



Archons OF THE Ecumenical Patriarchate

Protecting the Future of FaithSM

2023 Annual Report



The 5 Issues of Concern

Despite world-wide recognition of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as the spiritual leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, these Five Issues of Concern remain in effect by the government of Turkey:

No Legal Identity

The Ecumenical Patriarchate has no legal identity or bona fide legal personality in Turkey.

Government Interference in Patriarchal Elections

The Turkish government imposes restrictions on the election of the Ecumenical Patriarch and Hierarchs who vote for him by requiring that they must be Turkish citizens.

1971 Forcible Closure of Halki Seminary and Inability to Train New Clergy

The Ecumenical Patriarchate cannot train new clergy in Turkey and its theological school was forcibly closed down by the Turkish Government.

Confiscation of 1000s of Properties

Through various methods, the Turkish authorities have confiscated thousands of properties from the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox community.

Non-Recognition of "Ecumenical" Status

The Turkish government does not recognize the "Ecumenical" status of the Ecumenical Patriarch and Ecumenical Patriarchate.



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2023 Annual Report

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Ἐπισημὸν ἀποστολῆς ἡμετέρας πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχόντας τοῦ Ὁμοῦ Ἁγίου Ἀνδρέου τοῦ Πρωτοκλήτου τῆς Ἀμερῆς

BARTHOLOMEW

By the Mercy of God,
Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch



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

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

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

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

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

Your fervent supplicant before God,

† BARTHOLOMEW

*Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch*



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP
Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

September 14, 2023
Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

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

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

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

With blessings and gratitude in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



Archons
OF THE Ecumenical
Patriarchate

Protecting the Future of Faith™

A Year Of Significant Achievement

2023: An Epic Year For The Archons Of The Ecumenical Patriarchate

**His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew,
His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America,
Members of the Holy Eparchial Synod,
His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA,
His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA,
Father Alex Karloutos, Spiritual Advisor and Reverend Clergy and beloved Presbyteres and
Brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America and Friends,**

2023 was an epic year in the annals of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate since its founding in the United States on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 10, 1966. In this, **our 57th year**, we have witnessed a number of initiatives come to fruition to enhance our roles as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to **Protect the Future of Faith.**

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



Protecting the Future of Faith™

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



Youth Participation Activities Committee



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



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



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



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

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



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

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



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



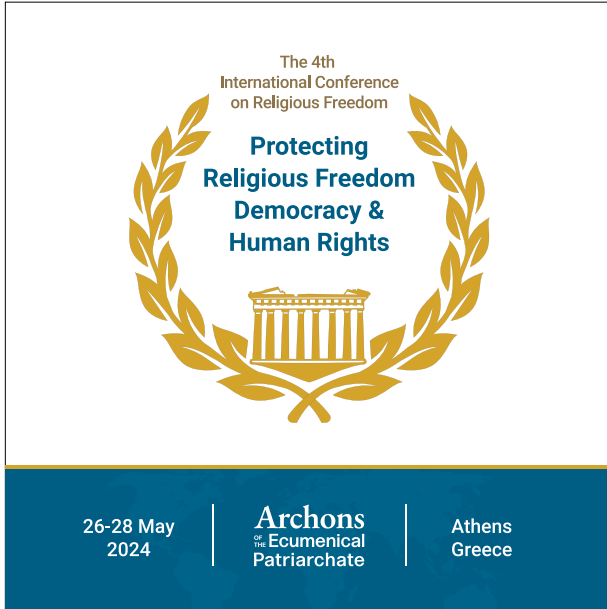
The Archons of Greater Philadelphia on November 19, 2022 presented a symposium on the life of the Ecumenical Patriarchate during the Ottoman period, as well as on the history and legacy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the ethnic cleansing of the Greek community in Smyrna in 1922, organized by Archon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



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



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



4. Successful Completion of Pilgrimage of Discovery Pilot Program where 5 young adults and future leaders of our Church traveled to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, met with His All-Holiness BARTHOLOMEW and witnessed firsthand the historic, canonical and ecclesiastical significance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. As a result of the successful completion of the pilot program, plans are underway to permanently establish the Pilgrimage of Discovery for our young adults.



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



**ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEW FOUNDATION**

For the Sacred See of Saint Andrew

The EPBF Investment Committee (bartholomew.foundation/foundation-investment-update/) has done a masterful job in navigating a very challenging investment environment, characterized by many as the worst in 50 years. Under the Koudounis Team, working closely with Michael G. Psaros and the Investment Committee (Archon Robert A. Buhler Vice Chair, Christopher Allwin, Archon Michael N. Bapis, Archon Frank D. Catricken, John A. Catsimatidis, Jr., Archon William H. Spell and Archon John A. Catsimatidis), and the J. P. Morgan Investment Bank, which

holds the financial assets of the Foundation, the EPBF did not lose money during those difficult times; furthermore, the team has subsequently been able to make some nice returns. Kudos to Mr. Koudounis and his brilliant team!

