

Same Mission,  
New Branding



# *The* Archon

Fall 2023

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate *Newsletter*

We Are...

**Archons**  
OF THE Ecumenical  
Patriarchate

*Protecting the Future of Faith*<sup>SM</sup>

Learn about the Archon Branding Initiative on Page 7

# The Archon

Fall 2023

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate *Newsletter*



**Archons**  
OF THE  
Ecumenical  
Patriarchate

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

Spiritual Advisor:  
Rev. Alexander Karloutsos

#### Executive Committee

**National Commander:**  
Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Aktouarios

**National Vice Commander:**  
Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Ekdikos

**National Treasurer:**  
Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnimon

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

#### Functionaries

**Historian:**  
George E. Demacopoulos, PhD, Didaskalos Tou Genous

**Legal Counselor:**  
Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq., Nomophylax

**Sergeant-at-Arms:**  
Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon

**Assistant Treasurer:**  
Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA, Dikaiophylax

#### National Council Members

Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Ekdikos  
Thomas S. Cappas, Esq. Nomophylax  
Constantine G. Caras, Esq., Skevophylax  
John A. Catsimatidis, Notarios  
Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA, Dikaiophylax  
George E. Demacopoulos, PhD, Didaskalos Tou Genous  
Stephen A. Georgeson, Esq., Ekdikos  
John G. Gumas, Hartophylax  
Carl R. Hollister, Referendarios  
Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq, Nomophylax  
John S. Koudounis, Eftaxias  
Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Aktouarios  
Nicholas G. Loutsion, VMD, Aktouarios  
John G. Manos, Eftaxias  
Gus M. Pablecas, Ostiarios  
Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon  
Michael G. Psaros, Ostiarios  
George E. Safiol, Archiophylax  
Franklin (Rocky) Sisson, Prepositos  
Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnimon  
William H. Spell, Laosynaktis  
Theodore J. Theophilos, Esq, Dikaiophylax  
George A. Tsougarakis, Esq, Dikaiophylax  
Stephen J. Yallourakis, MD, DDS, Aktouarios  
John S. Zavitsanos, Esq, Ekdikos

#### Commanders Emeritus

† Chris Philip, DDS (1989–1997), Megas Aktouarios  
† Anthony G. B. Borden, MD (1976–1989),  
Megas Aktouarios  
† Pierre A. Demets (1966–1975), Skevophylax

**Editor & Graphic Designer:**  
John J. Mindala II, Notarios

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info@archons.org

## The Annual ARCHON WEEKEND

Oct 19 through 22 New York City

**14** The Annual Archon Weekend will be held one day earlier, starting Thursday, October 19– Sunday, October 22, 2023 at the New York Hilton Midtown.

**ROOM RESERVATIONS**  
212-586-7000  
New York Hilton Midtown  
1335 6th Avenue, New York, NY 10019

**Group discounted rate is: \$359.00  
with code: Order of St. Andrew**

## The Prince's Trust to Receive the 2023 Athenagoras Human Rights Award

**16** With the blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the approval of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, is pleased to announce that the 2023 Athenagoras Human Rights Award will be presented to the Prince's Trust.



## Three New Regional Commanders Appointed

**29** Archons James D. Speros and Constantine Sideridis Regional Commanders for the Metropolis of Boston and James A. Frangis has been appointed Regional Commander of the State of Georgia in the Metropolis of Atlanta



## House Speaker McCarthy Visits Saint Nicholas

**30** The Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Rep. Kevin McCarthy, made an official visit to Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center



# President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy visits the Ecumenical Patriarchate



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS GEORGE A. PAPACHRISTOU, DIRECTOR, PATRIARCHAL PRESS AND COMMUNICATION OFFICE

**O**n July 8, 2023, His Excellency the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, visited the Seat of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Phanar.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, flanked by the Reverend Hierarchs Emmanuel, Geron of Chalcedon and Hilarion of Winnipeg, as well as clerics

of the Patriarchal Court, warmly welcomed His Excellency the President in the courtyard of the Patriarchate and then they entered the venerable Patriarchal Church together, where His All-Holiness performed the Trisagion for the repose of the souls of the victims of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The Reverend Hierarchs gathered to pray along with Mr. Zelenskyy's entou-

rage, which consisted of high-ranking officials of the Presidency and the Ukrainian Government, the Ambassador of Ukraine in Ankara, His Excellency Mr. Vasyl Bodnar, and the Consul General of the country in Constantinople, the Honorable Mr. Roman Nedilskyi.



*We expressed the desire that peace would come soon, because war is a bad thing for everyone. We said that the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as the Mother Church of the Ukrainian Orthodox, is always on their side.*

*—His All-Holiness*

This was followed by the actual meeting of His All-Holiness with His Excellency the President, at the Patriarchal Office, which lasted over an hour.

Immediately afterwards, in the Throne Room, the Ecumenical Patriarch and the President of Ukraine made statements to the numerous accredited representatives of the Media.

His All-Holiness said that he and Mr. Zelenskyy discussed the current situation in Ukraine.

"We expressed the desire that peace would come soon, because war is a bad thing for everyone. We said that the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as the Mother Church of the Ukrainian Orthodox, is always on their side. We were happy because the President of our country, Mr. Erdogan, also supports the achievement of peace in Ukraine through dialogue, but also because he promised that Turkey would help by all means for the reconstruction and restoration of things in Ukraine, after the end of the war. It is not the first time that we have welcomed Mr. Zelensky to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. It is always an honor and a pleasure for us to welcome him, and I want to conclude by saying that we wish for the return of all the prisoners who are being held at this



His All-Holiness and President Zelenskyy held a private meeting in the Patriarchal Office, which lasted over an hour.

moment, and especially for the return of the children who are far from their homes and their homeland. We thank the General Media for showing so much genuine interest in the visit of Mr. President to the Seat of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We hope that when Mr. President comes to Turkey and to our Patriarchate again, that peace will have prevailed, that peace will have returned [to Ukraine]."

For his part, President Zelenskyy thanked the Ecumenical Patriarch for the warm welcome and for his undiminished support for the Ukrainian people.

His All-Holiness then welcomed and blessed the members of the entourage of the President of Ukraine, to whom he then bade farewell in the propylaea of the Patriarchate.



PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS-GEORGE A. PAPACHRISTOU, DIRECTOR, PATRIARCHAL PRESS AND COMMUNICATION OFFICE

President Zelenskyy is joined by Ukrainian officials and aides, as he attends a memorial service for those who lost their lives during the war, offered by His All-Holiness, inside the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George. Later, the delegation was received in the Throne Room, below, and joined by members of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

# PROTECTING THE



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS GEORGE A. PAPACHRISTOU, DIRECTOR, PATRIARCHAL PRESS AND COMMUNICATION OFFICE

# FUTURE OF FAITH

## The Archon Branding Initiative

**W**ith the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Archon John Gumas has generously volunteered his advertising agency's (GUMAS) services on a pro bono basis to improve the Archon's "brand" identity. Brand identity, including visual elements such as our logo, colors, name and "tagline," 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 have also introduced an updated logo.

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



**Archons**  
OF THE **Ecumenical**  
**Patriarchate**

*Protecting the Future of Faith*<sup>SM</sup>

# The Tagline

A second element of the work we are introducing along with the updated logo is an exciting and dynamic tagline that is both positive and forward leaning. Our current tagline, Defenders of the Faith, has been expanded in conjunction with our logo to be:

***Protecting the Future of Faith<sup>SM</sup>***

Elevating our purpose as an organization  
and reaffirming the work of the Archons.

## The Meaning Behind the Tagline

- “Protecting” is the positive, hopeful, forward-leaning verb alternative to “defending”.
- Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is an organization that does more than just fight for religious freedom, we protect the future of faith for all families, everywhere.
- Positions our organization as the trusted, inclusive, and faithful option for **everyone**.
- Embraces our organization’s commitment to ensuring religious freedom today, and the hope associated with protecting faith’s future.



