

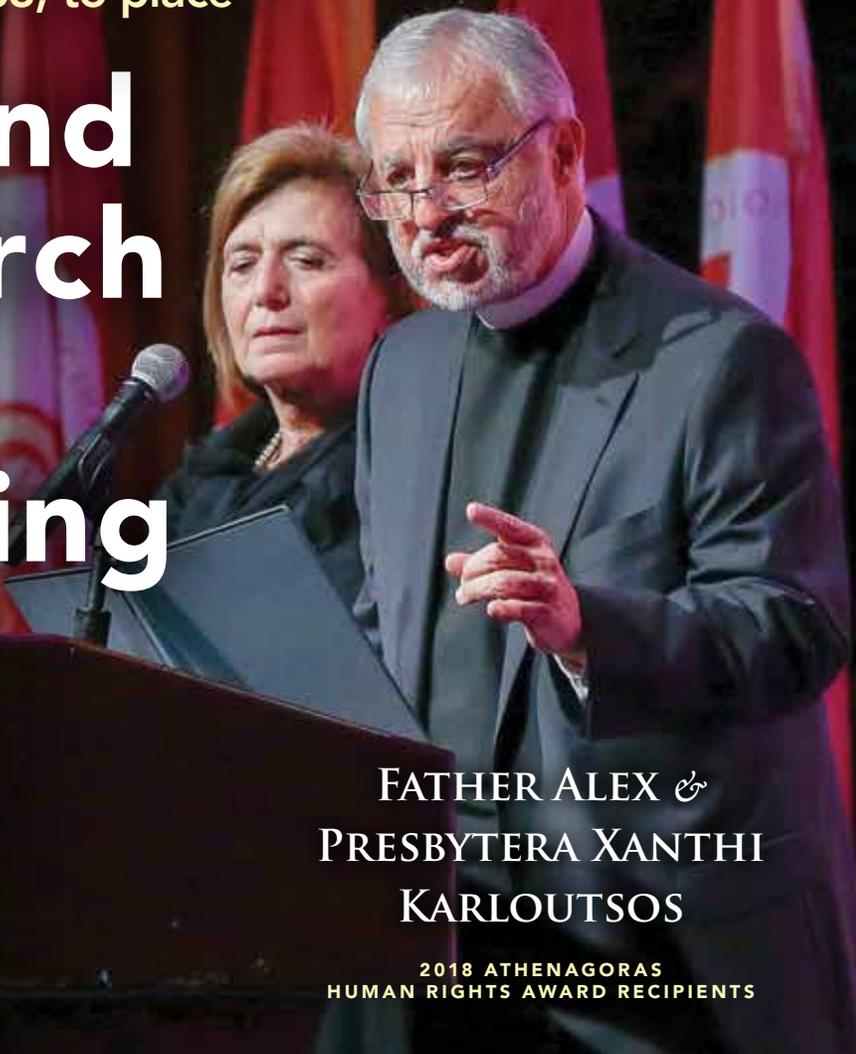


THE ARCHON

NEWSLETTER

"His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the Green Patriarch, who inspired me by his living example from the first time we met in 1983, to place

Christ and His Church above everything else."



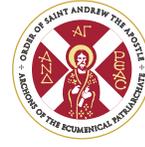
FATHER ALEX &
PRESBYTERA XANTHI
KARLOUTSOS

2018 ATHENAGORAS
HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD RECIPIENTS



14 UKRAINE AUTOCEPHALY

Ecumenical Patriarchate announces election of new Primate of the Church of Ukraine



Ecumenical Patriarch visits South Korea

18 His All-Holiness was welcomed by Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea and the faithful during his fourth official visit, December 3–8, 2018. The Orthodox Metropolis of Korea is the Eastern Orthodox Christian community on the Korean peninsula, existing under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Above, he visits the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)—a strip of land running across the Korean Peninsula which divides North and South Korea.

George E. Safiol honored with Nicholas J. Bouras Award

10 Archon Safiol was recognized for his Extraordinary Archon Stewardship at the New York Athletic Club, kicking off Archon Weekend



Religious Freedom Mission to Austria

22 An Archon delegation traveled to Vienna, the current seat of the European Presidency

SAVE THE DATES

Virtual Town Hall Meeting, January 26

16 Metropolitan Emmanuel of France is among three panelists who will discuss the topic of Ukrainian Church autocephaly

Annual Archon Lenten Retreat, April 12–14

29 Father Perry Hamalis will serve as Retreat Master, speaking on "Lent as Liberation," in Southampton, NY

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

Spiritual Advisor:
Rev. Alexander Karloutsos

National Commander:
Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Aktouarios

National Vice Commander:
John Halecky, Jr., Ekdikos

National Secretary:
Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Ekdikos

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Theofanis V. Economidis, Ekdikos
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Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq., Nomophylax
Nicholas G. Loutision, DVM, Aktouarios
Michael G. Psaros, Ostiarios
George E. Safiol, Archiophylax
Franklin (Rocky) Sisson, Prepositos
George A. Tsougarakis, Esq, Dikaiophylax
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John Zavitsanos, Esq, Ekdikos

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

The Order of Saint Andrew's fundamental mission is to promote the religious freedom, wellbeing and advancement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate—the spiritual center of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians. The Ecumenical Patriarchate is headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey.

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ATHENAGORAS
HUMAN
RIGHTS
AWARD

“You shall know them
by their fruit.”

Matthew 7:16

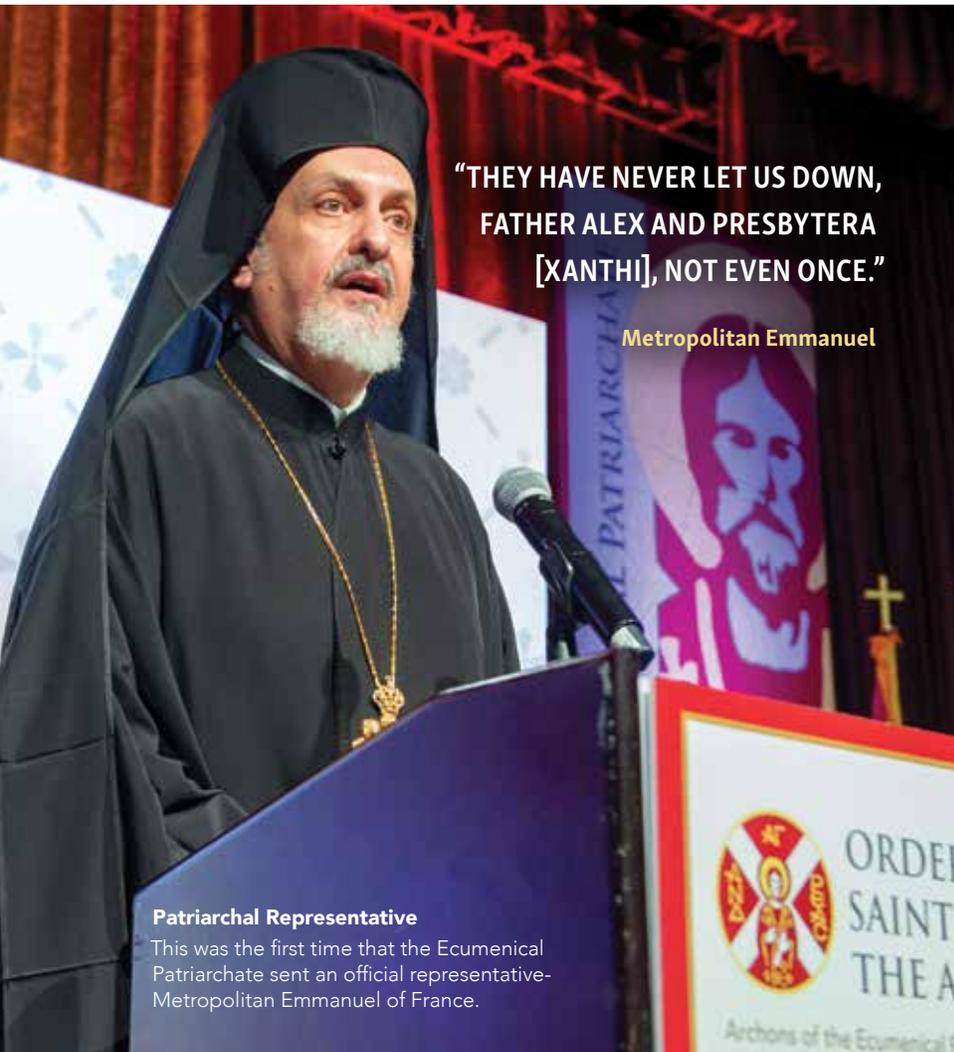
Honoring Father Alex & Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos





ATHENAGORAS
HUMAN
RIGHTS
AWARD

More Than 1,300 Turn Out



“THEY HAVE NEVER LET US DOWN,
FATHER ALEX AND PRESBYTERA
[XANTHI], NOT EVEN ONCE.”

Metropolitan Emmanuel

Patriarchal Representative

This was the first time that the Ecumenical Patriarchate sent an official representative- Metropolitan Emmanuel of France.

THE LARGEST GATHERING IN THE HALF CENTURY HISTORY OF THE ARCHONS

of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America turned out to celebrate this year’s honorees of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award, Father Alexander and Presbyteria Xanthi Karloutsos. About 1,300 attended the October 27 banquet held at the New York Hilton Midtown.



As Archons Honor Father Alex and Presbyteria Xanthi Karloutsos with Athenagoras Human Rights Award

The master of ceremonies was Fox News Chief Congressional and Senior Political Correspondent, Archon Mike Emanuel.

Emanuel said that while he had served as master of ceremonies many times before, this night was “extra-special. If, like me, you consider Father Alex to be a spiritual father and mentor, well then you feel tremendous joy that tonight the Order of Saint Andrew is honoring this distinguished and dedicated priest for his decades of service to our beloved Church at all levels, and Presbyteria Xanthi for her decades of giving her time and talent to causes greater than self.”

“Being in Washington over the past seventeen years,” said Emanuel, “I’ve heard Presidents from both parties mention Father Alex – a recognition of his talent. And three Archbishops have depended heavily on him over the decades....His focus and determination are legendary.”

Father Alex’s brother James Karloutsos spoke movingly about their early life, and said of his brother: “His accomplishments have been molded by his faith, love, and strong faith in God. That life-long faith strengthened his commitment and devotion to better the lives of all who seek him out.” He added that Father Alex “serves and respects the poorest of the poor, the richest of the rich, the connected and the unconnected, with the same faith and passion for all, no matter their station in life. He has always had an



[FATHER ALEX] “SERVES AND RESPECTS THE POOREST OF THE POOR, THE RICHEST OF THE RICH, THE CONNECTED AND THE UNCONNECTED, WITH THE SAME FAITH AND PASSION FOR ALL, NO MATTER THEIR STATION IN LIFE. HE HAS ALWAYS HAD AN UNWAVERING RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY, MIMICKING ALBERT EINSTEIN’S WORDS, ‘TRY NOT TO BECOME A MAN OF SUCCESS, BUT RATHER, TO BECOME A MAN OF VALUE.’”