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

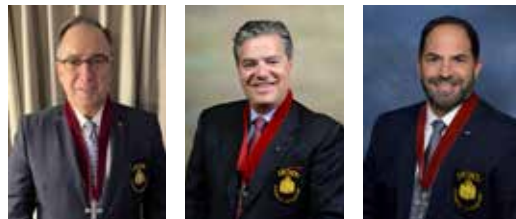
A New Members Committee, Chaired by Archons Joseph J. Kokolakis, Esq., Markos K. Lagos, and Archon-elect Michael P. Neamonitakis was established; it is organizing the upcoming Cappella Romana Concert for Religious Freedom at the St. Nicholas National Shrine (bartholomew.foundation/concert-religious-freedom/)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



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

6. Three New Regional Commanders Appointed

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



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

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

7. Prince's Trust receives the 2023 Athenagoras Human Rights Award

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



Prince's Trust

8. Warmest congratulations are offered to **Archon George M. Marcus as the 2023 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship recipient.** Archon Marcus founded the National Hellenic Society and is also active in the Modern Greek Studies Foundation, the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute, the Metropolis of San Francisco, International Orthodox Christian Charities, and Elios Society of Northern California. He spearheaded efforts to rebuild the Church of Panagia of Pera, the Cathedral Church of the Ecumenical Patriarch, after a catastrophic fire; Archon Marcus donated \$500,000 for renovations.



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

9. **32nd Anniversary of the Enthronement of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the 269th direct successor of Saint Andrew the First Called Apostle.** His All Holiness has been blessed with a grand vision that affects individuals from everyday people to the leaders of great nations, such as President Biden. Known as the “Green Patriarch,” Bartholomew pioneered the call for the preservation of God’s Creation. He bravely stood up to the Patriarch of the wealthiest and largest Church in the Orthodox World, Kirill, and to the most ruthless totalitarian leader in modern times, Putin. And it was out of his love of unity that he organized and presided over the Holy and Great Council in Crete, the first gathering of its kind in 1200 years. As Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we are grateful to be able to assist in the wise ministry of this holy and visionary Patriarch. **Εις πολλά έτη Δέσποτα.**



As Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we are grateful to be able to assist in the wise ministry of this holy and visionary Patriarch. **Εις πολλά έτη Δέσποτα.**



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

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

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

Εις πολλά έτη Δέσποτα.

11. 2023 Marks the 57th year of the Establishment of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We remain singularly focused on Defending the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople and securing its religious freedom. It is a great privilege to work closely with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, whose insight is superlative, and we are especially thankful to our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alex Karloutsos, who in his trademark indefatigable way is always there for the Archons as we relentlessly launch domestic and international efforts for the good of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. I am personally indebted to our esteemed National Vice Commander Honorable B. Theodore Bozonelis with whom I personally consult on a daily basis regarding the operations of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America.



57 Years

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

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

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

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

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



13. We express profound gratitude to our beloved wives and families (I save the best for last)!

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

In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony J. Limberakis, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Megas Aktouarios
National Commander



Archons OF THE Ecumenical Patriarchate

Protecting the Future of FaithSM

Spiritual Leadership

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

Father Alexander Karloutsos
Spiritual Advisor

Executive Committee

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Megas Aktouarios
National Commander

Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnimon
National Treasurer

Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Ekdikos
National Vice Commander

Gus M. Pablecas, Ostiarios
National Secretary

Functionaries

George E. Demacopoulos, PhD,
Didaskalos Tou Genous Historian

Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq., Nomophylax, Legal Counselor

Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon
Sergeant-at-Arms

Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA, Dikaiophylax
Assistant Treasurer

National Council

Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Ekdikos
Thomas S. Cappas, Esq. Nomophylax
Constantine G. Caras, Esq., Skevophylax
John A. Catsimatidis, Notarios
Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA, Dikaiophylax
George E. Demacopoulos, PhD, Didaskalos Tou Genous
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, Megas 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

Honorary National Council Emeriti
Stephen Cherpelis, Dikaiophylax
Nikitas Drakotos, Depoutatos
Theofanis V. Economidis, Ekdikos
Christopher Stratakis, Esq., Notarios

Regional Commanders

Direct Archdiocesan District

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

Metropolis of Boston

James Speros, Kastrinsios
Constantine Sideridis, Proto Notarios

Metropolis of Denver

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

Metropolis of Atlanta

Harry T. Cavalaris, Ekdikos
James A. Frangis, Notarios
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Ben Powell, Depoutatos
Peter E. Preovolos, Hartophylax
Reince Prieubus, Nomophylax
Apostolos Pries, Skevophylax
Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnemon
John M. Psaltos, Hartophylax
John Psaras, Eftaxias
Michael G. Psaros, Ostiarios
George Pete Psefteas, Skevophylax
George P. Psihogios, Kastrinsios
Michael P. Psyllos, Esq.,
Kastrinsios
Konstantinos Pylarinos,
Hagiografos