# The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate...

Protecting the Future of...

Freedom

Hope

Justice

Peace

Democracy

Righteousness

The Ecumenical Patriarchate

The Ecumenical Patriarch

***Protecting the Future of Faith<sup>SM</sup>***

# The Elevator Pitch

We have clarified how we want to talk about our organization in a more compelling, positive and consistent way when asked what we do. This is called our “elevator pitch.”

We ask ALL Archons to use our elevator pitch when speaking about our organization or when giving formal presentations:

***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.***

Rather than saying...

***We are the  
Order of Saint Andrew***

***We are a  
Greek-American  
organization***

***We are  
Defenders of the Faith***

Instead, say...

***We are the  
Archons of the  
Ecumenical Patriarchate***

***We are an  
Orthodox Christian  
organization***

***We are  
Protecting the  
Future of Faith***

# The road to becoming less internal, and more external.

As we begin introducing these elements across our communication materials, websites, events, social media channels, etc., we will evolve our content to be more outwardly focused to engage a wider audience.

This major shift requires that we think more critically and demonstrate HOW we are Protecting the Future of Faith with tangible examples of work. Our websites and communications channels will be 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. Along with the initiatives produced by our engagement committees our content strategy will pivot to be more externally focused.

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.



### Branding Symposium

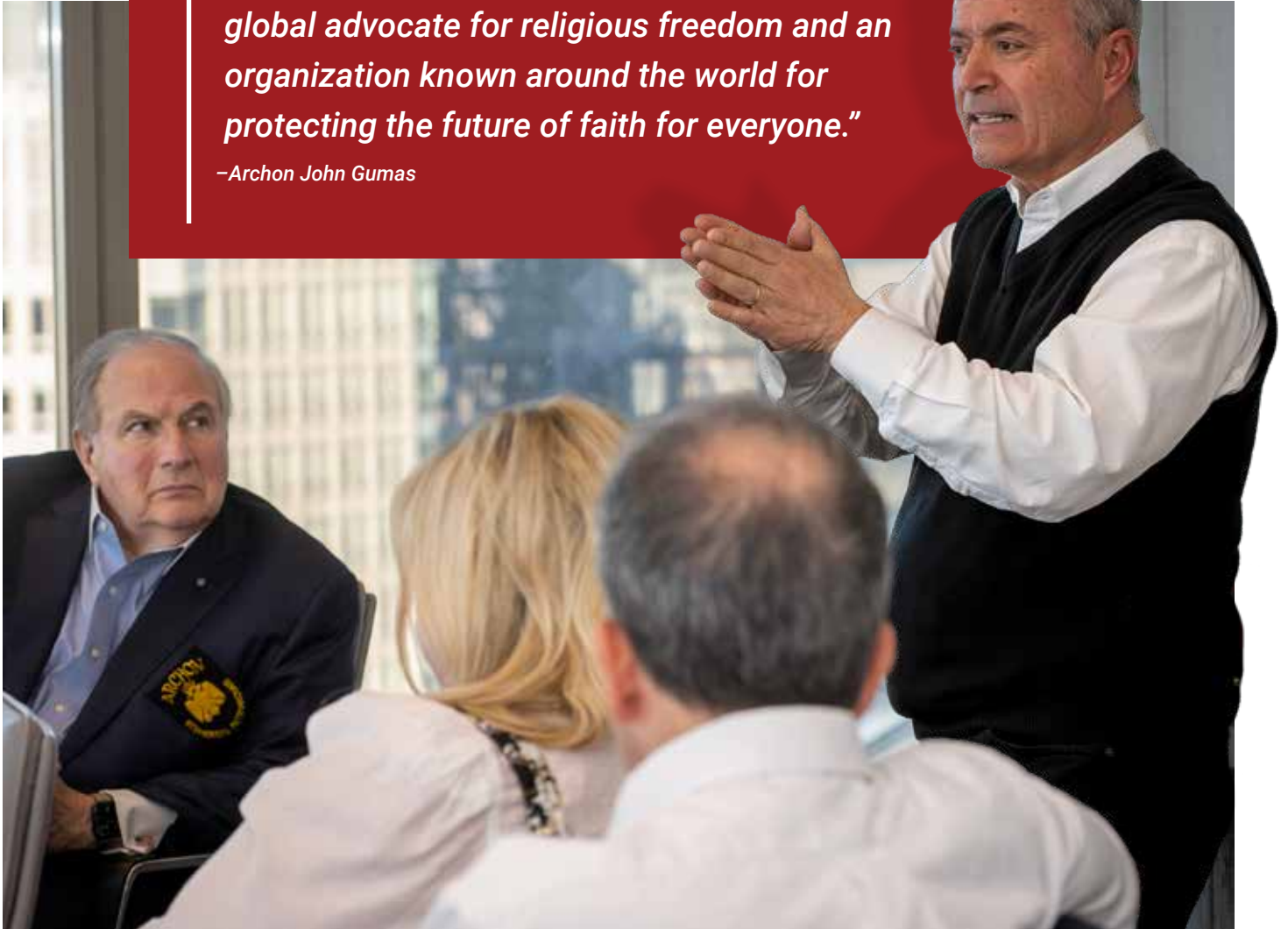
On Friday, February 24, 2023, members and supporters of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate participated in a day-long strategic brand initiative to enhance the effectiveness and visibility of the Archons mission, nationally and internationally. The effort was launched earlier this year by the National Council and Archon John G. Gumas, National Council member and a renowned expert in strategic branding, donated this project with the help of his office of experts at Gumas Advertising in San Francisco. The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is also grateful to Archon Michael Psaros, who offered his offices in New York to conduct the meeting. Discussions, deliberations, and marketing exercises were conducted leading to data-driven results.

PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



*We are so proud to be part of this transformative project. Our goal is to position the Archons of Ecumenical Patriarchate brand as the credible, global advocate for religious freedom and an organization known around the world for protecting the future of faith for everyone.”*

*—Archon John Gumas*



### **Archon John Gumas**

Archon John G. Gumas founded Gumas Advertising in 1984. He is the author of the popular and trendsetting book *Marketing Smart*, to which *Challenger Brand Marketing* is the sequel. He has been an adjunct professor of branding, advertising and interactive marketing; a sought-after speaker; and a regular columnist for several publications. Archon Gumas, Hartophylax, is a member of the boards of the San Francisco Giants Community Fund, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, the San Francisco State University Foundation, the Greater San Francisco Advertising Club, the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame and the Elios Society. He has consistently provided financial support as well as professional marketing services to many Orthodox Church entities for over 35 years, including the Metropolis of San Francisco, the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco, and Holy Trinity Church, also in San Francisco, among others. Most importantly, Archon Gumas has donated the strategic branding initiative of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America.

The Annual

# ARCHON WEEKEND

## OCT 19–22 NEW YORK CITY

### Thursday, October 19

#### Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Board of Trustees Breakfast Meeting

**9:00–11:00AM** • Board members of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation will gather to deliberate and decide on important issues regarding the Foundation. FOUNDERS in good standing are welcome to be present, in the interest of transparency.

#### Engagement Committees joined by National Council, Regional Commanders Luncheon Meeting

**12:00–3:00PM** • Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Engagement Committees will be joined by National Council members and Regional Commanders to coordinate and launch new engagement activities.

#### FOUNDERS Concert at Saint Nicholas National Shrine, with Cappella Romana

**6:00–8:00PM** • FOUNDERS in good standing (pledges up-to-date) of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation are invited to attend a concert performed by Cappella Romana at the Saint Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center. An elegant reception will follow from 8:00–9:00PM.

Cappella Romana will chant *Lost Voices of Hagia Sophia*, which is the first vocal album in the world to be recorded entirely in live virtual acoustics. It brings together art history, music history, performance, and technology to re-create medieval sacred sound in the cathedral of Hagia Sophia as an aural virtual reality.

