/06
Archon R.Ph.	George	E.	Loucas, Esq.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	John	J.	Louizos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon Dr.	Nicholas	G.	Loutsion	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/09/03
Archon	Angelo	H.	Magafan	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Keith	A.	Maib	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/19/14
Archon	Thomas		Makkos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	George	G.	Makris	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/23/05
Archon	Angelo	N.	Mallas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Andrew	E.	Manatos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	02/24/91
Archon	Nikitas	N.	Manias	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/18/15
Archon Dr.	James	N.	Maniatis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/11/84
Archon	John	G.	Manos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/01/13
Archon	Markos	K.	Marinakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/11
Archon Dr.	George	N.	Marinides	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/17
Archon	Thrasyvoulos		Maroulis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon Dr.	William		Marusich	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon Dr.	Vasilios		Mathews	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Nikiforos		Mathews, Esq.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	11/01/09
Archon	Richard	K.	McGee, Esq.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/16
Archon	Anthony	W.	Megas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Dennis		Mehiel	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/23/05
Archon Dr.	Pantelis		Michalos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Jeffrey	E.	Michals	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/17
Archon	Frank		Mihalopoulos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/10
Archon Dr.	Michael	H.	Missios	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/19/14
Archon	Girard	J.	Mitchell	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/20/19

Archon	George	H.	Mitsanas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/17
Archon	Mark	G.	Moraitakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Nicholas	C.	Moraitakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/20/94
Archon	Ted		Moudis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/16
Archon	Petros		Neamonitakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Stratton	J.	Nicolaides	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/16/97
Archon	Louis		Nicozisis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/15/92
Archon	Tom		Nixon	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/16
Archon Dr.	Jeremy		Oryhon	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/20/19
Archon	Gus	M.	Pablecas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/06
Archon	Steve	C.	Padis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/20/13
Archon	Anthony		Palmieri	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/21/12
Archon	Anthony	F.	Pantazopoulos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	James		Pantelidis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/21/12
Archon Dr.	Stavros	S.	Papadopulos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/15/95
Archon	Nicholas		Papain	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Anthony		Papamarkos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Christopher	J.	Pappas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/10/04
Archon	Peter	G.	Pappas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/23/86
Archon	George	F.	Pappas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Dean	G.	Pappas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Basil		Pappas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon Dr.	Steve	J.	Paragioudakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Panagiotis		Parthenis, Sr.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/07
Archon	Solon	P.	Patterson	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/09/03
Archon	John		Patzakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Constantinos		Perdikakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/20/13
Archon	Gus	G.	Perdikakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/07/82
Archon	Stephen	J.	Petrick, Esq.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/20/19
Archon	Demetrios		Polos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/19/14
Archon	Theodore	J.	Poplos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/19/14
Archon	George		Postolos, Esq.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Ben		Powell	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Peter	E.	Preovolos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	07/04/82
Archon	Reince		Priebs	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/11
Archon	Apostolos		Pries	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/19/14
Archon	Alexander		Pritsos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	3/15/1992
Archon	Michael	P.	Psyllos, Esq.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon Dr.	Nicholas		Rallis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/20/19
Archon	Christopher	G.	Rongos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/16
Archon	Gregory	B.	Saad	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	George		Sakellaris	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/07
Archon	Charles P.		Sandilos, Esq.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22

Archon Dr.	Terry		Sarantou	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Anthony	T.	Saris	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/10/02
Archon Prof.	John	C.	Sarkioglu	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/07/93
Archon Dr.	William	M.	Scaljon	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/03/96
Archon	Byron	A.	Scordelis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/16
Archon Dr.	Nicholas		Seketa	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Robert	G.	Shaw	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/10/03
Archon	Yanni		Sianis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Constantine		Sideridis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/18/15
Archon	George	A.	Sifakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/17
Archon	John		Sitilides	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/17
Archon Dr.	Demetrios	G.	Skedros	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	James	C.	Skedros, Ph.D.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Paul	P.	Skoutelas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Paul	P.	Sogotis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/26/08
Archon	Stavro	G.	Soussou	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Michael	A	Spanos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	06/06/04
Archon	Nicholas		Spanos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/20/19
Archon	Dean		Spanos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	06/06/04
Archon	George	J.	Spanos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	James	D.	Speros	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/10/02
Archon	Christos		Spyropoulos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	11/01/09
Archon	George	A.	Stamboulidis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/16
Archon	Lambros	K.	Stassinis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/20/19
Archon	Demetrios	G.	Stathopoulos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/19/14
Archon	Michael	N.	Stefanoudakis, Esq.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/18/15
Archon	George	R.	Stephanopoulos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/24/97
Archon	Wesley	A.	Stinich	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/06
Archon	Christopher		Stratakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/08/98
Archon	John	C.	Stratakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/26/08
Archon	Thomas	M.	Suehs	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/11
Archon	George		Svokos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/16
Archon	John		Tangalos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/10
Archon	Peter		Tarhanidis, Ph.D.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Stephanos		Tenedios	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/20/19
Archon	Romey		Terezi	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Nicholas	E.	Terezis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/18/15
Archon	Basilios	C.	Theodosakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/19/78
Archon	Theodore	J.	Theophilos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/23/05
Archon	Stephen	D.	Tibbs	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Peter	E.	Tiboris	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Andreas		Touzos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	02/18/01
Archon	Elias		Trahanas, Esq.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22

Archon	Stephanos		Trakas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Nicholas	J.	Tranto	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	Kyriakos		Tsakopoulos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/06
Archon	Nicholas		Tsapatsaris	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/26/08
Archon	Christopher		Tsavoussis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/21
Archon	George	A.	Tsougarakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/11
Archon	Peter	A.	Tsudis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/17
Archon Dr.	Dean		Vafiadis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/08/98
Archon Dr.	Sotirios	J.	Vahaviolos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/10/04
Archon	Sarantos		Vallas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	James	D.	Vavas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Emmanuel	E.	Velivasakis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/10/02
Archon	George	P.	Vittas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/17
Archon	Peter	A.	Vlachos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	02/18/01
Archon	George	J.	Vlahakos, Esq.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon Dr.	Theodore	P.	Vlahos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/22/06
Archon	Gus		Vratsinas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/10/02
Archon	Gary	M.	Vrionis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/23/05
Archon	Howard	E.	West Jr.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon Dr.	Thomas		Williams, DDS, M.D.	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon Dr.	Chris		Yiantsou	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Andrew	C.	Zachariades	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/16
Archon	James	E.	Zaferis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon	Leonard		Zangas	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/31/10
Archon	George	N.	Zapantis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/9/22
Archon Dr.	Theodore	J.	Zaravinos	<i>Aktouarios</i>	03/03/96
Archon	Steve	E.	Zeis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/28/18
Archon	Steve		Zervoudis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/16/16
Archon Dr.	George	P.	Zimmar	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/23/05
Archon	Demetrios	J.	Ziozis	<i>Aktouarios</i>	10/20/19



Communications Committee (including Social Media)
Archon Rocky Sisson, Chair; Theodore H. Vagelos

Engagement Committee

Report prepared and submitted by Archon: **James Speros**

Report as follows:

Communications Committee Members

Rocky Sisson (Chair), Elizabeth Limberakis, John Mindala, James Speros, Theodore Vagelos

Our Mission

To serve as a strategic advisor to the National Council and Executive Committee and driver of multichannel communications and marketing initiatives that advance the purpose of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP). Additionally, the Communications Committee is responsible for managing the graphic identity of the AEP to ensure our brand is applied consistently and in accordance with the organization's graphic identity guidelines for use.

2023 Highlights

During the year, we have devoted considerable energies to the organization's rebranding efforts working with GUMAS Advertising whose CEO, Archon John Gumas, graciously volunteered his agency's services to the AEP pro bono. As part of the process, we undertook an extensive review of how we were communicating and positioning ourselves to our constituents and concluded we had been inconsistent and confusing by using both "The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle" and our more colloquial name, "the Archons," as we are more commonly known. As such, we rebranded the organizations as, "Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate" and introduced a new logo that appropriately places emphasis and focus on the Ecumenical Patriarchate while retaining the connection to Saint Andrew the Apostle graphically.

In addition, we also introduced a new and dynamic tagline along with the new logo - “Protecting the Future of Faith” - to elevate our purpose as an organization and to reaffirm the work of the Archons. The new tagline presents the AEP as positive, hopeful, forward-leaning and committed to ensuring religious freedom for everyone today and for the future. With a new logo and tagline, it also became critically important that we develop a clear and compelling way to talk about ourselves in a consistent fashion when describing who we are and what we do. This resulted in the creation of the following “Elevator Pitch” we provided to all Archons to use whenever communicating about the organization: *“The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is a group of passionate leaders, relentlessly focused on protecting religious freedom for everyone and ensuring the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate - the historical spiritual center of the world’s 300+ million Orthodox Christians.”*

In order to provide a tool designed to educate our parishioners and other audiences, we created a multimedia presentation covering: what an Archon is; the history of the church; the Ecumenical Patriarchate; religious persecution faced by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew; five key issues the AEP is working to address and what we’ve accomplished. The presentation is housed on the Archons.org/resources and is accessible to all Archons who would like to give a presentation.

The balance of 2023 has been focused on instituting significant technology changes that will enhance our websites and allow for greater use of social media to increase the number of followers and supporters of our activities. We believe the changes and activities we have undertaken during the year will help to significantly amplify our external profile and generate support for the mission of the AEP.

Dear Friend of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

As many of you know, with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Archon John Gumas has generously volunteered his advertising agency's services on a pro bono basis to more effectively communicate who we are and what our purpose is as an organization. As part of this extensive and well-researched effort, we recognized that we have been using two identities to convey who we are - "Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle" and "The Archons." As a best practice and consistent with what virtually all companies and organizations do, the National Council, Executive Committee and the Communications Team working with GUMAS decided to focus on a singular name for our organization - Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. With this shift, we will also be introducing a new logo that you can see below:



The new logo treatment appropriately places the emphasis and focus on the Ecumenical Patriarchate while visually updating and retaining the connection to Saint Andrew the Apostle.

A second element of the work we are introducing along with the new logo is an exciting and dynamic tagline that is both positive and forward leaning. Instead of our current tagline we've been using - Defenders of the Faith - our new tagline, used in conjunction with our logo is:

Protecting the Future of Faith

We believe this elevates our purpose as an organization and is much more positive and reaffirming of the work the Archons are doing.

Third, we have also clarified how we want to talk about our organization in a more compelling, positive and consistent way when asked what we do. We call this our "elevator pitch." Below is what we ask ALL Archons to utilize when speaking about our organization or when giving a formal presentation:

Elevator Pitch

The **Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate** is a group of passionate leaders, relentlessly focused on protecting religious freedom for everyone and ensuring the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate - the historical spiritual center of the world's 300+ million Orthodox Christians.

As we begin introducing these elements across all of our communication materials, websites, events, social media channels, etc., we will evolve our content over time to be much more externally facing as opposed to content that is largely relevant to the Archon community alone. This is a major shift and will require that we think much more critically about demonstrating HOW we are *Protecting the Future of Faith* with tangible examples of work that is externally oriented to keep our websites and channels engaging and interesting for those who want to learn more about our efforts in protecting religious freedom. At the same time, we acknowledge that there is still much work to do in educating our own community about the Ecumenical Patriarchate, what an Archon is, the work we do and why it's critically important. This work along with the outstanding initiatives produced by our Archon Engagement Committees must continue as we pivot to being more externally focused with our content.

Over the weeks and months ahead, you will begin to see these changes implemented along with updates to materials. We hope you understand and fully support these important changes to our branding and believe they will strengthen the **Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate** as a force in protecting religious freedom for all and the Holy Mother Church.

In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,



Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Megas Aktouarios
National Commander



Archons

OF
THE Ecumenical
Patriarchate

Protecting the Future of FaithSM

1. **Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation for the Sacred See of St. Andrew** –
Archon Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Chair
 - a. Established by the Order of St. Andrew to ensure the economic security
 - i. of the Ecumenical Patriarchate *in perpetuity* and
named in honor of the longest serving Ecumenical Patriarch in history
 - b. An independent, separate entity with its own Board of Trustees established as a
non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of New York
 - c. 501(c)3 status from IRS
 - d. The Fund received over \$1 million at the 2018 Athenagoras Human Rights
Award Presentation to Fr. Alexander Karloutsos and Presbyteria Xanthi Karloutsos
 - e. FOUNDERS
 - i. 205 faithful who have pledged \$100,000 payable over 10 years
 - ii. Pledged amount: \$22.115 million
 - f. BUILDERS
 - i. Donations at levels below \$100,000



2023 ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

2023 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by:

Andrew E. Manatos, Archon *Depoutatos*
Mike A. Manatos, Archon *Dikaiophylax*

Prepared by:

Andrew E. Manatos, Archon *Depoutatos*
Mike A. Manatos, Archon *Dikaiophylax*

Washington, DC Activity

On behalf of the Order, Archons Andy and Mike Manatos once again devoted numerous hours to advancing understanding and recognition of our issues with top leaders in Washington, DC. Manatos & Manatos worked in tandem with the White House, the State Department, the US Senate, the US House of Representatives, and the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, among others.

Highlights of this work include securing the Greek community's annual meeting with the President and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros at the White House, an intimate Blair House (the President's Guest House) dinner honoring His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros where our issues are spotlighted before top White House officials, meetings and frequent correspondence related to our issues with: US Secretary of State Tony Blinken and his team; White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and his team; US Senate and House Committee Chairs and Ranking Members and top staffers including Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Senator Bob Menendez and Ranking Member James Risch; House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul and Ranking Member Gregory Meeks; Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer; Speaker of the

House Emerita Nancy Pelosi; House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries; and Ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom Rashad Hussain.

To secure this important annual meeting with the President and the Greek-American community, Archons Andy and Mike Manatos worked closely with Archon spiritual advisor Father Alex Karloutsos and the President's senior staff including White House Chief of Protocol Ambassador Rufus Gifford and White House Social Secretary Carlos Elizondo. Together, we secured a private meeting between the President and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, as well as an opportunity for Archon leadership including National Commander Anthony Limberakis and Vice Commander Ted Bozonelis to speak briefly with President Biden.

Manatos & Manatos helped organize several efforts and events with Members of Congress in Washington, New York and other cities. Notable achievements include working with then-US Senate candidate Lt. Governor of Pennsylvania John Fetterman and his team on a campaign highlighting his opponent Dr. Mehmet Oz's failure to object to Turkey's treatment of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Oz, an American citizen of Turkish background, did not serve in the US military, but went to Turkey to serve in their military, and did not vote in the last American election, but voted in Turkey's election. While in Turkey, Oz expressed no objection to Turkey's treatment of His All Holiness. Fetterman, who went on to win the election and now serves as the junior US Senator from Pennsylvania, released a strong statement regarding his opposition to Turkey's treatment of the religious freedom of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Orthodox Christianity. He also expressed his concern about Turkey's confiscation of thousands of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's properties, their conversion of Hagia Sophia to a mosque, their closure of the Halki Seminary, and their practice of interference with Ecumenical Patriarchal succession.

Manatos & Manatos prepared detailed reports and briefs for Archon leadership on relevant developments related to our issues. M&M provided an analysis of the State Department's annual International Religious Freedom report and country designations and compared these with USCIRF's recommendations. Archons Andy and Mike Manatos continued to lobby the State Department to name Turkey as a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC).

Archons Andy and Mike Manatos organized a luncheon in honor of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and secured the attendance of top Washington officials involved in the formulation of US policy toward the Ecumenical Patriarch, including: Ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom Rashad

Hussain, White House National Security Council's Senior Director for European Affairs Amanda Sloat; and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chief of Staff Damien Murphy.

M&M also secured private meetings for Commander Limberakis and Vice Commander Bozonelis with Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Senator Bob Menendez and Ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom Rashad Hussain.

Archons Andy and Mike Manatos planned and produced a top-level Washington policy conference focused on Cyprus and Hellenic Leadership that involved numerous Archons from around the country in meetings where our issues were discussed with House and Senate Leadership (Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Republic Whip Steve Scalise, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Democratic Whip Dick Durbin); House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul and Ranking Member Gregory Meeks; Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez and Ranking Member James Risch, and several other top policymakers on our issues. Separately, Archons Andy and Mike Manatos met with White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan to discuss our issues.

Manatos & Manatos worked with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis's office and Archon leadership to organize a luncheon where our issues were discussed on the sidelines of UN Week in New York City.

At the request of Archon leadership, Manatos & Manatos organized the delivery of 2,000 pounds of copies of "The Black Book" - a visual description of the persecutions suffered by Hellenism in Turkey - to over 600 top US officials. This followed a meeting between Commander Limberakis, Vice Commander Bozonelis and Father Alex Karloutsos with Greece's Minister of Religion and Education Niki Karamous and General Secretary for Religious Affairs George Kalantzis where distribution of this book to all Members of Congress and top Washington officials was discussed.

To activate churches across the country ahead of Archon Government Affairs Committee work, Manatos & Manatos sent a grass roots letter mailing to each of the over 500 Greek Orthodox Churches.

Archons Andy Manatos and Mike Manatos worked with friends of decades Katrina Lantos Swett and Ambassador Sam Brownback, co-chairs of the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit, to secure featured Archon participation and

sponsorship. A conflict prevented actualization for 2023, but we are primed for future conferences and events related to this summit.

Archon Andy Manatos published the book “The Extraordinary Greek People” which features contributions from Archon Commander Limberakis, Vice Commander Bozonelis, as well as several Archons from around the country. M&M organized book events in Washington with Ambassador of Greece to the US Alexandra Papadopoulou, New York with Greek Consul General Dinos Konstantinou, and Athens at the Benaki Museum, where Archon contributors were featured.



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted & Prepared by:

Gus M. Pablecas, *Archon Ostiarios*, National Secretary

***DATE:* National Council Meeting –October 20, 2023
Annual Meeting – October 21, 2023**

BYLAWS - ORDER of ST. ANDREW the APOSTLE - ARTICLE IX

1. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for considering and proposing to the National Council at a meeting prior to the Annual Meeting of the Order, Archons constituting one-third (a) of the National Council membership to fill the vacancies created in the National Council each year. The candidates for election may or may not be incumbent National Council members. In the absence of extraordinary service and contributions by an incumbent member, the Nominating Committee should strive to recommend Archons who will bring renewed energy and new ideas to the National Council. The proposals of the Nominating Committee should be given full faith and credit by the National Council which, however, shall have the ultimate responsibility to vote and pass upon final slate of such candidates for election to the National Council. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall submit the slate of candidates, approved by the National Council, to the Annual Meeting of the Order for ratification.

THIS COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE ORDER, WHO HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AS DIRECTORS FOR THE THREE YEAR TERM 2024– 2026

Constantine C. Caras, Esq.
George Demacopoulos, Ph.D.
John G. Gumas
Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq.
John G. Manos
Gus M. Pablecas
Alexander Pritsos
Michael G. Psaros

REMAINING DIRECTORS ARE:

TWO YEAR TERM, 2024 - 2025

Hon, B. Theodore Bozonelis
John Catsimatidis
Stephen Georgeson, Esq.
John S. Koudounis
Theodore J. Theophilos, Esq.
George Safiol
Peter J. Skeadas
Stephen Yallourakis, MD, DDS

ONE YEAR TERM, 2024

Thomas S. Cappas, Esq.
Andreas D. Comodromos
Carl R. Hollister
Nicholas Loutsion, VMD
Frank (Rocky) Sisson
William Spell
George A. Tsougarakis, Esq.
John Zavitsanos, Esq.

Archons Raise Awareness of Plight of Ecumenical Patriarchate at OSCE Conference in Warsaw

Archons Rocky Sisson, Archon Prepositos, and Hon. Steven G. Counelis, Archon Nomophylax, once again raised international awareness regarding the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the annual Warsaw Human Dimension Conference of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which was held from October 2 to 13, 2023.

Since 2006, the Archons have sent a delegation to the OSCE meetings in order to present vital information to the international community on the Turkish Republic's continuing violations of the human rights and religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the nation's Christian community. Archons Sisson and Counelis each participated in the assembly and submitted written statements.

On October 5, Archon Counelis delivered an oral statement at the conference's third Plenary Session, which was devoted to issues of tolerance and non-discrimination. He called attention to the five issues which "perpetuate religious and cultural discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarchate," and noted that the Archons "strenuously object to the Turkish government's 2020 decision to convert Hagia Sophia from a museum to a mosque."

At the same time, Archon Counelis submitted a detailed written statement, providing a wealth of detail about how the Turkish government deprives the Ecumenical Patriarchate of essential rights, and declaring: "The Turkish 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. Nonetheless, the Government of Turkey has intentionally failed to create such a society for its Christian members, and other religious minorities. We call upon the Turkish Government to finally live up to its own Constitution."

The following day, Archon Sisson spoke at the fourth Plenary Session, which was devoted to fundamental freedoms, stating that "the Turkish government must undertake the following: grant legal standing to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, allow the reopening of the Halki Theological School, return all the properties that it has confiscated from the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and end the practice of converting ancient Christian churches into mosques."

The OSCE's annual Warsaw Human Dimension Conference is Europe's largest annual human rights and democracy conference. It is a platform for the 57 OSCE participating nation states, international organizations and other relevant individuals and groups to take stock of the implementation of the OSCE's human dimension commitments.



ORAL PRESENTATION

The Status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
2023 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw,
Poland

Plenary Session IV
Fundamental Freedoms II

October 6, 2023

Presented on behalf of the Archons of the Ecumenical
Patriarchate

By
Archon Frank Sisson

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is a devoted group of passionate leaders, relentlessly focused on protecting religious freedom for everyone and ensuring the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate-the historical spiritual center of the worlds 300+ million Orthodox Christians.

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate once again report that the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, continues to be denied basic elements of religious freedom by the Government of Turkey

.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate was founded by the Apostle Andrew in 37 A. D. and has served as a vital religious center for Orthodox Christians ever since.

Yet the Ecumenical Patriarchate for many years has faced a hostile environment which at times has threatened its very existence. This is why in 2023, Turkey continues to be on the “special watch list” of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom as it has been since 2013. According to the 2023 Report, minority “religious communities, including Christians and Jews,” have “experienced instances of societal violence, intimidation, and the destruction or vandalization of their religious sites over the course of the year.”

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate have identified and continue to focus on Core Issues of Concern in their defense of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Among these issues are:

- **The continued closure of the Halki School of Theology.** Halki, the last Christian seminary in the country, was closed in 1971 due to a law banning private institutions of higher education. Its closure means that there is no means for the Ecumenical Patriarchate train clergy.

- **Denial of Legal Personality:** The Turkish Government denies legal standing to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, so it cannot own property.
- **Confiscation of Property.** The Turkish government has seized thousands of properties belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- Historic churches, which had been maintained as museums, have now been converted into mosques.
- The Turkish government retransformed Hagia Sophia Museum, a UNESCO World heritage Site in Istanbul to a mosque in July 2020. This is a symbol of Turkish policies against religious minorities.

The Order, therefore, respectfully submits that in order to comply with the tenets of the OSCE, the Turkish government must undertake the following. Grant legal standing to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, allow the reopening of the Halki Theological School, return all the properties that it has confiscated from the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and end the practice of converting ancient Christian churches into mosques.

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate have reported on these issues every year. There has been, unfortunately, no change in the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Our commitment to protecting the future of faith necessitates that we also speak against those Orthodox Christians who, with state support, undermine the religious rights of others. This is precisely what is happening in Ukraine, where the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew condemned Russia's unjust and unprovoked invasion. His All-Holiness has said: "We have repeatedly condemned aggression and violence, as we fervently and fraternally appealed to the Patriarch of Moscow to separate his position from political crimes, even if it means stepping down from his throne." The Ecumenical Patriarch has also condemned the Moscow Patriarchate's recent intrusion into Africa, where it is violating the canons of the Orthodox Church and actively undermining the right of religious self-determination of millions of Christians.