R

John C. Rakkou, Depoutatos
Dino A. Ralis, Depoutatos
Dr. Michael G. Rallis, Referendarios
Dr. Nicholas Rallis, Aktouarios
Gerry Ranglas, Depoutatos
Harry Raptakis, Exarchos
George J. Razis, Esq., Nomodotis
George T. Reganis, Referendarios
James A. Regas, Ekdikos
Michael Ristvey Jr, Nomophylax
Constantine M. Rizopoulos,
Didaskalos
James G. Rockas, Ostiarios
George C. Rockas, Esq.,
Dikaiophylax
Constantine M. Rogdakis,
Skevophylax
Christopher G. Rongos, Primikirios
Dr. Louis J. Roussalis, Aktouarios
Dimitrios P. Rozanitis, Maistor
Harry Gregory Ruska, Notarios

S

Gregory B. Saad, Nomodotis
Deacon Oleh Saciuk, Nomophylax
George E. Safiol, Archeiophylax
Nicholas J. Sakellariadis,
Dikaiophylax
George Sakellaris, Ostiarios
Nawaf Salameh, M.D.,
Referendarios
Charles P. Sandilos, Esq., Ekdikos
Dr. Terry Sarantou, Hartouliarios
Anthony T. Saris, Aktouarios
Prof. John C. Sarkioglu, Exarchos
Nicholas C. Sarris, Maistor
Dr. William M. Scaljon, Aktouarios
Nicholas G. Scandalios,
Skevophylax
Steven G. Scarvelis, Exarchos
James N. Schooley, DDS.,
Aktouarios
Byron A. Scordelis,
Hypomnemmatographos
John C. Scurtis, Hartouliarios
Dr. Nicholas Seketa, Ritor
Steven N. Sellas, Hieromnemon
Theodore Sepsis, Ostiarios
Demetrios Seremetis,
Hypomimniskontos
Michael Seremetis, Skevophylax
Robert J. Serko, Depoutatos
Anis N. Shamiyeh, Notarios
Robert G. Shaw, Megas Proto
Ekdikos
George Siamboulis, Ostiarios
Yanni Sianis, Skevophylax
Pericles C. Siatis, Esq.,
Hieromnemon
Constantine Sideridis, Proto
Notarios
Paul Sieben, Aktouarios
George A. Sifakis, Nomophylax
Louis S. Sinopulos, Primikirios
Franklin G. Sisson Jr., Prepositos
John Sitalides, Referendarios
Christos Skeadas, Eftaxias
Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnemon

Dr. Demetrios G. Skedros, Maistor
James C. Skedros, Ph.D.,
Didaskalos
Sen. Dean Skelos, Hieromnemon
George Skoufis, Dierminefs
Paul P. Skoutelas, Referendarios
Michael A. Smisko, Aktouarios
Paul P. Sogotis, Orphanotrophos
Michael S. Sophocles, Ekdikos
George A. Sotir, Depoutatos
Stavro G. Soussou, Hartophylax
Michael A Spanos, Depoutatos
Nicholas Spanos, Hartophylax
Dean Spanos, Maistor
George J. Spanos, Ostiarios
Samuel William Spanos,
Hieromnemon
William H. Spell, Laosynaktis
James D. Speros, Kastrinsios
Theodore Speros,
Hypomnematographos
Dr. Spiro Spireas, Aktouarios
Christos Spyropoulos, Proto
Notarios
George P. Stamas, Nomophylax
George A. Stamboulidis, Ekdikos
Angelo Stamis, Hartouarios
Gregory J. Stamos, Esq., Proto
Ekdikos
Angelo A. Stamoulis, Notarios
Lambros K. Stassinis,
Hypomnimatografos
Demetrios G. Stathopoulos,
Referendarios
Dr. Panos Stavrianidis, Aktouarios
Gus Stavropoulos, Depoutatos
Mark D. Stavropoulos,
Referendarios
William S. Stavropoulos,
Skevophylax
Andreas Stavrou, Dikaiophylax
Dr. George Stefanidakis, Archon
Aktouarios
Michael L. Stefanos, Lambadarios
Michael N. Stefanoudakis, Esq.,
Orphanotrophos
George R. Stephanopoulos, Megas
Nomophylax

Wesley A. Stinich, Referendarios
Christopher Stratakis, Notarios
John C. Stratakis, Dikaiophylax
Thomas M. Suehs, Skevophylax
William G. Sutzko, Notarios
George Svokos, Aktouarios
Georgios Syros, M.D., Kastrinsios