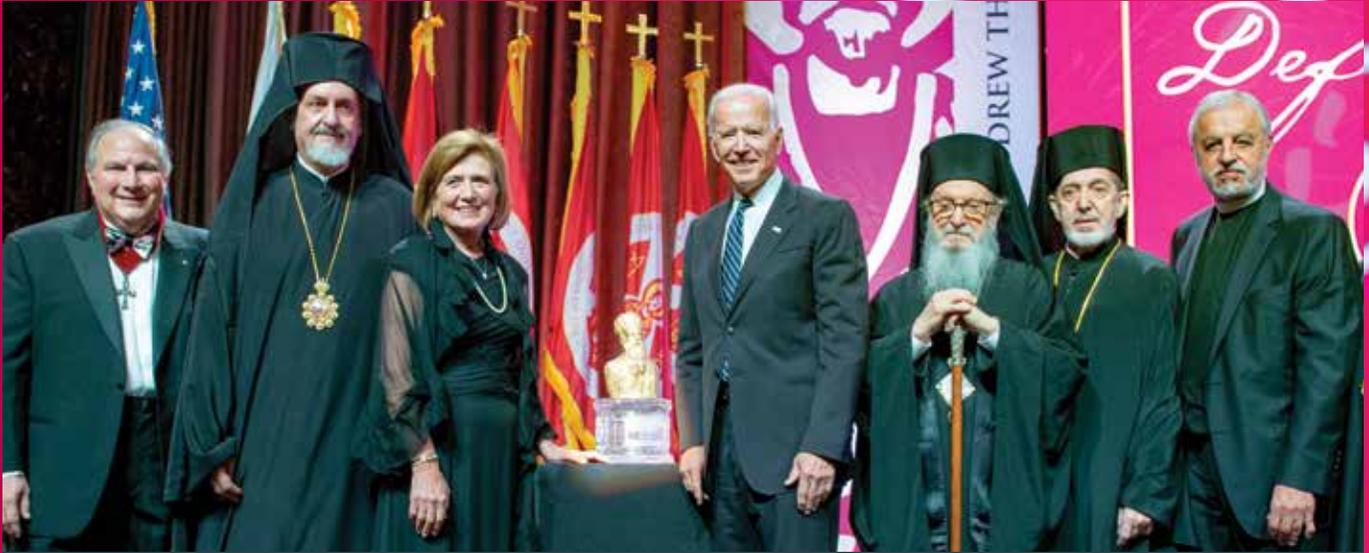
James Karloutsos, Brother of Father Alex

unwavering respect for human dignity, mimicking Albert Einstein’s words, ‘Try not to become a man of success, but rather, to become a man of value.’”

His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, the Personal Representative of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, affirmed: “They have never let us down, Father Alex and

Presbyteria [Xanthi], not even once.” He praised “their spiritual care for every person they have encountered over their decades of service in ministry, from the least, to their parish, to the greatest, in the halls of secular power.”

In a video message recorded for this event, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew addressed the Or-



der, saying: "You have rightly chosen to recognize and honor the unwavering dedication and selfless service they have demonstrated the last five decades to Orthodoxy in the United States and throughout the entire world...Father Alex has deeply impacted and enriched many souls around the globe in search of spiritual refuge and guidance."

Archon National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., noted the Athenagoras Human Rights Award not only recognizes the impact that an individual or organization has had on the respect for human dignity and religious freedom in our world, but it also bears the name of a great Ecumenical Patriarch, and one who was as well, a great Archbishop of our Holy Archdiocese of America.

"There isn't a person in this room who is unaware of the historic and monumental decision of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to heal schisms in Ukraine and once and for all bestow upon the long-suffering and noble Ukrainian people their independence and birthright of autocephaly," Dr. Limberakis said. "We know what the Mother Church is up against and as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Defenders of the Faith, we have, we are, and we will continue to stand at Her side in this battle for religious freedom."

As the Archons engage on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in what Limberakis termed "this fight for the freedom and self-determination of Ukraine and, just as important, the canonical rights and prerogatives of the

Ecumenical Throne granted by the seven Ecumenical Councils, there are no better comrades in arms than Father Alex and Presbytera Xanthi."

Limberakis also spoke of "the extraordinary labor of love that has enabled the Saint Nicholas Shrine to rise like a phoenix from the ashes at Ground Zero." He assured the audience that the shrine will be completed and that Father Alex and Presbytera Xanthi will get this done.

In his response to receiving the Award with his wife, Father Alex replied, "Although we are not the most worthy recipients of this Award, we are immensely aware and humbled by its worth. For us, Patriarch Athenagoras was a visionary for our Church in America and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The infrastructure of our Archdiocese, which is the bedrock of all that we enjoy, was bequeathed to us by this prophetic Prelate.

"Even our political ties to the Oval Office began when then Archbishop Athenagoras was called in November 1948 to lead the Sacred See of Saint Andrew as part of the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan to keep the First Throne of Orthodoxy from being trapped behind the Iron Curtain and falling into the communist hands of Stalin's Soviet Union."

Father Alex emphasized the role his wife has played in his service to the Church:

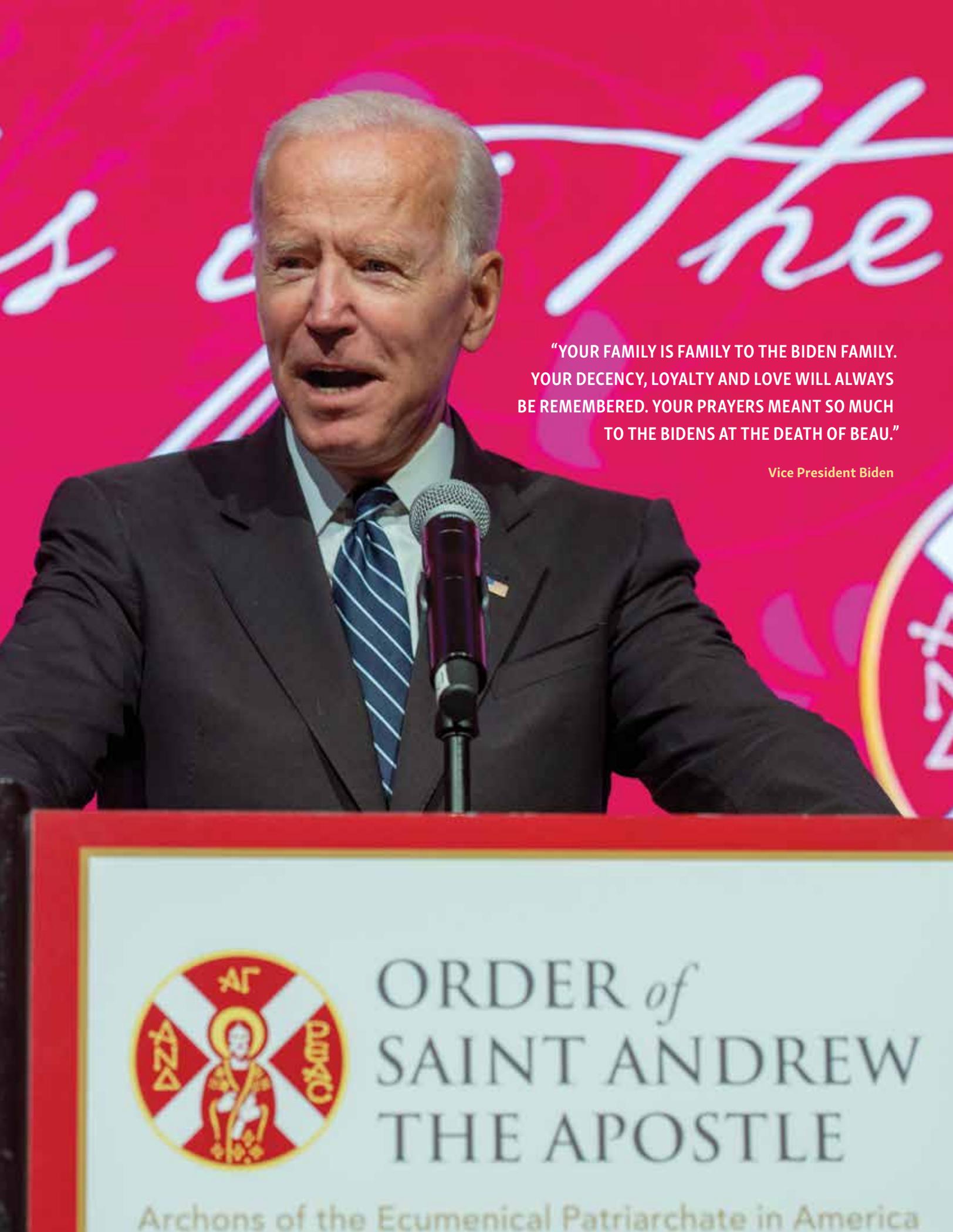
"Together, my wife Xanthi and I have worked and served in the holy priesthood for over 48 years. While I was processing with Popes and Patriar-

chs, my unseen co-worker was sorting suitcases at airports; while I was in receiving lines with Presidents and First Ladies at the White House, Presbytera Xanthi was arranging chairs at the State Department; when I celebrate the Divine Liturgy and enjoy the first seat in our Church, my co-disciple takes the last pew to ensure proper discipline in the Narthex and Nave; while I'm the maître de superstar at our Hamptons Greek Festival, my privileged Presbytera is peeling onions, washing pans and baking baklava.

"Without Xanthi, there would be no Father Alex. Everything I have done, or became, I owe to the love my life. That is why, Presbytera, as the songwriter sang, 'I love you more today than yesterday, less than tomorrow'."

In her comments to the assembled guests, Presbytera Xanthi expressed her gratitude for the recognition they received, adding "as grand as this evening is, it is even more humbling, because whatever we have achieved together, we did it because it was what we truly believed," noting that her and Father Alex have been given unique opportunities to serve the Church they love so much.