The Status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
2023 Warsaw Human Dimension Conference
Warsaw, Poland

Plenary Session III
Tolerance and Non-Discrimination I

October 5, 2023

Presented on behalf of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
by

Hon. Steven G. Counelis, Archon Nomophylax
Judge of the Superior Court, State of California, USA

Introduction

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, based in the United States of America, is a group of passionate leaders, relentlessly focused on protecting religious freedom for everyone and ensuring the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate - the historical spiritual center of the world's 300+ million Orthodox Christians.

This author approaches the topic of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination from the perspective of being a member of American Judiciary. As the third, co-equal branch of American Government, the judiciary is committed to the rule of law, fundamental human rights, and equal protection under the law as necessary preconditions to creating a peaceful and successful civil society. Such a civil society, designed and implemented to promote justice, peace and prosperity for all its members, would accord all people dignity, respect and freedom of religion regardless of their majority or minority status.

The Turkish 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.¹ Nonetheless, the Government of Turkey has intentionally failed to create such a society for its Christian members, and other religious minorities. We call upon the Turkish Government to finally live up to its own Constitution.

In 628 AD, the Prophet Muhammad issued a decree known as "The Covenant of Protection to Those Who Adopt Christianity" (a.k.a The Patent of Muhammad) which commands his followers to protect Christians until the end of days. The decree was issued to the Monastic Fathers of Saint Catherine's Monastery, formally known as the Greek Orthodox Holy Monastery of Mount Sinai (a UNESCO World Heritage Site.²) and the oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery with a history tracing back over seventeen centuries.³ The authenticity of this Islamic law has been sustained throughout the ages by Islamic scholars⁴. The Letter of Protection is known as the Ahtiname, from the Arabic words *ahd*, which means "obligation," and *name*, which means "document, testament." The document has been instrumental in the protection of the monastery, and as a means of ensuring peaceful and cooperative relations between Christians and Moslems. The continuous existence of the monastery during fourteen centuries of Islamic rule is a sign of the respect given to this Letter of Protection, and the principles of peace and cooperation that it enshrines.

¹ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-report-on-international-religious-freedom/turkey/>

² [UNESCO \(sinaimonastery.com\)](https://sinaimonastery.com)

³ [Home \(sinaimonastery.com\)](https://sinaimonastery.com)

⁴ Letter From Prophet Muhammad to the Monks of St. Katherine's Monastery, Federation of Muslim Organizations (Apr. 7, 2015), <http://www.fmo.org.uk/letter-from-prophet-muhammad-to-the-monks-of-st-katherines-monastery/>.

In AD 1517, Sultan Selim I confirmed the monastery's prerogatives, but took the original letter of protection for safekeeping to the royal treasury in Constantinople. At the same time, he gave the monastery certified copies of this document, each depicting the hand print of Mohammed in token of his having touched the original.⁵ Sadly, today it is ignored by the Turkish Government.

Hagia Sophia

The OCSE Human Dimension Implementation Meetings of 2020 and 2021 did not occur due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Taking advantage of the worldwide chaos that ensued, the Turkish Government and President Erdoğan ordered the historic 1,500-year-old Christian cathedral of *Hagia Sophia (God's Holy Wisdom)* to be reconverted from a museum into a functioning Islamic Mosque. Yet, it remains not only an architectural marvel but a powerful symbol of Byzantium and its legacy for global Orthodoxy. It is currently a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.⁶

The church is itself an historic marvel. It was built in 537AD by 10,000 workers on the order of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian. It immediately became the foremost cathedral in the imperial city of Constantinople and the entire Christian world, east and west. Emperor Justinian stated that, as a cathedral, it was “one that has never existed since Adam's time, and one that will never exist again.”

The present structure was the largest religious structure in the world when it was built. This remained true until the completion of the current St. Peter's Basilica in Rome during the 16th century. Historians of science are still puzzled by how 6th century engineers would be able to build such a large dome without modern tools such as steel and calculus.

Historically it has served as the primary site of Byzantine religious, imperial, and diplomatic ceremony. It is the cathedral church of the Ecumenical Patriarch. After the 8th century, it became the site for crowning new emperors.

As a museum, Hagia Sophia presented Christian history to the entire world, opening a dialogue between people of all faiths. But the Christian frescos that adorn its walls are strategically covered by curtains because Islamic law forbids images of people. The second floor of the edifice, which contains mosaic Christian iconography, is closed to the public.

⁵ <https://www.sinaimonastery.com/index.php/en/library/patent-of-mohammed>

⁶ <https://aclj.org/persecuted-church/turkey-seizes-historic-1500-year-old-christian-church-hagia-sophia-announces-immediate-plans-to-convert-it-into-a-mosque>

Imagine if any foreign leader announced that it was seizing a Muslim Mosque and converting it to a Christian church. There would be zero-tolerance from the Muslim world. And yet Erdoğan made it clear he rules over Turkey, including Turkish Christians, with impunity, almost provoking Western leaders to challenge him, stating:

“[T]he way Hagia Sophia will be used falls under Turkey's sovereign rights. We deem every move that goes beyond voicing an opinion a violation of our sovereignty.”⁷

The Turkish government’s decision was a deeply aggressive act of “memoricide” and cultural appropriation 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, UNESCO and many others.

Upon the reconversion of Hagia Sophia, the Directorate of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) took over the management of the structure from Turkish Archaeological Service. The result has been damage. According to the Association of Greek Archaeologists in a letter to the Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO, on August 22, 2022, “the uncontrolled flow of visitors (pilgrims) and the use of Hagia Sophia as a mosque without great historical depth, as a place where respect for history and art is absent. The lack of control of visitors and the absence of guards testify to the negligence for the protection of the monument and leave its protection at the mercy of the will of every visitor or pilgrim.”⁸

“The Ottoman wooden door leaves of the Imperial Gate were damaged, wall coatings were scraped and removed, fountains and doors were used for shoe storage, marble floor slabs were destroyed,” the archaeologists write in the letter. “The unique Byzantine mosaics remain covered and unseen. Archaeological supervision has stayed outside the monument.” Further, the letter references a handful of incidents that made headlines following the 2020 court decision. Earlier this summer, heavy cleaning equipment cracked the Hagia Sophia’s marble floors. And before that, in April, a group of Turkish art historians tweeted a photo showing damage to the building’s 23-foot Imperial Gate.⁹

The Archaeologists concluded thusly, “We ask UNESCO to intervene forcefully to reverse the current situation, which only poses risks for Hagia Sophia, the heart of the Historic Areas of Istanbul, a property inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List.” Under the Turkish Government’s current management and stewardship, Hagia

⁷ <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/10/europe/hagia-sophia-mosque-turkey-intl/index.html>

⁸ [http://sea.org.gr/files/UNESCO%20open%20letter_22-8-22%20final%20\(1\).pdf](http://sea.org.gr/files/UNESCO%20open%20letter_22-8-22%20final%20(1).pdf)

⁹ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archaeologists-call-on-unesco-to-protect-the-hagia-sophia-180980659/>

Sophia is being managed no better than a bazaar, and with contempt for UNESCO's demands for Turkey to prevent detrimental effects upon the site.¹⁰

The move to claim Hagia Sophia for Islam is only the latest, but perhaps most grand incident by Turkey, under President Erdoğan, to express a clear animosity toward Christianity. Harassing and imprisoning Christians. Commandeering Christian churches. It all begs the question, what is Turkey's endgame? Is this a targeted campaign to drive Christianity out of the country altogether, as a form of "religious cleansing"? And all in violation of the Prophet Muhammad's decree known as "The Covenant of Protection to Those Who Adopt Christianity,"¹¹ As well as the Constitution of the modern Turkish Republic.

Christians around the world suffer discrimination because of their religious beliefs (for more information, visit <https://www.ChristianPersecution.com>). The intent of this paper is to highlight the religious and cultural discrimination faced by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all Orthodox Christians in the Republic of Turkey today. Other non-Muslim and some Muslim religious groups also suffer from similar discriminatory practices. This is why in 2023 Turkey continues to be on the "Special Watch List" of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), as it has been since 2014. **According to the 2023 USCIRF Report**, "During the year, the government also took no steps to grant legal personality to religious communities, permit conscientious objection to mandatory military service, or reopen the Theological School of Halki or any other seminary."¹² [emphasis added] The Theological School of Halki belongs to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and was forcibly closed down by Turkish authorities in 1971. Despite promises by the Turkish government to re-open our theological school, there has been no progress. Left unresolved, the administrative functioning and future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is imperiled.

Our focus here is on the Ecumenical Patriarchate. As the members of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we are committed to preserving and protecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Archons, its members and their families are under

¹⁰ <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-statement-hagia-sophia-istanbul>

¹¹ <https://aclj.org/persecuted-church/turkey-seizes-historic-1500-year-old-christian-church-hagia-sophia-announces-immediate-plans-to-convert-it-into-a-mosque>

¹² 2023 Annual Report, UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (2023), https://www.uscifr.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/2023%20Annual%20Report_1.pdf and see: <https://www.uscifr.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/Turkey.pdf>

the canonical jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (for more information, visit <https://www.Archons.org>).

As were other non-Muslim religious leaders in Turkey, the Ecumenical Patriarch was asked to consent to a statement that the Orthodox faithful are free to follow their beliefs and practices. Nonetheless, religious discrimination remains just as real and pervasive. In this paper, the Order discusses three issues, although there are others (see below): (1) confiscation of properties belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which has been exacerbated by the fact that the Ecumenical Patriarchate lacks legal status; (2) closure of the Halki Theological School; and (3) interference in the administrative affairs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the election of a new Ecumenical Patriarch. These issues all result from the fact that in Turkey today “no religious community has full legal status, and all are subject to state controls limiting their rights to maintain places of worship, train clergy, and offer religious education.”¹³

The Turkish government has promised an equitable resolution of these issues, but what has been promised, unfortunately, so far has been only an illusion. There is a fable in Turkish folklore about a pigeon which in its simplicity took for real water a stream represented in a painting. The morale of the story is that we should not be fooled by illusions.

Confiscation of Property

Despite the Covenant of Muhammad, which reads that “no one is to plunder Christians, or destroy any of their churches, or houses of worship,” during the twentieth century most of the properties belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its Orthodox Christian parishioners in Turkey were confiscated or destroyed by overt government decrees, confiscatory taxes,¹⁴ and even a state-orchestrated pogrom in 1955.¹⁵ Today these wrongs remain largely uncorrected .

¹³ 2017 Annual Report, UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (2017), <http://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2017.USCIRFAnnualReport.pdf>, 186.

¹⁴ Paschalis M. Kitromilides, *EASTERN CHRISTIANITY AND THE COLD WAR, 1945-91* (Routledge 2010), 222. See also Sait Çetinoglu, *The Mechanisms for Terrorizing Minorities: The Capital Tax and Work Battalions in Turkey During the Second World War*, 2 MEDITERRANEAN Q. 23 (2012).

¹⁵ Kitromilides, *supra* n. 4 at 226. See also SPEROS VRYONIS, JR., *THE MECHANISM OF CATASTROPHE*, (GreekWorks.Com Inc. 2005).

In 1936 the Ecumenical Patriarchate, its churches and institutions owned approximately 8,000 properties, many of them income producing. In 1998 only 2,000 remained. Today fewer than 500 properties are owned by Patriarchal related minority foundations, most of which are churches or other properties which produce no income.

The 2008 European Court of Human Rights Decision

In its landmark 2008 decision, the European Court of Human Rights (the Court) held that the Pringipos Orphanage property on Buyukada Island should be returned to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.¹⁶ The following year the Court held that property which had once belonged to the Koimisis Theotokou Church Foundation on Tenedos Island (Bozcaada) should be returned to that foundation. In the second case, the Court said that refusal of Government authorities to register the property as belonging to the church foundation amounted to a violation of the European Convention of Human Rights, Article I, Protocol I (protection of property), to which Turkey has subscribed.¹⁷

Following these two decisions, on August 27, 2011, President Erdoğan (then Prime Minister) promulgated what seemed to be a promising new decree (the Decree) that communities whose properties had been expropriated by the state could apply for their properties to be returned or to receive compensation for properties that had been sold to third parties. The Decree also permitted the formation of new religious community foundations to account for oversights in the 1935 foundations law and the reopening of foundations that previously had been closed and administered by the General Directorate of Foundations (the GDF).¹⁸ The Decree did not apply to many of the properties expropriated from the Ecumenical Patriarchate, but it was a step in the right direction.

¹⁶ Case of Fener Rum Patrikligi, no. 14340/05 (July 8, 2008), www.echr.coe.int; *Press Release*, EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (July 8, 2008), https://www.mfa.gr/images/docs/el-linotourkiko/press_release_apofasi_b_gia_orfanotrofeio_prigkipoy.pdf.

¹⁷ Case of Bozcaada (Kimisis Theodoku), nos. 37639/03, 37655/03, 26736/04 (March 3, 2009), www.echr.coe.int. See also Ayla Jean Yackley, *European Court Fines Turkey in Greek Orthodox Case*, REUTERS (Mar. 3, 2009, 12:03 PM), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-court/european-court-fines-turkey-in-greek-orthodox-case-idUSTRE5224XF20090303>.

¹⁸ *Turkey: International Freedom Report for 2011*, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BUREAU OF HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND LABOR, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/193083.pdf>, 4.

Unfortunately, the manner in which the Decree was administered was challenging and flawed, and its results have disappointed. In other words, the Government's promise to return confiscated property was an illusion.

Most of the applications that were accepted were never acted upon. As detailed in our papers presented to this forum the past several years, administration of the Decree process was slow, flawed and conducted in an arbitrary fashion. The August 27, 2012 deadline did not afford applicants sufficient time to submit the required voluminous paper work for many of the parcels, principally because local Turkish Government offices did not respond to requests for title documents in a timely fashion.

Applications for 1,252 pieces of property associated with the Ecumenical Patriarchate, nevertheless, were timely submitted. Of these 1,252 applications, only 352 were accepted, and 900 were rejected. Of the 352 applications that were accepted, only a handful resulted in the return of property.

As to the few parcels that have been returned, there are two problems. First, the properties are not income producing, and it will be difficult to maintain them. Second, the Turkish Government continues to delay the election of minority foundation board members (see below for the role of foundations) to manage the properties. Without proper minority foundations, the return of property is meaningless because the properties, under existing Turkish law, cannot be effectively managed. A related concern is that existing Turkish law unfairly restricts the eligibility of Orthodox Christians who wish to serve as minority foundation board members. Clergy are not allowed to serve, and only citizens who live adjacent to a property are eligible to serve as a minority foundation board member for that property. With the dwindling number of Orthodox eligible to be elected Board members, the minority foundations will not be able to sustain returned properties. In addition to allowing clergy to serve as minority foundation members, a fair solution is to allow Orthodox Christians, who do not necessarily reside in the district in which a property is located, to serve as minority foundation board members for that property.

Absence of Legal Standing Results in Loss of Property

An underlying impediment to the return of property is that the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other religious institutions lack legal standing in Turkey. Therefore, they are precluded from owning property. The Ecumenical Patriarchate cannot own the churches in which its parishioners worship or the cemeteries in which they are buried.

Because it lacks legal standing, the Ecumenical Patriarchate cannot seek legal redress in Turkey to recover its lost properties.

Without a legal personality, the Ecumenical Patriarchate cannot apply for permits to repair deteriorating property. When a structure deteriorates, the Government may declare the building to be abandoned and may seize it without compensation, notwithstanding the Covenant of Muhammad which reads as follows: “Their (Christian) churches are to be respected. They are not to be prevented from repairing them.”

All church properties are owned by government-denominated minority foundations, which are under the jurisdiction of the General Directorate of Foundations (GDF) established pursuant to the 1935 Law on Religious Foundations. The GDF may seize a minority foundation when the GDF arbitrarily deems the foundation to “no longer be of charitable or practical use.” In fact, the GDF has seized 17 Greek Orthodox foundations since 1970, thereby confiscating almost 1,000 properties. Many of the properties produced income upon which the Ecumenical Patriarchate relied. The GDF may also unilaterally prevent the foundation boards from holding elections.¹⁹ Effectively, there is no appeal when the GDF closes down a minority foundation or seizes its property.

The GDF today regulates activities of all religious community foundations and their affiliated properties. The number includes 75 Greek Orthodox, 42 Armenian, and 19 Jewish foundations.²⁰

While it can be argued that the majority Sunni Muslim religious facilities also lack legal standing, their financial survival is secure because the Directorate of Religious Affairs is responsible for the operation of all registered mosques and Muslim institutions. Imams and other religious workers are civil servants paid by the Government,²¹ whereas the Ecumenical Patriarchate must rely on income producing property. By accelerating the loss of such property because of the deleterious way in which the GDF has managed the minority foundation system, the Turkish Government, in a subtle

¹⁹ Dilek Kurban and Konstantinos Tsitselikis, *A Tale of Reciprocity: Minority Foundations in Greece and Turkey*, TESEV & Research Centre for Minority Groups (July 2010), http://tese.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/A_Tale_Of_Reciprocity_Minority_Foundations_In_Greece_And_Turkey.pdf, 11.

²⁰ *Turkey: International Freedom Report for 2011*, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BUREAU OF HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND LABOR, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/193083.pdf>, 5.

²¹ *Id.*

manner, has effectively denied to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other minority religious institutions a viable means of financial support otherwise available to Sunni Muslim religious institutions. This is discrimination.

According to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) 2023 Annual Report on Turkey, “The government has regularly inserted itself in the internal affairs of religious communities, interfered in leadership elections, and prevented religious minorities from opening places of worship and training facilities for religious leaders. For the last nine years, the many religious minority communities that manage their affairs through foundations have been unable to elect new leadership due to the government’s refusal to issue regulations for those elections. Finally, in June, the government published those regulations but included a new residency requirement for candidates competing in parts of Istanbul, generating concerns that it would limit participation. Armenian Patriarch Sahak Masalyan stated that the patriarchate did not know why religious communities had to wait so long to hold elections, and **Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew criticized the extended delay as a “great injustice” and expressed his disappointment that the state did not heed the communities’ appeals on various elements of the regulations.**”²² [emphasis added]

The 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, to which Turkey has subscribed, mirrors the commands spelled out in the Covenant of Muhammad and explicitly grants minorities the right:

“to establish, manage and control at their own expense, any charitable, religious and social institutions, any schools and other establishments for instruction and education, with the right to use their own language and to exercise their religion freely therein.”²³

Halki School of Theology

The closure of Halki is another instance of discrimination. Founded in 1844, Halki served the Orthodox Christian community worldwide until 1971 when it was

²² See: <https://www.uscifr.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/Turkey.pdf>

²³ Treaty of Lausanne, Article 40 (1923), https://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Treaty_of_Lausanne. See also Article 42 (granting protection to “churches, synagogues, cemeteries, and other religious establishments” of minority populations within Turkey).

forced to stop admitting new students. Throughout the years, almost a thousand students graduated from Halki, including many distinguished clerics, theologians, and most of the Ecumenical Patriarchs elected since the School's founding.

Following its closure, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has had to send young men from its community, desiring to enter the priesthood or study theology, abroad, to one of the theological schools outside Turkey. In many instances they do not return to Turkey after their studies. Since the closure of Halki, the Ecumenical Patriarchate also has had difficulties finding the staff necessary to carry out its administrative responsibilities for its world-wide mission.

For many years, urgent petitions by the Ecumenical Patriarch, the Order and many others, to allow the reopening of Halki have gone unheeded, despite illusory promises by Turkish officials that Halki will be reopened.

Presidents of the United States, beginning with President Carter and his successors, Vice President Biden, many U.S. Secretaries of State (including Hillary Clinton and John Kerry), a host of European Union officials, and many international bodies also have repeatedly urged the Government of Turkey to allow the reopening of Halki.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew tirelessly has met and discussed this issue many times with high-ranking Turkish Government officials, including President Erdoğan. The President of the Directorate of Religious Affairs, Mehmet Gormez, publicly supported the reopening of Halki when he met with the Ecumenical Patriarch in July 2012. On that day Professor Gormez embraced the Patriarch and proclaimed:

As the Religious Affairs Directorate, we consider non-Muslim citizens living in Turkey as an essential constituent of our country. And we believe that they have the right to educate their own children in line with their faith and train their own religious functionaries. We think that they should have the same rights which we want for ourselves in freedom of religion and faith, and freedom of education.²⁴

Notwithstanding the above, Halki today remains closed.²⁵

²⁴ *Turkey's Top Muslim Cleric Meets Istanbul's Fener Greek Patriarch*, ANDALOU AGENCY (July 5, 2012), <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkeys-top-muslim-cleric-meets-istanbuls-fener-greek-patriarch/357407>.

²⁵ *See also Press Release: PTWF, Muslim Partners Urge Erdogan to Open Halki Seminary*, THE NATIONAL HERALD (Aug. 9, 2018), <https://www.thenationalherald.com/210119/ptwf-muslim-partners-urge-erdogan-to-open-halki-seminary-release-pastor-brunson/>.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in its 2018 report states that the U.S. Government should “press the Turkish government to fulfill private and public promises that the Greek Orthodox Halki Seminary would be reopened....”²⁶

The Process for the Election of a New Ecumenical Patriarch

In 1923 and 1970 the Governors of Istanbul issued decrees imposing restrictions on the election of an Ecumenical Patriarch and the metropolitans who elect him, which require that the Ecumenical Patriarch and the hierarchs who vote for him must be Turkish citizens. The Ecumenical Patriarchate accepts that candidates for the office will become Turkish citizens immediately following their election as Ecumenical Patriarch, if they are not already Turkish citizens.

The canons of the Orthodox Church, however, state that the Ecumenical Patriarch is to be elected freely from all hierarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate throughout the world, not just those in Turkey. In 2011, President Erdoğan (the Prime Minister at the time) issued a decree (reported as an “executive reform statement”), which waived the five-year residency Turkish citizenship requirement for Orthodox hierarchs wishing to apply for “exceptional” Turkish citizenship. This decree was a positive step forward, but the reality is that there is no rational reason why an Orthodox hierarch must be a Turkish citizen simply in order to cast a vote for the election of a new Ecumenical Patriarch whose ministry is world-wide, not just local.

The Turkish Government need only contemplate if the opposite circumstance were true, i.e., if Dr. Ali Erbaş, President of Religious Affairs of Turkey were located in another country, and his appointment required the approval of that government. Most certainly, the Turkish Government and most adherents to Islam would find such a requirement completely unacceptable and a gross violation of religious freedom. For the

²⁶ 2018 *Annual Report*, UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (2018), <http://www.uscirtf.gov/sites/default/files/2018USCIRFAR.pdf>, 196; 2017 *Annual Report*, UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (2017), <http://www.uscirtf.gov/sites/default/files/2017.USCIRFAnnualReport.pdf>, 186; 2016 *Annual Report*, UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (2016), <http://www.uscirtf.gov/sites/default/files/USCIRF%202016%20Annual%20Report.pdf>, 205; 2015 *Annual Report*, UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (2015), <http://www.uscirtf.gov/sites/default/files/USCIRF%202016%20Annual%20Report.pdf>, 189.

same reasons, the Order demands that the any governmental limitations upon the election of the Ecumenical Patriarch be abolished immediately.