### Friday, October 20

#### Archons-elect Boot Camp

**9:30–11:30AM** • Chair John Zavitsanos, Esq. and Committee members will address Archons-elect and their families as they are about to assume the serious responsibility to defend the Holy Mother Church. National Council members and Regional Commanders and all Archons are invited to attend and reenergize their commitment to the mission of the Archons.

#### National Council and Regional Commanders Luncheon Meeting

**12:00–3:00PM** • Private meeting with members of the National Council and Regional Commanders who will offer an overview and briefing of regional activities in their respective Metropolis. Approval of the Annual Audited Financial Statements by National Council will take place.

#### Nicholas J. Bouras Award For Extraordinary Stewardship Award Presentation and Dinner Dance

**6:00PM Cocktails, 7:00PM Dinner & Dancing** • All Archons, Archons-elect and family members are invited as we begin the evening with a cocktail reception, followed by an elegant dinner and formal presentation of the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Stewardship to George M. Marcus, Exarchos by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the National Commander. After the presentation program, the evening concludes with festive dancing and fellowship where Archons, Archons-elect and their families meet and socialize within the family. Archons-elect will be gratis.

## Saturday, October 21

### Orientation Breakfast for Archons-elect and their families, together with National Council Members, Regional Commanders and Engagement Chairs & Vice Chairs

**8:00–9:30AM** • Archons-elect and their families will gather for an orientation presentation by the National Commander who will offer a multi-media program reviewing the awesome responsibilities and roles of Archons, who are advocates of religious freedom and Protecting the Future of Faith.

### Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Order of St. Andrew Annual Meeting

**10:00AM–12:00PM** • All Archons, Archons-elect and families are expected to attend the annual meeting to discuss the vision and strategy to secure religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Specific religious freedom programming, formal committee reports and other items of concern regarding the well-being of the Ecumenical Patriarchate will be presented thereby offering an open forum for deliberation. Archons-elect will be introduced to Archbishop Elpidophoros and a group photo of the Class of 2023 will be taken.

### Agape Luncheon and Presentation of Sophia Award for Excellence

**12:30–2:30PM** • All Archons, Archons-elect and families are invited to attend our annual Agape Luncheon which will feature a prominent speaker and presentation of the Sophia Award for Excellence to Cappella Romana.

The Sophia Award for Excellence is given annually by the Archons to an individual or individuals who have distinguished themselves in endeavors that serve the needs of the Holy Mother Church and the Sacred Mission of the Archons of the Great Church of Christ.

### Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet

**6:00PM Cocktails, 7:00PM Dinner** • The black-tie gala is the premier event and fundraiser which begins with a one-hour cocktail reception, followed by the introduction of the dais and the presentation of the 2023 Athenagoras Human Rights Award to 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.

Cappella Romana will be chanting during the musical interlude.

## Sunday, October 22

### Matins and Procession of Archons and Archons-Elect

**8:30AM** • Archons and Archons-elect will assemble in Cathedral undercroft for a group portrait and additional instructions. Then all Archons will process into the Cathedral together for Matins, Divine Liturgy and the Investiture service.

### Divine Liturgy and Investiture with Cappella Romana Chanting

**9:45AM–1:00PM** • The morning begins with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese participating. Cappella Romana will be chanting the Divine Liturgy. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the Class of 2023 will be invested and presented with their Offikia and Cross of Saint Andrew.

### Fellowship Reception

**1:00PM** • Following Divine Liturgy and the Investiture of the Classes, an Fellowship Reception of Thanksgiving hosted by the Archons will be offered in the adjacent Cathedral Center ballroom.

# The Prince's Trust to Receive the 2023 Athenagoras Human Rights Award



**W**ith the blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the approval of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, is pleased to announce that the 2023

Athenagoras Human Rights Award will be presented to the Prince's Trust. 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 Award will be presented on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at the Archon's annual Athenagoras Human Rights Award banquet at the New York Hilton Hotel in New York City.

Upon learning about the invitation from Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander, Buckingham Palace informed the Archons that "as Founder and President, His Majesty King Charles III was delighted to hear of the very kind award to the Prince's Trust." The Prince's Trust is dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged young people. Its royal charter states that the Trust's primary objective is "to promote by all charitable means the mental, spiritual, moral and physical development and improvement of young people, and to provide opportunities for them to

His Majesty King Charles III meets with young people supported by The Prince's Trust at a Buckingham Palace reception in May 2023

develop to their full capacities and enable them to become responsible members of society so that their conditions of life may be improved."

The Prince's Trust is the United Kingdom's leading youth charity. It began when then-Prince Charles used his Navy severance pay – £7,400 (\$9,200) – to fund a number of community initiatives, and has grown into one of the most successful charitable organizations in that country. It offers help to youths aged 11 to 30 in the United Kingdom 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. During the ten-year period of 2006 to 2016 alone, the value of its charitable efforts for youth was esti-



*The Prince's Trust is a shining example of the Christian Faith put into practice, with innovative and effective programs that have helped over a million young people turn their lives around."*

–Anthony J. Limberakis



mated at £1.4 billion (\$1.75 billion).

Edward Enninful OBE, editor-in-chief of British Vogue and Prince's Trust Global Ambassador, stated in Time Magazine in April: "As the quiet and fastidious work of the Prince's Trust, a charity set up by the then Prince of Wales, began to put our friends and family into steady employment, its outreach programs inspired many of us and instilled confidence."

In November 2015, His Majesty founded Prince's Trust International in order to share his successful programs and experience with strategic partners in countries outside the United Kingdom. In Greece, with youth unemployment in Greece at record high levels (even before the pandemic, the country had the highest rates in Europe, at 35.6%), Prince's Trust International has labored tirelessly to combat this urgent crisis. It works with a variety of large companies and other important partners in Greece to deliver education, enterprise and employment programs to young people. In collaboration with its Greek partners, Prince's Trust International has found jobs for numerous young people in Greece. The Trust now works in over 20 countries and, through Prince's Trust USA, has recently started piloting enterprise programs in Chicago and New York.

In recognizing the Prince's Trust's long and impressive record of philanthropy, Dr. Limberakis stated: "The Prince's Trust is a shining example of the Christian Faith put into practice, with innovative and effective programs that have helped over a million young people turn their lives around. The Trust's selfless and generous work in Greece has greatly aided that nation and helped enable it to weather its financial crisis. His Majesty King Charles III has a profound understanding of the scriptural admonition to love your neighbor as yourself, and in the Prince's Trust, he has brilliantly demonstrated the meaning and importance of that divine command. The Trust thus richly deserves to receive the Athenagoras Human Rights Award."

## George M. Marcus to Receive Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, is pleased to announce that Archon George M. Marcus, Exarchos, will be the recipient of the 2023 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. The Award will be presented on Friday, October 20, 2023, at the Bouras Award Dinner during Archon Weekend in New York City.

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander, said, "Virtually everywhere the Greek Orthodox Church in America is, there is George M. Marcus. He is involved in an extraordinary range of foundations, organizations, and institutions in the Church and Greek community. Throughout his distinguished life of service, he has shown what it means to be an Archon, a true son of our Holy Mother Church in Constantinople."

Archon Marcus' wide range of commitments to God's Church and the Hellenic community include memberships on the Board of Directors at the Modern Greek Studies Foundation, the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, International Orthodox Christian Charities, and Elios Society of Northern California. He is committed to Leadership 100.

Archon Marcus also founded and serves as the Chairman of the National Hellenic Society, which brings together distinguished Greek Americans on a national level to preserve their heritage. He also spearheaded efforts to rebuild the Church of Panagia of Pera, the Cathedral Church of His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch as Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome. In 1978, a



catastrophic fire broke out in this historic church, severely damaging the building. Since then, there was no renovation or restoration work, until Marcus donated \$500,000 for the renovation of the church, which was originally built in 1804. He continues on an ongoing basis to offer extraordinary financial beneficence to the Holy Mother Church.