T

John Tangalos, Dierminefs
Peter Tarhanidis, Ph.D., Kastrinsios
James Tasios, Kastrinsios
Tim Tassopoulos, Maistor
Stephanos Tenedios, Primikerios
Dr. William Tenet, Primikirios
Romey Terezi, Notarios
Nicholas E. Terezis, Ekdikos
Nick A. Theodore, Depoutatos
Ted J. Theodore, Didaskalos Tou
Genous
Andrew Nick Theodore, Depoutatos
Nikolaos Theofanis, Hartouarios
Dr. Theoharis Theoharides,
Hieromnemon
Nikitas Theologitis, Ekdikos
Theodore J. Theophilos,
Dikaiophylax
Col. Michael L. Therianos, Jr.,
Asingritis
Patrick N. Theros, Referendarios
John Thibault, Exarchos
Dr. Gregory A. Thomas,
Hartouarios
James G. Thomas, Depoutatos
James Thomas, Hieromnemon
Dr. John Thomas M.D., Depoutatos
Anthony Thomopoulos,
Laosynaktis
Stephen D. Tibbs, Orphanotrophos
Peter E. Tiboris, Hieromnemon
Dr. Manuel N. Tissura, Ekdikos
George Tita, Hartouarios
Peter Toutoulis, Exarchos
Andreas Touzos, Ostiarios
William G. Tragos, Depoutatos
Elias Trahanas, Esq., Prostatiston
Grammaton

Stephanos Trakas, Hartouarios
Nicholas J. Tranto, Proto Ekdikos
Costas N. Trataros, Notarios
Constantine M. Triantafilou,
Orphanotrophos
Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, Ekdikos
Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, Eftaxias
Chris E. Tsamutalis, Skevophylax
George S. Tsandikos, Hartouarios
Nicholas Tsapatsaris, Kastrinsios
Ernest N. Tsaptsinos, Ostiarios
Christopher Tsavoussis,
Laosynaktis
Elias Tsekerides, Depoutatos
Dr. Nicholas Tsirilakis, Aktouarios
Savas Tsvicos, Kastrinsios
George A. Tsougarakis,
Dikaiophylax
Dr. Elias N. Tsoukas, Aktouarios
Peter A. Tsudis, Depoutatos
George J. Tsunis,
Hypomnematographos
John C. Tsunis, Orphanotrophos
Dr. Manuel Tzagournis, Aktouarios
Adam M. Tzagournis, Quaistor
Dr. Andreas G. Tzakis, Aktouarios

V

Dr. Dean Vafiadis, Hieromnemon
Theodore H. Vagelos, Eftaxias
Dr. Sotirios J. Vahaviolos,
Hartouarios
Nikiforos Valaskantjis, Depoutatos
Sarantos Vallas, Eftaxias
Dr. Chris Vasilakis, Imnodos
Demosthenes Vasiliou, Depoutatos
John Vasiliou, Ostiarios
Argyris Vassiliou, Notarios
James D. Vavas, Maistor
Theodore Vavoulis, Depoutatos
Emmanuel E. Velivasakis, Eftaxias
Konstantine L. Vellios, Depoutatos
Peter L. Venetis, Ekdikos
Andrew Veniopoulos, Hartouarios
George C. Venizelos, Referendarios
George J. Veras, Maistor

Stefanos Vertopoulos, Ostiarios
George M. Ververides, Depoutatos
George P. Vittas, Ekdikos
Peter A. Vlachos, Ostiarios
George J. Vlahakos, Esq., Nomodotis
Dr. Theodore P. Vlahos, Aktouarios
Peter Vlitas, Hartouarios
Dr. Elmer B. Vogelpohl Jr.,
Aktouarios
John P. Volandes, Hartophylax
George P. Vourvoulas Jr.,
Primikirios
George Voutiritsas, Depoutatos
Bill J. Vranas, Notarios
Gus Vratsinas, Ostiarios
Constantine N. Vrettos, Notarios
Gary M. Vronis, Eftaxias

W

Howard E. West Jr., Notarios
Kevin M. Wilcox, Chartophylas
Dr. "Thomas" Williams, DDS, M.D.,
Orphanotrophos

X

Basil P. Xeros, Depoutatos

Y

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

Z

Andrew C. Zachariades, Kastrinsios
James E. Zaferis, Laosinaktis
James B. Zafiros,
Hypomnimatografos
George P. Zaharas, Myrepso
Theodore K. Zampetis, Kastrinsios
Leonard Zangas, Hieromnemon
George N. Zapantis,
Hypomemneskontis
Dr. Theodore J. Zaravinos,
Aktouarios
Dr. Peter D. Zavitsanos, Kastrinsios
John Zavitsanos, Esq., Ekdikos
Steve E. Zeis, Skevophylax
Steve Zervoudis, Hartophylax
Dr. Tikey A. Zes, Lambadarios
Dr. George P. Zimmar, Prostatistis Ton
Grammaton
Demetrios J. Ziozis, Eftaxias
Constantinos M. Zografopoulos,
Eftaxias
Dimitrios Zygoris, Proto Notarios