As the U. S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has stated, we look forward to the day when the Turkish government will permit the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other religious groups to select and appoint their leadership in accordance with their internal guidelines and beliefs.²⁷

Other

Two additional issues are addressed. One issue is the unnecessary conversions of Christian historic places of worship into mosques. Since 1934, most historic Christian places of worship in Turkey have been maintained as museums, open to the public. In 2012, however, the ancient church of Saint Sophia in Nicaea (site of the Second Ecumenical Council in 787) was summarily converted from a museum into a mosque. Even local Muslim residents complained that this action was totally unnecessary as there are plenty of mosques to serve the local population.²⁸ The same year Saint Sophia in Trabzon suffered a similar fate. In 2014 Saint Sophia at Eraclea (Eregli), built by Emperor Theodosius II between 408 AD and 450 AD became the ninth church, named Saint Sophia, to be so converted.²⁹ In 2018, Muslim prayer services were introduced in the historic Hagia Sophia (Istanbul) museum, which had been the home of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for almost one thousand years, in preparation for the Government's eventual conversion of this historic building into a mosque.³⁰ This disturbing pattern has not been limited to Orthodox churches. Armenian, Syriac, Catholic, and Protestant churches also have been subjected to a similar fate. By so doing, rather than constructing new mosques where necessary, the Government is sending a clear message. *"You don't belong here."*

²⁷ 2018 Annual Report, UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (2018), <http://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2018USCIRFAR.pdf>, 196.

²⁸ Susanne Gusten, *The Church That Politics Turned Into a Mosque*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 8, 2012), <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/09/world/middleeast/the-church-that-politics-turned-into-a-mosque.html>.

²⁹ *Ninth Hagia Sophia Church Converted Into a Mosque in Turkey*, ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY, (Sept., 25, 2014), <http://orthochristian.com/73914.html>.

³⁰ Zeynep Bilginsoy, *Turkish President Recites Muslim Prayer at the Hagia Sophia*, ASSOCIATED PRESS (Mar. 31, 2018, 10:05 AM), <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2018-03-31/turkish-president-recites-muslim-prayer-at-the-hagia-sophia>.

Another issue is that the Government refuses to recognize the Ecumenical status of the Ecumenical Patriarch in the Orthodox world and refers to him simply as the “Fener Greek Orthodox Patriarch.” This issue is significant to the Orthodox Church across the globe. Since the fifth century, the Patriarch of Constantinople has been recognized by all Orthodox faithful throughout the world as the Ecumenical Patriarch, and the fall of the city in 1453 did not change this reality. When Mehmet conquered the city, he famously declared to Patriarch Genadios, “Be Patriarch, with good fortune, and be assured of our friendship, *keeping all the privileges that the Patriarchs before you enjoyed.*”³¹ (Emphasis added) Referring to the Ecumenical Patriarch now as the “Fener Greek Orthodox Patriarch” is an obvious attempt to downgrade his status to that of a local priest. It again sends a clear message to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. “*You don’t belong here.*”

Recommendations

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate recommend the following:

First, the Government of Turkey should reopen and extend the August 27, 2012 Decree deadline for the submission of applications to recover seized property, which did not give applicants sufficient time to respond. The Decree should be expanded to include all seized properties that were excluded. The Government should also revamp the manner by which the Decree is implemented. A Public Advocate, who is not a government bureaucrat, should be employed to ensure that the Decree is implemented in a fair and expeditious manner.

Second, the Government of Turkey should adopt policies, without residency requirements, which enables election of Orthodox Christians to be board members of minority foundations, in a manner which assures that all the minority foundations will be able to manage owned and returned property effectively.

³¹ Evangelos Sotiropoulos, *The Fall of Constantinople, Queen of Cities*, HUFFINGTON POST (May 29, 2013, 3:44 PM), https://www.huffingtonpost.com/evangelos-sotiropoulos/the-fall-of-constantinople-the-queen-of-cities_b_3343095.html.

Third, the Government of Turkey should allow the Halki School of Theology to reopen and operate with its own theologians and in a manner consistent with its own Christian beliefs.

Fourth, the Government of Turkey should refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The 1923 and 1970 directives of the local Istanbul Government, relating to the citizenship of those who are entitled to vote for, or be elected as, a new Ecumenical Patriarch, should be rescinded.

Fifth, the Government of Turkey should institute new laws that will permit the Ecumenical Patriarchate to obtain a legal personality.



Archons
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ORAL PRESENTATION

Discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
2023 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, Poland

Plenary Session III
Tolerance and Non-Discrimination I

October 5, 2023

Presented on behalf of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
by

Hon. Steven G. Counelis, Archon Nomophylax
Judge of the Superior Court, State of California, USA

I am Judge Steven Counselis, on behalf of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople continues to suffer religious discrimination in law and in fact by the Turkish government, as reported again in 2023 by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Today, I discuss five issues, all of which perpetuate religious and cultural discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

1) The Confiscation of Property

We ask for the return of the 8,000 properties belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its institutions, which were lost through the last 100 years due to overt government decrees and confiscatory taxes, in violation of Turkey's obligations under the Treaty of Lausanne.

2) Legal Standing

The Ecumenical Patriarchate should be afforded a formal legal identity, so that it can have access to the Turkish Legal system, a right which other Turkish citizens and Turkish institutions enjoy.

3) Fair Elections of Minority Foundation Board Members

The Turkish Government should revamp the recently issued regulations on Minority Foundation Boards.

The present foundation system for the management of property is not manageable. Clergy should be allowed to serve as Board Members, as well as other citizens, even if they do not reside in a district in which property is located.

4) The Theological School of HALKI

As is also requested by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, and the United States Department of State, we again ask for the reopening of the Halki Seminary.

The Turkish Government forced the Halki Seminary to close in 1971, and after 52 years, it still has not allowed the school to reopen, despite repeated requests to do so by world leaders and even by the Muslim President of the Religious Affairs Directorate in Turkey.

5) The Process for the Election of a New Ecumenical Patriarch

In 1923 and 1970 the Governors of Istanbul issued decrees imposing restrictions on the election of an Ecumenical Patriarch and the bishops who elect him, requiring that the Patriarch and the hierarchs who vote for him must be Turkish citizens.

The canons of the Orthodox Church, however, state that the Ecumenical Patriarch is to be elected freely from all hierarchs of the Church throughout the world, not just those in Turkey.

There is no rational reason why an Orthodox hierarch must be a Turkish citizen simply to cast a vote for the election of a new Ecumenical Patriarch whose ministry is solely spiritual and world-wide, not merely local.

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate fully support the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom when it stated in 2018, we look forward to the day when the Turkish government will permit the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other religious groups to select and appoint their leadership in accordance with their internal guidelines and beliefs.¹

In closing, we strenuously object to the Turkish government's 2020 decision to convert Hagia Sophia from a museum to a mosque which was a deeply aggressive act of memocide and cultural appropriation 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, UNESCO and many others. Thank you for your attention.

¹ *2018 Annual Report*, UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (2018), <http://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2018USCIRFAR.pdf>, 196.



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted and Prepared by:

Gus M. Pablecas, *Ostiarior*
National Secretary & Committee Chair

On May 26, 2023, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP) received an email inquiry requesting financial assistance from Mr. Costa Tsourakis, Cathedral Music Director, Archdiocesan Cathedral Choir and Youth Choir.

Mr. Tsourakis advised that the Archdiocesan Cathedral Choir and Youth Choir were invited by His All-Holiness to travel to Constantinople to perform in Constantinople in July 2023. In addition, the Choirs were invited by the Municipalities of Rhodes and Nisyros in Greece to perform as part of their summer music festivals, and in Athens.

Mr. Tsourakis felt that the tour would provide a chance to “showcase” the American choral traditions abroad, and an opportunity to provide a transformative experience for our Youth Choir members. The cost of the trip was stated to be \$5,000 per participant. The number of participants was not provided.

After the Committee’s careful consideration, it was determined that the request did not fall within the Archon’s mission; accordingly, an email was sent on May 31, 2023, advising Mr. Tsourakis of the AEP’s inability to assist in their request. On June 1, 2023, a gracious letter was received from Mr. Tsourakis thanking the AEP for their time and consideration.

No other inquiries have been received since the last Committee Report.



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2023 ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

2023 SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by:

Peter J. Skeadas, Archon *Hieromnimon*, Chair
Michael G. Psaros, Archon *Ostiarios*, Co-Chair

Prepared by:

Peter J. Skeadas, Archon *Hieromnimon*, Chair

Following the Akathist Hymn each year during the Great and Holy Lent, the Archon Lenten Retreat provides a period of tranquility and spiritual illumination. The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle presented for the second time the newly named Lenten Retreat in honor of Archon Vice Commander John Halecky, Jr of blessed memory. It was an appropriate honor as it was John Halecky, Jr. who initiated the concept of the Lenten Retreat some twenty years ago.

The Retreat is a period when participants reconnect with our Lord and Saviour pausing to renew, to fast and to pray. It is when the Archon family experiences together its best spiritual life with authenticity. This is a fitting time in our journey through stillness, inner peace and hope, to strive towards oneness with God and with the promise of renewal arriving at Pascha in the brilliance of the Resurrection. Our souls require fortification and spiritual boosting which the Archon Retreat offers each year.

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Spirituality Committee and Retreat Chair, together with Co-Chair Mike Psaros, under the distinguished leadership of Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, welcomed Archons and their families to the John Halecky, Jr. 19th Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat.

It is tradition, for which the Order is most grateful, that the Order meets in fellowship and is hosted at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church of the Hamptons and

warmly welcomed by the Kimisis community led by the Order's Spiritual Advisor, the esteemed and caring Rev. Fr. Alexander Karloutsos and Rev. Fr. Constantine Lazarakis who served as Retreat Pastors.

It is an immense joy for the second year to have reunited in person, while simultaneously reaching fellow Archons and their families, by offering the retreat via live streaming throughout the country. Over 100 persons participated each day, in person and virtually during the two days, March 31 and April 1, 2023.

The Order is blessed that the distinguished Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh again served as Retreat Master this year. The program, with theme entitled *His Pain for Our Purpose – 7 Statements Jesus Shares on the Cross*, customarily tracked the three sessions format: the first followed the Akathist Hymn, which session was opened by Brother Archon and admirable Co-Chair Mike Psaros while the second and third sessions followed the Saturday Divine Liturgy. The Retreat was transformational as well as informational.

In addition to his role as Pastor at St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church in Jacksonville, Florida, Rev. Louh serves as the Vicar for the Eastern Florida Conference of the Holy Metropolis of Atlanta, is an Adjunct Professor of World Religions at Florida State College at Jacksonville and is the Chaplain for the Jacksonville Sharks Football Team. He appears on various radio programs and additionally shares daily inspirational messages on FM Sports Radio.

It is our hope to continue this journey via awareness, mindfulness and gratitude. Spiritual practices are inspiring, through prayer and reflection, through contemplation and meditation, through being and experiencing. We are blessed to participate together as Archons, committed to serving the needs of our great Church as religious freedom and human rights are sought for our Ecumenical Patriarchate.



2023 ARCHON REGIONAL COMMANDER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by:

Dr. Nicholas G. Loutsion, Chairman
Archon Aktouarios

John G. Manos, Co-Chairman
Archon Eftaxias

Prepared by:

Dr. Nicholas G. Loutsion
Archon Aktouarios

INTRODUCTION:

The ARCL Committee was originally given the mandate to better coordinate communication between all three levels of our Archon organization (National Council / Archon Regional Commanders/ local Archon membership). This mandate, up to this point, has been accomplished through the Regional Commanders attendance to the monthly National Council meetings either in person or by teleconference. This has provided the Regional Commanders the opportunity to receive guidance from the National Council, as well as, serve to disseminate information from the national level directly to the local Archon membership through their Regional Commanders. It also serves to bring the questions and concerns of the local Archons directly to the National Council. The ultimate goal being that every Archon in America will be involved, well informed, and excited

about their responsibility to share the message of the Order and ultimately of the Mother Church.

It was decided in late 2020 to resurrect the ARCL Quarterly Meetings. These meetings originally began in 2006 and ended in 2014 around the same time that the Regional Commanders were invited to join the National Council meetings to receive national updates directly. The idea behind resurrecting these meeting was to give the regional commanders a forum to discuss issues pertinent to their own specific work. This has given the ARCL Committee membership the ability to share ideas, develop strategies, and decide how best to put these ideas to work in the field.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS / TOPICS for DISCUSSION:

January 10, 2022 Quarterly Meeting

1. Quarterly ARCL Recommendation Follow-up:
 - a. Visit a local parish and present Archon Religion Freedom Presentation (Rocky Cards-Power Point)
 - b. Mentoring New Archons
-Follow up with 2021 Archons
 - c. Feedback from Archons attending Bootcamp
 - d. Archon Inquiries
 - e. Archon News webpage
2. Quarterly ARCL Recommendation
 - a. National Lenten Retreat Local Lenten Retreat
 - b. Local Business Meeting
 - c. Fall of Constantinople

April 24, 2023 Quarterly Meeting

1. Welcome New Metropolis of Boston Regional Commanders
Archon R.C. James Speros
Archon R.C. Constantine Sideridis
3. Engagement Committee
 - a. Reports to be shared at National Council meetings
 - b. Youth Engagement Committee Update

4. Regional Commander Quarterly Reports (Attached)
 - a. Questions n Reports
5. Nominations Class of 2023
 - a. Review New Archon Process
 - b. Follow up with New Applicant
 - c. April 7 Leah to send out RC applicant list
6. Archon Funding Request Form
 - a. New Fillable E-Form
<https://archons.formstack.com/forms/procurementrequest>
7. Archon George Spanos Monthly Newsletter
 - a. Comments and Recommendations
8. Protocols
 - a. Questions on Funeral Protocol
 - b. Pascha Protocol
 - c. Visiting Hierarch Protocol

June 12, 2023 Quarterly Meeting

-Announced the appointment of Archon James A. Frangos as the Regional Commander of the state of Georgia of the Metropolis of Atlanta Region.

-Special Report to ARCL: Youth Engagement Committee Update

- Archon Sprout Program – Archon Nick Tranto
- GOYA Committee – Archon George Moutis
- College/YAL Committee – Archon Judge Steven Counelis
- Pilgrimage of Discovery – Archon Judge Jeffery Chrones
- Pilgrimage Alumni Leadership Network – Archon Perry Siatis

-ARCL Recommendations to National Council

Recommendation #1:

As the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has specifically designated specific Sundays to recognize various organizations such as Leadership 100 and AHEPA by way of example, it is recommended that the Archons of the

Ecumenical Patriarchate IN AMERICA have a designated Sunday each year around the Feast Day of Saint Andrew the Apostle and before the Thanksgiving holiday. Further, to ensure consistency of messaging, that the Exarch write an Encyclical to be read, preferably by an Archon in each parish, on “Archon Sunday” or by the parish priest if there are no Archons in the parish. Archons are to wear their emblems and Archon crosses on the annual celebrated designated day.

Recommendation #2:

Hellenic College Holy Cross is where future clergy of the Orthodox Christian Church are educated and trained. As such, we recommend the creation of a named and endowed Chair focused on educating future clergy within the Holy Cross School of Theology on the Ecumenical Patriarchate, its history, the issues and persecution it faces and the efforts of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate IN AMERICA in protecting religious freedom for all and especially the Ecumenical Patriarch. We recommend that this be discussed with the school’s administration and Board of Trustees to explore how such a program can complement and enhance the school’s educational requirements and further knowledge of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Conclusion

We are grateful to have had this opportunity to work with the Regional Commanders. We look forward to developing solutions to the issues of concern so that each Regional Commander can function in a more efficient and productive manner while executing the work of the Order.



2023 REGIONAL COMMANDERS REPORT

Direct Archdiocesan District

Submitted by:

Andrew E. Manatos, Archon *Depoutatos*

Prepared by:

Andrew E. Manatos, Archon *Depoutatos*

Regional Commander Andy Manatos organized periodic fellowship dinners with DC area Archons to discuss our efforts to promote the religious freedom and full functioning of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Regional Commander Manatos included DC area Archons on invitations to special events including prayer services led by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, community receptions, meetings and conferences with policymakers, and other functions organized with Manatos & Manatos (M&M).

Archon Andy Manatos published the book “The Extraordinary Greek People” which features contributions from Archon Commander Limberakis, Vice Commander Bozonelis, as well as several Archons from around the country. M&M organized book events where Archon contributors were featured in: (1) Washington, DC with Ambassador of Greece to the US Alexandra Papadopoulou; (2) in New York with Greek Consul General Dinos Konstantinou,; and (3) in Athens at the Benaki Museum with the “First Lady” of Greece Mareva Mitsotakis.



2023 REGIONAL COMMANDER'S REPORT

Direct Archdiocesan District

Submitted and Prepared by:

Nikiforos Mathews
Archon Ekdikos
Regional Commander

Set forth below is a brief description of activities in which the Archons of District 1 engaged and participated during the past year on behalf of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle in pursuit of religious freedom for the Mother Church.

The District was represented at the Order's *John Halecky, Jr.* Nineteenth Annual Lenten Retreat, which was held on March 31st through April 1st at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Christian Church in Southampton, NY. The topic of the Retreat, which was led by Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh, was *His Pain for our Purpose*.

In addition, the Regional Commander (as Vice Chair of the Legal Committee) and other Archons of the District supported the Order throughout the year by actively participating in various Engagement Committees and in connection with various *ad hoc* legal and other matters.

On September 21st, the District will co-sponsor an event at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine on *A Short History of Anger*, led by Joy Manesiotis, *White Distinguished Professor Emerita of Creative Writing* of the University of Redlands, a live performance focused on the Destruction of Smyrna, the genocide of Smyrna's Greek Ottoman citizens in 1922, and the resulting population exchange.

The District also will be represented at the Order's events planned for the weekend of October 19-22 at the New York Hilton Hotel, including the presentation of the *Athenagoras Human Rights Award* to this year's recipient, *The Prince's Trust*, and the presentation of the *Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship* to Archon George M. Marcus.



2023 REGIONAL COMMANDERS' REPORT

Metropolis of Boston

Submitted by:

Constantine Sideridis - Proto Notarios and James Speros - Kastrinsios,
Regional Commanders

Prepared by:

(Constantine Sideridis - Proto Notarios and James Speros - Kastrinsios)

Since being appointed as Regional Commanders for the Metropolis of Boston in March of this year, we have been actively engaged within our Metropolis and, more broadly, through participation with the Archon Engagement Committees including the Communications and Social Media Committee, Metropolis and Parish Education Committee and the International Archon Committee organizing the upcoming International Religious Freedom Conference and Global Archon Summit in Athens in 2024.

We've developed a comprehensive one-hour presentation (including Q&A) to address a need we've heard repeatedly from our brother Archons across the country that will allow them to tell our story. The presentation draws extensively from an excellent multimedia presentation delivered by the National Commander at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Elkins Park, PA earlier this year. The document is now housed on the Archons.org/Resources website and provides all Archons with a consistent and engaging resource to conduct presentations to multiple audiences including parishes, Philoptochos chapters, Leadership 100, The Alpha Omega Council, YAL, etc. The presentation covers the following topics: what is an Archon; the history of the ancient churches; the major issues faced by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople; who the Patriarch is; the work being performed by AEP to protect and defend the Patriarchate; and establishment of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.

Working with Emeritus Regional Commanders Drake Behrakis and Professor Aristotle Papanikolaou, we organized a well-attended event with over 100 participants during the Lenten period at the Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Weston, MA. The event featured Dr. Alexander Lingas, Musical Director and Founder of the world-renowned Cappella Romana singing ensemble who spoke on, “Recovering the Lost Voices of Hagia Sophia.” His talk and demonstrations of chanting from the Byzantine period and specifically in Hagia Sophia were fascinating and received incredibly positive reviews from those in attendance.

We have recommended three worthy individuals for induction into the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Lastly, we have advanced two very significant recommendations to the Executive Committee and National Council designed to enhance the visibility of the Archons of Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP) within the Church and ensure greater focus on the Ecumenical Patriarchate within the curriculum at Hellenic College Holy Cross (HCHC). The first recommendation is to create an “Archon Sunday” to be celebrated on a Sunday on or before the feast day of the AEP’s patron saint - St. Andrew - in November of each year. We have requested that the Exarch formally declare “Archon Sunday” and issue an encyclical commemorating the day. Our second recommendation is to create a named and endowed Chair at HCHC focused on the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Both recommendations are under review and consideration as of the date of this report.

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Speros and Costa Sideridis



Regional Commander's Report
Metropolis of Denver
October, 2022 – September, 2023

Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas, Archon Aktouarios
Regional Commander

I humbly report to you a brief description of activity during the past year on behalf of the Order of Saint Andrew in defense of our Holy Ecumenical Patriarch and Patriarchate.

October 21 – 23, 2022 New York City, N.Y.: Archons from throughout the Denver Metropolis attend Archon weekend.

November 5, 2022 Houston, Texas: Many Archons from the Houston area attended and supported a lecture on “The Centennial Commemoration of The Great Catastrophe in Greek Asia Minor.” Lecture delivered by Dr. Yiorgio Topalidis.

Sunday November 27, 2022 Denver, Colorado: Archons of the Order of St. Andrew hosted “coffee hour” at the Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral in recognition of St. Andrew Feastday.

Sunday January 15, 2023 Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado: Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas gave a presentation on The Order of St. Andrew Archons, the Mission of the Order and key issues facing His All Holiness Bartholomew to a Young Adult Leadership retreat hosted at Prophet Elias Chapel.

Sunday March 5, 2023 at the Assumption Cathedral of the Theotokos,

Denver, Colorado: On the Sunday of Orthodoxy, many Archons gathered and led the procession of the icons around the church to celebrate the triumph of Orthodoxy and the restoration of icons in the Holy Greek Orthodox church!

Saturday March 11, 2023 Park City Utah: Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas and Dr. Demetrios Skedros gave a presentation on The Order of St. Andrew Archons and presented the Mission of the Order and key issues facing His All Holiness Bartholomew at the winter Y.A.L Snow Conference.

Sunday April 16, 2023 at the Assumption Cathedral of the Theotokos, At the midnight service, many Archons gathered on the solea to receive the light from Metropolitan Isaiah in solidarity supporting the Ecumenical Patriarch and Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Thursday May 11, 2023 Denver, Colorado: Several Denver Metropolis Archons met and “broke bread” together during the Denver Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conference. Also attended by Metropolitan Isaiah.

Saturday September 2, 2023 Metropolis of San Francisco YAL Conference:

Archon Hon. Steven Counelis and Archon Dr. Gregory Papadeas presented an update on the Pilgrimage of Discovery to over 450 young adults, the “emerging leaders” of our Faith and Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas, D.O., F.A.O.C.D., F.A.A.D.
Archon Aktouarios
Regional Commander
10th District



2023 REGIONAL COMMANDERS' REPORT FLORIDA DISTRICT 11B

**Prepared and Submitted by: John C. Scurtis, Regional Commander
Archon Hartoularios**

On **November 29, 2022** the South Florida Archons made a presentation at Saint Andrew parish Miami-Kendall following Vesper services. His Grace Bishop Sevastianos presided, assisted by Father Aristides Arizi, Saint Andrew, Father Spiro Bobotos, (Vicar) Saint Sophia Cathedral Miami, and many other Spiritual Fathers from neighboring parishes. Ten Archons and their wives traveled from as far as Juno Beach, Naples and Boca Raton to be in attendance. Newly Invested South Florida Archons Alexandros Haralambides and R. Benjamin Powell made the presentation on the plight of the Patriarchate.



On Sunday, **March 5, 2023** South Florida Archons gathered together to celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Archons in the communities of Saint Mark, Boca Raton, and Saint Katherine, Naples participated.



On **March 16-18, 2023** Archbishop Elpidophoros made a Pastoral Visit to Saint Mark GOC whereby His Eminence discussed the vision for our Orthodox Church in America with the Archons of South Florida. The Archons and their wives attended Vespers followed by a Lenten dinner. A beautiful evening of fellowship for an Archon meeting in support of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros.



In Christ
John C Scurtis
Archon Hartoularios
Regional Commander South Florida

8.25.2023



ORDER *of* SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023 #13 REGIONAL COMMANDER'S REPORT

North & South Carolina, East Tennessee

Submitted & prepared by:

Archon Harry Thomas Cavalaris, Ekdikos Regional Commander

1.