Archon 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 served on the Board of Directors for the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Board of Directors of the Presidio Trust.

Archon Marcus was invested as an on February 24, 1991, and conferred with the offikion Exarchos. He is a fulfilled FOUNDER of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.

# Engagement Committee Updates



## Academia Symposia Committee

This committee is charged with the responsibility of organizing and managing academia symposia focusing both on the external challenges facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate and on the five major religious freedom issues critical to the Patriarch and to Orthodox Christians.

### Chair

George P. Zimmar,  
PhD

### Vice Chair

Stamatios V.  
Kartalopoulos, PhD

The Academia Symposia Committee (ASC), a standing engagement body of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has established a program of educational symposia, that centers on the mission of the Archons, in its defense of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and the five religious freedom issues critical to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and to Orthodox Christians worldwide. Further, Academia Symposia Committee:

- Confirms that ASC members are engaged in the work of the committee.
- Assures that the qualifications of symposia participants meet high standards of educational excellence.
- Establishes annual performance goals of its activities.
- Provides that the symposia are distributed widely.
- Pledges that the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate trustees and members of the committee will receive reports of its activities.



## Communications Committee

The mission of the committee will be to develop communications strategies for the Archons in its social media and website platforms and for creating guidance for individual Archons who are making parish and Metropolis educational presentations.

### Chair

Franklin (Rocky)  
Sisson

### Vice Chair

Theodore H.  
Vagelos

The Communications Committee has been working on follow-up to the Archon Branding Initiative. We are focused on our new tag line: "Protecting the Future of Faith" and how all of our programs support this promise.

We have filed for trademark/service mark protection for the tag line, logo and name. We have begun the process of converting our website data to a new content management system, WordPress, and combining all our websites on a single server. We are targeting Archon Weekend to unveil the new Archon website. Our group is also working with other engagement committees on executing their individual programs.

We have an active social media program. We post daily on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Over the past few months, some of the most impactful posts have been statements by the Ecumenical Patriarch on the war in Ukraine and the actions of the Russian Patriarch. You can be up-to-date on the activities and statements of His All-Holiness by following the Archons on these social media channels.

The Archon App links directly to the Archon website and keeps you informed on Archon and Ecumenical Patriarchate activities.



## Editorial Publication Committee

This committee will be responsible for drafting and submitting editorials for publication in all print and online media at any time it is determined necessary to communicate support or disagreement with, or to clarify, respond to or correct news articles or editorial opinions relating in any way with the Ecumenical Patriarchate and with related religious freedom issues.

### Chair

George P. Vittas

### Vice Chair

George G. Demos, Esq.

George Horiates, Esq.

Editorial Publications Committee (EPC) members are engaged in monitoring news and opinion in print, TV and online for statements worthy of local or national response. Identification of needed responses are subject to member discretion, and responses are subject to national leadership approval. Discussion is needed with leadership and other closely related committees to establish coordination, interactive support and improved response protocol. --- Following a search of online monitoring systems, the EPC is recommending subscription to Brand24 to gain experience in the use of real time reporting and analysis of key word mentions relating to religious freedom and persecution, the Patriarchate, and mentions of the brand. --- A schedule of future EPC Zoom meetings has been established to improve member communications and to focus on current news and opinion issues.



## Federal and State Governmental Affairs Committee

This committee will provide critical grassroots support at both the state and federal levels for Congressional and legislative initiatives on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

### Chair

Mike A. Manatos

### Vice Chair

Stephen A. Georgeson, Esq.

Members of the Federal and State Government Affairs Committee are working to educate and activate their elected state and federal officials. This is providing critical grassroots support for initiatives by the Order of Saint Andrew at the state and national level. Committee members are being provided with professional tactics, resources and contacts to optimally engage with their elected officials and their staff. Committee members will also be activated for select initiatives in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



## Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation

The mission of the Foundation is to provide financial independence for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in perpetuity. The Foundation is charged with the responsibility of developing strategy on membership recruitment and an internal communications platform for ongoing updates for prospective members. This will include print and electronic media reaching out to the broadest base of supporters among all ministries, organizations and the Faithful.

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>
Anthony J. Limberakis, MD	George E. Safiol

### New Members Committee

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Chair of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation has appointed Archons Joseph J. Kokolakis, Esq. and Markos K. Lagos as Chairs of the New Members Committee of the EPBF. Archons Kokolakis and Lagos are both FOUNDERS (\$100,000 donors) of the EPBF.



Joseph and Anna Kokolakis, left, and Markos and Sevasti Lagos, right, Chairs for New Members Committee for EPBF

The New Members Committee has organized a FOUNDERS Concert, an exclusive performance for FOUNDERS in good standing and all new FOUNDERS. The Concert will feature Cappella Romana who will chant Lost Voices of Hagia Sophia. The event will be held at St. Nicholas National Shrine on Thursday, October 19.

### Investment Committee Update

John S. Koudounis 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 (Robert A. Buhler Vice Chair, Christopher Allwin, Michael N. Bapis, Frank D. Catricketes, John A. Catsimatidis, Jr., William H. Spell and 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 and furthermore, the team has subsequently been able to make some nice returns. Kudos to Mr. Koudounis and his brilliant team! His report is as follows:

*The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Investment Portfolio was incepted just over a year ago on February 28th, 2022, and since then we have invested \$10,031,450. The total portfolio value at the end of April was \$10,104,365, ending the first 14 months up slightly – just under 1%. During that time period, global markets were down ~4%, US equity markets were down ~2.8%, and fixed income markets were down ~6.9% (on a cumulative basis). We've positioned the portfolio conservatively with a higher allocation to cash/money market funds, using market pullbacks as opportunities to deploy capital. This has driven a majority of the positive experience, given most asset classes were down during this time period.*

*Looking under the hood, our equity and fixed income investments also outperformed their benchmarks on a relative basis. The equity portion of the portfolio was down 2.6% vs. the MSCI All Country World down 3.5%, and the fixed income portion of the portfolio was down 2.7% vs. the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate down 5.9% (on an annualized basis).*

*We continue to hold an outsized cash position of ~18% of the total portfolio, and believe we will see further opportunities to deploy capital over the next 6-12 months given lingering uncertainty around elevated inflation, geopolitical risks, and potential earnings deterioration from a recessionary environment. We are also earning 4.5-5% on this cash while we wait to deploy the additional funds.*

*Overall, we and the investment committee feel we have managed the portfolio effectively during market turbulence; we remain defensively positioned to take advantage of opportunities that may arise amongst the uncertainty, while keeping a majority of capital invested to drive long term compounding of the portfolio. We maintain consistent dialogue around the positioning of the portfolio and deploying capital.*



**John Koudounis**  
Chair, Investment Committee

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America  
together with the Board of Trustees of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation  
requests the pleasure of your company at a

# FOUNDERS CONCERT

AN EXCLUSIVE PERFORMANCE  
FOR FOUNDERS OF THE



ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH  
BARTHOLOMEW FOUNDATION

*For the Sacred See of Saint Andrew*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023  
6:00-8:00PM

Featuring

## CAPPELLA ROMANA

*The Byzantine Chant Ensemble who made head-  
lines around the world chanting at the Coronation  
of His Majesty King Charles III*



Cappella Romana will chant *Lost Voices of Hagia Sophia*, which is the first vocal album in the world to be recorded entirely in live virtual acoustics. It brings together art history, music history, performance, and technology to recreate medieval sacred sound in the cathedral of Hagia Sophia as an aural virtual reality.

This event is for FOUNDERS in good standing and all new FOUNDERS.

In 'good-standing' means your pledges are up-to-date. If you are uncertain about your pledge status, or, if you would like to become a FOUNDER in order to attend this event, please contact the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation office.

RSVPs will ONLY be taken electronically. No phone calls or emails will be accepted.