"Each act of service has been special because of our love for our Ecumenical Patriarchate, and especially His All-Holiness, receiving this honor is really special," she said. "I remember hearing about the legendary Patriarch Athenagoras since I remember the time I was a little girl and received his blessing while visiting Corfu. He was so impressive and imposing, and



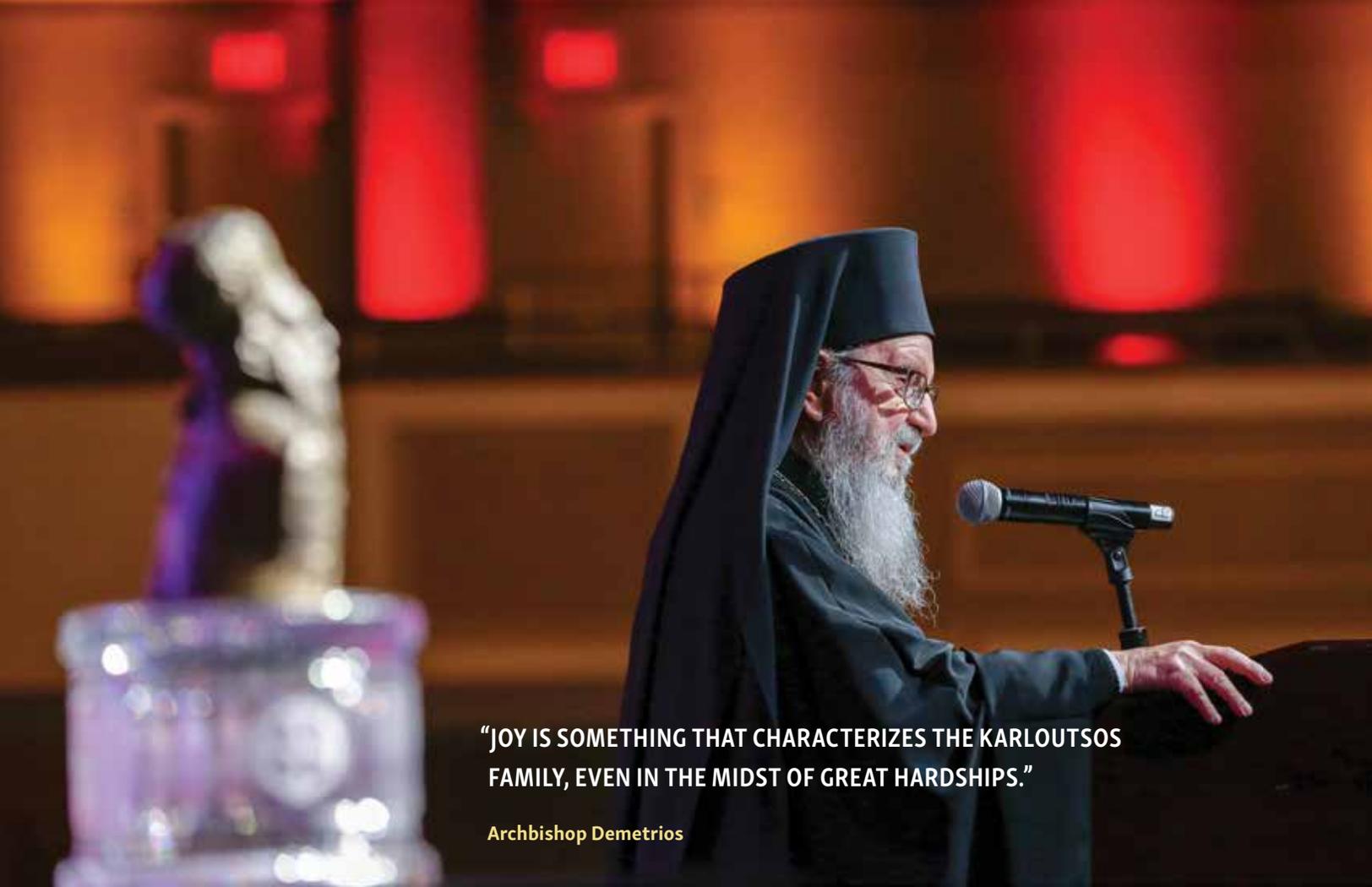
**"YOUR FAMILY IS FAMILY TO THE BIDEN FAMILY.
YOUR DECENCY, LOYALTY AND LOVE WILL ALWAYS
BE REMEMBERED. YOUR PRAYERS MEANT SO MUCH
TO THE BIDENS AT THE DEATH OF BEAU."**

Vice President Biden



ORDER *of*
SAINT ANDREW
THE APOSTLE

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America



“JOY IS SOMETHING THAT CHARACTERIZES THE KARLOUTSOS FAMILY, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF GREAT HARDSHIPS.”

Archbishop Demetrios

to receive this Award with his name and image is so very meaningful to us.”

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, noted that several of the speakers “spoke about joy,” and that “joy is something that characterizes” the Karlooutsos family, even in the midst of great hardships. A “genuine Christian,” he said, is “filled with the joy of Christ no matter what happens,” and Father Alex and his family epitomize this. Archbishop Demetrios added: “Thanks to his tremendous ability and good cooperation with a number of very able people, we were able to have a dramatic increase in the number of members of Leadership 100.”

Archbishop Demetrios also praised Father Alex for facilitating access to Presidents Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Trump. The Archbishop detailed more of Father Alex’s accomplishments and then asked: “If you hear what you heard so far: Leadership 100, Faith Endowment, liaison to a high level of political, federal and other authorities, Archons, you think immediately, what happened to the family of this person? Here is Presbyteria Xanthippe, doing a superhuman work. To

take care of the family and giving to Father Alexander the possibility to move... through different levels and kinds of activity. It’s one thing to deal with the Archons, it’s another thing to deal with political authorities, and it’s another thing to deal with extraordinary events like a unique, Holy and Great Synod in Crete.” He also recounted Father Alex’s tireless efforts to rebuild and restore St. Nicholas Church, destroyed in the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York, and make it a beacon of Orthodoxy in New York City and America as a whole.

Dr. Limberakis also expressed his appreciation to “our esteemed Archon George E. Safiol who was honored the previous day with the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship.

In addition, the National Commander also expressed his thanks to the generous benefactors of the banquet including the five underwriters, the late Archon Nicholas J. Bouras represented by Archon B. Theodore Bozonelis, Archon John A. Catsimatidis, Archon William P. Doucas, Archon Dean Poll, and Archon Michael G. Psaros, as well as those who contributed to sponsoring this year’s banquet.

“We are pleased to announce we have raised \$1.4 million, which will be used exclusively and prudently for the worldwide ministries of the Ecumenical Patriarch,” he said. “We do anticipate establishing the St. Andrew Endowment Fund for our Mother Church of Constantinople with the blessings of the Exarch and the Metropolitan.”

Former Vice President Biden makes surprise visit to Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet; praises Ecumenical Patriarch

Former Vice President Joe Biden made a surprise appearance the Banquet to honor its recipients. Biden, who served two terms under President Barack Obama, originally said because of his tight schedule he would not be able to attend, but at the last minute he squeezed in a surprise appearance and said it was a special honor to be at the banquet.

The former Vice President singled out His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for particular praise, noting that “one of my greatest honors of my life” was meeting the Ecumenical Patriarch several times including in America, Greece and Turkey.



Banquet Chair

Archon Michael Psaros makes introductions of honored guests.



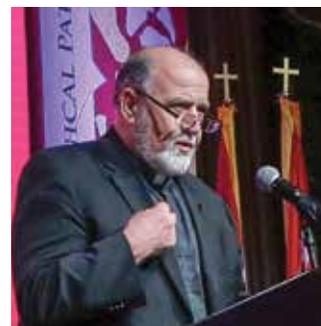
Invocation

Archbishop Demetrios is assisted by Father Peter Karloutsos, brother of Father Alex.



Master of Ceremonies

Mike Emanuel, Fox News Chief Congressional and Senior Political Correspondent



Benediction

Father Kosmas Karavellas, brother to Presbytera Xanthi, recites the prayer before the benediction.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, said Biden, is the “most Christ-like figure I have ever met.” Biden added: “I’ve never met anyone like His All-Holiness. He radiates grace, conviction, and faith in every movement – even,” Biden added with a chuckle, “even when he and I were stuck in a very small, broken-down elevator in Athens last year.”

Biden expressed support for the Ecu-

menical Patriarchate’s decision to grant autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, “because people in every part of the world should be free to worship as they choose, and it falls to us to protect that freedom.”

Said Biden: “We have to continue to work together around the world to ensure the Greek Orthodox Church can not only control its destiny, but be free of the

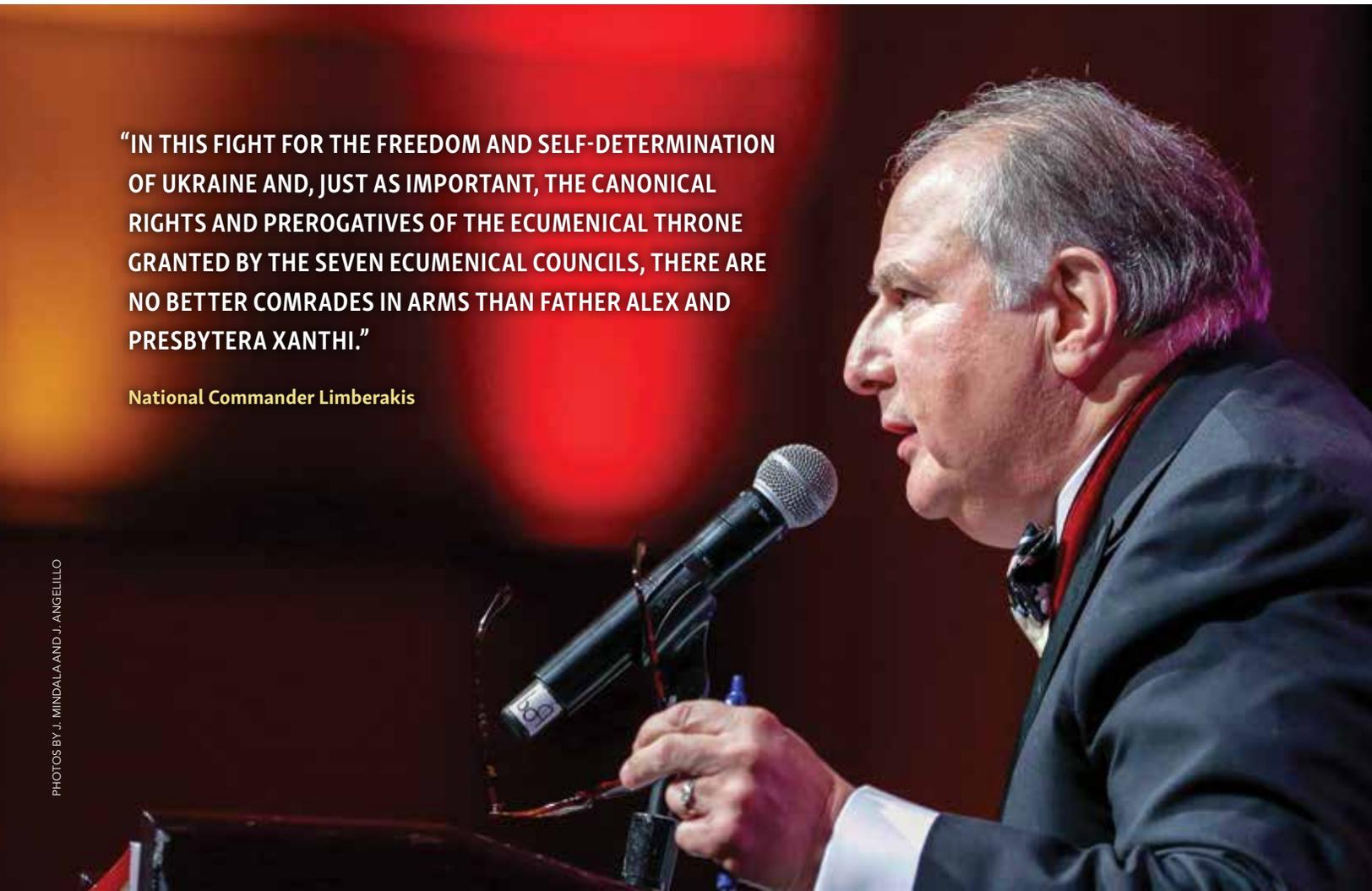
influence of governments.”