AXIOS, AXIOS, AXIOS !!!

Archon Elect Chancellor Amirides and Archon Elect Andrew Nick Theadore will be bestowed their Offikion Sunday, October 22nd by Archbishop Elpidthophoros of America at the Archdiocesan Cathedral Holy Trinity New York, NY.



President Michael Amiridis

University of South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina

Michael Amiridis has been named the 30th president of the University of South Carolina. Amiridis was selected during a meeting on Friday (Jan. 14) by the university's Board of Trustees to lead the state's flagship university system.

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Amiridis, 59, is a native of Greece and a U.S. citizen. He earned his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki in Greece in 1985 and his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1991. He and his wife, Ero Aggelopoulou-Amiridis (MS, '97, PhD, '11), have two children, Aspasia (BS, '19) and Dimitri (class of 2022).



Andrew (Drew) Nick Theadore

In 1985 founded Goldsmith Theodore Agency an independent insurance agency. Since 2020 after selling his agency, Nick is Vice President of Relations Insurance Agency that oversee all independent insurance agencies owned by Relation Insurance throughout South Carolina.

Nick graduated in 1977 AA, Lees McCrae College, In 1979 BA in Political Science, University of South Carolina and in 1997 Certified Insurance counselor, The National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research

Nick is involved in his home Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral Columbia, South Carolina and the Metropolis of Atlanta many ministries.

In 1985 Nick married Elise Biles and have 4 Children.

Nick is the Son of Emilie & Archon Nick Theodore the 85th Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina .

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2

THE ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE, ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE **ANNUAL MEETING THE ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW**

Archon Class 2022 Last Row left to right Region 13 Archons

Archon Steve Trakas #4, Archon Anthony Megas #5



Archon Steve Trakas being bestowed his
Offikion by His Eminence Archbishop
Elpidthophoros and Archbishop Demetrios
Former of America Greek Archdiocese



Cathedral Holy
Trinity Sunday
October 9, 2022

Patriarch Theodore
II of Alexandria and
All Africa Receives
the 2022
Athenagoras



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3.



**RUSSIA'S OTHER UKRAINE WAR:
THE WAR AGAINST THE
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
& RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE
BUILDING IN GREECE**

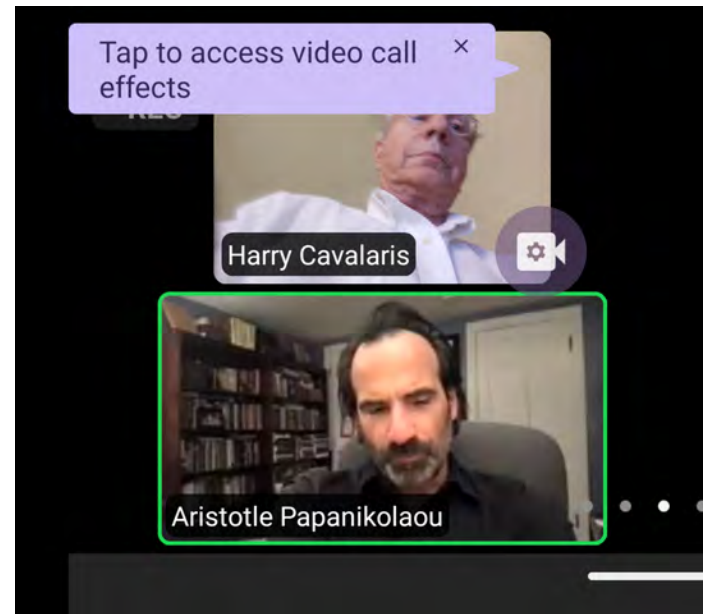
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
7:00 PM**

**New England Archons
to host virtual lecture,
September 21**

On behalf of Regional Commanders Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou and Drake G. Behrakis, all Archons of America are invited to participate in a New England Archon Lecture on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 7:00PM ET. The lecture will be held virtually via Zoom and offered by Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou of The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Lecture information is listed below.

Region 13 Participant Archon Harry Cavalaris

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4.

November 11, 2022

Fourth Centennial Pilgrimage to Constantinople, the Holy Land & Jordan led by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America.



Archons in attendance: Regional Commanders Archon Sr. Ted Vlahos and Harry Cavalaris, Archon Dr. Traindaphilos Sarantou

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Egypt and St Katherine's trip His Eminence is leading April 30 – May 11. One of the



highlights will be the Liturgy at St Katherine's Monastery presided by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and other Orthodox Patriarchs.

Archons in Attendance: Dr. Nicholas Loutsion, Harry Cavalaris, Stathi Kartalopoulos, Mike Missios, Paul Skoutalis

5.



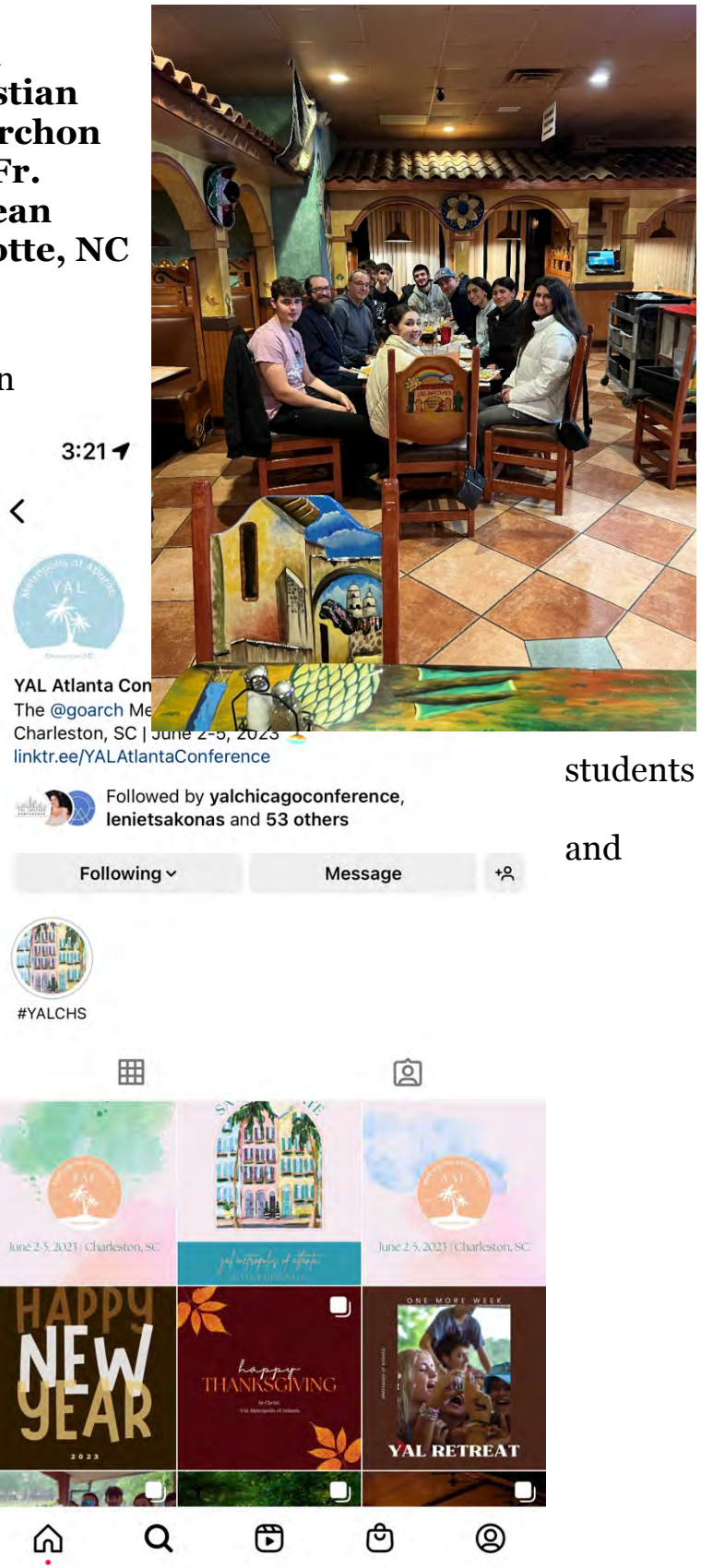
Archon Harry Cavalaris, Archon Steve Trakas, Archon Dr. Terry Sarantou, Archon Steve Zeis & Archon Nick Theodore accompanied His Eminence Archbishop Elpidthophoros to attended the week end celebration January 19th/20th, 2023 in Columbia, South Carolina of President Michael Amirides as the 30th President of the University of South Carolina.

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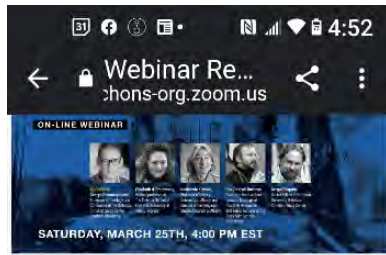
Before he served as Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago, he was executive vice president for academic affairs and provost of the University of South Carolina from 2009-2015

**6.
Ecumenical Patriarchat North
Carolina OCF/Orthodox Christian
Fellowship Presentation by Archon
Terry Sarantou and Rev. Dr. Fr.
Jonathan Resmini Interim Dean
Holy Trinity Cathedral Charlotte, NC
March 4, 2023**

Charlotte OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) Fr. Jonathan Proestaminos of Holy Trinity Greek orthodox Cathedral Charlotte NC and Archon Dr. Terry Sarantou visited the OCG ski trip in Blowing Rock, NC. Archon Dr. Terry Sarantou gave a presentation on the Ecumenical Patriarchate and presented the with the Archon and Ecumenical Patriarchate cards discussed the role of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



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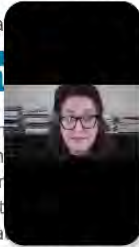
Religious Freedom, Self-Defense, and the Orthodox Communities in Ukraine

Mar 25, 2023 04:00 PM

Eastern Time (US and



In the year since Vladimir Putin's invasion of their nation, Ukrainians have endured religious violence, economic catastrophe, and enduring hardship. In a time of mobilizing its military defense, the



7. Students Speak on Christ and the Ecumenical Patriarchate at Metropolis of Atlanta Oratorical Festival Charlotte, NC Presentation by Archon Dr. Terry Sarantou and Archon Steve Trakas



The 2023 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival for the Metropolis of Atlanta was held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte, North Carolina from May 12 to 14, 2023. Nearly 30 dedicated, devout and eloquent students participated from across the Southeast, in hopes of advancing to the national festival in June. This year's topics included the role of the saints, our relationship with Christ during times of suffering, and the crucial importance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Festival was hosted by Reverend Father Jonathan Resmini, Interim Dean of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, and Sarah Vastis, Holy Trinity's Youth Director.

As part of the Festival, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta invited Archons Dr. Terry Sarantou and Steve Trakas to give a presentation to over 100 students, parents and

parishioners on the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. On Saturday, May 13, Archons Sarantou and Trakas gave the students an overview of the work of the Archons, along with a capsule history of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in an informative PowerPoint presentation. During their presentation, they asked questions of Oratorical Festival participants and tossed Archon baseball caps to students both for asking and for answering questions. The students enjoyed the presentation immensely and had the opportunity to learn a great deal about issues the Ecumenical Patriarch and our Church in general are facing.





After the success of their presentation at the Oratorical Festival, Archons Sarantou and Trakas were invited to present as Archons for two sessions at this year's Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy/Laity Congress, which will

be held in Tarpon Springs, FL on June 20–25. The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is an acclaimed annual speech competition centered around faith, education and fellowship, in which Orthodox youth present speeches discussing the Greek Orthodox faith and the Church. It is open to Orthodox youth in junior or senior high school. The Metropolis of New Jersey will host the 39th Annual St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Nationals at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Clifton, New Jersey on the weekend of June 9 to 11, 2023. This year's Archdiocesan Chairperson is once again Mrs. Katherine Orfanakos Demacopoulos, beloved wife of the historian of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archon Professor George E. Demacopoulos.



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8. 2023 Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity Assembly

Thursday, June 22, 2023
Location: St. Nicholas Cathedral, Tarpon Springs, FL

Archon Steve Trakas and Archon Dr. Terry Sarantou

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were invited by Metropolitan Alexios and Chancellor Reverend Father George Tsahakis of the Atlanta Metropolis to present on current Order of Saint Andrew Archon responsibilities and activities at the Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy Laity Conference held in Tarpon Springs, Florida on June 23 and 24.

Two one- and one-half hour presentations which included a history of our Church, defining what an Archon is, explaining the five key issues that are the focus of every Archon, reviewing the current Archon Engagement Committee structure with emphasis on Archon Youth Engagement and the Pilgrimage of Discovery.

Our presentation included a PowerPoint and Instagram Videos of the Pilgrimage of Discovery. The feedback received was very positive.

Those that attended included Clergy, Parishioners, and Archons including Regional Commanders from the Atlanta Metropolis.



Archon Regional Commander Ted Vlahos, MD was the host with Dr. Nicholas Loutsion representing the Archon National Council. Archon Gerry Clonaris a Convention presenter and committee Chair was in attendance and

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participator.



Presentations were interactive and the audience asked questions regarding our Church and "tossed a hat" to those that participated.

We have found that the Archon baseball caps have been very popular and to date Archons Steve Trakas and Dr. Terry Sarantou have given away almost 50 hats.

We are particularly proud that Metropolitan Alexios proudly wore his Archon baseball cap.

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Breakfast Atlanta Clergy Laity Conference



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Archon Andrew G. Kampiziones, Depoutatos



ANDREW KAMPIZIONES OBITUARY

1931 -2023

Andrew G. Kampiziones was born to George and Stavroula Kampiziones in Lamia, Greece on November 19, 1931, and died on February 20, 2023. Despite growing up during the hardships of World War II and the "Enphilio" Greek Civil War, he pursued his education, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. degree in Education from the Pedagogical Academy in Lamia. He taught for a few years before he was drafted, serving his country as Second Lieutenant. In 1956, he married his love, Eula (Paula) Hondros and moved to America eventually settling in New York City. He

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worked in the banking industry and earned his second degree from Queens College of CUNY with a B.A degree in Economics before finally settling in Florence, SC.

Andrew had a deep appreciation and respect for his new country and the many opportunities afforded to him. He quickly became involved in all areas giving back to the community. He was active in his church and Greek community from the local to national level, including member of the church choir, cantor, Sunday school and Greek school teacher, as well as president of the local chapter of AHEPA, the Evrytanian Association of America (the Velouchi), and League of Greek Orthodox Stewards (LOGOS).

He expanded his banking and educational career to the restaurant industry, real estate development, and was a charter member of the First Reliance Bank. He received a Master's degree in Philosophy from the University of South Carolina and settled in his beloved field of teaching, where he is known throughout the community as having taught with distinction both at Francis Marion University and Florence-Darlington Technical College for over thirty years. He authored books and numerous journal publications and retired as Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Ethics in 2019.

Andrew felt a true sense of duty not only to his country, homeland, community and family, but also his students. He believed in moulding characters and appreciating one's heritage. He became a champion for Greek culture in America. He was an avid supporter of the arts, and served on numerous committees such as chairman of the Historical Commission appointed by the governor, the Florence Symphony Board, member of McLeod Regional Medical Center Foundation Board and Ethics committee, as well as, Florence Downtown Revitalization committee, Visual and Performing Arts Concert Hall Steering committee, Florence County New Public Library fundraising committee, Florence Museum Board, the Florence County Arts Alliance Founder, and a Florence Rotarian. He enjoyed traveling with his wife and friends and spending his summers in Greece.

Andrew was happiest when he was surrounded by his family and friends. Having lost his only child with Eula shortly after her birth, Andrew became a father to all his nephews and nieces, and a nurturing grandfather to their children. He was a pillar of strength for his family representing honor, kindness, duty, and generosity in the deepest sense. Anyone who came in his presence certainly felt his contagious enthusiasm for life and his warm, giving spirit.

He leaves an unparalleled legacy that was created with hard work, determination, and will-power. His whole life has been in service to his family,

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Church, community, country, and his homeland. For this he has been abundantly lauded and given many honors including that of Archon by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos in 1982, for his outstanding service to the Church and a well-respected leader of the

Orthodox Christian community; the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, awarded for sharing his knowledge, courage, compassion, unique talents and selfless generosity while acknowledging his debt to his ethnic heritage; the Order of the Palmetto, the highest recognition bestowed on a civilian by the State of South Carolina; and the Jack Baker Award for his impact in the arts and culture, to name a few.

Andrew is preceded in death by his daughter, Stavroula; his parents; and siblings, Theodore (Joanna) Kampiziones and Anna (Zisis) Poulos. He is survived by his wife, Eula (Paula); his nephews and nieces, George (Theodora) Kampiziones, Terry (Niki) Kampiziones, Andrew (Helen) Kampiziones, Joanne (Tian) Ying, Helen Poulos, Gus Poulos, Helen (Steve) Doulaveris, Rena Chizmar, Steve Hondros; and numerous beloved nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces.

Visitation will be at 12:30 p.m., on Saturday, February 25, 2023, immediately followed by Trisagion and funeral services at 1 p.m., at the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church directed by Stoudenmire-Dowling Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery and a Makaria luncheon at the church's Hellenic Center. Memorials may be made to the Transfiguration of Our Savior Greek Orthodox Church, 2990 S. Cashua Drive, Florence, SC. 29501. Please sign the tribute wall for Andrew Kampiziones at the obit section of www.stoudenmiredowling.com.

Greek American Former Congressman Archon Nick Galifianakis Depoutatos Dies at 94



By Tasos Kokkinidis March 31, 2023

Nick Galifianakis served as a Democratic U.S. Congressman for North Carolina from 1967 to 1973. Public Domain

8.25.2023

Greek American Nick Galifianakis, once a rising star in the Democratic Party, who represented central North Carolina for several years, died this week at age 94.

Galifianakis, who had Parkinson's disease for several years, died at a Raleigh retirement community, a family spokesman, Jack Pinnix, told *The News & Observer* of Raleigh.

He was born in Durham, North Carolina, the son of Greek immigrants Sophia (née Kastrinakis) and Mike Galifianakis. Actor [Zach Galifianakis](#) and cartoonist Nick Galifianakis are his nephews.

A Duke University graduate, Galifianakis was an attorney and ex-Marine first elected to the General Assembly in 1960. He was elected to Congress to 1966 and became a rising star in the party while serving three terms.

In 1972, Galifianakis defeated US Senator B. Everett Jordan in the Democratic primary, but that November lost to the Republican Helms, then a Raleigh television commentator who served in the Senate for 30 years.

Nick Galifianakis victim of Jesse Helms' commercial blitz

The Helms campaign used a commercial blitz to undermine Galifianakis' campaign.

Years later, his nephew [Zach Galifianakis](#) said his uncle lost to Jesse Helms in the 1972 U.S. Senate race "because he was Greek, that's kind of what happened." Helms' pitch slogan was "Jesse Helms. He's one of us."

Galifianakis went on to say that "When my uncle ran, it was the beginning of mud-slinging in modern politics, at least in that state."

He continued, "I grew up listening to all the stories. The election got turned around in a couple of weeks. The KKK (Ku Klux Klan) made

8.25.2023

appearances at a couple of rallies, I guess to intimidate him...I think the idea was, 'His name sounds different enough. He's not like us.'"

Galifianakis ran for US Senate again in 1974 but lost to Attorney General Robert Morgan in the Democratic primary. He devoted himself to his Durham law practice in the years that followed.

Galifianakis had a larger-than-life personality

A moderate by national political standards, Galifianakis was on the liberal edge of the political spectrum in North Carolina. He supported the Equal Rights Amendment and was the first member of the state's congressional delegation to oppose the Vietnam War, *The News & Observer* reports.

There was always a sense of fun about Galifianakis, the paper adds. Sponsoring a bill to abolish the death penalty for dueling, he brought two swords to the House floor and pretended to engage in combat with a colleague.

Associated Press says that Galifianakis had a larger-than-life personality when it came to politics and campaigning. He used his long last name to his advantage, with his campaigns distributing two buttons – one read "GALIFI" and the other "ANAKIS."

He also understood the power of publicity. Lobbying for the federal government to complete Interstate 85 from Henderson to Durham, he walked 19 miles along the proposed route in 1963.

While in the state House as a judiciary committee chairman, Galifianakis helped oversee the overhaul of the state's court system into what it largely remains today.

Galifianakis is survived by his wife, Louise, and two children.

The Metropolis of Atlanta is composed of 5 Order of St. Andrew Regions which hold joint Regional Meetings, Retreats and events during the year under the leadership of Archon Dr. Tissura Regional Commander District 12 & Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta.

The Greek Orthodox Church & Patriarchal Human Rights awareness, initiatives and lectures are a major emphasis of the Archons of the Metropolis expressed in the meetings, the Fall Retreats & Spring Archon Dinner with a Speaker series.