[2023foundersconcert.eventbrite.com](https://2023foundersconcert.eventbrite.com)

RSVP required by Saturday, October 7.



Concert to be held at



SAINT NICHOLAS  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH & NATIONAL SHRINE  
OF THE NEW YORK TRIANGLE DISTRICT

Saint Nicholas National Shrine  
130 Liberty Street  
New York, NY 10006

6:00-8:00PM

An elegant reception  
will follow at



Skinos  
123 Washington St  
New York, NY 10006

8:00-9:00PM





### International Archons Committee

The critical task of this committee will be to help develop separate organizational structures for the Archons in Europe, South America, Asia, Africa and Australia and to assist in the creation of mission oriented Orders. Because some of these areas have their own organizations (i.e., Greece has Pammakaristos), the committee's task in these cases would be to coordinate working with these groups rather than organizing a new group of Archons.

Chair	Vice Chair
George C. Rockas, Esq.	Harry G. Dimopoulos, PhD
Constantine Sideridis	Nicholas R. Larigakis

Two video meetings were held. The first meeting was open to all Committee members and the second meeting involved only Planning Committee members. Both meetings focused on preparing for the 4th International Archon Conference: Protecting Democracy, Religious Freedom, and Human Rights.

At the full Committee meeting, Committee members were apprised of the schedule of events and possible topics for the conference were reviewed. Attendees expressed their preferences on the list of topics that had been previously distributed. It was the consensus that something should be done to commemorate May 29 and the fall of Constantinople. We understand that a memorial service (mnemosynon) commemorating Patriarch Gregory V will be held after the liturgy on Sunday, May 25, 2024. That fact will be relayed to the Committee members.

After the full Committee meeting, the Planning Committee met. The attendees were Elizabeth Prodromou, Bill Antholis, Costa Sideridis, Harry Dimopoulos and George Rockas. The following was discussed:

1. Conference Topics: The discussion was based on the understanding that there would be six panel discussions, two each during the afternoon of May 26, the morning of May 27 and the afternoon of May 27. Each panel will be limited to 45 minutes. There was a universal consensus that this was not enough time for the panels to present most topics. As a result, the Planning Committee recommends that there be six one hour panel presentations.
2. The Planning Committee decided the following six topics should be the subject of panel discussions: (1) Religious Freedom in a Democratic Society/Religious Persecution in a Democratic Society; (2) Types of Religious Freedom/What is the Meaning of Religious Freedom; (3) Religious Freedom and War/Violence in the Name of Religion; (4) The Role of the Press in Religion; (5) Women in Religion; and (6) Religious Freedom From a Legal Perspective. The exact titles of each panel presentation could be refined during the planning process. If there is agreement on these topics, the Planning Committee will start the process of selecting speakers. It was agreed that there should be a cross section of speakers from different religions. The goal is to select all speakers by September 30. The Planning Committee agreed that each panel should have a moderator and two or three panelists.
3. It was agreed that an honorarium probably is not necessary. The thought was that Athens should be a draw that would make honorariums not necessary. The travel expenses of the speakers would be paid by the Archons, including airfare, hotel and perhaps miscellaneous expenses like airport parking.
4. During the Planning Committee meeting and during other conversations the topic of fund raising was discussed. It was proposed that Committee members contact Archons in their Metropolis and seek donations. If this is approved, the Planning Committee will select Archons from the full committee to help raise money. Please let the Planning Committee know whether the Committee can raise funds in this way.

In addition to the report above, an effort to further reduce the topics was conveyed and the following priority of topics were suggested by His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel.

1. Religious Persecution in a Democratic Society
2. Violence in the Name of Religion
3. Abuse of Human Rights in the Name of Religion
4. Women in Religion
5. Modern Ways of Communication and Religion

The committee will continue to review all these recommendations with the intent of moving to the speak selection phase starting in August.



# THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ARCHON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Protecting Religious Freedom,  
Democracy and Human Rights

and

GLOBAL SUMMIT OF ARCHONS

MAY 26-29  
2024

ATHENS  
GREECE

Presented by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate  
of America, Australia, Canada and Europe

Sunday

**MAY 26**

- Divine Liturgy
- Opening Reception
- Evening free

Monday

**MAY 27**

- Day I of the International Conference
- Opening Session
- Lunch
- Afternoon Session
- Welcome Dinner

Tuesday

**MAY 28**

- Day II of International Conference
- Morning Session
- Lunch
- Afternoon Session
- Cocktail Reception
- Evening free

Wednesday

**MAY 29**

- Global Summit of Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
- Afternoon free
- Farewell Dinner



### Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Committee

This committee is responsible for dealing specifically with issues concerning patriarchal properties and also more broadly with general patriarchal legal issues.

#### Chair

Joseph J. Kokolakis,  
Esq.

#### Vice Chair

Theodore M.  
Kakoyiannis, Esq.

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. Our committee met on Thursday, June 22, 2023, to reaffirm its direction and chart a course forward. Three subcommittees were formed:

**Legal Identity:** The subcommittee would focus on the Rule of Law, both International and Turkish, to identify Legal Standing in respective courts. The Subcommittee will be made up of Committee members with expertise in International Law. All avenues of legal recourse will be reviewed, including filing actions before the European Court of Human Rights, and the United Nations, and drafting reports for submission/presentation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

**Foundation System and Patriarchal Properties:** This subcommittee will coordinate efforts with International Archons to research the fundamentals of the Turkish Foundation System. The mission is to learn about Foundation's history and structure and identify ways to prevent its use as a tool for institutional abuse. Rather than abolish this centuries-old institution, we will investigate ways to change them from within.

**Political Initiatives:** The subcommittee will collaborate with all Engagement Committees to educate and inform both the general public and political leaders. The subcommittee will prepare "white papers" on topics relevant to the challenges facing our Ecumenical Patriarchate. White Paper drafting and distribution will be coordinated with Governmental Affairs and Communications Engagement Committees. An online platform will be established where all relevant literature, reports, white papers, etc. can be shared amongst all Engagement Committees and Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Our mission is simple. It is to preserve our Patriarchate's place in Constantinople without interference from the Turkish government. Our committee is one small part of that effort. As Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, it is incumbent upon us all to act.





### Metropolis and Parish Education Committee

This committee will develop an overall educational strategy for individual parish and Metropolis communities, focusing on the role of our Ecumenical Patriarchate in world Orthodoxy in general and on American Orthodoxy in particular. Because so many people, especially the youth, have no idea who our Patriarch and our Ecumenical Patriarchate are, educating the Omogenia on this basic information should be paramount.

**Chair**

Frank Boardman

**Vice Chair**

John Thibault

The Metropolis & Parish Education Engagement Committee meets virtually monthly. Our committee has collected presentations given by our fellow Archons in regards to the mission and five initiatives. We have divided our committee up by Metropolis and are sharing our findings with the Youth Education Committee. We have created a Google Drive to be used by our committee members as a housing point for the gathered presentations. The presentations are available for our committee members to give presentations to our parishes and Metropolises.



### Patriarchal Green Initiatives Committee

This committee will work to disseminate information to Orthodox 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 (i.e., Antarctic, Amazon River, Mississippi River).

**Chair**

John Harbilas

**Vice Chair**

George J. Spanos

The mission of the Patriarchal Green Committee is 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. We work through our fellow Archon Engagement committees to Engage and Educate on topics such as Greening the Parish, Improving the Energy Efficiency of our Churches, and raising general awareness with children, parishioners, church and government leaders on how to Care for Creation. We have hosted guest speakers and are using their valued expertise to build talking points and share reference materials.



## Youth Participation Activities Committee

The mission of this committee is to connect with the various youth committees and organizations in our communities, establish regular gatherings with them, help educate them on the religious freedom challenges facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate and instruct them on the various initiatives undertaken by the Archons to successfully overcome these obstacles.

Chair	Vice Chair
Nicholas J. Tranto	Hon. Steven G. Counelis
	George K. Moutis
	Pericles C. Siatis, Esq.