Biden also emphasized that the holiest Orthodox sites in Turkey need to be protected, as well as Muslim communities in Greece, adding that “protecting freedom of religion and universal rights never ends.”

Biden also praised the Greek Orthodox Church in America: “You have an unmatched ability to bring communities

“IN THIS FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM AND SELF-DETERMINATION OF UKRAINE AND, JUST AS IMPORTANT, THE CANONICAL RIGHTS AND PREROGATIVES OF THE ECUMENICAL THRONE GRANTED BY THE SEVEN ECUMENICAL COUNCILS, THERE ARE NO BETTER COMRADES IN ARMS THAN FATHER ALEX AND PRESBYTERA XANTHI.”

National Commander Limberakis





“WITHOUT XANTHI,
THERE WOULD BE
NO FATHER ALEX.
EVERYTHING I
HAVE DONE, OR
BECAME, I OWE TO
THE LOVE OF MY
LIFE. THAT IS WHY,
PRESBYTERA, AS
THE SONGWRITER
SANG, ‘I LOVE
YOU MORE TODAY
THAN YESTERDAY,
LESS THAN
TOMORROW’.”

Father Alex Karloutsos



**“EACH ACT OF SERVICE HAS BEEN SPECIAL
BECAUSE OF OUR LOVE FOR OUR ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE,
AND ESPECIALLY HIS ALL-HOLINESS.”**

Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos

together around issues of critical importance to the Church, to our communities, to our nation. You have the universal respect among all our political leaders of both parties.”

The top three greatest honors that he had received during his lifetime, Biden said, were the Medal of Freedom, the Martin Luther King Library Award, and the Athenagoras Human Rights Award from the Archons in 2015, saying it was “an honor that I do not deserve but that I treasure.” Biden added that “the Greek community has meant so much in my life” and praised the Archons for having “taught my son Hunter and me so much over the years.”

Biden, his voice breaking, recounted the prayers and support that Father Alex and Presbytera Xanthi offered to the Biden family during the illness and death of Biden’s son Beau. “Your family is family to the Biden family,” said Biden. “Your decency, loyalty and love will always be remembered. Your prayers meant so much to the Bidens at the death of Beau,” who died of brain cancer in 2015 at the age of 46.

Biden, a Roman Catholic, ended his comments on a humorous note by pointing out that earlier in the evening he had made his cross the wrong way and so did it again, the Orthodox way. ■

Family Support

Father Alex and Presbytera Xanthi are joined by their children and grandchildren as they accept the Award.



George E. Safiol is presented with The Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship

George E. Safiol, Archon Archiophylax, is this year's recipient of The Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship for his outstanding service to the Orthodox Church as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The Award was presented to Mr. Safiol on October 26 by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America and National Commander Dr. Limberakis, in a ceremony at the New York Athletic Club as part of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle's annual three-day assembly.

At the ceremony, National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., praised Archon Safiol's "tremendous stewardship of time, talent and resources in support of the Mother Church of Constantinople, the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the United States, and to the mission of the Order of Saint Andrew in which all children of God should be granted religious freedom as a fundamental, inalienable human right."

"I am personally honored, humbled and happy to receive this Award, particu-

Past Recipients

George E. Safiol, above, is presented with the 2018 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. He is joined by Archbishop Demetrios, Executive Committee Members and past recipients of The Award.



U.S. Army Lieutenant

Archon Safiol served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with distinction

larly considering for whom the Award has been established, Nicholas J. Bouras," Mr. Safiol said in an interview after the ceremony, adding that he treasured his long friendship with Mr. Bouras, noting they served together on three boards, the Archdiocesan Council Executive Committee, the Archon Council and the Leadership 100 board. Humorously, he added, "he treated me like a kid brother even though I was only ten years younger."

Safiol was instrumental in launching the \$10 million Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology Million Dollar a



Year Sponsorship Program, which was initiated to provide scholarships to seminarians and address the shortage of priests in America. To date, \$18 million has been provided to the school and has resulted in more than 200 ordained priests.

He was also involved in a project at Saint Basil Academy. While he and Mr. Bouras were visiting the academy one day during the Annual Archon Lenten

Retreat, they noticed that the narrow roads serving the academy were in terrible shape with pot holes and ruts. He recalled that Bouras said to him, "We have to do something about this road." They did. They started a project that repaved the two roads and parking spaces with the road leading to the girls' dormitory named the Sen. Olympia Snowe Roadway and the one to the boys' dormitory named the Nicholas J. Bouras Driveway. He recalls the humorous thank you letter they received from the senator, noting that "never in my life has anyone named a roadway after me."

An Archon since 1997, Safiol has served nearly 20 years on the National Council, including service as chairman of the Audit Committee and the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship.

Dr. Limberakis, in presenting the Award, shared an anecdote that occurred in 1997 related to the Nana Mouskouri Concert for Peace in which the first significant donation of \$10,000 came from Archon Safiol.

"I did not know Archon George so I gave him a telephone call at his home in Weston, Massachusetts, and expressed gratitude for him offering the very first

Paying Tribute

National Commander Limberakis and Secretary Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis offered remarks.



substantial donation. And we spoke for two hours regarding the future of the Order, our respective visions as Archons and the sacred mission of the Order."

Safiol is a 1954 graduate of New York University of College of Engineering. He served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with distinction. He began his business career at ITT in 1957 where he rose to become vice president and general manager of ITT's U.S. Telecommunications Division. He subsequently joined General Instrument Corporation and rose to become senior vice president. He later joined American Biltrite Inc., serving as president, chief executive officer and director. In 1984, he rejoined General Instrument and quickly became president, chief operating officer and director, positions he held until he retired in 1991.

Education has always been important to Archon Safiol. He has been a significant benefactor of New York University and its College of Engineering where he has endowed several scholarship awards. He also serves on the Board of Advisors of the University of Mississippi, a guest lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, and has been a director of seven industrial/electronic companies. He also has received the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award.

He was married to Demetra Karambelas Safiol, of blessed memory, for nearly 60 years. They have three married children, Olympia, Peter and Christina, and six grandchildren. Over the years, the Safiol Family Foundation has donated generously to the Orthodox Church and institutions of higher education and medicine. ■



"I AM PERSONALLY HONORED, HUMBLD AND HAPPY TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING FOR WHOM THE AWARD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, NICHOLAS J. BOURAS."

George E. Safiol



The Investiture of Archon Class of 2018



On Sunday, October 28, 2018, the Archon Class of 2018 was invested at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York following the Divine Liturgy.

Robert A. Buhler, Referendarios
Lake Forest, IL

Emanuel J. Cotronakis, Esq., Dikaiophylax
Juno Beach, FL

Harry G. Dimopoulos, PhD, Hartophylax
Naples, FL

Fotios J. Frangakis, Skevophylax
Hermitage, PA

Sam E. Galeotos, Depoutatos
Cheyenne, WY

John C. Harbilas, Eftaxias
Camp Hill, PA

Phillip M. Kafarakis, Depoutatos
Silver Spring, MD

George M. Koulianos, DVM, Ostiarios
Tarpon Springs, FL

Louis J. Laros, Protonotarios
Champaign, IL

George E. Loucas, Esq., Referendarios
North Royalton, OH

John J. Louizos, Esq., Ekdikos
Stamford, CT

Angelo N. Mallas, Hartoularios
Glen Cove, NY

William Marusich, DDS, Hartoularios
Johnson City, NY

John J. Mindala II, Notarios
New York, NY

Matthew Mirones, Aktouarios
Staten Island, NY

Anthony F. Pantazopoulos, Orphanotrofos
Lower Gwynedd, PA

George F. Pappas, Esq., Nomophylax
Washington, DC

Steve J. Paragioudakis, MD, Ostiarios
Wayside, NJ

John Patzakis, Esq., Protekdikos
San Marino, CA

Michael P. Psyllos, Esq., Kastrinsios
Port Washington, NY

Dimitrios P. Rozanitis, Maestor
Philadelphia, PA

Nicholas Seketa, DPM, Ritor
Johnson City, NY

Sarantos Vallas, Eftaxias
Brooklyn, NY

James D. Vavas, Maestor
Brooklyn, NY

Howard E. West, Jr., Notarios
Carnegie, PA

Chris G. Yiantsou, MD, Aktouarios
Colleyville, TX

Steve E. Zeis, Skevophylax
Asheville, NC



Archon Weekend Coverage

Archon Agape Luncheon

On Saturday, October 27, 2018, Lauren Green, Chief Religion Correspondent, Fox News, was the featured keynote speaker at the Archon Fellowship Luncheon during Archon Weekend at the New York Hilton Hotel. Special presentations were made to Ms. Green and later to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America by Dr. Maria A. Limberakis and the spouses of National Council members.



Athenagoras Human Rights Award Chair
Archon Michael Psaros addresses the General Assembly meeting at the New York Hilton Midtown.



Religious Freedom Committee Chairman
Archon John A. Catsimatidis addresses the General Assembly meeting.



Orientation Breakfast
National Commander Limberakis delivered a multimedia presentation to Archon-elects on the roles and responsibilities of an Archon to the new Class.



Archon Boot Camp
Archon John Zavitsanos, along with National Council member Rocky Sisson and Regional Commanders Gus Pablecas and John Manos address Archons-elect on their serious responsibilities to defend the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople.



National Council & Regional Commanders Meeting
National Council and Regional Commanders of the Order of Saint Andrew met at the New York Hilton Hotel prior to the start of Archon Weekend.

Ecumenical Patriarchate announces election of Metropolitan Epiphanius as Primate of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Ukraine

With immense gratitude to our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has announced that the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Ukraine has, on Saturday, December 15, elected a Primate.

In a communiqué issued Saturday from the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Chief Secretariat of the Holy and Sacred Synod announced: "It is with praise to God, great joy and satisfaction that the Ecumenical Patriarchate announces the successful completion of the work of the Unifying Synod (Sobor)—foundational of the new Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Ukraine—which was convened in Kyiv today, December 15th, 2018."

At the Unifying Synod, "Metropolitan Epiphanius of Pereiaslav and Belotserkovsky was elected as its Primate."