1. District 13: Archon Harry T Cavalaris Regional Commander,
2. District 12: Archon James A Frangis Regional Commander,
3. District 11A: North Florida: Archon Dr Theodore Vlahos, Regional Commander
4. District 11B: South Florida: Archon John Scurtis, Regional Commander,
5. District 8: Archon Thomas Yearout, Regional Commander

Region 13 hosts thru the year fellowship dinners in Charlotte, North Carolina to review current events and programs of the Order of St. Andrew concerning the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

All Archons are encouraged: 1. To support in at least one or more of the major areas of National Appeal, Archon National Weekend, and the International Religious Freedom Conference; 2. To make the Pilgrimage to the Patriarchate; 3. To be active spokesmen on behalf of the Human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

District 13 List of Archons: North & South Carolina, East Tennessee

Harry T Cavalaris

Ekdikos Regional Commander

1. George Anderson, *Maestros*
2. James Michael Arakas, *Kastrinsios*
3. Frank Paul Boardman, *Maestor*
4. James T. Cavalaris, *Depoutatos*
5. Harry T. Cavalaris, *Ekdikos*
6. Gerald Clonaris, *Depoutatos*
7. Charles H. Cotros, *Laosynaktis*
8. Jon. J. Couchell, *Dikaiophylax*

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9. Peter J. Couchell, *Hartoularios*
10. Peter G. Demetriades, *Skevophylax*
11. Steven Doulaveris, *Maestor*
12. Spiro C. Hondros, *Ostiaros*
13. Konstantinos T. Kazakos, *Hartoularios*
14. Dr. Demosthenes (Dennis) Kokenes, Asekretes
15. Sam N. Kleto, *Aktouarios*
16. Dr. Spiro J. Macris, *Hieromnimon*
17. Christopher Mandaleris, *Hartophylax*
18. Harry Moskos, *Depoutatos*
19. Tom Nixon, *Dikaiophylax*
20. Dr. Traindaphilos (Terry) Sarantou, *Hartoularios*
21. James Tasios, *Kastrinsios*
22. Nick A. Theodore, *Depoutatos*
23. Stephanos Trakas Hartoularios
24. Constantine N. Vrettos, *Notarios*
25. Nicholas Yakubik, *Referendarios*
26. Stephen James Yallourakis, *Aktouarios*
27. Steve *(Stavros) Elias Zeis, *Skevophylax*



2023 REGIONAL COMMANDERS' REPORT **METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH**

Submitted by:

Archon Proto Ekdikos Nick Tranto and Archon Ekdikos Nicholas Terezis
Regional Commanders

Education of the Faithful in our Region

- 1) **“The Archon Voice” Monthly Newsletter** - In August 2023, a newsletter initiative created by Archon George Spanos of Holy Trinity GOC, Camp Hill, Pa., was approved to be written, edited and published nationally by the Editorial and Publications Committee (chaired by Archon George Vittas). The goal of this monthly newsletter is to continuously and methodically educate our community about the Ecumenical Patriarch (history, current issues, policies, & initiatives). The intended placement of the monthly articles will be in both Metropolis and local Church bulletins. All Archons are encouraged to make sure that the bulletin is placed in the bulletins of their local Churches.
- 2) **Youth Participation Activities** – Regional Commander Nick Tranto nationally chairs the Archon *Youth Participation Activities (YPA)* Committee. The YPA Committee has partnered with the *Department of Religious Education (DRE)* Director, His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, to launch a 5-phase plan on the topic of the *Ecumenical Patriarchate Education*. The digital and printed educational material will address ages Pre-k through grade 12, and organizations including GOYA, YAL/ OCF plus a new subcommittee entitled the *Archon Leadership Network (ALN)* to enhance the *Pilgram of Discovery* alumni for opportunities within the Archon organization.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate Educational program idea was initially presented as the *Archon Sprout Program* to address the significant educational knowledge gap with our youth and young adults in the area of Ecumenical Patriarchate. **Full funding of the “Sprout” initiative is made possible by the generosity of benefactors Archon Michael and Robin Psaros.**

- 3) **“Pilgrimage of Discovery Journey to Constantinople” (POD)** – The inaugural one-week all-expense-paid trip to Constantinople was launched this summer for five young adult Orthodox Leaders from the Chicago Metropolis. The “pilot launch” was funded by the Archons of Chicago and the National Archon organization. The visit included; a personal audience with HAH Patriarch Bartholomew; three PhD professors explaining Byzantine and Middle East history, a professional tour guide and a US and Turkish Videographer who documented this epic experience. The POD program is intended to be rolled out nationally in 2024 with the hope that funding will allow us to increase the number of Young Adults joining the educational journey. Age criteria may expand to YA’s 23-30 years old. Once the 2024 POD program is finalized, a national communication will follow with details. For additional information about the 2023 POD, visit archons.org and click on Pilgrimage of Discovery Program.
- 4) **OCF** - Archon presentations were held during the past year with the Duquesne University and West Virginia University OCF chapters where we connected with Deacon Merek Simon, Director of OCF. More OCF outreached are being planned at campuses throughout our region.
- 5) **YAL** conference in Pittsburgh on October 13, 2023, featured Archon Dr. Jim Schooley, DDS of Annunciation GOC Columbus, Ohio as the main speaker who highlighted his own experience and spoke about the POD opportunity for Orthodox youth to reconnect with the Holy Mother Church.
- 6) **Feast of St Andrew 2022** – The feast of St. Andrew was commemorated throughout the Metropolis with Celebrations (Artoklasies and Trisagion) and presentations at the following locations: 1) Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Pittsburgh, PA (Hosted: Nick Tranto, Nicholas Loutsion, & Harry Athanasiou); 2) All Saints Church, Canonsburg, PA (Hosted: Nicholas Loutsion); 3) Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA (Hosted: John Harbilas, George Spanos, & Nick Theofanis); 4) Saint Nicholas, Bethlehem PA (Hosted: George Kounoupis); 5) Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Pittsburgh, PA (Hosted: Philip Yamalis); 6) Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Steubenville, OH (Hosted: Nicholas Terezis); 7) St. John the Baptist Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church, East Pittsburgh, PA (Hosted: Gary Grysiak); and 8) Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Carnegie PA (Hosted: Howard West).

Improving communication among all Archons in our Region

- 1) In-person Archon Gatherings – On October 20, 2023, Regional Commanders Tranto and Terezis hosted an annual Archon luncheon and business meeting in Reading PA at the Metropolis Clergy Laity meeting where a comprehensive presentation of both regional and national programs were discussed.
- 2) Local Directory – Our Archons created and distributed an updated “Archon Directory” that includes Archon photos current bio’s and up-to-date contact information. Local surveys were sent to gather this information, and demographic information was compiled and shared about the Archons in our region.
- 3) Metropolis Web Page – Our Archons are also maintaining a webpage on the Metropolis of Pittsburgh website
- 4) Shared & Archived files – We implemented a comprehensive dropbox group that enables the sharing of all historical and active documents.

Political Outreach – In August 2023, RC Nick Tranto met with Congressman Alex Mooney (R-WV). Meeting with our elected representative and discussing the issues affecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate is vital in the mission of protecting the Patriarch. Topics discussed included: legal rights, ability to worship freely, confiscated properties, the closing of our Halki seminary since 1971, governmental interference in Patriarch elections, and non-recognition of HAH Ecumenical Status.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation – In 2022 the Pittsburgh Archons pledged \$100,000 (as a group) to support the new Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation. The group has completed 20% of this goal.

New Archon-Elects – In August of 2023, we welcomed three new Archon-Elects from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. They are Archon Harry Ruskas of Annunciation GOC Columbus, Ohio, Archon Anthony Payiavlas of St. Demetrios GOC, Warren Ohio, and Archon Sam Spanos of Kimisis Tis Theotokos GOC, of Aliquippa, Pa. Please join us in welcoming the three new Archons and their families to our Metropolis Region. AXIOS! Investiture will take place on Sunday Oct 22, 2023 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of Holy Trinity, NYC.

In Memoriam - This year the Archons of Metropolis of Pittsburgh received the sad news of the passing of Louis D. Pappan, Archon Depoutatos of Beaver Falls, Pa, Manuel Pihakis, Archon Maestor of Canonsburg, Pa and John Kost, Archon Depoutatos of Freeland Pa (Carpatho-RUS) who feel asleep in the Lord. On behalf of all the Archons, we express our sympathies to their families with the abiding faith in our Lord with hope in His Resurrection. May their Memory Be Eternal+.



2023 REGIONAL COMMANDERS' REPORT **October 2023**

**District 18 – Southern California
Metropolis of San Francisco**

Submitted by:
Theodore Konopisos, Hieromnimon
Hon. Steven Counelis, Nomophylax

Prepared by:
Hon. Steven Counelis, Nomophylax

**District 18 Archon Conference – Southern California, Nevada and Arizona
September 8-10, 2023 – held at the Hyatt Regency, Newport Beach, California**

The Southern California Regional Commanders of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco recently convened, with the approval of the National Archon Office, and the encouragement of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, the first and very successful Archon Conference for the Southwest Region. Over thirty-five honored guests, Archons and spouses participated in the three-day Conference. The Southwest District encompasses Southern California, Nevada and Arizona. The Conference was held at the Hyatt Regency in Newport Beach, CA.

Themed “Protecting the Future of Faith,” the Conference brought three Guest Presenters: National Secretary Gus Pablecas, Chicago Regional Commander John Manos, and Historian Archon Dr. George Demacopoulos to educate, motivate, and engage the Archons in Southern California.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea, Metropolis Chancellor, were both active participants throughout the entire weekend Conference.

Southern California Regional Commanders Theodore Konopisos and Hon. Steven Counelis hosted a welcome dinner Friday, September 8, 2023 for all honored guests, Archons and spouses at The Pacific Club, creating an opportunity for fellowship among old and new friends.

On Saturday, September 9 the Conference began with an invocation by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, followed by breakfast. Regional Commander Counelis welcomed all with introductory remarks, “Today is a magnificent day because we gather together in support of our Ecumenical Patriarchate and to further the mission of the Archons here in the Southwest Region of the United States and in our Metropolis of San Francisco. Each of you was invested as an Archon by the Ecumenical Patriarch for your outstanding service to the Church, and as well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community. And so, the question is what shall we do together to carry out that mission? Keep this question in your mind throughout this conference!”

In his Archpastoral greeting Metropolitan Gerasimos remarked, “This weekend, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the important work of this organization, and be empowered to live your calling as Archons. Think back to the day of your investiture when you held a single candle. That flame – the light of Christ – is what you must continue to keep illumined to keep our faith alive as a beacon of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

National Secretary Gus Pablecas and John Manos (Regional Commanders – Metropolis of Chicago) offered a robust multimedia presentation, in “boot camp” style, of the responsibilities and duties which are expected of Archons today. Rejecting the “lifetime achievement award” concept of the past, the presenters educated today’s Archons on how best to offer their time, talent and treasure to the mission of the Archons at the international, national, metropolis and local levels. Because the “boot camp” training is a relatively new concept within the Archon organization, many of the Archons present had never been exposed to this information because they were invested before 2018. The presenters also shared the success of the National Archon Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD) Pilot Program. Funded by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, this inaugural Pilgrimage of Discovery was a pilot program conducted through the Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago from July 31 to August 7, 2023. It granted five young adults ages 23-28

from that Metropolis an all-expenses-paid round-trip journey to Constantinople to meet with His All-Holiness and travel to ancient holy sites of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which included the forcibly closed Halki School of Theology.

Following lunch, Dr. George Demacopoulos, Historian of the Archons, offered a thought-provoking presentation entitled “President Erdogan, Patriarch Kirill, and the Evolving Threats to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.” Dr. Demacopoulos offered a wide-ranging historical and political analysis of the threats which the Ecumenical Patriarchate has and continues to endure as a result of the Russian Government and Moscow Patriarchate’s synergistic goals for Ukraine in opposition to the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s Tomos of Autocephaly, and thus creating divisions within the Orthodox Church worldwide. For many, this was the first time they had been educated on the current and volatile geopolitical environment in which the Ecumenical Patriarchate functions, beyond solely the five or six issues of concern which are uniformly understood regarding the Turkish Government’s oppression of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The Archons in attendance expressed how they were deeply edified by all the presentations and developed a profound appreciation for the duties and responsibilities of their Offikion.

At the conclusion of the Conference, Regional Commanders Konopisos and Counelis recognized the Guest Presenters – Archons Pablecas, Manos and Demacopoulos; Conference Underwriters – Archons Dr. George Kallins, Dr. James Kallins and George Mitsanas,; and our distinguished hierarchs, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea.

Special recognition and appreciation was presented to the Emeriti Regional Commanders of the Metropolis of San Francisco: Archon Ekdikos Theofanis V. Economidis (National Council) and Archon Exarchos Dr. James G. Kallins, for their combined decades of service to the Archons and the greater omogeneia.

Each honoree was presented a beautiful handmade icon of Saint Andrew the Apostle, on polished stone. prepared by the nuns of the Monastery of the Theotokos the Life-Giving Spring in Dunlap, CA.

Among the those in attendance were two exemplary stewards of the Church at all levels: Archon Dean Spanos (& Family) and Archon Gerry Ranglas (& Family) Archon Ranglas and his wife Jeannie serve as Co-Chairs for the 2024 Clergy Laity Congress to be held in San Diego, California, June 30 to July 4, 2024.

Metropolitan Gerasimos offered remarks to close the formal proceedings of the Conference by encouraging the Archons with this message, “I hope that this can

become an annual gathering which can be expanded to include more Archons from throughout our Metropolis. We have a dedicated group of men who have accepted the call and challenge to serve as Protectors of the Future of Faith, and I look forward to even more opportunities to come together, discuss these important issues, and mobilize our faithful to be educated and informed so that, collectively, we can work together and actively demonstrate our support for the Ecumenical Patriarch and preserve our rightful place in history.”

The Conference continued Saturday evening at sunset aboard the yacht “Mojo” for dinner, fellowship, and cruise on the Newport Bay.

On Sunday, September 10, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, assisted by His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea, led the Archons and the faithful congregation of Saint Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA, in worship at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Proistamenos Fr. Steven Tsihchlis invited Dr. George Demacopoulos to offer the homily and illuminated the community on this history of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated September 14. The Archons hosted and the parish provided a light lunch in honor of the visit by the Archon Conference attendees.

RC Counelis and RC Konopisos are exceptionally grateful to our National Leadership for approving and offering their time, talent and treasure in support of this first-time event.

Attached to this report is an electronic copy of the Conference Program.

Other Events in 2023:

[Metropolis of San Francisco Archons Welcome Archbishop Elpidophoros for Folk Dance and Choral Festival – February 18, 2023](https://www.archons.org/-/2023fdf-sanfrancisco)
<https://www.archons.org/-/2023fdf-sanfrancisco>

In what has become an annual tradition, on Saturday, February 18, 2023, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco welcomed with great joy His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America to Phoenix, Arizona for the 46th Annual Folk Dance and Choral Festival.

Archon Regional Commander Hon. Steven Counelis (Southern California & Arizona), who served as Master of Ceremonies, thanked the Archons for their

generosity in support of the evening's celebration, and discussed the ever-expanding initiatives of the Order.

At the conclusion of dinner, Regional Commander Isidoros Garifalakis (Pacific Northwest) presented to the Archbishop a donation of \$15,000 from the Archons within the Metropolis of San Francisco. Archbishop Elpidophoros expressed his profound appreciation and committed to providing those funds to the Ecumenical Patriarchate to support a summer camp program for Christian youth in Turkey.

Metropolis Wide Coordination:

On January 25, 2023 and February 8, 2023, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos called meetings with the four Regional Commanders within our Metropolis. We gathered for two basic purposes. First, to plan and prepare for the visit and traditional Archon Dinner to welcome His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros to the annual Folk Dance Festival, to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, February 16-20, 2023. The second purpose was to develop programming in support of the Order's mission.

Memory Eternal:

The following Southern California Archons fell asleep in the Lord in since October 2022:

Nicholas Royce
Emil Skocypec
Dr. Nicholas Vidalakis

RC Counelis represented the Archons at the Trisagion [12/13/22] and the [40 Day Memorial \[1/15/23\] of Archon Dr. Nicholas Vidalakis and presented the Archon Memorial Cross to his wife Nancy and their family, viewable on YouTube.](#)

ARCHON CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Archon Dr. George & Mrs. Bettina Kallins
Conference Hotel

Archon Dr. James & Mrs. Virginia Kallins
Conference Hotel

Archon George & Mrs. Georgene Mitsanas
Dinner Cruise

Archon Theodore & Mrs. Jeri Konopisos
Dinner at The Pacific Club

Archon Hon. Steven & Mrs. Stacia Counelis
Dinner at The Pacific Club

ARCHON CONFERENCE DONORS

Constantine Boukidis | John Buzas
George Demos | Andrew Eliopulos
Isidoros Garifalakis | Gig Kyriacou
John Patzakis | Dr. Michael Patzakis
Gerry Ranglas | Stephen Tibbs
Dr. Stephen Yallourakis | James Zaferis

**Donors as of August 29, 2023*

HOST COMMITTEE

Regional Commander **Theodore Konopisos**
Regional Commander **Hon. Steven Counelis**

Archon **Dr. George Kallins**

Archon **George Mitsanas**

Archon **Steve Tibbs**

Kristen Bruskas, *Metropolis Director
of Development and Communications*

Commercial Real Estate and operate a chain retail grocery stores. Archon Manos is the recipient of the prestigious "Ellis Island Medal of Honor" (2015), which has been acknowledged and placed in the United States Congressional Record. The Archbishop of Crete recognized him for his contributions to the People of the Island in 2013. In 2010, the UHVA inducted Archon Manos into the "Greek-American Hall of Fame". Just two years prior, the UHVA awarded him "Businessman of the Year" award. The former Mayor of Chicago, Richard M. Daley and the City Council recognized John in 2007 with a Resolution with an Outstanding Citizen Award. He is a long-standing member of AHEPA and Former National President of the Pancretan Association of America and is Trustee and treasurer of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.

Archon Manos and his wife Elena, were married in 1986 and have 3 children and four grandchildren.



Gus M. Pablecas, (baptized as Kosmas), a Steward of St. Nectarios in Palatine, IL, the Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago and Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale, AZ, was invested as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on Sunday, October 22, 2006, with the Offikion *Ostiarios*.

He currently serves as the Archon National Secretary as well as Regional Commander for the Metropolis of Chicago. He has served as the First Vice President for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Council and has served the Church in a variety of positions for 37 years, such as: Archdiocesan Council member; six terms as Parish Council President; local First Vice President; Chairman of Finance, Ways and Means, Budget, Task Force, Ad Hoc, Clergy Laity and Real Estate Committees, along with other leadership responsibilities. He is a recipient of the Medal of St. Paul.

He served on the Planning, Acquisition and Development Committee and as an original Board Member of the St. Iakovos Retreat Center and currently serves on the Advisory Board of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation and is a member of the Hellenic Society of Constantinople.

He works closely in securing matching grants programs for the local Archons for the use in creating awareness of the religious freedom issues facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and is active in creating innovative programs to facilitate the Archons mission.

In his early career, he worked for the Department of Justice in various positions and had reached the rank of Special Agent for the FBI. He is a current Director for the Chicago Chapter of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. He has served as a member of the Chicago Crime Commission and is a current certified firearms instructor.

Archon Pablecas is the President and CEO of a privately held real estate acquisitions company. Happily married to Gail for 51 years, they have been blessed with two children and eight grandchildren.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARCHON CONFERENCE



Archons OF THE Ecumenical Patriarchate

*Protecting the Future of Faith*SM

September 8-10, 2023

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA



**METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO**

Schedule

Friday, September 8

The Pacific Club

4110 MacArthur Blvd • Newport Beach California

6:30 p.m. Reception

7:30 p.m. Dinner

Dinner in Honor of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos
and in Appreciation for our Guest Presenters

*Dinner generously hosted by Archon Regional Commanders
Theodore Konopisos and Hon. Steven Counelis*



Saturday, September 9

Hyatt Regency Newport Beach

1107 Jamboree Road • Newport Beach, California

*Archons requested to wear their Rosette lapel pin
and Archon pocket crest*

9:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet

10:00 a.m. **Welcome**

Archon Regional Commanders
Theodore Konopisos and Hon. Steven Counelis

Archpastoral Greeting

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

Featured Presentation

Archons Gus M. Pablecas and John G. Manos

Protecting the Future of Faith

Lunch

Featured Presentation

Archon Dr. George Demacopoulos

**President Erdogan, Patriarch Kirill, and the
Evolving Threats to the Ecumenical Patriarchate**

2:15 p.m. Closing Remarks and Presentations
*Hotel meeting accommodations and meals
generously hosted by Archon Dr. George Kallins*

2:30 p.m. Free Time

5:00 p.m. Depart Hyatt Regency for Dinner Cruise
Parking and Boarding:
2431 West Coast Highway • Newport Beach, California

5:30 p.m. Board the luxury yacht, “Mojo”

6:00 p.m. Dinner Cruise
*Dinner cruise generously hosted
by Archon George Mitsanas*

9:00 p.m. Return to Shore



Sunday, September 10

Saint Paul Greek Orthodox Church

4949 Alton Parkway • Irvine, California

*Archons requested to wear their Rosette lapel pin,
Archon pocket crest, and Archon Cross*

8:30 a.m. Orthros

9:30 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Archons to host fellowship coffee hour following Liturgy.

Farewell and thank you!



Speakers



Dr. George Demacopoulos received a *Master of Theological Studies*, with highest honors, at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in 1995 before enrolling at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he earned his Ph.D. in Religious Studies in 2002. Today, Dr. Demacopoulos is Fr. John Meyendorff & Patterson Family Chair of Orthodox Christian Studies at Fordham University.

Dr. Demacopoulos’ research and teaching interests are in the fields of Early Christian and Medieval Church History. He specializes in the relationship between Orthodox and Roman Catholics during the middle ages. He has published eleven books and dozens of scholarly articles that focus on a range of topics including monasticism, the papacy, the Crusades, and the construction of modern Orthodox identity.

Along with Aristotle Papanikolaou, Dr. Demacopoulos co-founded the *Orthodox Christian Studies Center* at Fordham University, which is the only research university-based center of Orthodox Studies in the United States. The Center offers an interdisciplinary minor in Orthodox Christian Studies and a host of research-related initiatives that are bringing the insights of the history, thought, and culture of Orthodox Christianity into a broader academic conversation.

In 2010, Dr. Demacopoulos was named an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, *Didaskalos tous Genous (Teacher of the Nation)*, and now serves on the National Council as the Historian for the Order of St. Andrew.



John G. Manos, of St. Demetrios in Elmhurst, Illinois, was invested as an Archon in 2013 and conferred with the Offikion *Eutaxias* by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Phanar. Archon Manos has served as an officer on the Parish Council, on the Metropolis Council and on several Metropolis committees and is a member of Leadership 100.

He currently serves on the Archon National Council and is Regional Commander for the Metropolis of Chicago. He is a Steward at St. Demetrios in Elmhurst, IL, as well as at Annunciation Cathedral and St. George in Chicago, Illinois.

A graduate from the University of Illinois with a BS in Architecture, Archon Manos is President of a publicly traded Financial Institution headquartered in the Chicago, Illinois area. He and his family develop

Continued on the back



Friday, September 8

Guests Arrive – check into hotel

***Hyatt Regency Newport Beach
1107 Jamboree Road
Newport Beach, CA 92660***

Pacific Club

**4110 MacArthur Blvd
Newport Beach CA 92660**

Archons requested to wear their Rosette lapel pin and Archon pocket crest.

6:30 p.m. Reception

7:30 p.m. Dinner

Friday evening dinner generously hosted by

Archon Regional Commanders Theodore Konopisos and Hon. Steven Counelis.

Saturday, September 9

Hyatt Regency Newport Beach

1107 Jamboree Road

Newport Beach, CA 92660

Archons requested to wear their Rosette lapel pin and Archon pocket crest.

9:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet

10:00 a.m. Welcome – Archon Regional Commanders

Theodore Konopisos and Hon. Steven Counelis

Archpastoral Greeting – His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos

Featured Presentation – Archons Gus Pablecas and John Manos

Lunch

Featured Presentation – Archon Dr. George Demacopoulos

2:15 p.m. Closing Remarks and Presentations

Hotel meeting accommodations and meals generously hosted by Archon Dr. George Kallins

2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free Time

Casual attire – light jacket or sweater recommended.



2023 REGIONAL COMMANDERS' REPORT

Submitted and Prepared by:

**Isidoros Garifalakis, *Archon Depoutatos*
Northwest Region – Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco**

It is my honor to submit this report on behalf of the Pacific Northwest Region of our Holy Archdiocese. Having been appointed as Regional Commander in the Fall of 2021, I am pleased to provide you with an update on the good works of our Archons, and their generosity in supporting the Archdiocese and Mother Church.

We were blessed with a visit by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America to Seattle to celebrate their Centennial in September 2022. The Archons in the Northwest hosted a luncheon to honor the historic visit of the Archbishop, and presented a donation of \$17,000 in his honor to the “Rev. Fr. A. Homer and Presvytera Artemis Demopulos Scholarship Fund” to support third and fourth-year students who are committed to being ordained after graduation from Holy Cross School of Theology. Father Homer was the longest serving proistamenos of this community and greatly impacted the spiritual development of its faithful.



In February 2023, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America visited our Metropolis for the annual Folk Dance and Choral Festival held in Phoenix, Arizona. Archons from throughout our Metropolis were present, and I was honored, in my dual capacity as senior Archon and Vice President of the

Metropolis Council, to present the Archbishop with a donation of \$10,000 from the Archons in support of his Archpastoral ministry.



The Seattle Archons presented an interesting and informative lecture on Sunday, March 5 featuring special guest Archon Dr. Tom Papademetriou, the Constantine & Georgiean Georgiou Professor of Greek History and Director of the Dean and Zoe Pappas Center for Hellenic Studies at Stockton College in Galloway, New Jersey.

This event was held at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Seattle after Liturgy and was titled “The Ecumenical Patriarchate and The Great Catastrophe of 1922: History and Legacy”, Professor Papademetriou, who is also the President of the Modern Greek Studies Association, offered an extensive look at events in the early 20th Century involving Greece and the Ottoman Empire, with special emphasis on impacts to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The Portland Archons welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America to his first Archpastoral visit to the area. Following Great Vespers on Saturday, June 24, the Archons presented His Eminence with a \$10,000 donation which was directed to the Benevolence Fund to “help our fellow brothers and sisters in their hour of need and provide assistance to our clergy whenever necessary.” On Sunday, June 25, His Eminence visited the parish of Saint John the Baptist in Beaverton, Oregon where the Archons once again welcomed him and joined in worship and fellowship.