Our YPA Committee has 5 key subcommittees focusing on Ecumenical Patriarchal Youth Education in different yet overlapping age groups as follows:

1. Sprouts (Pre-k- Grade 12)- Sunday School formal curriculum- Tranto Chair
2. GOYA (Grades 8-12)- Youth Ministries/Camps/Retreats-Moutis- Co-Chair
3. YAL/College- Ages 18-35 (Conferences, OCF, IV etc.) Counelis-Co-Chair
4. Pilgrimage of Discovery Journey to Constantinople/POD (Ages 23-28) (Ambassadors) Chrones-Co Chair
5. Leadership Network- (Comprised of POD Alumni) (Providing Leadership and Mentoring Opportunities) Siatis-Co-Chair

### Summary of events:

The Sprout Program has formed a partnership with the Dept of Religious Education (DRE) in conjunction with His Grace Bishop Athenagoras and Ms. Tina Arvinitis, along with the Chair and Co-Chairs Tranto, Moutis and Counelis, in proposing a comprehensive full-scale revamp of Patriarchal Education for the age groups above.

- Although the focus will be the “Sprout Program”, the overlap and use of all material can be easily adapted to include all age groups.
- The goal is to create both a universal DRE/GOA print and digital library where Sunday School, GOYA, YAL Ecumenical patriarchal lessons plans, videos, printed text, interactive exercises, and other valuable teaching tools, will be made available in both English and Greek.
- The goal is uniformity, consistency, age-appropriate teaching tools, factually correct and accurate materials and providing presenters with opportunities to learn from professionals on developing interesting interactive presentations for us for all age groups.
- Michael Psaros is a major benefactor and underwriter of this immense project.

The POD Program has been launched a 2023 Pilot Program out of the Archons of Chicago Metropolis and 5 Young Adults were selected as full scholarship participants to Journey to Constantinople on July 31-August 7 as a spiritual pilgrimage to learn firsthand of their Orthodox faith.

This program represents the culmination of 2+ years of efforts by a core Chicago team and their Chicago partners including \$50,000 self -funding plus a matching donation from the OSA. The Pilot Program will include a video team from the US and Turkey, a social media, marketing and promotional team, and a pro bono legal and security team. The POD participants will meet with HAH and tour crucial historic religious sites, led by a team of PhD Scholars from US universities representing a plethora of Orthodox and Byzantine historical perspectives on the past and the future.

The POD was presented to the ARCL on June 23, 2023 by Jeff and Hellena Chrones with a overview of 2023-2024 proposals.

The Leadership Network (ALN) will provide a viable, vital Alumni Organization for POD participants with focus on building future leaders of our church who will be taught to expand their talents for the preservation of Hellenism, Orthodoxy and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The program was presented to the National Council and approved in May 2023, followed up by a presentation to the ARCL on June 23, 2023 by Perry Siatis. Stay tuned for the next steps.

# The Ministry of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

At the invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, offered remarks on the worldwide spiritual father, His All-Holiness, on the occasion of his nameday (June 11). National Commander Limberakis' remarks were delivered following the Great Vespers at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York, NY on Saturday, June 10. His remarks are available to read below:

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Reverend Clergy of the Saint Bartholomew Episcopal Church, thank you for your warm hospitality, Your Graces Bishop Apostolos and Bishop Athenagoras, Reverend Fathers, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, National Treasurer Archon Peter J. Skeadas, fellow Archons and Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On this Feastday of His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople – New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, we gather here in this magnificent byzantine domed cathedral to reflect on the extraordinary and historic tenure of the longest serving Ecumenical Patriarch in history, 32 years on the Throne of St. Andrew.

When I think of His All-Holiness, three words come to mind that describe a remarkable leader who has left lasting and impactful achievements for the Oikoumene.

The first word is **VISION**.

His All-Holiness has been blessed with a grand vision that encompasses a myriad of issues that affect 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 on earth and in his words: "As Orthodox Christians, we use the Greek word *kairos* to describe a critical moment in time, often a specific historical period with lasting repercussions and eternal significance. For humankind and the planet as a whole, now is our *kairos*: the decisive time in our relationship with all of God's creation, when we must respond in an opportune manner to protect life on earth from the worst consequences of human recklessness."

The second word that I think of when I reflect on the expansive impact of His All-Holiness is the word **COURAGE**, which was used in the Congressional Gold Medal of

Honor citation, recognizing Bartholomew's spiritual leadership. It is one thing to have the vision to establish goals, but it is quite another situation to exhibit the courage to attain those goals. Confronting enormous pressures to the contrary, His All-Holiness on January 5, 2019 granted autocephaly to the 43 million Orthodox Christians of Ukraine who deserved their own religious freedom. Religious freedom from the tyranny of the Russian Patriarchate, a patriarchate that is complicit in the horrific war against Ukraine. Bartholomew 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, which took unparalleled courage at enormous personal risk and danger. And yet today, Kiev the city where Christianity was first established in the Slavic World, centuries before Moscow, is now the headquarters of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine.... All because of the Courage of a single and historic Ecumenical Patriarch.... Bartholomew.

The third word that comes to my mind upon reflecting on the breadth of the worldwide ministry of His All-Holiness is **LOVE, AGAPE**, perhaps the most important of the charismata of His All-Holiness and the most Christ-like attribute of Bartholomew. It was his love of unity that he organized and presided over the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church in Crete, the first such gathering of its kind in 1200 years. At this Council the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America offered significant behind the scenes technical, financial, and logistical support which facilitated strategic discussions among our worldwide spiritual fathers led by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Such subjects as the Sacrament of Marriage, the Orthodox Diaspora and Relations of the Orthodox Church with the Rest of the Christian World were explored in great depth. And this Council, 55 years in the making



and methodically and meticulously planned and organized by His All-Holiness was the ultimate manifestation of his love and support of unity for the worldwide Orthodox Faithful.

A fitting and noble tribute to His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America established the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation together with the Exarch, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. The Foundation, which has over \$20 million in pledges, will provide essential financial security for the Spiritual Center of the World's 300 million Faithful in perpetuity while honoring His All-Holiness Bartholomew, as the Foundation bears his name. Indeed, the Bartholomew Foundation will safeguard the economic footing of the Phanar, yesterday, today and tomorrow, Hebrews 13:8, so that the Ecumenical Patriarch, whoever it is and in whatever century, will be able to carry out his worldwide salvific ministry without concern for financial need.

Please allow me to conclude this evening by offering my deep gratitude to Archbishop Elpidophoros of America for including the Archons in the St. Bartholomew Great Vespers Program and his ongoing heartfelt support and participation in the efforts of the Archons to secure the Religious Freedom and wellbeing of the Holy Mother Church. Archbishop Elpidophoros is a true son of the Mother Church whose ministry in America these past four years has been most impactful. Είς Πολλά Έτη!

We are especially thankful to our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alex Karloutsos who in his trademark indefatigable way, is always there for the Order, as we relentlessly launch domestic and international programming for the good Ecumenical Patriarchate. And finally, I thank all my Brother Archons and their devoted families for carrying the torch of religious freedom for the Holy Mother Church.

# The John Halecky Jr. 19th Annual National Lenten Retreat

On Saturday, April 1, 2023, the John Halecky Jr. 19th Annual National Lenten Retreat was held at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Southampton, NY. Fr. Nicholas Louh served as the Retreat Master and spoke about "His Pain For Our Purpose: 7 Statements Jesus Shares on the Cross".



PHOTO BY J. MINDALA

## Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Decries Turkey's Restrictions on Rights of Ecumenical Patriarchate

Several weeks after meeting with a high-level delegation from the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has called on the government of Turkey to end its restrictions on the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the center of the Orthodox Christian Faith.

The news organization Kathimerini reported on April 20, 2023 that Menendez said that Turkey's leaders "have to permit the ecumenical patriarch to exercise his

rights as the religious leader of millions of people around the world." His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide.