His Beatitude, the newly-elected Primate, immediately contacted His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in order to express "his respect and asked the wishes and blessings of the Mother Church for fruition of his primatial

ministry, which starts under good auspices."

Compounding the joy of this news was the further announcement that His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew "invited His Beatitude Epiphanius to concelebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Phanar on the great feast of Theophany and to deliver to him the Tomos of establishment of the new sister Autocephalous Church."

These momentous events are the culmination of a lengthy process that began decades ago. The final steps were initiated on Thursday, November 29, 2018, after celebrating Vespers in honor of St. Andrew, the patron saint of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, when His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received delegates of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Orthodoxy and explained: "We believe that granting autocephaly is doing the right thing. We believe that it is their right to have their own autocephaly, which all the countries and peoples of the Balkans

have obtained precisely from Constantinople."

His All-Holiness added that the Ukrainians had the same right as other Orthodox: "As all Orthodox peoples have received their autocephaly, this right also belongs to the millions of Ukrainians who have been living for years in a situation of absurd schism. And to satisfy their will and their just request, they addressed the Mother Church of Constantinople, as all the other peoples have done in the past."

His All-Holiness was optimistic about the effects of the granting of autocephaly: "With the concession of autocephaly to the 40 million Ukrainians, the various internal schisms will also de facto cease and the Orthodox will thus unite in a single Church and return to Eucharistic unity."

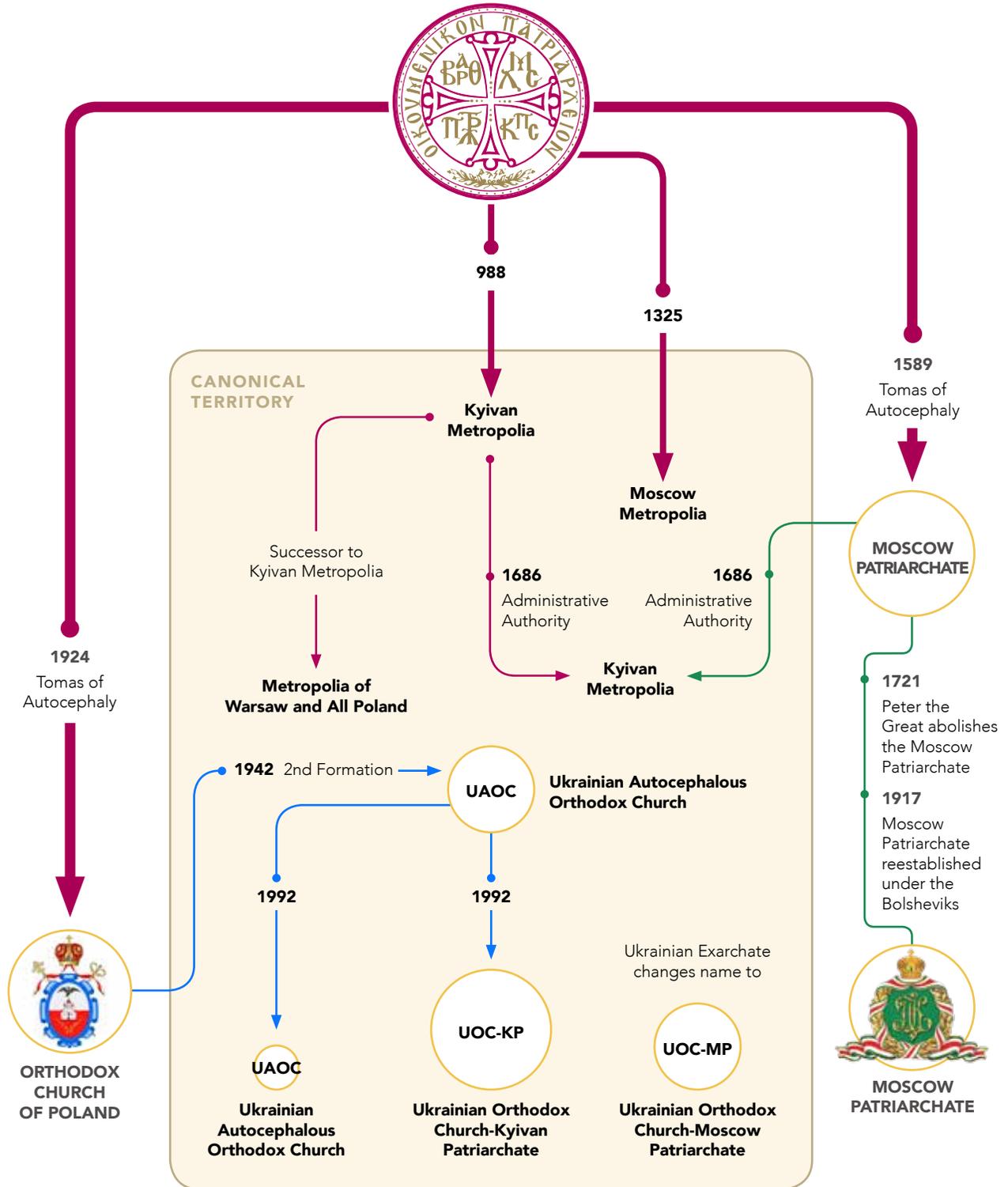
We give thanks to God for the election of His Beatitude Epiphanius and beseech Him to grant peace, unity and continuing spiritual renewal to the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Ukraine. ■



New Primate of Church of Ukraine

Metropolitan Epiphanius of Pereiaslav and Belotserkovsky is elected Primate of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Ukraine.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE



Canonical Status of the Three Ukraine Churches

The entire Church structure in Ukraine has fractured into a desperate condition. As the diagram above indicates, the Orthodox Church in the Ukraine—from its inception to this day—has been part of the canonical territory of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

UKRAINE AUTOCEPHALY

AN ISSUE SO CRITICAL

First time ever, nationwide call-in

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING Saturday,
January 26, 2019
@ 1:00–3:00PM EST

For more than a century, the question of autocephaly (self-governance) has divided the sacred unity of Orthodox Christianity in the Ukraine.

The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople has taken the pastoral initiative to heal these divisions and grant independence to the Church in Ukraine. The situation is complex and, for English-speakers, made even more so by an onslaught of misinformation circulated through social media. Please join us for an in-depth discussion with experts who can explain the most important issue confronting the Orthodox Church today.



Sponsored by the
Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The Town Hall will be conducted via telephone conference call.
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Learn more, or write questions in advance at:

archons.org/townhall

or, ask questions during the call.

Panelists

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN EMMANUEL OF FRANCE

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE



REV. NICHOLAS E.
DENYSENKO, PhD

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY
Emil and Elfriede Jochum Professor
and Chair



VERA SHEVZOV, PhD

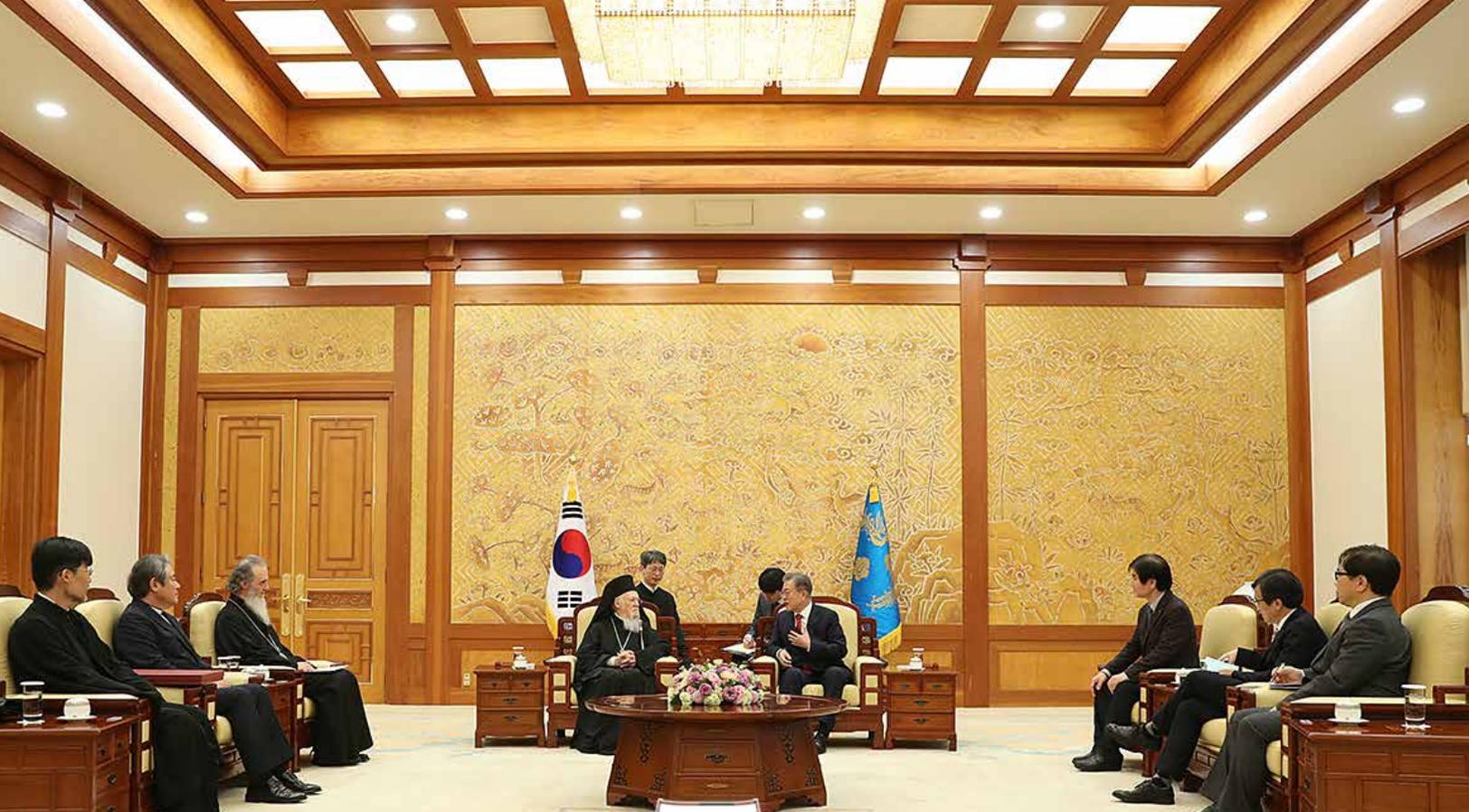
SMITH COLLEGE
Professor of Religion, Russian,
East European and Eurasian Studies

Moderator



ARCHON GEORGE E.
DEMACOPOULOS, PhD

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
Co-Director, Orthodox Christian
Studies Center



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew makes 4th official visit to

KOREA 대한민국

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew visited South Korea on December 3-8, 2018, to take part in the 50th anniversary of the construction of St Nicholas Cathedral in Seoul and participate in an International Symposium on the Environment, entitled, "Ecology, Theology, and Human Dignity in the Orthodox Christian Tradition."