On October 28, 2023, the Metropolis of San Francisco will hold our Gala at which we will Celebrate our Ministries, Honor the Extraordinary Leadership of the Hierarchs Who Have Served the Metropolis Over the Past Century, and present His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos with the Theofanis Economidis Award. This award was inaugurated in 2013 at our first Gala in honor of Archon Theofanis Economidis who served as Regional Commander and on the National Council for

many years. We know that many Archons will be in attendance to support this event to benefit the ministries of our Metropolis.



I am honored to have been appointed as a Co-chair of the 2024 Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress along with my wife, Maria, and our good friends, Archon Gerry and Jeannie Ranglas. We look forward to welcoming our Archons to San Diego and the Metropolis of San Francisco is preparing exceptional hospitality for our Archdiocese.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate with my fellow Regional Commanders in the Metropolis of San Francisco and supporting the overall efforts of the Archons as we Protect the Future of Faith.



Archons
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2023 REGIONAL COMMANDERS' REPORT

2023 METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO **REGIONAL COMMANDERS' REPORT**

Submitted & Prepared by:

Gus M. Pablecas, *Archon Ostiarios*, National Secretary

John G. Manos, *Archon Eutaxias*

Regional Commanders

The following report reflects the Metropolis of Chicago Archon activities from September 1, 2022 to September 1, 2023. Activities are as follows:

- 1) From October 7-9, 2022, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate hosted its annual Archon Weekend in New York. On Sunday, October 9, at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, the Archon Class of 2022 was invested and presented with their offikia and Cross of Saint Andrew. During the event, four new Archons from the Metropolis of Chicago were invested: John H. Gountanis, Esq., Archon *Dikaiophylax*; James G. Lakerdas, Esq., Archon *Asingritis*; Yanni H. Sianis, Archon *Skevophylax*; and Thomas

P. Williams, DDS, MD, FACS, Archon *Orphanotrophos*.

- 2) On Tuesday, November 29, 2022, 15 Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate gathered at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago to celebrate their Patron Saint's Vespers Service. Commencing the Service, His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago continued the annual tradition of leading the procession of clergy and Archons down the center aisle of the church. Also joining the Vespers Service was Metropolis of Chicago Chancellor His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion. Recently invested Archon Dr. Thomas P. Williams, DDS, MD, FACS, from Dubuque, Iowa, addressed the congregation at the conclusion of the service on "what it means to be an Archon." After closing remarks by His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael, the parish of St Andrew hosted a gracious reception.
- 3) On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Metropolis of Chicago held their Holiday Meet & Greet for the first time at the National Hellenic Museum. Esteemed guests included His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion, the Chancellor of the Metropolis of Chicago, Archon George Cantonis of Hellenic College Holy Cross, the Chicago-area Archons and their spouses. During the event, Archon National Secretary/ Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas and Regional Commander John G. Manos updated those present on the Archon-related initiatives taking place at the Metropolis and national levels. In addition, they introduced three of the new Archons who were present at the event: James Lakerdas, Yanni Sianis and Dr. Thomas Williams, who also briefly addressed the guests. Ultimately, the Archons hope to establish a relationship with the National Hellenic Museum with a national Archon exhibit.
- 4) On Sunday, January 15, 2023, Archon National Secretary and Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas, Regional Commander John G. Manos, and Archons Robert Buhler, Hon. Jeffery Chrones and James Lakerdas, Esq., participated in the Metropolis of Chicago's Annual Cutting of the Vasilopita, which was held at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hilles, Illinois.

- 5) Members of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chicago participated in the YAL Conference, held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago from February 17-19, 2023. During a lunchtime session, with the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago who was in attendance, Pilgrimage of Discovery Co-Chairs Archon Hon. Jeffery Chrones and Hellena Chrones informed the YAL of one of the latest National Archon pilot program endeavors, the Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD), a pilgrimage to Constantinople for young adults ages 23-28 years old. Archon National Secretary and Archon Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas and Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos also gave a presentation on "What is an Archon." During the weekend, Archon Dr. John Fotopoulos also led a YAL workshop titled, "Living Scripture and Our Path to Wellness." The Archons also established an Archon vendor table where YAL participants could ask questions, obtain publications and learn more about the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate throughout the three-day weekend.
- 6) On Friday, March 24, 2023, members of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chicago attended Hierarchical Great Vespers at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago in honor of the Feast Day of the Metropolis' Cathedral. Those present included Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos, Archon National Secretary and Archon Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas, Archon Arthur Balourdos, Archon John Balourdos and Archon James Lakerdas.
- 7) On Sunday, March 26, 2023, members of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate walked in the Chicago Greek Heritage Parade. Prior to the parade, the Archons gathered at the National Hellenic Museum for a pre-parade event hosted by Enosis, the federation of Hellenic American Organizations of Illinois. Archon and U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic George J. Tsunis served as the grand marshal of the parade. The following Archons also participated: AHEPA Supreme President and Archon Demetrios Kokotas, Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos, National Secretary and Archon Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas, and Archons Dr. George Bovis, Robert Buhler, Hon. Jeffery

Chrones, John Gountanis, John Hilaris, John Koudounis, Hon. Paul Lillios, Theodore Sepsis, Yanni Sianis, and Kosta Zografopoulos.

- 8) From March 31-April 1, 2023, the Regional Commanders and a number of Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago participated virtually in the John Halecky, Jr. 19th Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat.

- 9) The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Metropolis of Chicago held their 8th Annual Archon Business Meeting at the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville, Wisconsin, on Saturday, April 22, 2023. Honored guests, His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago and His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion, Chancellor of Chicago, joined 22 Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago for this year's meeting.

During the event, National Secretary and Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas and Regional Commander John G. Manos recognized the recently invested 2022 Archons from the Metropolis of Chicago: John H. Gountanis, Esq., *Dikaiophylax*, James G. Lakerdas, Esq., *Asingritis*, Yanni H. Sianis, *Skevophylax*, and Thomas P. Williams, DDS, MD, FACS, *Orphanotrophos*. They also recognized the Archons recently named to the Archon National Committees, John Gumas, *Hartophylax*, of San Francisco, and John S. Koudounis, *Eftaxias* of Chicago. In addition, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Investment Committee Members John S. Koudounis, *Eftaxias*, Robert A. Buhler, *Referendarios*, and William Spell, *Laosynaktis*, were recognized. In addition, the results from the 2023 National Council election were announced: Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, *Ekdikos*, as Vice Commander, Peter J. Skeadas, *Hieromnimon*, as Treasurer, Gus M. Pablecas, *Ostiaris*, as National Secretary. All three were re-elected to these positions.

They also remembered the Archons from the Metropolis of Chicago who have Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Archon Steve A. Manta, *Laosynaktis*; Archon Arthur Labros, *Nomophylax*; and Archon George Gritsonis, *Ekdikos*.

A large portion of the meeting highlighted Archon activities on the national and local level aimed at raising awareness of the issues facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate, noting that in the last six months alone approximately 25 events were held across the United States. Upcoming initiatives including the 4th Archon International Religious Freedom

conference to be held in Athens, Greece in May 2024, and this summer's Pilgrimage of Discovery, were also discussed. The Pilgrimage of Discovery is a national pilot program for young adults to travel to Constantinople to meet His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and to visit sites relevant to our Orthodox faith.

The Archons also shared thoughts and ideas on how to continue the Archons' mission and Archon involvement locally and nationally, reviewed upcoming local and national Archon-related events, discussed Christian persecution throughout the world, and reviewed financials associated with the matching grant the Archons established with the Renaissance Fund and their Archon Local Initiative fund to help further their mission at the local level.

The meeting culminated with a lecture by His Grace Bishop Timothy of Chicago. His presentation explored the role of the Archons in promoting religious freedom worldwide.

- 10) On Sunday, May 21, 2023, Archon Pericles (Perry) C. Siatis, Esq., gave a Religious Freedom presentation to both youth and youth advisors at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Libertyville, Illinois. Archons National Secretary and Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas and Regional Commander John G. Manos from the Metropolis of Chicago assisted Archon Siatis during the presentation, which focused on the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the five key issues impacting the Ecumenical Patriarchate today, and helped answer participant questions. Archon Siatis is a vice chair of the Youth Participation Activities Committee (<https://members.archons.org/engagement/>), which was established by the Order of Saint Andrew to connect with youth committees and organizations throughout the United States.
- 11) On July 7, 2023 Metropolitan Nathanael from the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago invited the Archons to attend a dinner and meeting with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, held at the Monaco Ballroom in Skokie, Illinois. The following Archons including, not limited to attended the event: National Secretary and Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas, Regional Commander John G. Manos, Dimitri Bousis, Dr. George Bovis, Haralambos Bozonelos, Robert Buhler, John Calamos, Fred Chapekis, Esq., Hon. Jeffery Chrones, John Fotopoulos, Ph.D., John Galanis, Alex Gianaras, John Gountanis, John Koudounis, James Lakerdas, Esq., Hon. Paul Lillios, Esq., Demetrios Logothetis, John Mangouras, John Marks, Peter

Parthenis, Yanni Sianis, Theodore Sepsis, Wesley Stinich, BJ Vranas, and Dr. Thomas Williams, D.D.S.

- 12) On Sunday, July 9, 2023, Archons attended Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago.
- 13) The Pilgrimage of Discovery, a seven-day, religious and cultural trip to Constantinople for young adults, took place from July 31, 2023 to August 7, 2023. Funded by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, this inaugural POD was a national pilot program conducted through the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Metropolis of Chicago. The mission of the POD was to reconnect Greek Orthodox Young Adults from the Metropolis of Chicago with their religious and cultural roots. Five young adults from the Metropolis of Chicago participated: Cally Kobza from the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin; Deanna Kolas from St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Christen Massouras, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago; Dr. Demetrios Maroutsos, All Saints Greek Orthodox Church in Peoria, Illinois; and George Valcarel, St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago. The goal of the POD is to bolster the future of the Orthodox Church by educating Archon leaders through this inspired connection to the Mother Church. The selection committee for the POD was headed by Archon Dr. John Fotopoulos and comprised of Professor Elizabeth Prodromou and Archons from other Metropolises. The POD pilot Program was headed by Engagement Committee, National Youth Participation Activities Committee, Chaired by Archon Regional Commander Nick Tranto (Pittsburgh), under the direction of the POD sub-committee co-chair Archon Hon. Jeffery Chrones (Chicago), conducted this year's pilot program. Archons who helped with this inaugural event include: Archon Perry Siatis, Esq., Archon Hon. Jeffery Chrones, National Secretary and Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas, Regional Commander John G. Manos, Archon Hon. Steven J. Counelis, Archon Prof. John Fotopoulos, and Regional Commander Nick Terezis, along with Hellena Chrones (President Hellenic Society of Constantinople), Joan S. Berg, Esq., and Tina Manikas.
- 14) The successful Archon National pilot program, Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD), took place July 31 through August 7, 2023. As part of the trip to

Constantinople, the young adults had the extraordinary opportunity to privately meet with His All-Holiness for one-and-a-half hours to engage in dialog, and answer questions from the young adults. The pilgrimage included travel to sacred sites, including Hagia Sophia and several other parishes, one being with His All-Holiness on the Prince Island. It was an emotional and life-changing experience for the young adults, which can be viewed on the Archon website: <https://www.archons.org/-/pod-bartholomew>.

- 15) Throughout the year the Regional Commanders emailed news and information about local and national Archon-related events and activities, including participation in the Sunday of Orthodoxy, St. Andrew Day Vespers, and the National Archon Lenten Retreat.
- 16) The following Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago fell asleep in the Lord: Archon Steve A. Manta, *Laosynaktis* on January 4, 2023; Archon Arthur Labros, *Nomophylax*, on January 9, 2023; Archon George Gritsonis, *Ekdikos*, January 19, 2023; and Archon John Pappajohn, *Laosynaktis*, April 22, 2023.



2023 REGIONAL COMMANDER'S REPORT

Metropolis of New Jersey

Submitted and Prepared by

Cary J. Limberakis, DMD, Archon *Aktouarios*

Regional Commander

As the Philadelphia Regional Commander of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, I humbly report on the efforts and activities of our District.

The 7th Archon Symposium of the Greater Philadelphia region took place on November 19, 2022, at the St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church in Cherry Hill, NJ. In the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia, six Greater Philadelphia priests and deacons, the Consul of the Hellenic Republic, Dimitris Papageorgiou, and over one hundred attendees, the Archons of Greater Philadelphia hosted their Symposium for the first time in New Jersey. The Symposium focused on the Ecumenical Patriarchate under Ottoman rule and the events leading up to, as well as the ramifications following, the Great Catastrophe of Smyrna in 1922. The two segments of the morning's program were entitled: *The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople Under the Ottomans*, and *The Ecumenical Patriarchate and The Great Catastrophe of 1922: History and Legacy*. The Symposium was live-streamed and video-recorded for future reference.

The featured speaker was a noteworthy scholar and authority of the Ottoman period, Anastasios "Tom" Papademetriou, PhD, Professor of Historical Studies at Stockton University in New Jersey. Dr. Papademetriou, Archon *Didaskalos tou*

Genous, was joined by 20 of his brother Greater Philadelphia Archons in the audience. The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, of the Greater Philadelphia area underwrote the program.

Prior to the program beginning, *Cosmos Philly*, a Philadelphia social media platform recorded Archon George Horiates interviewing Symposium Moderator Archon Dr. Cary J. Limberakis, Regional Commander of Philadelphia and National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Consul Papageorgiou and Chancellor Very Reverend Chistoforos Oikonomidis.

Following the invocation, Archon Cary Limberakis began his welcoming remarks by explaining the nature and mission of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, noting that “as *defenders of the faith*, the Order of St. Andrew’s special concern is to protect the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and to that end, it has developed a multifaceted, global strategy to address the religious freedom deficit in Turkey which has pervaded that country since its inception following World War I.

The Symposium was steeped in the history of the Mother Church and its *martyria* and *diakonia*. In his opening remarks, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros said: “Our Mother Church has always possessed the patience and faith to continue its spiritual mission under any circumstances. The period under Ottoman rule was difficult and at times very turbulent, but the Ecumenical Patriarchate found its path to service for the entirety of the Church.... We should never discount the *Magnalia Dei* – the wondrous acts of God that accompany the Church on Her earthly sojourn. Even the greatest defeats can open doors unforeseen and unexpected. The difference is a matter of faith.”

Echoing His Eminence’s reminder of our Church’s resilience and power to endure, Dr. Papademetriou presented a litany of fateful events during the 400-year period of Ottoman rule that the Ecumenical Patriarchate not only survived but utilized as opportunities to carry out its sacred mission and expand it even further. Timelines, photographs and actual accounts brought clarity and realism to each lecture. Dr. Papademetriou’s presentations filled the gap in historical knowledge of all too many Greek Orthodox faithful and reminded them of all-important truths that they are duty-bound to convey to future generations.

At the conclusion of the four-hour program, the National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, spoke to the audience about the necessity to support the vitality of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

and its ability to continue to carry out its sacred mission by contributing to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.

Following the Symposium, the Archons of St. Thomas hosted a Lenten luncheon for the Hierarchs and Clergy.

All told, 19 Archons donated a total of \$10,750 to underwrite the expenses of the program, with special thanks going to the six Archons of the host parish and an anonymous donor who went above and beyond to make Symposium the resounding success that it was. Fifty Archon baseball caps and fifty Archon coffee mugs were distributed to the attendees as gifts. The recently received Archon background banner and welcome banner were both strategically displayed. Special thanks to the St. Irene Philoptochos Chapter of St. Thomas who set up the hall for the event. The entire presentation was video recorded and will be available, within a week or so following editing, so that it may be linked from the Archon website.

EXPENSES:

Baseball Hats \$16.50 + .63 setup + .54 shipping = \$17.67 x 50 hats =	\$883.58
Coffee Mugs \$5.25 + .50 setup + .90 shipping = \$6.65 x 50 mugs =	\$332.50
Videography/Photography – Cosmos Philly	\$1,300.00
Breakfast – Westmont Catering	\$641.88
Luncheon – Adelphia Restaurant	<u>\$2,240.00</u>
Grand Total Expenses	\$5,397.96

INCOME:

Donations from Archons	\$10,750
Donations from attendees	<u>50</u>
Total Income	\$10,800

Net Surplus over Expense	\$5,402.04
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***** With great appreciation to the ladies of the Philoptochos and in consultation with the National Commander, it was agreed that a **donation of \$1,000** be made to the St. Irene Philoptochos Chapter of the St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church.

FINAL NET SUPLUS OVER EXPENSE	\$4,402.04
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The Regional Commander communicated with the Archons of the Philadelphia region regarding attendance to the following functions:

1) Metropolis of New Jersey cutting of the 2023 Vasilopita, celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros on February 9th at the Metropolis headquarters in Westfield, NJ.

2) St. Anthimos vespers service held at St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall, PA concelebrated by His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia on February 11th.

3) Hierarchical Divine Liturgy held at St. Sophia, Saints Faith, Hope & Agape in Jeffersonville, PA concelebrated by His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia on February 12th.

4) Archon Lenten Retreat on "*Women in Orthodoxy*" held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, NJ convened by the Archons of the northern New Jersey region on March 11th.

5) "*Religious Freedom for our Mother Church*" presentation by National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis at the Church of the Annunciation in Elkins Park, PA, hosted by the Nausica Chapter of Philoptochos on March 12th.

6) Several Archons of the Philadelphia region attended the Annual Archon Lenten Retreat at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary in Southampton, NY during the weekend of March 31st-April 1st with guest lecturer, Fr. Nicholas Louh, who spoke on "His Pain, For Our Purpose"

7) Archons of the Philadelphia region marched in the Greek Independence Day Parade in Philadelphia on April 2nd with Archon, His Excellency, George Tsunis, Ambassador of the United States to Greece honored as the Grand Marshall.

8) Archons of the Philadelphia region greeted and welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros at the Bridegroom Services on Holy Monday of Holy Week at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Media, PA. In addition, they were present to welcome His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Trenton, NJ for the Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels on Holy and Great Thursday evening, at the Church of the Annunciation in Elkins Park, PA for the Service of the Apokatheilosis on Good Friday afternoon, at St. Thomas in Cherry Hill, NJ for the Orthros of Holy Saturday on Friday evening, and at St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church on Holy and Great Saturday morning for the Vespertine Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

We are saddened to report the passing of Emmanuel Leventelis, Archon *Depoutatos* since 1983 of Broomall, PA and a highly respected leader at the Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Upper Darby, PA. Eternal be his memory. The Regional Commander presented the Archon cross to his surviving family.

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Philadelphia region are pleased to welcome to their ranks the following newly invested Archons: Thomas Cox, Apostolos Fisfis, Craig Gadshall, Antonis Mistras, George Pappas and John Vasiliou. AXIOI!

Regional Commander Dr. Cary Limberakis represented his District this passed year at the National Council and Quarterly Regional Commanders virtual meetings, and also attended the Metropolis of New Jersey Local Assembly. On September 16th, he and many other Archons of the Philadelphia region were present to witness the Enthronement of Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey as well as attend his first hierarchical Divine Liturgy as Metropolitan of New Jersey the following day. AXIOS!

Respectfully submitted,

Cary J. Limberakis, DMD
Archon Aktouarios
Regional Commander, Philadelphia



2023 REGIONAL COMMANDERS' REPORT

Submitted by:

George A. Tsougarakis, Archon Dikaiophylax, Regional Commander of the Northern New Jersey Region.

Prepared by:

George A. Tsougarakis, Archon Dikaiophylax

The Archons for the northern portion of the Garden State had an amazing year for 2023. Since our last report we have had three events as set forth below. Our newest Archon are an unbelievable addition to the brotherhood and we continue to enjoy the support of our more seasoned brothers.

Vespers for St. Andrew

With more than 20 brothers in attendance, we celebrated the vespers for the feast of Saint Andrew with His Grace Bishop Apostolos at the parish of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph New Jersey.

The Role of Women in Orthodoxy

With the blessing of Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia, more than 100 gathered at the NJ Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Lenten Retreat on Women in Orthodoxy. The talented panel of speakers, including Patricia Bouteneff, George Demacopoulos, Kassandra Ibrahim, Anita Kartalopoulos and Kyra Limberakis, discussed the historical roles played by women in our faith while outlining the important roles assumed by women in today's church. One notable aspect is that young adults comprised about half the audience. We requested our archons to bring their children and grandchildren and invited the NJ YAL which allowed for a multigenerational exploration of our faith. As we strive to make the Archon's mission relevant to our young people, perhaps this is an aspect that can be introduced at other archon events going forward. Thank you to Archon Tony

Papamarkos of the Graycliff and dearly departed Archon George Makris of Fantis Foods Inc. and our friends at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, especially Archons Theodore Bozonelis and Peter Tarhanidis.

A Short History of Anger—The Catastrophe of Smyrna

On September 21, 2023, the district in conjunction with District 1 in New York, put on a performance of a Short History of Anger, created by Joy Manesiotis, an author and Edith R. White Distinguished Professor Emerita in Creative Writing, University of Redlands, California. The work, a book-length poetic hybrid manuscript and a live performance, takes as its source material the Destruction of Smyrna, the genocide of Smyrna's Greek Ottoman citizens in 1922, and the resulting population exchange. The piece attempts to excavate the legacy of genocide and displacement stemming from the Destruction. Professor Manesiotis herself lost relatives in the Smyrna tragedy, adding a personal element to the production.

By all accounts, the performance was extremely compelling and moving. We had local members of the community and chanters play the roles of the characters, each of whom tell their personal stories about the tragedy. This was a novel and interesting way of communicating the important message of religious freedom.



Archons
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2023 ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

2023 REGIONAL COMMANDERS' REPORT

Submitted by:

Theodore P. Vlahos MD, Archon Aktouarios

The Archons of North and Central Florida have remained active and committed to the mission of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, namely to support and defend the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople and by extension, Orthodox Christianity throughout the world.

In late November and early December 2022 several Archons from this region participated in the Historic Pilgrimage to Constantinople and the Holy Lands with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros. We were blessed with our ability to personally interact with, learn from, and worship with His Eminence, as well as His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Beatitude Theodoros, Patriarch of Jerusalem. We made lifelong friends with many other Archons and families from throughout the country. All would agree that it was the trip of a lifetime, renewing and strengthening our commitment to Christ and His Holy Church.

On January 6, 2023 Archons of Tampa Bay attended the annual Epiphany celebration and cross dive in Tarpon Springs, with the participation of many Archons from throughout the nation. In the evening, we were treated to a lovely dinner with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros at the beautiful home of Sevi and Archon Markos Lagos.

On February 23rd, in cooperation with Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and the PanHellenic Federation we sponsored a presentation by Archon Nick Larigakis of the American Hellenic Institute, entitled “Greece, Cyprus and Turkey at a Crossroads: The Importance of U.S Policy in the Eastern Mediterranean”. Both Archon Larigakis and Archon Regional Commander Ted Vlahos explained the ramifications of current conflicts as well as the effect of the Treaty of Lausanne on the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

At the end of June, a Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy Laity Conference took place in Tarpon Springs and included a metropolis wide Archon Breakfast and meeting sponsored by local Archons.

As always, the Archons of the region faithfully represent the Order of St. Andrew and the Ecumenical Patriarchate at major liturgical processions during the Feast of St. Andrew, the Sunday of Orthodoxy and Holy Friday Epitaphios litania.