History of National Commanders



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



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



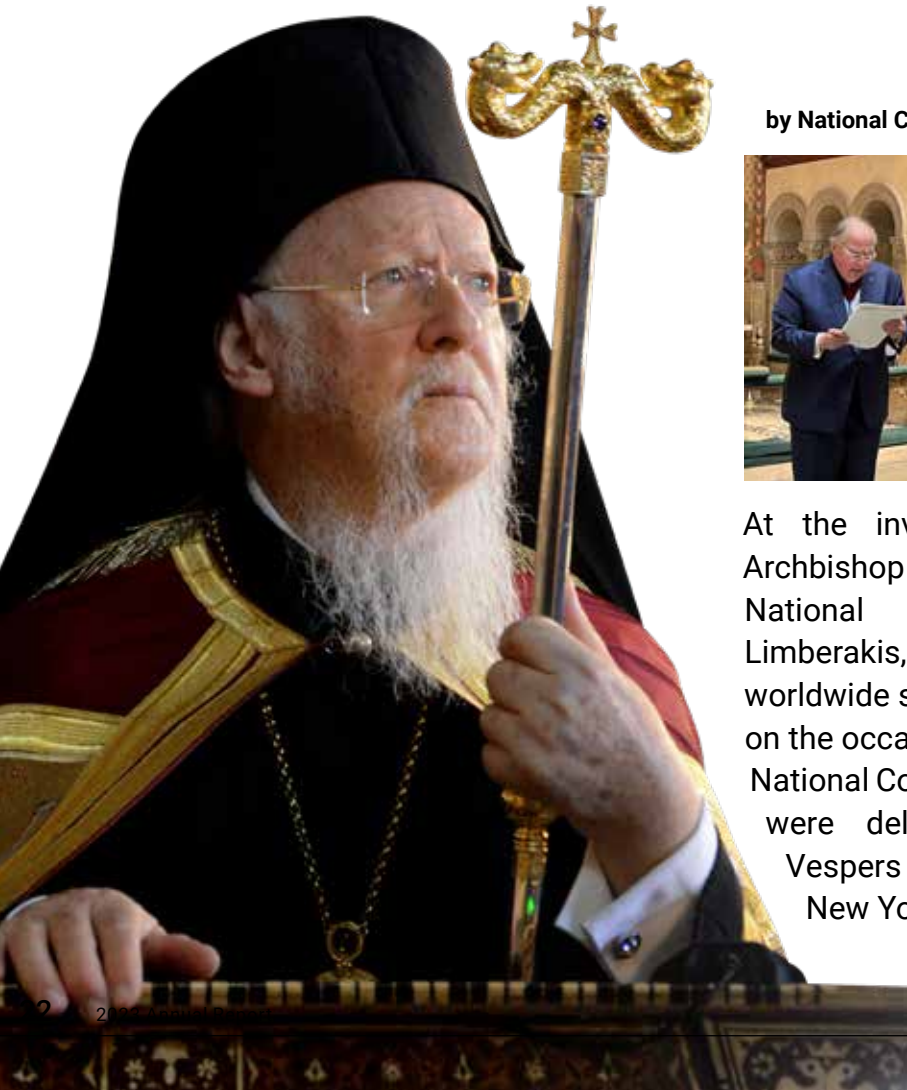
† Anthony G. B. Borden, MD
(1976–1989)
Archon Megas Aktouarios



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



The Ministry of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



by National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD



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 June 10.

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. Εἰς Πολλὰ Ἐτη!

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 Athenagoras Human Rights Award

HRH Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece
and HRH Crown Princess Marie-
Chantal, represent HRH King
Charles III on behalf of
the Prince's Trust

His Eminence Archbishop
Elpidophoros of America,
together with National
Commander Dr. Anthony J.
Limberakis, presented the
Athenagoras Human Rights Award
to the Prince's Trust. With the blessing
of His Majesty King Charles III,
His Royal Highness Crown Prince
Pavlos, Vice President of Prince's
Trust International and the eldest
son of King Constantine and
Queen Anne-Marie of Greece,
accepted the Award on behalf
of the Prince's Trust on October 21, 2023,
during the annual Athenagoras Human
Rights Award Banquet held at the New
York Hilton Hotel with over 600 Archons
and guests in attendance.



Prince's Trust



Archons

OF THE Ecumenical Patriarchate

“...ing the ... of Faith”





During these times when our world is being tested by major threats, it is now more imperative than ever to support our society and stand by our youth in every possible way. The right to work is a human right, enshrined in the UN's universal declaration.

—Prince Pavlos of Greece



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I cannot tell you how sorry I am not to be with you in person on this occasion for the celebration of The Prince's Trust's work, but I am enormously grateful to you all for taking the time to attend this event. I am particularly delighted that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pavlos, Vice President of Prince's Trust International, has agreed to receive the Athenagoras Human Rights Award this evening.