Warm Welcome

Above and below, a meeting between His All-Holiness and President Jae-in Moon at the Blue House in Seoul. Left, His All-Holiness arrived at Incheon International Airport and was warmly welcomed by His Eminence Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea and the faithful of St. Paul's Orthodox Church of Incheon.





Visit to the DMZ

On December 8, 2018, His All-Holiness visited the DMZ area of Cheorwon-gun, Gangwon-do, South Korea. He shared in the pain that the division of the peninsula has brought to the Korean people. Together with Koreans he held a memorial service for those fallen during the Korean war and prayed for peace and reunification. Specifically, he prayed for the reunion of those families that have not been able to meet each other because of the division.



Saint Nicholas Parish

On December 5, 2018, the feast day of St. Nicholas, His All-Holiness celebrated the Divine Liturgy, commemorating the 50th anniversary of St. Nicholas Parish in Seoul together with the clergy of the Orthodox Church in Korea. Rev. Dr. Perry Hamalis, second row, was among the Ecumenical Patriarch's official delegation, and will be this year's Retreat Master at the Archon Lenten Retreat, April 12-14, at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Southampton, NY.





ARCHONS MAKE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MISSION TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA



CURRENT SEAT OF
EUROPEAN UNION PRESIDENCY

The Chancellor

On Friday, November 9, 2018, the Archon delegation met with Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Sebastian Kurz.

With the blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, a delegation of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, in a continuation of the Archons' Religious Freedom Mission, visited Vienna, Austria, the current seat of the European Union Presidency; and Budapest, Hungary, from November 3 to November 10, 2018. The Order's delegation was comprised of National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Secretary Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis and Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, who were all accompanied by their wives, Dr. Maria A. Limberakis, A. Helen Bozonelis and Presbyteria Xanthi Karloutsos.

Joining and leading the delegation were His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France and His Eminence Metropolitan Arsenios of Austria and Exarch of Hungary and Central Europe. They planned and coordinated an intensive schedule that included 14 separate meetings with religious leaders, heads of state, and diplomats. The delegation focused on the message of advocating religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey and Orthodox Christians worldwide, human rights, and the right of self-determination for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the grant of autocephalous status by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. In this regard, it was most propitious that Metropolitan Emmanuel led the delegation, as he chairs the Patriarchal Committee on Autocephaly for the Orthodox Church in Ukraine, having represented His All-Holiness in Moscow, Kiev and at the 14 Autocephalous Orthodox Christian Churches.

A Spiritual and Inspired Beginning

The Order began its Religious Freedom Mission upon arrival in Vienna. His Eminence Metropolitan Arsenios hosted a welcoming reception for the delegation at the historic Metropolis of Austria followed by a meeting with His Excellency Catholic Bishop Agidius J. Zsifkovics of Eisenstadt. Issues discussed at the meeting included the venerable history of the Orthodox Christian Church in Austria; and the mutual cooperation, respect and assistance between the Orthodox Christian and Catholic Churches in Austria, including land grants to the Metropolis of Austria by the Catholic Church.

The delegation sought spiritual guidance and attended a concert in the Metropolis' beautiful Holy Trinity Cathedral and visited the Chapel of Saint John Chrysostom in Vienna's historic Greichenviertel (Greek Quarter). The Greek Quarter also houses some of Austria's oldest buildings including the site where the world's first newspaper in Greek was published and where Greek revolutionary leaders met to plan for the War of Independence in 1821.

The following day, on Sunday November 4, 2018, the delegation led by Metropolitan Arsenios attended Divine Liturgy and participated in a procession of Icons at the recently founded Orthodox Christian Church in the town of Traiskirchen to the south of Vienna, where the Liturgy was chanted in the vernacular, German. This was followed by a luncheon where the Order offered a donation to the Parish to assist in its ministry.



Roman Catholic Bishop

On Saturday, November 3, 2018, the Archon delegation met with His Excellency Bishop Agidius J. Zsifkovics of Eisenstadt at the Metropolis of Austria, led by His Eminence Metropolitan Arsenios of Austria.

During the week, Metropolitan Arsenios led the delegation on a journey to Budapest, Hungary to visit the Exarchate of Hungary of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the new building donated by the Hungarian government that will become the centre of the Exarchate in Hungary. While in Hungary, Metropolitan Arsenios also led the delegation to the village of Szigetszentmiklos (St. Nikolaus Island) on the Danube River, south of Budapest, to visit a newly renovated Orthodox

Christian parish. It was purchased in a residential area where the volunteer Priest whose lay profession is a teacher of Information Technology, Father Robert Szentirmai, built the Iconostasio by hand, as he is a master woodcarver. The Order, inspired by his dedication and the visionary leadership very apparent in the Metropolis, offered a donation to Metropolitan Arsenios to complete the purchase of the church edifice, a converted home.

Meetings with the Heads of State of Austria

With Austria holding the current rotating presidency of the European Union, the delegation, with the important assistance of Metropolitan Arsenios and Metropolitan Emmanuel, was privileged to meet with the heads of state of Austria. Discussions focused on the religious freedom issues for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey, persecution of Christians worldwide, and human rights for all faiths.

Most important, the delegation was honored to meet with the Chancellor of Austria, Sebastian Kurz, the head of state. The Chancellor is 32 years old and the youngest head of state in Europe. His political party and political views are Christian-democratic and conservative. He has combated radical Islam and



First President of the Austrian Parliament

Archon delegation meets with First President of the Austrian Parliament, Mag. Wolfgang Sobotka.



Celebrating the Divine Liturgy

On Sunday, November 4, 2018, the Archon delegation visited the recently founded Orthodox church parish of the Metropolis of Austria in the town of Traiskirchen to the South of Vienna.

ended the foreign state funding of mosques and imams' salaries in Austria. With the presidency of the European Union, the Chancellor has championed security and the fight against illegal immigration as a central issue. In discussions with the delegation, the Chancellor fully supports the Order's religious freedom issues on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and has a close working relationship and respect for Metropolitan Arsenios.

The delegation also met with the First President of the Austrian Parliament, Mag. Wolfgang Sobotka. His position is similar to the Speaker of the House in the U.S. Congress. He is the presiding officer of Austria's National Council. The meeting was held as an official visit with the Austrian government attended by

various government officials and staff which indicated the respect for the Order's issues and the high priority that the Austrian government places on religious freedom. The First President expressed an understanding of the restrictions on the religious freedom, the lack of legal status for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the need for the European Union to be vigilant.

A subsequent meeting was also held with the Third President of the Austrian Parliament, Anneliese Kitzmuller, who also indicated her political party's strong support for religious freedom and the need to both counter the persecution of Christians and protect the Christian faith.



Promoting Human Rights and Religious Freedom

Archon delegation meets Secretary General Thomas Greminger of the OSCE

Diplomat Meetings

Embassies

In Vienna, the delegation met with the Honorable Trevor D. Traina, bilateral Ambassador of the United States to Austria. The delegation advocated for the strong support of the United States as to the religious freedom issues faced by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey, persecution of Christians worldwide, and the canonical and political significance of granting autocephalous status for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Ambassador Traina was knowledgeable and receptive to the Order's concerns.

Two additional and separate meetings followed on these issues with Her Excellency Elena Rafti, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Austria and with His Excellency Nikolaos Sapountzis, Charge d' Affaires a.i., of the Hellenic Republic in Austria.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The OSCE is an important component of the multifaceted international religious freedom initiatives of the Order, as each year the Order sends a delegation to the OSCE annual human rights meetings held in Warsaw, Poland. The OSCE is headquartered in Vienna and the Order had significant meetings with the current holder of the OSCE Presidency (Italy), the incoming OSCE Presidency beginning in January (Slovakia) and the Secretary General of the entire OSCE. Consonant with our mission, the Order concentrated its efforts to promote human rights and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all Orthodox Christians in six separate meetings during the week. The mission of the OSCE is to work for stability, peace and democracy among the 57 participating countries. The meetings emphasized the importance of the recognition of the systematic persecution of Christians in Turkey, and the understanding of the grant of autocephalous status for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Meetings were held with the Honorable Harry Kamian, Charge d' Affaires a.i., to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE; Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni (Italy), Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council; Ambassador Bohac, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the OSCE; Ambassador Alexis Zannos, Greek Permanent Mission to the OSCE; Ambassador Ioannis Vrailas, Permanent



U.S. Embassy of Austria

Delegation with Honorable Trevor D. Traina, bilateral Ambassador of the United States to Austria.



Representative of the European Union to the OSCE; and an overall analysis and final meeting with Secretary General Thomas Greminger of the OSCE.

Encouraged by Ambassador Bohac, the delegation also travelled to nearby Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, along the Danube River and there had an impromptu visit with the Counsel of the Embassy of Greece in Slovakia.

Interfaith Dialogue

The delegation also had a meeting and luncheon with His Excellency Fahad Abualnasar, Director General of the KAI-CIID Dialogue Centre (King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue) in Vienna to discuss cooperation, respect and understanding among Muslims and Christians, and all faiths. The Centre promotes interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Metropolitan Emmanuel is a member of the Board of Directors as the representative of our Orthodox Christian faith. At the meeting a poignant exchange took place regarding the unique concerns of Muslim women in the United States in the context of medical care with Director General Abualnasar and Dr. Maria Limberakis, a primary care physician.

The Ministry of Presence

Leaving the comfort of our homes and safety in the United States and traveling half way around the world to meet in person with these religious and government leaders, diplomats, and organizations was and continues to be the most effective form of communication and the transmission of our message. It allowed

a meaningful dialogue to advocate for the protection and preservation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The mission of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle requires no less, and the delegation was honored to accept this responsibility on behalf of the Order. ■



Cooperation Among All Faiths

National Commander Limberakis with His Excellency Fahad Abualnasar, Director General of the KAI-CIID Dialogue Centre

New York Times covers the Ecumenical Patriarch's lawsuit against Princeton University over stolen Holy Manuscripts

The New York Times on Friday published an informative report on the lawsuit that His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has just filed against Princeton University, asking for the return of holy manuscripts that were stolen during World War I from the Monastery of the Theotokos Eikosiphoinissa in Drama, Greece. These manuscripts are not only at Princeton, but also at Duke University and the Morgan Library & Museum in New York City. The Order renews its call to these institutions to recognize that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is indeed the rightful owner of these precious and irreplaceable documents, and to return them immediately.

The Times reports that "among the evidence cited in the lawsuit is a volume, 'Greek Manuscripts at Princeton, Sixth to Nineteenth Century: A Descriptive Catalogue,' which was published in 2010 and identifies some manuscripts in the school's collection as having been removed from the monastery in 1917 by Bulgarian authorities."