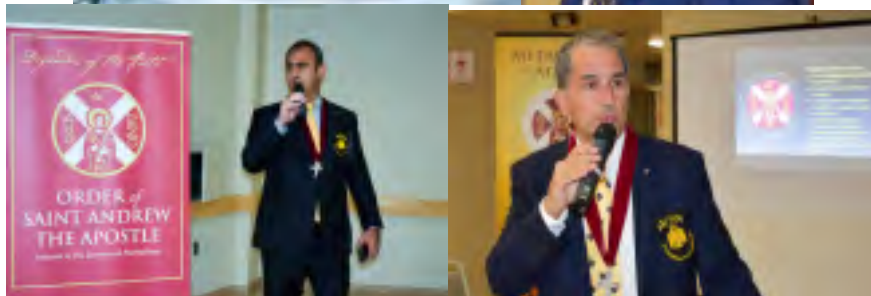
Area Archons are also leaders in various Archon Engagement Committees and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Endowment Fund.



2023 REGIONAL COMMANDERS' REPORT FLORIDA DISTRICT 11B

**Prepared and Submitted by: John C. Scurtis, Regional Commander
Archon Hartoularios**

On **November 29, 2022** the South Florida Archons made a presentation at Saint Andrew parish Miami-Kendall following Vesper services. His Grace Bishop Sevastianos presided, assisted by Father Aristides Arizi, Saint Andrew, Father Spiro Bobotos, (Vicar) Saint Sophia Cathedral Miami, and many other Spiritual Fathers from neighboring parishes. Ten Archons and their wives traveled from as far as Juno Beach, Naples and Boca Raton to be in attendance. Newly Invested South Florida Archons Alexandros Haralambides and R. Benjamin Powell made the presentation on the plight of the Patriarchate.



On Sunday, **March 5, 2023** South Florida Archons gathered together to celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Archons in the communities of Saint Mark, Boca Raton, and Saint Katherine, Naples participated.



On **March 16-18, 2023** Archbishop Elpidophoros made a Pastoral Visit to Saint Mark GOC whereby His Eminence discussed the vision for our Orthodox Church in America with the Archons of South Florida. The Archons and their wives attended Vespers followed by a Lenten dinner. A beautiful evening of fellowship for an Archon meeting in support of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros.



In Christ

John C Scurtis

Archon Hartoularios

Regional Commander South Florida



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2023 ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Academia Symposia Committee

Submitted by:

(George P. Zimmar, Archon Prostatos Ton Grammaton)

Prepared by:

(George P. Zimmar, Archon Prostatos Ton Grammaton)

ASC members have engaged with the Academia Symposia Committee in various ways, including sponsoring a webinar or symposium, suggesting topics for review, suggesting speakers for webinars, publicizing webinars to family and friends, analyzing webinar attendance, providing funds for flyers or speakers' honoraria.

Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 2 P.M. EST under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the Academia Symposium Committee will present a webinar panel discussion entitled, **“30 Year Christian Genocide in the Late Ottoman Period, 1894 - 1924”**.

Louis Katsos will moderate the panel discussion and the panelists will include Author/Painter/Journalist, **Thea Halo**, (Pontic and Assyrian author of, *Not Even My Name*). **Ismini Lamb** is the Director of the Modern Greek Studies Program at Georgetown University where she has taught Greek language, history, and culture for more than 30 years. (co-author with Christopher Lamb, *The Gentle America: George Horton's Odyssey and His True Account of the Smyrna Catastrophe*). Historian, **Constantine Hatzidimitriou**, Adjunct Assistant Professor at St. Johns' University and City University of New York (*American Accounts Documenting the Destruction of Smyrna 1922*). **Lou Ureneck**, Professor of Journalism (retired) at Boston University (*The Great Fire: One American's Mission to Rescue the Victims of the 20th Century's First Genocide*). Constantine/**Gus Tsilfides**, the President of the Pan- Pontian Federation USA & Canada will offer commentary. The panel discussion will cover the Christian genocide (Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek Orthodox) during the period (1894-1924) but specifically the persecution of Greek inhabitants of Smyrna leading to the burning

of Smyrna and the exchange of Greek and Turkish populations in 1923, under the Treaty of Lausanne

The Legal Status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Under the 1923 Treaty

Lausann, aired on Friday June 9th at 1:00 pm ET to 218 subscribers (less 9 duplicates) to an audience of 136 viewers (82 no shows). The viewers represented several regions of the United States with viewers from 23 states, with CA, FL, and NY having plus 15 viewers and DC, IL, MD, NJ, PA, and VA with plus 10 viewers; MA, NC, and TX; with plus 5 viewers. Foreign viewers from Greece, United Kingdom, and Australia came to 23. Overall, we received positive comments to the webinar and no negative comments.

Religious Freedom, Self-Defense, and the Orthodox Communities in Ukraine.

This webinar was held on March 25, the Feast Day of the Annunciation of the Theotokos and the day of Greek Independence and Religious Freedom, at 4PM EST. Archon Emanuel Velivasakis sponsored the event with the Orthodox Christian Study Center of Fordham University. Archon George Demacopoulos was moderator. The audience for the webinar came to approximately, 400 viewers.

A request was sent to the ASC membership for suggestions on symposia and webinars for 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

George P. Zimmar
Chair

Stamatios Kartalopoulos
Vice Chair



Communications Committee (including Social Media)
Archon Rocky Sisson, Chair; Theodore H. Vagelos

Engagement Committee

Report prepared and submitted by Archon: **James Speros**

Report as follows:

Communications Committee Members

Rocky Sisson (Chair), Elizabeth Limberakis, John Mindala, James Speros, Theodore Vagelos

Our Mission

To serve as a strategic advisor to the National Council and Executive Committee and driver of multichannel communications and marketing initiatives that advance the purpose of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP). Additionally, the Communications Committee is responsible for managing the graphic identity of the AEP to ensure our brand is applied consistently and in accordance with the organization's graphic identity guidelines for use.

2023 Highlights

During the year, we have devoted considerable energies to the organization's rebranding efforts working with GUMAS Advertising whose CEO, Archon John Gumas, graciously volunteered his agency's services to the AEP pro bono. As part of the process, we undertook an extensive review of how we were communicating and positioning ourselves to our constituents and concluded we had been inconsistent and confusing by using both "The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle" and our more colloquial name, "the Archons," as we are more commonly known. As such, we rebranded the organizations as, "Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate" and introduced a new logo that appropriately places emphasis and focus on the Ecumenical Patriarchate while retaining the connection to Saint Andrew the Apostle graphically.

In addition, we also introduced a new and dynamic tagline along with the new logo - “Protecting the Future of Faith” - to elevate our purpose as an organization and to reaffirm the work of the Archons. The new tagline presents the AEP as positive, hopeful, forward-leaning and committed to ensuring religious freedom for everyone today and for the future. With a new logo and tagline, it also became critically important that we develop a clear and compelling way to talk about ourselves in a consistent fashion when describing who we are and what we do. This resulted in the creation of the following “Elevator Pitch” we provided to all Archons to use whenever communicating about the organization: *“The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is a group of passionate leaders, relentlessly focused on protecting religious freedom for everyone and ensuring the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate - the historical spiritual center of the world’s 300+ million Orthodox Christians.”*

In order to provide a tool designed to educate our parishioners and other audiences, we created a multimedia presentation covering: what an Archon is; the history of the church; the Ecumenical Patriarchate; religious persecution faced by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew; five key issues the AEP is working to address and what we’ve accomplished. The presentation is housed on the Archons.org/resources and is accessible to all Archons who would like to give a presentation.

The balance of 2023 has been focused on instituting significant technology changes that will enhance our websites and allow for greater use of social media to increase the number of followers and supporters of our activities. We believe the changes and activities we have undertaken during the year will help to significantly amplify our external profile and generate support for the mission of the AEP.

Dear Friend of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

As many of you know, with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Archon John Gumas has generously volunteered his advertising agency's services on a pro bono basis to more effectively communicate who we are and what our purpose is as an organization. As part of this extensive and well-researched effort, we recognized that we have been using two identities to convey who we are - "Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle" and "The Archons." As a best practice and consistent with what virtually all companies and organizations do, the National Council, Executive Committee and the Communications Team working with GUMAS decided to focus on a singular name for our organization - Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. With this shift, we will also be introducing a new logo that you can see below:



The new logo treatment appropriately places the emphasis and focus on the Ecumenical Patriarchate while visually updating and retaining the connection to Saint Andrew the Apostle.

A second element of the work we are introducing along with the new logo is an exciting and dynamic tagline that is both positive and forward leaning. Instead of our current tagline we've been using - Defenders of the Faith - our new tagline, used in conjunction with our logo is:

Protecting the Future of Faith

We believe this elevates our purpose as an organization and is much more positive and reaffirming of the work the Archons are doing.

Third, we have also clarified how we want to talk about our organization in a more compelling, positive and consistent way when asked what we do. We call this our "elevator pitch." Below is what we ask ALL Archons to utilize when speaking about our organization or when giving a formal presentation:

Elevator Pitch

The **Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate** is a group of passionate leaders, relentlessly focused on protecting religious freedom for everyone and ensuring the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate - the historical spiritual center of the world's 300+ million Orthodox Christians.

As we begin introducing these elements across all of our communication materials, websites, events, social media channels, etc., we will evolve our content over time to be much more externally facing as opposed to content that is largely relevant to the Archon community alone. This is a major shift and will require that we think much more critically about demonstrating HOW we are *Protecting the Future of Faith* with tangible examples of work that is externally oriented to keep our websites and channels engaging and interesting for those who want to learn more about our efforts in protecting religious freedom. At the same time, we acknowledge that there is still much work to do in educating our own community about the Ecumenical Patriarchate, what an Archon is, the work we do and why it's critically important. This work along with the outstanding initiatives produced by our Archon Engagement Committees must continue as we pivot to being more externally focused with our content.

Over the weeks and months ahead, you will begin to see these changes implemented along with updates to materials. We hope you understand and fully support these important changes to our branding and believe they will strengthen the **Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate** as a force in protecting religious freedom for all and the Holy Mother Church.

In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,



Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Megas Aktouarios
National Commander



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2023 REPORT **EDITORIAL PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Submitted by:
George P. Vittas, Ekdikos
Chairman

Under its mission statement, the Editorial Publications Committee (EPC) monitors print, network, cable outlets, and Google Alerts for news reporting and opinion stating which may require response concerning religious freedom, religious persecution, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Examples of Committee responses include the following:

- Letter to the Editor, Wall Street Journal, *"Persecuted Christians Have Much to Teach", February 25th "Houses of Worship"*, only scratches the surface concerning the oppression and persecution of Christians throughout the Middle East and in the Holy Lands of Christianity's birth... In Turkey, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, a leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, lives virtually a captive at the Patriarchate in Istanbul, unrecognized by Turkish authorities, deprived of any legal standing with no recourse for stolen and destroyed church properties, prevented from raising or managing funds to maintain Patriarchate facilities or care for its remaining properties, unable to educate Orthodox Christian clergy in Turkey as the only Orthodox seminary was closed by Turkey more than 40 years ago and remains closed today, and now having witnessed conversion of the famed Hagia Sophia cathedral from a non-denominational museum into a working Islamic mosque... The author concludes revival of the Western Church can only come with a rediscovery of the Eastern Church, but that rediscovery has long been underway here in America and elsewhere. Orthodox Christianity continues to grow in the West, and it continues to expose the nature and depth of Christian persecution in Turkey and the Middle East, seeking only truth and love of life, and the long-term

goal of multi-religious cohabitation in the Holy Lands and the Middle East. The Western Church and freedom loving people of all faiths can and must do no less.

- Letter to the Editor, New York Times, **“Ukraine’s use of legal means to remove pro-Russian monks from the “Monastery of the Caves” in Kyiv,** omits the fact there are two Orthodox churches in Ukraine. The people, priests and monks of both churches are citizens of the same country and believers of the same faith, Orthodox Christianity. The majority view Russia as the enemy and have sons and daughters fighting the invasion. The old Ukrainian Orthodox Church mentioned in the article is currently under the auspices of the autocephalous Orthodox Church of Russia. This is by ancient agreement with the Mother Church of Orthodox Christianity, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in Istanbul, at a time when Ukraine had ties to Russia. In 2019, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual head of the world’s 300 million Orthodox including the Orthodox Church of Russia, granted independence to Ukrainian Orthodox faithful who had petitioned for their own autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine. He has rebuked the Russian Church for its shared responsibility in the Russian State’s crimes of aggression in Ukraine. Ukraine’s intent to evict monks from the Monastery, the majority of whom side with the state against the invasion, can only further divide the Orthodox faithful of the two churches. Rather, the government of Ukraine might accept Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew’s offer to assist in returning Russian and Ukrainian faithful to the shared values of Orthodoxy.

Editorial Publications Committee experience to date indicates the use of an online monitoring system would enable members to comprehensively follow what is being reported and stated on the internet. The recommended system would enable a startup at minimal cost to gain experience and establish a policy for its use. It could also serve to monitor and report internet mentions of the Archon “brand.”

Discussions among EPC and other Engagement Committee members have identified the need for a compendium of "talking points" and responses to “frequently asked questions” to enable rapid responses to news and opinions with authoritative consistency. In that regard, the EPC has recently been assigned an additional mission, the development of a monthly news publication to inform Archons of the history and current events concerning the Patriarchate, the Ecumenical Patriarch, and the Archdiocese of America. The proposed approach to publication of this new undertaking is under review with national leadership and the Communications Committee.



2023 ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

2023 FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by:

**Mike A. Manatos, Archon *Dikaiophylax*
Stephen A. Georgeson, Esq., Archon Ekdikos**

Prepared by:

**Mike A. Manatos, Archon *Dikaiophylax*
Stephen A. Georgeson, Esq., Archon Ekdikos**

Our Archon Federal and State Governmental Affairs Engagement Committee made preparations to enable our 68 Committee Members (and other Archons) to meet with their two US Senators and Member of the US House of Representatives to brief them and their staff on the lack of religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Manatos & Manatos identified for each Archon Committee member their two US Senators and one Member of Congress. We also provided the email address for the best staffer in each office for them to contact to request a meeting with the Senator or Member in the state or district. We additionally provided each Archon with a draft email for them to send which can increase the likelihood of them securing such a meeting.

Committee Co-Chairs Manatos and Georgeson then engaged with each Archon before their meetings to share with them some “tricks of the trade” to maximize the impact of their meeting. We then capture the outcome of each of these meetings.

A number of Committee Members have already taken action, including:

- On August 2, West Virginia Archons led by Regional Commander Nick Tranto, along with Co-Regional Commander Terzis, Sellas, Vasilakis, Frangakis and Latousakis, had lunch with Congressman Mooney (WV), at the best restaurant in Weirton, WV, Theo Yiannis, of course.
- The week of August 8, Archon Frank Mihalopoulos in Dallas, TX attended a meeting with Congressman Colin Allred (district 32) and Beth Van Duyne (district 24).
- Archons Jon Couchell, former Lt. Governor Nick Theodore and Steve Trakas met:
 - On August 15 with Senator Tim Scott’s Regional Director Danielle Gibbs;
 - On August 22 met with Congressman William Timmons (district 4) [pictured]
 - On August 30 with Senator Lindsay’ Graham’s Regional Director Angie Omer.
 - They are working to secure meetings with each of the Senators personally.



- Archon Theodore Klingos (1) had a call with Congressman Jerrold Nadler's District Director Robert Gottheim and discussed a meeting with the Congressman and Archon constituents in early October; (2) had a call with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's Legislative Assistant Sachin Mathur who committed to send some dates on which the Senator could meet with an Archon delegation.
- South Florida Archons Scurtis, Powell and Haralambides are working to secure meetings with their Senators and Member.

Our hope is that by the end of the year a significant number of US Senators and Members will have met with their Archon constituents and learned more about the Ecumenical Patriarch and be on their way to becoming a supporter.



2023 ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – International Archon Committee

Submitted by:

(George Rockas, Esq. Dikaiophylax and Constantine Sideridis Proto Notarios)

Prepared by:

(George Rockas, Esq. Dikaiophylax and Constantine Sideridis Proto Notarios)

COMMITTEE SCOPE

The critical task of this committee is to help develop separate organizational structures for the Archons in Europe, South American, Asia, Africa, and Australia and to assist in the creation of mission-oriented Orders. Based on pre-existing organizations (i.e., Pammakaristos in Greece) the committee's task will be to coordinate and benchmark with such groups with the intent of establishing further collaboration.

THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONFERENCE

The International Archons Committee ("Committee") has been engaged in organizing the Fourth International Archons Religious Freedom Conference and the First International Meeting of Archons. The combined meeting will take place in Athens on May 26 – May 29, 2024. The venue is being determined. On Days I and II, the religious freedom conference will take place and on Day III the global meeting of Archons will occur.

The conference will integrate the concepts of democracy, human rights, and religious freedom. The morning of Day I will feature keynote speakers who will include civil authorities in Greece and Orthodox Church leaders. Possible keynote

speakers include the Prime Minister of Greece and His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. The afternoon of Day I and all of Day II will feature panel discussions addressing various topics relating to democracy, human rights, and religious freedom. It is important to note the topics will have an international theme and will not focus on Turkey. The Committee has had preliminary program planning meetings.

Participants included Dr. William Antholis, Director and CEO of the Miller Center of Public Affairs, at the University of Virginia and former managing director of the Brookings Institute, Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou, Visiting Scholar in the International Studies Program at Boston College, Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis along with other members of the National Council, Costa Sideridis, George Rockas, Dr. Harry Dimopoulos and Nicholas R. Larigakis. Potential topics and speakers are being discussed with the goal of having all topics and speakers determined by early fall.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ARCHONS

This meeting will be distinct from the Religious Freedom Conference. The first goal of this meeting is to cultivate cooperation between Archons from across the globe and build a coalition to address the concerns of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Committee will work on identifying the best methods to achieve that goal and propose an agenda for approval. Engaging the International Archons and listening to their ideas and concerns will be important aspects of Day III. Also explaining how the Archons in America operate will part of the Day III program.

All members of the National Council and Engagement Committees should make every effort to attend this three-day event.



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2023 ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by:

Frank P. Boardman, AIA

Archon Maestor

Chairman of the Metropolis & Parish Education Engagement Committee

Prepared by:

Frank P. Boardman, AIA

Archon Maestor

The Metropolis & Parish Education Engagement Committee meets monthly (except in the summer) to discuss Archon education initiatives in our Metropolises and Parishes. We have developed a shared drive with the new logo, video presentations and power point slides for all Archons to use for presentations. We are currently compiling a spreadsheet of available members to be on call for the Regional Commanders to make Archon presentations. List of speakers will be available later this year.

We also have an initiative to present to our local parishes on November 26th or December 3rd (which ever works best for the individual parish). This date was selected because these are the flanking Sundays to the Feast of St. Andrew on November 30th. Our goal for this initiative is:

1. To have a trisagion for all departed Archons in the local parish
2. Host coffee hour
3. Make a presentation using the power point slides from our National Commander Dr. A. Limberakis' presentation
4. The local Archon will work with the Parish Priest to determine where they can give this presentation. Suggestions are:
 - a. After Divine Liturgy on the Solea
 - b. During Coffee Hour
 - c. During Sunday School time for all high school students and interested adults

This initiative was submitted on August 23rd and is currently under review by the Executive Council per the requirements outlined in the letter to the Archons on July 30, 2023



2023 ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT **Patriarchal Green Committee**

Submitted by:

John Harbilas, Eftaxias, Chair
George Spanos, Ostiarios, Vice-Chair

Prepared by:

George Spanos, Ostiarios

Met multiple times via Zoom with the Patriarchal Green Committee.

1. Established and communicated our mission, strategies and goals.
 - a. Mission - to disseminate information to Christian faithful and government decision makers on those Green Initiatives identified by His All Holiness as most critical, as well as to highlight the various symposia and activities hosted by the Patriarch highlighting the endangered areas around the world (e.g., Antarctic, Amazon River, Mississippi River).
 - b. Strategies – To Engage and Educate
 - c. Goals –
 - i. Raise awareness in Orthodox Christians worldwide on the role and impact of His All Holiness on the Climate initiative. Provide communications to other Archon Engagement committees to reach their target audiences (e.g. Government Affairs, Youth & Young Adults)
 - ii. Engage the youth and young adults to take on initiatives to “Green our Parishes”.
 - iii. Create actionable resources for churches to use to improve the climate efficiencies of their buildings.

iv. Work through the other Archon Engagement Committees to further our mission

2. Invited guest speakers to address the group as follows
 - a. Fr. John Chrysavgis – spoke to the Patriarch’s long history in leading the dialog on issues of the environment.
 - b. Diane Liakos and Denise Pappas Sosi presented their efforts to establish a Green Parish at St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church in Cherry Hill NJ
 - c. Archon Dr. Zenon Christodoulou is our next scheduled speaker.
3. Issued recommendations to the Regional Commanders for ways to recognize September 1st as the Day of Protection for the Natural Environment.
 - a. Share the Patriarchal Message for the Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year and the Solemn Day of Prayers for Natural Environment (September 1, 2023) at the Parish level
 - b. Work with your Sunday School Teachers to talk to the children on that day about September 1 as the Day of Protection of the Natural Environment and show them a picture of His All Holiness.
 - c. Have your GOYANS and/or your Young Adults do something in support of the environment in your community – a clean up day, plant a tree, put out recycling bins.
4. Drafted Key “talking points” that can be used when engaging in informal discussions about His All Holiness’ role as the Green Patriarch.



2023 ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

PATRIARCHAL PROPERTIES AND LEGAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Submitted By:

Joseph J. Kokolakis, Esq., Chair, Ted Kakoyiannis, Esq., Vice Chair

Introduction:

The 2014-2022 previous Annual Reports, as well as the article authored by Vice Commander Bozonelis for the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University entitled, “The Systematic Persecution of Religious Minorities in Turkey”, are invaluable resources that outline the continued challenges facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate. They should be required reading for all Archons and Archon-Elects. Below is a short summary of this year’s developments.

The 2023 Elections in Turkey and their Impact on the Ecumenical Patriarchate and United States Diplomacy:

The 2023 Turkish election featured two contrasting candidates: the incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and his main opposition rival, Ekrem Imamoglu, the charismatic Mayor of Istanbul. Imamoglu represented a coalition of opposition parties that united against Erdogan’s ruling party. He gained national recognition for winning the mayoral election in Istanbul in 2019, ending Erdogan’s longstanding control over the city. Imamoglu’s campaign centered on a platform of transparency, good governance, and the rule of law. He appealed to a broad spectrum of Turkish society by emphasizing the need for unity and inclusivity and pledging to address issues such as freedom of the press, judicial independence, and economic reform. While he ultimately did not win the Presidential election, Imamoglu’s candidacy marked a significant challenge to Erdogan’s dominance in Turkish politics and underscored the growing desire for change in the country.

Erdogan campaigned on a platform of continuity, national security, and his party's track record on foreign policy. Despite mounting grievances against him in Turkey, his unorthodox economic policies, and poor response to the devastating earthquake in February of 2023 with nearly 60,000 deaths, Erdogan secured a third five-year term in the May 2023 runoff election. Reelection allowed him to further extend Presidential control over the judiciary and centralize executive authority.

All in all, the 2023 election in Turkey had minimal impact on relations with the Ecumenical Patriarchate. While some symbolic gestures of goodwill were made, (especially in light of the overwhelming response to the tragic earthquake by the Greek government, Greek diaspora throughout the world, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Earthquake Relief Fund which raised \$700,000 in donations), substantial progress addressing longstanding issues remains elusive. If anything, the election underscored the ongoing challenges in achieving full religious freedom, including property rights and legal recognition of our Ecumenical Patriarchate, in Turkey.

The 2023 Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) continues to include Turkey on the U.S. Department of State's Special Watch List for engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA).

The Report noted that in June 2022, the Turkish government finally released long-awaited regulations for religious minority Foundation Board Member elections. The government's failure to provide these regulations had prevented religious minority communities from electing Foundation leadership for the last nine years. While the issuance of the regulations represented a positive development for the Ecumenical Patriarchate's ability to maintain some control over its Foundations, critics have panned the overall system of Foundations as simply another means to "perpetuate state control" over non-Muslim communities. Our committee does not believe that this historic institution with a history of thousands of years will be abolished any time soon. As such, our goal is to gain a better understanding of the Turkish Foundation system and work within its framework.