I really am so pleased that The Trust's work continues to go from strength to strength, having, in recent years, expanded from its mission in the United Kingdom and now to be supporting young people in twenty-three countries, including Greece and the United States of America where we recently launched our Enterprise Challenge programme in New York and Chicago. Celebrating the global impact of this work is an achievement which, I must confess, I could not have dreamed of back in 1976 when I started The Trust, using, at that time, my Royal Navy severance pay when I left the Service to help disadvantaged young people achieve their full potential. Its mission remains the same today – to help young people into secure, sustainable jobs and enterprises, enabling them to build brighter futures.

In the beginning, I hoped that by supporting young people to develop their latent skills and to find work or training, The Trust would perhaps be able to help change some individuals' lives for the better. I am thrilled to say that it has now worked with over one million young people, helping them to start careers, launch businesses and re-engage with education.

I am enormously inspired by the determination and commitment of young people, some of whom you will hear from later. They are changemakers; they will shape the world's future and we must support them to realise their dreams.

Looking ahead, I very much hope the Trust in the U.K., the Commonwealth, the U.S. and, of course, in Greece can continue to help young people and communities to understand the immeasurable difference they can make to our society when they choose positive paths in life and achieve their goals. That way they can help build a brighter future.



Letter from King Charles

His Majesty King Charles III, shown here with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at Buckingham Palace, October 25, 2022. Below, a letter was prepared from His Majesty.

CHARLES R.

ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

In 1986 the National Council of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate established The Athenagoras Human Rights Award. The Award is presented every year at the Annual Banquet of the Order to a person or organization, which has consistently exemplified by action, purpose and dedication, concern for the basic rights and religious freedom of all people. The Award was named after one of the Great Church Leaders of the 20th Century, the late Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Athenagoras I.



Past Recipients of The Award

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2023 · The Prince's Trust | 2006 · Nicholas J. Bouras |
| 2022 · His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa | 2005 · Mikhail Gorbachev |
| 2021 · Scientists who saved humanity from the Covid pandemic
Dr. Albert Bourla, Pfizer;
Dr. Uğur Şahin and Dr. Özlem Türeci, BioNTech; and
Dr. George D. Yancopoulos and Christos Kyratsous, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals | 2004 · Alex G. Spanos |
| 2019 · His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine | 2003 · IOCC & OCMC |
| 2018 · Father Alexander and Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos | 2002 · President George H. W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush |
| 2017 · Emilia Kamvisi and Efstratios Valamios | 2001 · Archbishop Anastasios of Albania |
| 2016 · Governor Andrew M. Cuomo | 2000 · Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu |
| 2015 · Vice President Joe Biden | 1999 · Elie Wiesel |
| 2014 · Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD | 1998 · Nana Mouskouri |
| 2013 · 60 Minutes | 1997 · Reverend Clergy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese |
| 2012 · Stavros Niarchos Foundation | 1996 · Order of AHEPA |
| 2011 · Admiral James G. Stavridis | 1995 · Hon. Edward Derwinski |
| 2009 · Anthony J. Limberakis, MD | 1994 · Hon. Paul S. Sarbanes |
| 2008 · Rabbi Arthur Schneier | 1993 · George Douris |
| 2007 · Archbishop Demetrios of America | 1992 · Ladies Philoptochos |
| | 1991 · Andrew A. Athens |
| | 1990 · Hon. John Brademas |
| | 1989 · Anthony G. Borden, MD |
| | 1988 · Mother Theresa |
| | 1987 · President Jimmy Carter |
| | 1986 · Archbishop Iakovos |



The Bouras Award

Honoring George M. Marcus

On October 20, 2023, the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship was bestowed upon George M. Marcus, Archon Exarchos, for his outstanding service to the Orthodox Church as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The Award was presented by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis at the Bouras Award Dinner during the annual Archon Weekend in New York City.



“

We thank Archon George for using his God-given talents to support the Church and its mission, build our cultural heritage worldwide, and offer much to numerous admirable philanthropic causes.”

–Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

In a written statement, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew said: “As Archon Exarchos of the Holy, Great Church of Christ, Archon George has shown himself to be genuinely worthy of that title, which historically was only given to individuals with proven leadership abilities who were trusted to exercise authority by the Patriarch. Anything we can write concerning this particular Archon’s achievements and leadership will inevitably fall short....His stewardship has been especially evident through his actions, which have left an indelible mark on our Church and communities. Aside from the self-sacrifice required to serve our fellow humanity, he has passed on his expertise and example through his various acts of charity and philanthropy....”

His All-Holiness added: “Archon George’s talent can be seen through his extraordinary life, which saw him rise from humble origins in Euboea, Greece, growing up in an immigrant family, eventually achieving success in business through the Marcus & Millichap Company, which he co-founded and where he still serves

as Chairman, and the Essex Property Trust. Consequently, we thank Archon George for using his God-given talents to support the Church and its mission, build our cultural heritage worldwide, and offer much to numerous admirable philanthropic causes.”