The importance of this cannot be overstated. The Times quotes George A. Tsougarakis, the lawyer who is representing His All-Holiness, the Monastery, and other Church officials in the suit. Referring to the catalogue, Tsougarakis says: "This is Princeton's book, issued by the Princeton press, about Princeton's collection, written by Princeton employees. In our view that's about as concrete an admission as you could get." Attorney Tsougarakis is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and a member of the National Council, the Order's governing board.

The holy manuscripts at issue, painstakingly written out by hand and diligently preserved for centuries, were stolen in 1917 by marauding Bulgarian troops from the Monastery of the Theotokos Eikosiphoinissa, along with nearly the entire contents of the library.

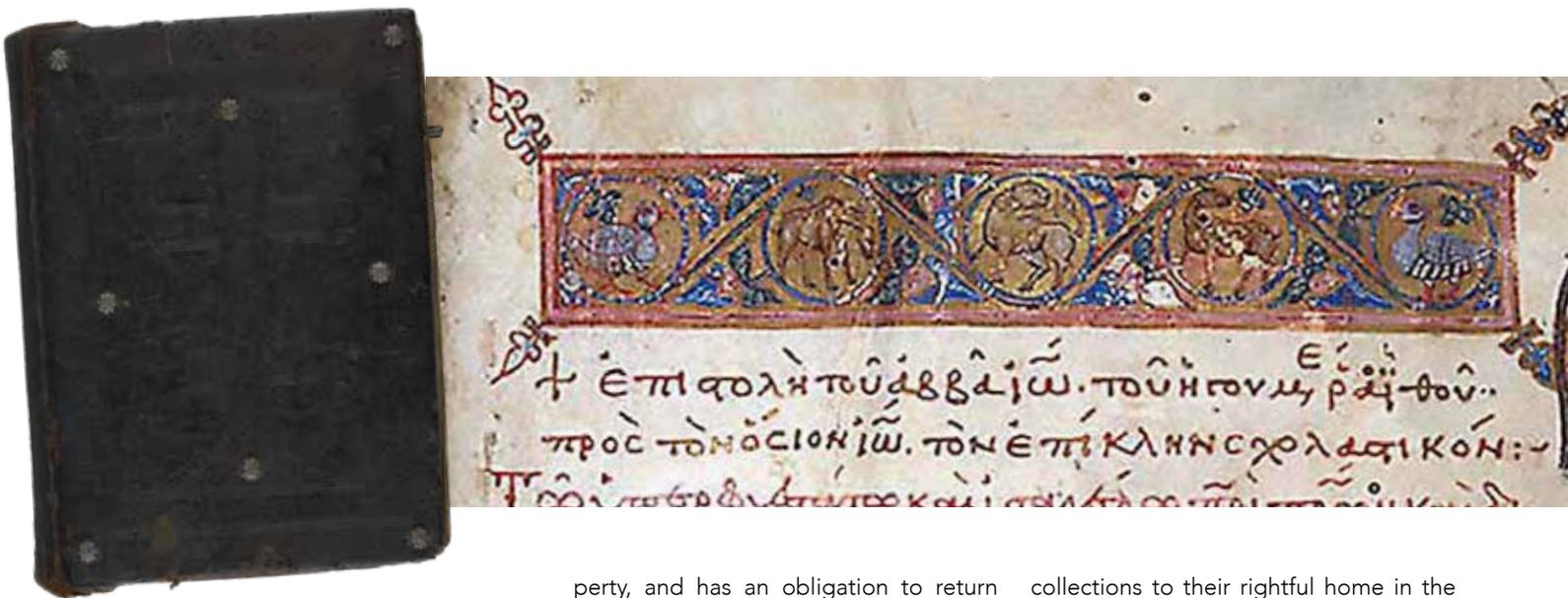
The volumes were then sold in bookshops all over Europe and either acquired by the institutions or by collectors who then donated them to the institutions.

According to The Times, "the Byzantine-era manuscripts sought by the plaintiffs are St. John Chrysostom's 'Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew,' written in A.D. 955 by the scribe Nikephoros the Notary; St. John Climacus's 'Heavenly Ladder' written in A.D. 1081 in Constantinople by the scribe Joseph; and pages from the ninth century that were probably part of 'Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew' that may have been rebound at some point to 'Heavenly Ladder.' In addition, the plaintiffs are asking for the return of a 16th-century version

"Heavenly Ladder"

One of the manuscripts that the Eastern Orthodox Church is seeking to reclaim from Princeton University depicts St. John Climacus and his "Heavenly Ladder," seen below.





of 'Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew,' which they said was also stolen by the Bulgarian forces in 1917 and bought by Princeton in 1921."

The Times noted that the Ecumenical Patriarchate has been trying to recover these manuscripts for three years, having "first asked for the return of five manuscripts held by Princeton in a letter in 2015 that called them 'indelible and invaluable pieces of Byzantine culture' and 'hallowed writings that are still cherished and revered by the Eastern Orthodox Church and its faithful.'"

The Times quoted Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Spiritual Advisor to the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, stating that the manuscripts are "part of sacred history, and that's our spiritual and cultural identity," and that their theft and attempts to recover them had been "very painful."

In matters such as this, the law is clear: a purchaser, even one who had no idea that he is buying stolen goods, cannot acquire valid title to stolen pro-

perty, and has an obligation to return it. In 2016, when the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago learned that one of the manuscripts in its collection, Eikosphoinissa Monastery Codex 1424, had also been stolen from the monastery by the Bulgarian guerrillas in 1917, the School's President, Dr. James Nieman, gave many principled reasons for returning the manuscript to its rightful home. He also movingly noted that when asked that the manuscript be returned, he and his colleagues asked themselves three questions:

"If you could right a wrong you never caused, would you? If you could befriend a stranger, would you? And if you could by a single act show the good news of Jesus to others, would you?"

The answer to these questions for the Lutheran School was a resounding and unqualified yes. The Order hopes that officials at Princeton University, as well as Duke University and the Morgan Library & Museum will also answer these questions affirmatively, and move swiftly now to return to the manuscripts in their

collections to their rightful home in the Eikosphoinissa Monastery.

The Order has posted about this matter on Twitter and Facebook, but we need the help of all Orthodox Christians and people of good will. Go to those posts and:

1. like them;
2. add comments on them that state that these volumes should be returned; and
3. most importantly, re-post or re-tweet them to all your contacts. Use the hashtag #bringthebooksback.

Please also share Archon John Metaxas' interview with Regional Commander Tsougarakis on his podcast.

Regional commanders are requested to send this article to all the archons in your region.

Finally, please send an email directly to the presidents of the three institutions telling them that the stolen manuscripts should be returned (A draft for your use appears below).



Christopher Eisgruber, President
haparker@princeton.edu



Vincent Price, President
president@duke.edu



Colin Bailey, Director
cbailey@themorgan.org

Here is a model email you can use verbatim or adapt to add a personal comment:

Dear sir,

I am a Greek Orthodox Christian and I have learned that your institution is in possession of holy manuscripts that were stolen during World War I from the Kosinitza Monastery. I urge you to follow the example of other institutions that have returned stolen art and artifacts, including the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago which returned a manuscript stolen at the same time and from the same location as the ones that are in your collection.

Please return the manuscripts to the monastery.



Iran: 'Staggering' number of Christians arrested – 114 in a week

The Iranian government is stepping up its persecution of Christians, in violation of the fact that its constitution guarantees Christians the right to representation in the Iranian Parliament, the right to produce non-halal food, and more. Despite this, Christians in Iran not infrequently suffer expropriation of their property, the forced

closure of churches, and other forms of persecution.

Most of the roughly 300,000 Christians in Iran are members of the Armenian Apostolic Church, an ancient Church that broke off communion with Holy Orthodoxy after the fourth ecumenical council, the Council of Chalcedon in 451. Other Christians in Iran are members of the Assyrian Church of the East, the Chaldean Catholic Church, and the Roman Catholic Church; there is also a growing number of Pentecostals, Evangelicals, and other Protestants. Please pray for all the Christians of Iran, that they would be protected and strengthened, and that all Iranians would find in the Holy Orthodox Church the full expression of the faith that Iran's Christians are holding fast to amid so much suffering.



North Korea
US Sanctions Senior North Korean Officials Over Human Rights Abuses



China
100 Christians snatched in overnight raids on underground church



Cameroon
Churches turned into military barracks, people killed



Egypt
Christian Receives Three-Year Prison Sentence for Insulting Islam



Myanmar
Christians targeted in "surprise violent attacks" by the military



Iraq
Christian village in Kurdistan Region closes school after Turkish shelling



Vietnam
Construction on Church Property in Hanoi Continues Despite Protests



Nigeria
Unimaginable Loss for Christians Displaced by Violence



Egypt
Egypt's silent epidemic of kidnapped Christian girls



China
China Wants to 'Cut Off the Oxygen' of Christian Churches, Warns Head of Persecution Watchdog



Egypt
Last Greeks of Alexandria struggle to keep their community alive



India
Christian Worship Service in Uttar Pradesh Disrupted and Threatened by Radical Mob



Iran
Arrest of Converts Shows Close Surveillance of Christians



Nepal
Four Christians arrested for "forced conversion" of Hindus



Uganda
Mob Incites Police to Arrest Six Christian Pastors for "Blaspheming the Koran and Hadith"



Syria
Terrorists Again Target Christians in Idlib



India
Christian pastor beaten unconscious while leading outdoor service



Central African Republic: Persecution of minority Christian women 'hidden, complex, and interwoven with "everyday" discrimination'
This report, which is itself a summary of five reports, focusing upon Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Colombia and the Central African Republic, demonstrates that women often bear the brunt of the persecution of Christians, "from subtle discrimination surrounding access to education, through to extreme violence."



Turkey
Halki Seminary remains closed despite Turkish government promise to the Ecumenical Patriarchate



As we have previously noted, imprisoned Christian women in North Korea are frequently the victims of sexual violence; unfortunately, this phenomenon is not limited to North Korea: "women's lives are all too often characterised by invisible and lifelong hardship. However, women from minorities (in this case Christians, but not excluding others too) have their difficulties made worse by the compounding effect of the exploitation of their socio-economic and legal inequalities." As Orthodox Christians conscious of the reality that "there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28), we must stand for the human dignity and rights of women everywhere.

Five Powerful New Videos to Help You Understand and Explain Key Issues Relating to the Ecumenical Patriarchate Today

As Archons, we have a responsibility to defend the Mother Church and to articulate the importance and prerogatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In order to aid you in this, the Order has developed a unique five-video series that gives you solid, concise, and readily understandable information on some of the key issues regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate today.

This video series, available in English, Ukrainian, and Russian, explores five core issues of crucial importance for the Mother Church and for Orthodox Christians worldwide today. These brief but comprehensive videos help you grasp the issues at stake, understand why there are controversies and what the disagreements are all about, and explain clearly and simply the position of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Please forward this information to others who would benefit from these videos and join us in defending the Ecumenical Patriarchate. As we all know, videos are much more effective tools than written articles to convey what are often arcane theological concepts and little-known historical facts. More people are likely to watch videos than read articles of the same length.