Senator Menendez's statement followed his meeting on March 29, 2023, with a delegation from the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate who met in Washington, D.C. in order to discuss mutual efforts to protect and defend the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Attending the meetings were Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., Aktouarios, National Commander;



On March 29, 2023, a delegation met in Washington, D.C. with Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), a longtime champion of the rights and freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

the Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Ekdikos, National Vice Commander; Emmanuel "Mike" Manatos, Dikaiophylax, the President of the lobbying firm Manatos & Manatos, and Father Alexander Karloutsos, Protropesbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Spiritual Advisor of the Archons.

## New Regional Commanders Appointed

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and in consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, has appointed Archons James D. Speros and Constantine Sideridis Regional Commanders for the

Archons in the Metropolis of Boston. Additionally, with the consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Archon James A. Frangis has been appointed Regional Commander of the State of Georgia in the Metropolis of Atlanta. Archon Frangis joins Metropolis of

Atlanta Regional Commanders Theodore P. Vlahos, M.D.; Harry T. Cavalaris; G. Thomas Yearout, Esq.; and John C. Scurtis. Frangis succeeds Manuel N. Tissura, D.D.S., who recently informed Dr. Limberakis of his intention to step down as Regional Commander.



*I cannot overstate my gratitude to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, National Commander Dr. Limberakis and the entire leadership of the Order for providing me with this opportunity to continue and strengthen my service to God's Holy Church as a Regional Commander."*

—James D. Speros



*It has been my honor to serve as an of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for the last seven years. This new responsibility as Regional Commander for the Metropolis of Boston is one that I approach with gratitude to God and trust in Him, and with a determination to strengthen the Order and further its sacred mission of supporting and defending the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople."*

—Constantine Sideridis



*I am deeply humbled and honored by the confidence in me that they have displayed by appointing me as a Regional Commander in the Metropolis of Atlanta. I consider it an extraordinary opportunity to deepen my devotion and service to His All-Holiness and the Ecumenical Patriarchate."*

—James A. Frangis

# House Speaker Kevin McCarthy Makes Official Visit to the Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine

**Direct Archdiocesan District** • On June 26, 2023, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), made an official visit to Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center.

Speaker McCarthy is the highest-ranking U.S. official to date to visit the Church and National Shrine. He was given a tour of the Church and Shrine by Archon Michael G. Psaros, a member of the National Council of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and Vice Chairman of the Friends of St. Nicholas, the organization responsible for the construction of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero.

In 2020, Rep. McCarthy, who was at that time serving as House Minority Leader, along with then-New York State Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis and Archon John Catsimatidis, proposed the open space at the Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine site as an alternative for the 9/11 Tribute in Light, which had been cancelled due to concerns over COVID-19, but was subsequently reinstated at its usual location.



## John A. Catsimatidis Receives Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation's Allyship Award

**Direct Archdiocesan District** • On Thursday, June 1, 2023, the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation (AJCF) Allyship Award was presented to John A. Catsimatidis at the AJCF's Annual Gala.

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, notes, that, "When you view this video, you will learn that the mother and grandparents of the beloved wife of John, dear Margo, were prisoners of the horrific Gestapo World War II prison in Kraków, Poland who were ultimately rescued by Margo's father, an intelligence officer of the US Army."

He continues, "The awarding of the AJCF's Allyship Award to John A. Catsimatidis is a fitting recognition that Catsimatidis is everything an should be: a warrior for justice and religious freedom, a courageous advocate for the oppressed and down-trodden, and a firm friend of all people of faith both in the United States and throughout the world. Congratulations to John! Axios!"



## Hon. Steven Councilis Receives the 2023 AHEPA District 20 Periclean Award

**Metropolis of San Francisco** • Hon. Steven Councilis, Regional Commander for Southern California for the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has been named the recipient of the 2023 American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) District 20 Periclean Award. Judge Councilis will receive the award at the 91st El Camino Real District 20 Convention, which will be hosted by Anaheim's AHEPA Chapter 411 on Friday and Saturday, June 2-3, 2023.

The Periclean award is given annually to a Greek Orthodox Christian of sterling character, whose life and work manifests consistent and profound devotion to our Holy Orthodox Faith and indefatigable support of Hellenic values.

National Commander Limberakis remarked: "I am utterly delighted to see Judge Councilis honored in this way. Anaheim's AHEPA chapter could not have found a more deserving recipient of the Periclean Award, or a more dedicated Orthodox Christian and ardent Hellene. Axios!"



### Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chicago Hold 8th Annual Business Meeting



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

### Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in San Francisco Welcome Archbishop Elpidophoros for Folk Dance and Choral Festival



**Metropolis of San Francisco** • 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. 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. Regional Commander Paul Sogotis (San Francisco – Bay Area) offered a toast to Archbishop Elpidophoros, "to convey our gratitude, respect, and love for his Archpastoral ministry." At the conclusion of dinner, Regional Commander Isidoros Garifalakis (Pacific Northwest) presented to the Archbishop a donation of \$15,000 from the Archons.

### Students Speak on Christ and the Ecumenical Patriarchate at Oratorical Festival



**Metropolis of Atlanta** • 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.

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 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.



# Young Adults In Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD) Have Moving Experience with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

**Metropolis of Chicago** • On Friday, August 4, 2023 at the seat of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Phanar in Constantinople, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received the five young adults participating in the national Archon Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD) Pilot Program. These young adults had a profoundly moving experience as His All-Holiness generously spent over an hour and a half with them. The time spent included questions from the young adults, dialogue, and His All-Holiness' praise for the Archons' initiative. At the conclusion of their time together, His All-Holiness and the POD participants together attended Paraklesis.

His All-Holiness, above, meets with POD Young Adults and Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, at the Phanar.





Each of the POD participants brought His All-Holiness personal, meaningful gifts that described their parish or the area from which they came. His All-Holiness enjoyed the uniqueness of the gifts and the delegation agreed that His All-Holiness “appeared very pleased.”

Funded by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, this inaugural Pilgrimage of Discovery was a pilot program conducted through the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Metropolis of Chicago from July 31 to August 7, 2023. It granted five young adults ages 23-28 from the 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, 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. The latter was conducted by the Selection Committee, which was headed

by Archon Dr. John Fotopoulos and comprised of Archons from other Metropolises.

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. The five young adults praised the program and recounted their experience, which be shared with other young people. Participant George commented after the visit to the Theological School of Halki that he now feels “responsible for the well-being and future of Halki and the Mother Church.”

The Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD) Pilot Program was organized by the National Youth Participation Activity (YPA) Engagement Committee of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chicago, who conducted this year’s pilot program. The mission of the program is to bolster the future of the Orthodox

Church by educating and inspiring future leaders through fostering a life-long connection to the Mother Church of Constantinople. National Commander Dr. Limberakis enthusiastically praised the Youth Participation Engagement Committee chaired by Archon Nick Tranto with Vice Chairs Archons Perry C. Siatis, Esq., Hon. Jeff Chrones and Mrs. Hellena Chrones, National Secretary Kosmas (Gus) Pablecas, Regional Commander Nick Terezis, Regional Commander John G. Manos, Regional Commander Hon. Steven G. Counelis, Prof. John Fotopoulos, Prof. Elizabeth Prodromou, Prof. Alexandros Kyrou and a number of volunteers including the pro bono work of Attorney Joan Berg and the public relations efforts of Tina Manikas. “One of the goals of the YPA is to nurture our young adults to lead a Christ-centered life in service to the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople, the Ecumenical Patriarchate... With the POD initiative, that aspiration is coming to fruition,” commented the National Commander.