In his own written statement, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros remarked that Archon George Marcus was an “honoree of such distinction that it nearly defies elucidation. Archon George is well known throughout the Archdiocese and the American Nation from coast to coast. His philanthropy, stewardship, initiatives, commitments to Hellenism, Ecumenism, and his devotion to the Mother Church of Constantinople are extraordinary to an ultimate degree. His success in business is legendary and his dedication to civic affairs and the good health of the body politic of the United States is worthy of every admiration. Beyond these involvements, his devotion to his Church and its good health, well-being, and success within our culture and society is indefatigable.”



Drs. Limberakis with Archon Marcus.



Archon George Marcus



Dr. Kenneth Frangadakis



Archon George E. Safiol



The National Council of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate unanimously voted in 2010 to establish the Nicholas J. Bouras Award. The Award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary and incomparable stewardship to the Order, enabling Archons to vigorously pursue securing religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople.

The Award is named after the late National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, Archon Depoutatos, who himself had demonstrated remarkable leadership as a faithful son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and exemplary steward of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



Past Recipients of The Award

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2022 · Michael G. Psaros
Ostiarios | 2014 · Christopher Stratakis, Esq.
Notarios |
| 2019 · John S. Zavitsanos
Ekdikos | 2013 · Dr. Stephen J. Yallourakis
Aktouarios |
| 2018 · George E. Safiol
Archiophylax | 2012 · † James C. Fountas
Depoutatos |
| 2017 · John A. Catsimatidis
Notarios | 2012 · † John Halecky, Jr.
Ekdikos |
| 2016 · Theofanis V. Economidis
Ekdikos | 2011 · George D. Behrakis
Depoutatos |
| 2015 · † The Honorable Nicholas
Tsoucalas, Hartouliarios | |



Past recipients of the Award with George M. Marcus.

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander, stated: "It was particularly fitting that His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos was present, representing His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. For His Eminence is Metropolitan of San Francisco, where Archon George M. Marcus' devotion to God and His Church has had such an impact upon the life of the Church and the community. Virtually everywhere the Greek Orthodox Church in America is, there is Archon George Marcus, but this is nowhere more fully and profoundly true than in the

Metropolis of San Francisco, where Archon George is involved in an extraordinary range of foundations, organizations, and institutions in the Church and Greek community."

Introducing Archon Marcus was his lifelong friend and business partner, Dr. Kenneth Frangadakis. He and Archon Marcus are the proprietors of two of the most outstanding Greek restaurants in California, Evvia in Palo Alto and Kokkari in San Francisco. Dr. Frangadakis and Archon Marcus met as altar boys when they were twelve years old, and have been friends ever since.

The Archon Sophia Award For Excellence

Honoring Cappella Romana



On October 21, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate held an Agape Luncheon, in which Cappella Romana was honored with the Archon Sophia Award for Excellence.

Cappella Romana is a professional vocal ensemble that performs early and contemporary sacred classical music in the Christian traditions of East and West. Founded in 1991, Cappella Romana's name refers to the medieval Greek concept of the Roman oikoumene (inhabited world), which embraced Rome and Western Europe, as well as the Byzantine Empire of Constantinople ("New Rome") and its Slavic common-

wealth. Dr. Alexander Lingas, Archon Mousikodidaskalos, is the musical director and founder of Cappella Romana.

After an invocation by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, Dr. Maria A. Limberakis welcomed the attendees and spoke on "The 2023 Religious



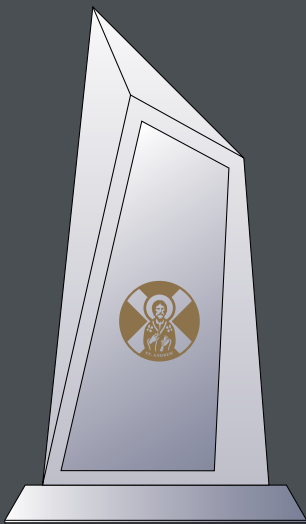
Cappella Romana reminds us all of the breathtaking beauty of our tradition with its marvelous re-creation of what Byzantine sacred choral music actually sounded like in Hagia Sophia cathedral"

-National Commander Limberakis

The Archon Sophia Award

FOR
Excellence

The Archon Sophia Award for Excellence is given by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate 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.



Past Recipients of The Award

2023 · Cappella Romana

which passionately connects New Rome-Constantinople, and its Slavic Commonwealth as well as the medieval Greek concept of the Roman Oikoumene, embracing Rome and Western Europe.