These videos are an important contribution to our mission to stand for and with the Mother Church. The Order is pleased to make them available to you with gratitude to Almighty God and prayers that He will use them to bless His Church on earth and bring it to a new period of growth and vitality. ■



archons.org/videos

First Among Equals

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is First Among Equals in the global family of Orthodox Churches and among his brother bishops. In this capacity, he is responsible for guarding and facilitating Orthodox unity, as well as guiding and coordinating the witness of the Orthodox Church in the modern world.



Discover in this video why the Ecumenical Patriarchate is so important for the Church, and the sources of the unique role of His All-Holiness.

Advocate to the Christian World

The Ecumenical Patriarchate has long embraced and pioneered dialogue with other Christian churches and confessions. His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been an advocate for Christian unity in response to Christ's prayer "that his disciples may be one."



Find out why this dialogue is so important, what progress has been made, and what the prospects are for the future.

Bridgebuilder to Other Faiths

The ministry of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is one of building bridges with other religions, races and cultures. For decades, he has organized and addressed interfaith meetings between Christians, Jews and Muslims in an effort to promote peace and reconciliation.



The promotion of peace is of cardinal importance in our world that is increasingly fractious and riven by religious conflicts. This video takes you into some of the most critical efforts for peace that are going on anywhere in the world today.

The Green Patriarch

Known as the "Green Patriarch," His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has assumed a leadership role in raising awareness about climate change. He has emphasized that the environmental crisis is a deeply spiritual issue, while underlining that it is directly connected to social issues.



Discover why proper stewardship of the environment should be a central focus of the way we live out our faith as Orthodox Christians.

The Current Situation in Ukraine

The current church situation in Ukraine has a long history. Millions of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians were excommunicated from the church. In response, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has today restored them to communion and granted their church autocephaly.



Find out in this video why this controversy matters, and how it affects Orthodox Christians worldwide.

LENT *as* LIBERATION



ARCHON
LENTEN
RETREAT

APRIL 12-14 | SOUTHAMPTON, NY

'For Freedom Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, therefore, and do not
submit again to a yoke of slavery' Gal 5:1



Rev. Dr. Perry Hamalis

Cecelia Schneller Mueller Professor of Religion
North Central College, Naperville, IL

On the first day of Lent in Greece, it is traditional for families to fly kites; it is a meaningful symbol of Lent as a time of "lightness," "ascent," and "freedom." This practice reminds us that Lent, properly understood, is not a burden but a liberation. Indeed, the theme of liberation or freedom is not only present at the start of Lent, it is threaded throughout the Lenten journey and developed on multiple levels. The 2019 National Archon Lenten Retreat centers on the theme, "Lent as Liberation" and draws its inspiration from St. Paul's words, "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Gal 5:1). During the retreat, we will reflect on the meaning of "Lent as Liberation" as it relates to God's plan for salvation, our personal renewal and unburdening in Christ, and our engagement with social issues surrounding freedom in our local and global contexts.



FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Session One: Freedom: From Adam & Eve to the New Eve and the New Adam
Akathist, Fellowship Dinner

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Session Two: Freedom: From Our Fallen Self to Our Resurrected Self
Session Three: Freedom: From the Church to the World
Divine Liturgy, Lunch and Optional Dinner

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Divine Liturgy, Agape Fellowship Hour

RETREAT LOCATION

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

ACCOMMODATIONS

Southampton Inn, 91 Hill Street, Southampton, NY 11968
631-283-6500. Room rate \$140 with group code "Archons".
Limited availability.

RSVP NO LATER THAN APRIL 1

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



Annual EXARCH'S APPEAL

List complete as of December 14, 2018

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

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George Possas • E Northport, NY • 3/23/86
Peter E. Preovolos • La Mesa, CA • 7/4/82
Alexander Pritsos • Bayside, NY • 3/15/1992
John M. Psaltos • Wilton, CT • 10/21/2012
Michael G. Psaros • Purchase, NY • 10/19/14

George P. Psihogios • Lake Oswego, OR • 10/26/08
Michael G. Rallis, M.D. • Burgaw, NC • 10/21/12
Gerry Ranglas • Rancho Santa Fe • 3/10/02
Harry Raptakis • Mineola, NY • 3/15/92
George E. Safiol • Weston, MA • 3/16/97
Anthony T. Saris • Mill Valley, CA • 3/10/02
Nicholas C. Sarris • Tyngsboro, MA • 3/10/02
Nicholas Seketa • Johnson City, NY • 10/28/18
William Scaljon • Atlanta, GA • 3/3/96
Dr. Peter Scamagas • Fresno, CA • 10/28/07
James S. Scofield • St. Petersburg, FL • 8/10/68
Byron Scordelis • Saratoga, CA • 10/16/16
John C. Scurtis • Miami, FL • 10/28/07
Theodore Sepsis • Elmhurst, IL • 10/23/05
Demetrios Seremetis • Canton, MA • 11/1/09
Michael Serko, Jr. • Endwell, NY • 3/5/00
Harry G. Siafaris • Los Angeles, CA • 3/3/96
Constantine Sideridis • Salem, MA • 10/18/15
George A. Sifakis • Arlington, VA • 10/22/17
Louis S. Sinopulos • Deerfield Beach, FL • 1/1/68
Franklin Sisson • Paradise Valley, AZ • 10/16/16
John Sitolides • McLean, VA • 10/22/17
Peter J. Skeadas • Greenwich, CT • 10/10/04
George Skoufis • Atlanta, GA • 3/5/00
Nick Smyrnis • Indianapolis, IN • 3/11/84
Alex Spanos • Stockton, CA • 1/14/72
Dean Spanos • San Diego, CA • 6/6/04
Michael Spanos • Stockton, CA • 6/6/04
Harry W. Spell • Edina, MN • 10/16/11
William Spell • Edina, MN • 10/18/15
James D. Speros • Wellesley, MA • 3/10/02
Arthur G. Spirou • Ft. Wayne, IN • 3/4/90
Christos Spyropoulos • Old Brookville, NY • 11/1/09
George Stamboulidis • Rockville Centre, NY • 10/16/16
Constantine Stamis • Northbrook, IL • 1973
Gregory J. Stamos • Woodbridge, CT • 10/16/11
Angelo A. Stamoulis • Holliston, MA • 3/23/86
Demetrios Stathopoulos • Victor, NY • 10/19/14

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EXARCH'S APPEAL

All Exarch's Appeal Participants (continued)

Panos Stavriandis, Ph.D. • Somerset, NJ • 2/18/01

George Stefanidakis, Ph.D. • Houston, TX • 10/20/13

Michael Stefanoudakis • Denver, CO • 10/18/15

Athena Stephanopoulos • Lenexa, KS •

Wesley A. Stinich • Westchester, IL • 10/22/06

Christopher Stratakis • New York, NY • 3/8/98

Thomas M. Suehs • Austin, TX • 10/16/11

William Sutzko • Saint Clair, PA • 10/10/04

George Svokos • Franklin Lakes, NJ • 10/16/16

John Tangalos • Shelby Township, MI • 10/31/10

Tim Tassopoulos • Atlanta, GA • 10/28/07

Nicholas E. Terezis • Pittsburgh, PA • 10/18/15

Basilios Theodosakis • Brooklyn, NY • 3/19/78

Manuel N. Tissura, D.D.S. • Roswell, GA • 3/19/89

Andreas Touzos • Virginia Beach, VA • 2/18/01

George Tsandikos • New York, NY • 3/20/94

Elias Tsekerides • Brewster, NY • 10/19/14

Savas Tsvicos • Wayside, NJ • 3/16/97

Peter A. Tsudis • Pittsburgh, PA • 10/22/17

George A. Tsougarakis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/11

Adam M. Tzagournis • Dublin, OH • 10/18/15

Manuel Tzagournis, M.D. • Columbus, OH • 3/9/03

Andreas G. Tzakis, M.D. • Miami, FL • 10/10/04

Dr. Sotirios J. Vahaviolos • Princeton, NJ • 10/10/04

Peter N. Vatsures • Columbus, OH • 10/16/11

James Vavas • Brooklyn, NY • 10/28/18

George Venizelos • Sparta, NJ • 10/20/13

Stefanos Vertopoulos • Vancouver, WA • 10/28/07

Theodore Veru • Fort Lee, NJ • 10/28/07

George M. Ververides • Princeton, NJ • 3/15/81

George Vittas • Bedford, TX • 10/22/17

Peter A. Vlachos • New York, NY • 2/18/01

Dr. Theodore Vlahos • Safety Harbor, FL • 10/22/06

Thomas Vlahos • Bronx, NY • 2/18/01

John P. Volandes • Brooklyn, NY • 3/12/95

Bill J. Vranas • Skokie, IL • 3/20/94

Gus Vratsinas • Little Rock, AR • 3/10/02

Constantine N. Vrettos • Charlotte, NC • 10/23/05

Gary M. Vrionis • Danville, CA • 10/23/05

Howard West • Amity, PA • 10/28/18

Nicholas Yakubik • Cary, NC • 10/28/07

G.Thomas Yearout • Birmingham, AL • 3/8/98

Nickas J. Yiannias • Dubuque, IA • 10/23/82

Dr. Chris Yiantsou • Bedford, TX • 10/28/18

Andrew Zachariades • Brick, NJ • 10/16/16

George P. Zaharas • Cheyenne, WY • 10/16/11

Theodore K. Zampetis • Bloomfield Hills, MI • 10/28/07

Leonard Zangas • Manhasset, NY • 10/31/10

John Zavitsanos • Houston, TX • 10/10/04

Steve Zervoudis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/16

George P. Zimmar, Ph.D. • Briarcliff Manor, NY • 10/23/05

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

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

In Memory of Nick H. Katapodis • Atlanta, GA

In Memory of George S. Kleris • Atlanta, GA

Cybergrants

Air Force Chaplain Corps • JBSA Randolph, TX

IN MEMORIAM

AUGUST – DECEMBER 2018

List as of December 19, 2018

Alex G. Anagnos, Depoutatos
Fort Lee, NJ
Departed on 10/23/2018

Dean C. Kamaras, Architekton
Allison Park, PA
Departed on 12/13/2018

Dr. Harry N. Kotsis, Hypomnematografos
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI
Departed on 10/19/2018

Theodore A. Laliotis, Hartophylax
Los Altos, CA
Departed on 10/12/2018

Leo J. Manta, Depoutatos
Orland Park, IL
Departed on 9/10/2018

Costas A. Sarantopoulos, Aktouarios
Youngstown, OH
Departed on 8/15/2018

Alex G. Spanos, Depoutatos
Stockton, CA
Departed on 10/9/2018

Theodore D. Vlahos, Hartouliarios
La Grange Park, IL
Departed on 11/5/2018