His All-Holiness with Hellena and Archon Hon. Jeff Chrones



His All-Holiness with Regional Commander John Manos and National Secretary Gus Pablecas





PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS-GEORGE A. PAPACHRISTOU, DIRECTOR, PATRIARCHAL PRESS AND COMMUNICATION OFFICE

## Religious Freedom Youth Symposium in Chicago

**Metropolis of Chicago** • On Sunday, May 21, 2023, Pericles C. Siatis, Esq., vice chair of the Youth Participation Activities Committee gave a religious freedom presentation to 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 Siatis during the presentation, which focused on the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the five key issues impacting the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



## Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Metropolis of New Jersey 'Women In Orthodoxy' Lenten Retreat A Great Success

**Metropolis of New Jersey** • With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia, more than 100 people attended "Women In Orthodoxy," the New Jersey Lenten Retreat of the Archons

of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The talented panel of speakers was led by George E. Demacopoulos, PhD, the John Meyendorff and Patterson Family Chair of Orthodox Christian Studies at Fordham University.

George A. Tsougarakis, Esq., Regional Commander for the Metropolis of New Jersey, stated: "One aspect that made this program particularly gratifying was the inclusion of our young adults, who comprised about half the audience.



## Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Metropolis of Chicago Participate in the City's Greek Heritage Parade



**Metropolis of Chicago** • On March 26, 2023, Metropolis of Chicago Archons walked in the Greek Heritage Parade in the heart of Greektown Chicago. The U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic, George J. Tsunis, Hypomnematografos, served as the parade's Grand Marshal. Presenting the parade was the Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of Illinois (ENOSIS); its sponsor was Greektown Special Service Area16, the business improvement committee for the area.

Hon. Paul Lillios; John Hilaris; Constantinos Zografopoulos; Hon. Jeffery Chrones; U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic and George Tsunis; Regional Commander John G. Manos; AHEPA Supreme President and Demetrios Kokotas; John Gountanis; Dr. George Bovis.

## Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Metropolis of Boston host Retreat Focusing On the Beauty of Hagia Sophia



**Metropolis of Boston** • On April 5, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in the Metropolis of Boston hosted a Lenten Retreat at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Weston, MA featuring Dr. Alexander Lingas, Mousikodidaskalos, music director and founder of the world-renowned music ensemble Cappella Romana. Dr. Lingas provided a fascinating history of the music of the Byzantine era, using audio examples of how today's modern technology has allowed for the recreation of how chanting actually sounded in Hagia Sophia. The event was organized by Regional Commanders Costa Sideridis and James Speros.

Archons from left to right: Peter Condakes, Dimitrios Geogakopoulos, Drake Behrakis, Dr. Alexandros Kyrrou, Regional Commander James Speros, George Behrakis, George Danis, Tom Gutzunis, Christopher Pappas, Nicholas Kourtis, Regional Commander Costa Sideridis and Dr. James Skedros.



## Three Webinars Illuminate the All-Important Place of Women in the Orthodox Church

The St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess, which is dedicated to educating and prayerfully advocating for the revival of the ordained female diaconate in the Orthodox Church to meet the ministerial needs of the Church and the world today, is presenting three timely and much-needed

webinars that will focus upon and illuminate the role of women in the Orthodox Church. These enlightening webinars will offer new perspectives, dispel misconceptions, and offer a bold new vision regarding the participation of women in the life of God's Holy Church.

These are the webinars to watch, or participate in: "Girls' and Women's Liturgical Service," "Myth-Busting: Addressing the Myths Around Ordaining Deaconesses," and the "Church of our Granddaughters by Carrie Frederick Frost: An Evening with the Author."

Founded in 2013, the St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess has worked tire-

lessly to hold several conferences — including the first ever in the United States solely dedicated to the female diaconate. The St. Phoebe Center has also made presentations across the country, partners with respected Orthodox organizations, and maintains a website that includes what is likely to be the largest collection of scholarship and resources on the female diaconate in the world. Board members have contributed outstanding articles and papers that support the need for the Church to examine how the talents, gifts, and experiences of women — more than half of its people — can help build up the entire Church today.

# Archons honored with Servant Leadership Award

**Direct Archdiocesan District** • Under the auspices His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the first annual Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan District Servant Leadership Banquet was held at at The GreenTree Country Club in New Rochelle, NY on June 6, 2023.

Among many faithful from the Direct Archdiocesan District, several Archons were honored in special recognition of their benevolent Christian Contribution of Time, Talent, and Treasure, which encourage the progress of the ministries of their parish. These Archons included:

Stephen Cherpelis, Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New York; Theodore Germanakos, Zoodohos Pedhe, Bronx; Thomas Dushas, Holy Trinity, New Rochelle; and George Zimmar, Church of Our Saviour, Rye.



Stephen Cherpelis, far right.



George Zimmar, far left.



Thomas Dushas, second from right.



Theodore Germanakos, right.

## Archons Give Presentations at Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity Assembly

**Metropolis of Atlanta** • At the invitation of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and Very Reverend Father George Tshakis, Chancellor of the Metropolis of Atlanta, Archons Steve Trakas and Terry Sarantou gave a presentation on the current activities of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity Assembly, which was held in Tarpon Springs, Florida on June 23 and 24, 2023.

Archons Trakas and Sarantou gave two wide-ranging and informative ninety-minute presentations. Their principal topics included a history of the Church, the definition of an Archon, the five key issues that are the focus of every Archon, and the current Engagement Committee structure with an emphasis on Youth Engagement and the Pilgrimage of Discovery.



## In Memoriam

---

**Henry Angelo, Jr.**

Depoutatos  
Miami, FL  
Departed on January 17, 2023

**Robert D. Cosgrove**

Laosynaktis  
Port Orange, FL  
Departed on April 14, 2023

**Dr. Michael P. Gabriel**

Aktouarios  
Brooklyn, NY  
Departed on February 25, 2023

**Nicholas Galifianakis**

Depoutatos  
Raleigh, NC  
Departed on March 27, 2023

**George Gritsonis**

Ekdikos  
Arlington Heights, IL  
Departed on January 19, 2023

**George M. Kalambokis**

Depoutatos  
Stoughton, MA  
Departed on April 10, 2023

**Andrew G. Kampiziones**

Depoutatos  
Florence, SC  
Departed on February 20, 2023

**Constantine P. Kanakis**

Notarios  
Birmingham, AL  
Departed on March 20, 2023

**John Kost**

Depoutatos  
Freeland, PA  
Departed on July 12, 2023

**Peter E. Kotorizos**

Exarchos  
Lexington, MA  
Departed on March 15, 2023

**Michael Kundrat**

Hartoularios  
Johnson City, NY  
Departed on December 31, 2022

**Arthur Labros**

Nomophylax  
Brookfield, WI  
Departed on January 10, 2023

**Emmanuel Leventelis**

Depoutatos  
Broomall, PA  
Departed on July 26, 2023

**Emanuel N. Logothetis**

Depoutatos  
Atlantis, FL  
Departed on July 22, 2023

**George G. Makris**

Orphanotrofos  
Cresskill, NJ  
Departed on July 22, 2023

**Anastasios E. Manassis**

Megas Depoutatos  
New York, NY  
Departed on January 26, 2023

**Stephen A. Manta**

Laosynaktis  
Chicago, IL  
Departed on January 4, 2023

**James Pantelidis**

Notarios  
New York, NY  
Departed on April 13, 2023

**John Pappajohn**

Laosynaktis  
Des Moines, IA  
Departed on April 22, 2023

**Louis D. Pappan**

Depoutatos  
Beaver Falls, PA  
Departed on April 11, 2023

**John Perros**

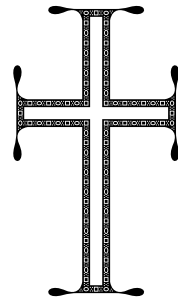
Depoutatos  
Centreville, VA  
Departed on June 17, 2023

**Emil Skocypec**

Notarios  
Queen Creek, AZ  
Departed on March 18, 2023

**Haralambos Tzanetatos**

Exarchos  
Panama City, Panama  
Departed on May 17, 2023



**Eternal be their memory!**

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