The report noted that the Turkish government took no steps to grant legal personality to religious communities, permit conscientious objection to mandatory military service, or reopen the Theological School of Halki or any other seminary. As such, the USCIRF recommended that Turkey remain on the Special Watch List and that U.S. diplomats, "Raise in all meetings with Turkish government officials and press at the highest levels for the reopening of the Theological School of Halki

(Halki Seminary) and for full compliance with European Court of Human Rights rulings on freedom of religion or belief.”

Engagement Committee Activity Update:

With Erdogan’s May 28, 2023, reelection, our Ecumenical Patriarchate can expect continued limitations of property rights, constraints on theological education, and lack of legal identity. These restrictions will further diminish the autonomy and influence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and undermine its spiritual and administrative mission. In order to better target our resources, three Subcommittees were formed, and Subcommittee Chairs were selected:

Legal Identity: Subcommittee Chair: Archon George Kounoupis. The subcommittee would focus on the Rule of Law, both International and Turkish, to identify Legal Standing in respective courts.

Foundation System and Patriarchal Properties: Subcommittee Chair: Archon Tassos Efstratiades. This subcommittee will coordinate efforts with International Archons to research the fundamentals of the Turkish Foundation System and identify ways to prevent its use as a tool for institutional abuse.

Political Initiatives: Subcommittee Chair: Archon Emmanuel Velivasakis. This subcommittee will collaborate with all Engagement Committees to educate and inform both the general public and political leaders.

All members of our Committee have been tasked to provide content to the Executive and Communication Committees for review, approval, and distribution. Relevant current or historic issues are vetted at the Committee and Subcommittee level before being presented to the Executive Committee for approval. Drafts are circulated for review and editing.

In the past two months, our Committee initiated and developed the content in support of the Archon email commentary regarding the Turkish government’s decision to forbid Greek Orthodox Christians from celebrating at the historic Panagia Sumela Monastery on August 15, 2023. We quickly mobilized and drafted the Press Release that was issued by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on July 24, 2023. The Turkish government rescinded the previous order the following day and will now permit services on August 15th at the monastery.

Our Committee also worked with the Executive Committee and Archon John Mindala to prepare and circulate Archon Harry G. Dimopoulos' personal account of the atrocities perpetrated against the Greek Orthodox faithful in Constantinople on September 6-7, 1955. Archon Harry's powerful and compelling reflection was a moving commemoration of the 68th anniversary of this tragic day.

The mission of the Patriarchal Properties and Legal Affairs Committee is multifaceted. Through our Subcommittee initiatives, we will diligently work towards the recognition of our Ecumenical Patriarchate's legal identity. Without some form of legal personality and structure established in Turkey, we will never be able to freely manifest our faith and safeguard its institutions in Constantinople.

Our committee will collaborate with all other Archon Engagement Committees and individual Archons throughout the world in defense of our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople. We are committed to working together with all other committees in support of their respective missions. Whether it is through political initiatives, coordinating lectures in our community, or developing content for distribution, we are united as Defenders of the Faith.



2023 ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

WOMEN IN ORTHODOXY

Submitted and Prepared by
Archon *Aktouarios* Cary J. Limberakis, DMD, Chair
Elizabeth H. Prodromou, PhD, Vice Chair

In late August 2023, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis announced, with the unanimous approval of the Executive Board and blessing from spiritual advisor Father Alex Karloutsos, the establishment of the eleventh Archon Engagement Committee, *Women in Orthodoxy*. This Committee aligns with the Archon oath to defend and *promote* the Orthodox faith and tradition; in the National Commander's words, "The mission of the Women in Orthodoxy Engagement Committee is to encourage the widest possible discussion of ways to more fully and meaningfully involve and include Orthodox women in the life of the Church." With his advocacy for furthering the role of women in the Church, Dr. Cary J. Limberakis, Philadelphia Regional Commander, was asked to serve as Chair of this Committee. Elizabeth H. Prodromou, PhD, Visiting Professor in the International Studies Program at Boston College, a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center, and a member of the delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the Holy and Great Council of Crete, was asked to serve as Vice Chair. Both serve on the Advisory Board of the Saint Phoebe Center for the Deaconess. The National Commander indicated that this Archon Engagement Committee on *Women in Orthodoxy*, unlike the other ten Engagement Committees, is open for Archons and non-Archons, women, and men. At the time of this report, 44 individuals (38 women and six men, including two Archons) have expressed interest in serving on this Committee.

The Chair and Vice Chair discussed at length the possible structure of the Committee in order to optimize the talents and skills of the Committee members

towards maximizing the impact of the Committee's work. Possibilities include working groups dedicated to specific areas of need concerning education and action that can further the involvement of women in the Church, towards achieving the Archon mission. By way of immediate organizational steps, we will request from all who have expressed interest the following information: a brief resume, their locale and jurisdiction, their personal interest in this Committee, their top three priorities for expanding the role of women in the Church, and their skills and talents that can best serve the Committee. We are also exploring opportunities for collaboration and synergies with other entities (e.g., St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess) whose work complements our Committee's goals.

This Committee is in its infancy and its workings will take time to crystallize. Nonetheless, we are inspired by the remarkably enthusiastic expression of interest to serve, evidence that *Women in Orthodoxy* is long overdue.

Respectfully submitted,

Cary J. Limberakis, DMD
Archon *Aktouarios*
Chair, *Women in Orthodoxy* EC

Elizabeth H. Prodromou, PhD
Visiting Professor, Boston College
Vice Chair, *Women in Orthodoxy* EC



2023 Archon Committee Engagement Report **Youth Participation Activities Committee (YPA)**

Submitted by:

Archon Proto Ekdikos Nick Tranto- Chair YPA Committee
Sub-committee co-chairs Archons George K. Moutis (NJ) Hon. Steven G. Counelis, Southern CA, Hon. Jeffery G. Chrones, Hellena K. Chrones (Chicago) and Pericles C. Siatis (Chicago)

The YPA committee is comprised of 29 members from 7 Metropolis including DAD, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, NJ, Pittsburgh and San Francisco

Youth Participation Activities – Regional Commander Nick Tranto (Pittsburgh) nationally chairs the Archon *Youth Participation Activities (YPA)* Committee, which is comprised of five separate, but related and connected subcommittees, with the goal of substantially increasing Ecumenical Patriarchate Education to Youth and Young Adults.

The 5 subcommittees and their Archon chairs are:

- 1. Archon Sprout Program (Pre-k-Grade 12) (aka Ecumenical Patriarchate Education Campaign):** Chair Tranto
- 2. GOYA (Middle -High School):** Chair Moutis
- 3. YAL/OCF (College through age 35):** Chair Counelis
- 4. Pilgrimage of Discovery Journey to Constantinople (POD)** Chair: Chrones
- 5. Archon Leadership Network (ALN):** Chair Siatis

Here is a brief synopsis of each subcommittee: For more detailed information please connect with the Chair or Co-Chairs of each subcommittee.

1. **Archon Sprout Program (Ecumenical Patriarchate Educational Campaign)**

The committee has partnered with the *Department of Religious Education (DRE)* Director, **His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos**, and an outside Archon pro-bono consultant, to launch a comprehensive 5-phase plan on the topic of the ***Ecumenical Patriarchate Education***. The digital and printed educational material, enhanced by our theologians and scholars, will address ages Pre-k through grade 12, and organizations including GOYA, YAL/ OCF and beyond. It will include an updated curriculum for religious education in our Sunday Schools, and a digital library of educational material to which all youth educators and archons will have access to educational material regardless of the demographic. The committee has just begun Phase I of the plan after receiving the blessing of HE Archbishop Elpidophoros to begin the work.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate Educational program idea was initially presented as the ***Archon Sprout Program*** to address the significant educational knowledge gap between our youth and young adults in Ecumenical Patriarchate and Patriarch knowledge. **Full funding of the “Archon Sprout Educational” initiative is being made possible by the generosity of benefactors Archon Michael and Robin Psaros.**

2. **GOYA Youth Subcommittee Report**

Submitted by Archon George Moutis, GOYA Sub-Committee Chair

Our committee is in the process of contacting GOYA's in the Delmarva region of the east coast areas to make future presentations to GOYA based on presentations outlined below. Based on the feedback from GOYANS and observers, we will have a subcommittee meeting to finalize our presentation. The plan is to have everything completed by end of October/November 2023 to be ready for the winter retreats and youth meetings.

Below is a summary of the presentation we are making to this age group.

GOYA Youth Subcommittee Presentation

- Our demographic is middle school to Grade 12
- The goal is to inform, educate, explain the role of the Archons and the historical significance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy See of Constantinople

- Our audience are 12-18 year olds so we must focus on “why do we matter as “Protecting the Future of Faith”

Our presentation will include but not limited to:

- Church History
- Photos of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew & Pope Francis
- Explain “Who is the Patriarch as “First among Equals” amongst the 15 autocephalous churches of multiethnic jurisdictions
- What does it mean to be an Archon and our primary purpose/mission
- Announce the name of the local archons of that church
- Explain the Five Issues facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Offer significant historical slides with explanations (PowerPoint)

Slide 1: The Ecumenical Patriarchate Constantinople HAH Bartholomew

Slide 2: Hagia Sophia- Now a mosque

Slide 3: Front Door- Why is this significant

Slide 4: Pantocrator Dome, the iconography of Christ has been removed.

Slide 5: Platitera, the iconography of the Panagia is all covered up.

Slide 6: Photo of The Patriarch & Archbishop of America- These are our

Leaders

Slide 7: The column of Christ Flagellation at St. George Church, this is one of the most treasured and ancient relics. Where Christ was bound and whipped by the Romans before his crucifixion. This relic is 1/3 Constantinople, 1/3 in Jerusalem and 1/3 in Rome.

Slide 8: The Tombstones in the courtyard at Baliki, the courtyard of the monastery is covered with old tombstones that most are inscribed with Greek letter but Turkish words. These tombstones were brought to the monastery by monks after the Turks had destroyed a cemetery near buy. Explain why the writing it is as is.

Slide 9: The Icon of Panagia dressed in white on the city wall, this depicts the Panangia with the wall in the back the protector of Constantinople in 626 when Constantinople was besieged by the Avars and Persians the icon of Panagia was carried in procession along the battlements that resulted into a storm and the enemy fled away which was all attributed to Panaghia. As a result the entire population of Constantinople gathered inside and outside the Church for an all-night vigil and chanted the Akathist Hymn in honor of the Virgin Mary Vlachernitissa, protector of the city.

Slide 10: Zoodochos Peghe the Holy Spring with fish that throughout centuries countless miracles of restored health have been recorded. There is a tunnel that connects the monastery to Hagia Sophia. In the past in case of an invasion someone from the monastery would traverse the tunnel and inform the

Emperor of any army intending to invade. This is one of the most famous shrines in Constantinople.

Slide 11: Panagia Icon in the Water: When a monastery was attacked by the Ottoman Empire the monks had this precious icon of Panagia and didn't want the Ottomans to destroy it so they threw it in the water. After a while the icon appeared standing on the water so the Ottomans went in to get it and every time, they went in the water the icon disappeared. It wasn't until the monk on his knees walked on top of the water to get the icon that the icon stayed, and it was retrieved by the Monks. So this icon was created by the Monks to show us the history of what has occurred in Constantinople.

Last Slide: What can you do to help?

- Working with people throughout the world to bring religious freedom by electing government officials in city, state and national to pass resolutions supporting religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- Get involved by caring for the environment and tell people the Orthodox Church under the leadership of Patriarch Bartholomew teaches us to care for the natural world.
- Visit the Patriarchate to learn the history and see the historic sites.

3. YAL / OCF Subcommittee Report – Activities from March 2023 through October 2023.

Prepared by: Vice-Chair Hon. Steven Counelis, RC Southern California, Nomophylax.

YAL / OCF Subcommittee Members: YPA Chair Tranto, Vice-Chair Counelis, Argeroplos, Buhler, Frangakis, Kakoyiannis, Kounoupis, Papadeas, Polos, Sandilos, Sarantou, and Schooley.

The information below was provided by Archons from within each Metropolis.

Metropolis of San Francisco

Information provided by Vice-Chair Counelis, RC Southern California

Annual YAL Conference, Orange County, California, 8/31-9/4/23

RC Counelis and RC Papadeas [Denver] Members of the YPA made a presentation to 450 young adult attendees about the Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD). Two videos were presented: 1) a compilation of the POD promotional materials for the pilot program, and 2) an early version of the two-minute teaser of the POD documentary that will be released soon. The attendees showed great interest and were encouraged to subscribe to the POD Instagram and Facebook pages. As a result, at least 38 new followers connected with POD Instagram during the Conference.

Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Information provided by YPA Chair Tranto, RC Terezis, and Archon Schooley:

OCF - Archon and Ecumenical Patriarchate presentations were held during the past year with the OCF of Duquesne University of Pittsburgh Pa. (April 2023) and West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV (Sept 2023). Archon Schooley is planning to present in Columbus, OH to The Ohio State University's OCF chapter during the fall semester, the date is to be determined. Contact was made with Deacon Merek Simon, Director of OCF as increased OCF outreach is being planned at campuses throughout our 3-state region. Participating were Regional Commanders Nick Tranto and Nick Terezis and Dr Chris Vasilakis.

YAL Conference in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh on October 12- 14, 2023, featured Archon Dr. Jim Schooley of Annunciation GOC Columbus, Ohio as the main speaker who highlighted his own experience at the Patriarchate and spoke about the Pilgrimage of Discovery Journey to Constantinople scholarships as a historic opportunity for Orthodox youth to reconnect with the Holy Mother Church. Also in attendance were Regional Commanders Nick Tranto and Nick Terezis.

Metropolis of Atlanta

Information provided by Archon Dr. Terry Sarantou, MD and Archon Steve Trakas:

OCF – Archon Sarantou made a presentation to the at the University of North Carolina Charlotte OCF ski weekend, Blowing Rock, NC on March 10, 2023. Archon Trakas and Archon Sarantou presented at the **Metropolis of Atlanta Oratorical Festival**, Charlotte, NC, May 13, 2023. See: <https://www.archons.org/-/atlanta-oratorical-festival>

Archon Trakas and Archon Sarantou presented at the **Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy Laity Meeting** (two sessions, not exclusively YAL but some young adults attended), Tarpon Springs, FL, June 23.

Archon Trakas and Archon Sarantou are scheduling presentations at OCF events in North and South Carolina for this fall 2023.

Metropolis of Chicago -Information submitted by RC's Gus Pablecas and John Manos

Members of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chicago participated in the YAL Conference, held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago from February 17-19, 2023. During a lunchtime session, with the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago who was in attendance, Pilgrimage of Discovery Co-Chairs Archon Hon. Jeffery Chrones and Hellena Chrones informed the YAL of one of the latest National Archon pilot program endeavors, the Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD), a pilgrimage to Constantinople for young adults ages 23-28 years old. Archon National Secretary and Archon Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas and Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos also gave a presentation on "What is an Archon." During the weekend, Archon Dr. John Fotopoulos also led a YAL workshop titled, "Living Scripture and Our Path to Wellness." The Archons also established an Archon vendor table where YAL participants could ask questions, obtain publications, and learn more about the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate throughout the three-day weekend.

4. Pilgrimage of Discovery 2023 Pilot Program (POD)

The Pilgrimage of Discovery 2023 Pilot Program was by all accounts an overwhelming and exceptional success. The Pilot Program, run through the Metropolis of Chicago, sent 5 young adults on an all-expense paid, 7-day journey to Constantinople to visit His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and important historical and theological sites.

The POD was created, developed, nurtured, and led by Chairmen Archon Hon. Jeffery and Hellena Chrones, the Archons of the Metropolis of Chicago and the extremely gifted and talented group of volunteers with academic, legal, marketing, film, and social media expertise from Metropolises throughout the country.

The highlights of the POD itinerary are too numerous to mention all here, but below are some of the most memorable and emotional moments as experienced by the young adults and Archons alike on the journey:

- Singing "Τη Υπερμαχο" as a group in Panagia Vlahernon Church where it was sung for the very first time.
- Climbing up the miracle-working cave in St. Demetrios Church to the icon made of marble.
- Seeing the old Patriarchate of Jerusalem in Neohori where the Patriarch of Jerusalem is buried. This is the moment the young adults understood why the seat of the Orthodox faith can never move from Constantinople.

And then meeting the elderly Greek Orthodox woman who spends every day of her life opening and closing the church all by herself, where no one attends.

- Touring the shuttered Halki Seminary, seeing the library and classrooms frozen in time and understanding what has been lost to our faith.
- Seeing Hagia Sophia as a mosque.
- The surreal moment when the young adults attended vespers at St. George at the Phanar and the Islamic call to prayer came blasting through at the moment the Lord's Prayer was being recited.
- Meeting and conversing with His All Holiness in an intimate setting. Seeing his joy as he interacted with the young adults. Seeing how moved he was when hearing about the goal of the Pilgrimage of Discovery program and hearing his answers to the young adult's questions.

Funding/budget of the pilot program was initially projected to be approximately \$100,000. The actual budget, which included a one-time film crew to document the pilgrimage, was \$74,000, \$26,000 under budget. Approximately \$45,000 of the \$74,000 cost was for marketing, film crew and social media expenditures, the final products of which will be used to promote the POD, the Archon brand sponsorship of the POD, and the Archon brand to a global audience for future years to come.

We are pleased to report that the POD program will continue and be expanded nationwide in 2024. The goal of the POD in 2024 is to increase the number of young adults on the journey to 16 and to allow all Orthodox young adults in good standing to participate in the program for a more uniform representation across the United States.

One of Archon's goals is to inculcate the young faithful regarding their Orthodox Church, the role of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Primacy of His All Holiness. Ultimately, through a carefully planned, grassroots, pilgrimage to Constantinople, the POD helps young adults better connect to the Mother Church of Constantinople and further strengthen the future of the Orthodox Church.

In conclusion, the words of the young adults are most revealing. Here are some of the comments from the young adults (or a family member) who just recently returned from the journey:

- "My son came back completely changed" - from a mother of one of our pilgrims.
- "I am so appreciative of this experience and teared up many times today. This was truly life changing."

- “I feel responsible for this place” - after visiting the shuttered Halki seminary
- “Thank you all for making this experience once-in-life”

5. Archon POD Alumni Leadership Network (ALN)- Chair- Archon Perry Siatis-Chicago

The ALN is the alumni organization of those Young Adult pilgrims that have traveled and will travel to Constantinople as part of the Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD). The committee received approval from National to proceed with the ALN, and the first five inaugural POD Young Adult pilgrims were informed of the ALN in September 2023. The YA pilgrims were very excited to hear that the Archons are willing to create this alumni group to further their education about the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Archon mission, cultivate their leadership skills, and find mentors for them.

POD YA alum are committed to serve as **Archon Ambassadors** for a 2-year period following their pilgrimage, but we believe their ambassadorship with cultivation will last a lifetime. The ALN will provide opportunities for our YA Archon Ambassadors to connect with their peers and stay engaged with leadership opportunities within the Archon organization. The goal is to grow the alumni network of Young Adults into a well-organized, connected, and meaningful program that will extend shared Orthodox values on the importance of protecting the faith.

ALN Committee Chair Archon Perry Siatis has begun working with the alumni on preparing presentations for upcoming events, such as the Metropolis of Chicago Clergy Laity Assembly in October, Archon Weekend, and presentations to their individual parishes, the first of which is scheduled for September 24, 2023 in Minneapolis, MN.

The committee is preparing to find mentors for the alumni as a next step. The committee will also work on training opportunities and recommendations for finding participation opportunities on Archon committees such as the Youth Participation Activities (YPA) and Metropolis Parish Education Committees.

DEPARTED ARCHON
December 21, 2022 to October 2, 2023

Mr. Henry Angelo, Jr., *Archon Depoutatos*, FL, Offikion Date: 02/18/01
Mr. Robert D. Cosgrove, *Archon Laosynaktis*, FL, Offikion Date: 02/17/01
Dr. Michael P. Gabriel, *Archon Aktouarios*, NY, Offikion Date: 06/19/05
Mr. Nicholas Galifianakis, *Archon Depoutatos*, NC, Offikion Date: 10/10/15
Mr. George Gazis, *Archon Ostiarios*, TX, Offikion date: 10/01/11
Mr. George Gritsonis, *Archon Ekdikos*, IL, Offikion Date: 10/16/11
Mr. George M. Kalambokis, *Archon Depoutatos*, MA, Offikion Date: 03/04/90
Mr. Andrew G. Kampiziones, *Archon Depoutatos*, SC, Offikion Date: 03/26/83
Mr. Constantine P. Kanakis, *Archon Notarios*, AL, Offikion Date: 03/23/86
Mr. John Kost, *Archon Depoutatos*, PA, Offikion Date: 02/17/01
Mr. Peter E. Kostorizos, *Archon Exarchos*, MA, Offikion Date: 03/08/87
Mr. Michael Kundrat, *Archon Hartoularios*, NY, Offikion Date: 02/08/99
Mr. Arthur Labros, *Archon Nomophylax*, WI, Offikion Date: 10/31/10
Mr. Emmanuel Leventelis, *Archon Depoutatos*, PA, Offikion Date: 03/07/82
Mr. Emanuel N. Logothetis, *Archon Depoutatos*, FL, Offikion Date: 02/28/88
Mr. George G. Makris, *Archon Orphanotrofos*, NJ, Offikion Date: 10/23/05
Mr. Anastasios E. Manessis, *Archon Megas Depoutatos*, NY, Offikion Date: 10/21/12
Mr. Stephen A. Manta, *Archon Laosynaktis*, IL, Offikion Date: 03/05/00
Mr. Victor A. Panagos, *Archon Architekton*, MD, Offikion Date: 03/09/03
Mr. James Pantelidis, *Archon Notarios*, NY, Offikion Date: 10/21/12
Mr. John Pappajohn, *Archon Laosynaktis*, IA, Offikion Date: 02/18/01
Mr. Louis D. Pappan, *Archon Depoutatos*, PA, Offikion Date: 02/18/01
Mr. John Perros, *Archon Depoutatos*, VA, Offikion Date: 03/03/96
Mr. Emil Skocypec, *Archon Notarios*, AZ, Offikion Date: 10/31/10
Mr. Haralambos Tzanetatos, *Archon Exarchos*, Panama, Offikion Date: 06/09/05

Past Recipients of The Athenagoras Human Rights Award

2022 | His Beatitude Theodore II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa

2021 | Scientists who saved humanity from the Covid pandemic

2019 | His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine

2018 | Father Alexander and Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos

2017 | Emilia Kamvisi and Efstratios Valamios

2016 | Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

2015 | Vice President Joe Biden

2014 | Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD

2013 | 60 Minutes

2012 | Stavros Niarchos Foundation

2011 | Admiral James G. Stavridis

2009 | Anthony J. Limberakis, MD

2008 | Rabbi Arthur Schneier

2007 | Archbishop Demetrios of America

2006 | Nicholas J. Bouras

2005 | Mikhail Gorbachev

2004 | Alex G. Spanos

2003 | IOCC & OCMC

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

2001 | Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

2000 | Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu

1999 | Elie Wiesel

1998 | Nana Mouskouri

1997 | Reverend Clergy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

1996 | Order of AHEPA

1995 | Hon. Edward Derwinski

1994 | Hon. Paul S. Sarbanes

1993 | George Douris
1992 | Ladies Philoptochos
1991 | Andrew A. Athens
1990 | Hon. John Brademas
1989 | Anthony G. Borden, MD
1988 | Mother Theresa
1987 | President Jimmy Carter
1986 | Archbishop Iakovos

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