2023 · Ambassador Archon George J. Tsunis

in recognition of his service to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

2022 · Archon Nawaf and Rim Salameh

in recognition of their extraordinary generosity and invaluable assistance for the 2022 Archon Religious Freedom Mission to Romania

2022 · Archon Boris and Youlianna Gurov

in recognition of their extraordinary generosity and invaluable assistance for the 2022 Archon Religious Freedom Mission to Bulgaria

2021 · Santiago Calatrava

For his inspirational vision in the rebuilding of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center grounded on the Holy Wisdom of God

Freedom Mission and the Role of the Archon Family.” Following lunch, Dr. Maria A. Limberakis and National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis presented the Archon Sophia Award For Excellence to Cappella Romana. Mark Powell, Executive Director of Cappella Romana, and Archon Dr. Lingas then offered remarks.

“No other group in the world has Cappella Romana’s singular focus, music of the authentic Christian inheritance, of Orthodoxy. There are Archons in this room who have shared our vision during our more than 32 years, and to all of you we are extremely grateful for this award,” said Mark Powell.

Archon Dr. Lingas concluded “On

behalf of Cappella Romana, my profound thanks to the Archons of the Order of St. Andrew, for this great honor, the Sophia Award. Thank you.”

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco gave the closing benediction.

National Commander Limberakis observed: “Cappella Romana reminds us all of the breathtaking beauty of our tradition with its marvelous re-creation of what Byzantine sacred choral music actually sounded like in Hagia Sophia cathedral. In this, they illuminate and inspire us, and move us to redouble our efforts for the defense and protection of our Holy Mother Church. The importance of this cannot be understated, and they richly deserve the Sophia Award.”

The Class of 2023

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Add 39 Distinguished New Members

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, accompanied by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, presided at the Investiture of thirty-nine new Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from throughout the United States, following the Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity on October 22, 2023.

The Archon of the Great Church of Christ is a Protector of the Future of Faith and as such is expected to demonstrate leadership in the support of his local Parish, Diocese/ Metropolis, Archdiocese and, most importantly, the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Michael Amiridis, Ph.D, Prostatist
Ton Gramaton, Columbia, SC

Louis G. Apostol, Esq., Nomophylax,
Northfield, IL

Gerasimos Athanasatos, Hymnodos, New
York, NY

John M. Athas, MD, Orphanotrophos, New
York, NY

Robert P. Badavas, Chartouliarios,
Boston, MA

Michael D. Bousis, Depotatos, Niles, IL

Michael D. Camarinos, Esq., Dikaiophylax,
Tenafly, NJ

Christos F. Chrisafides, Depotatos,
Manchester, NH

Thomas J. Cox, Eftaxias,
Jeffersonville, PA

Spiro I. Dongaris, Maistor, Tenafly, NJ

Apostolos Fisis, Laosynaktis,
Elkins Park, PA

Craig L. Godshall, Esq., Nomodotis, Elkins
Park, PA

Gregory J. Halvatzis, Skevophylax, Houston, TX

Spiro Kailas, Aktouarios,
Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA

Nicholas S. Kass, Referendarios, Bethesda,
MD

James Ketis, Notarios, Naples, FL

Dimitris Kyriazis, MD, Ostiarios,
Mobile, AL

John K. Lazares, Protonotarios,
Cincinnati, OH

Nikolaos Letsios, Notarios,
Whitestone, NY

George P. Liakeas, MD, Aktouarios,
New York, NY

Nabeel J. Issa Madanat, MD, Ostiarios, Daily
City, CA

Vasilios G. Marutsos, Depotatos, Redondo
Beach, CA

Antonis Mistras, Orphanotrophos,
Wilmington, DE

Michael P. Neamonitakis, Maistor, Brooklyn,
NY

Chris G. Pallis, Laosynaktis, Seattle, WA

Peter J. Pantou, MD, Chartouliarios, Chicago, IL

George N. Papas, Ekdikos, Tenafly, NJ

George N. Pappas, Nomodotis,
Cherry Hill, NJ

Nicholas J. Pappas, Esq., Nomophylax,
Westfield, NJ

Jimmy T. Patronis, Jr., Dikaiophylax,
Panama City, FL

Anthony J. Payiavlax, Referendarios, Warren,
OH

Phillip J. Philiou, Esq., Eftaxias,
Tenafly, NJ, Attorney

George P. Psefteas, Skevophylax,
Castro Valley, CA

Harry G. Ruska, Notarios, Columbus, OH

Samuel W. Spanos, Hieromnemon,
Aliquippa, PA

Theodore Speros, Hypomnematosgraphos,
Arlington, MA

Andrew N. Theodore, Depotatos, Columbia,
SC

John Vasiliou, Ostiarios, Upper Darby, PA

Kevin M. Wilcox, Chartophylax,
Little Rock, AR



The Archon Branding Initiative

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Archon John Gumas 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.

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 FaithSM

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

Logo Evolution

Our logo has historically changed over the years as depicted below.



Archons
OF THE Ecumenical
Patriarchate
Protecting the Future of FaithSM



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.

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 ac-

Branding Symposium

On 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 renown 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.

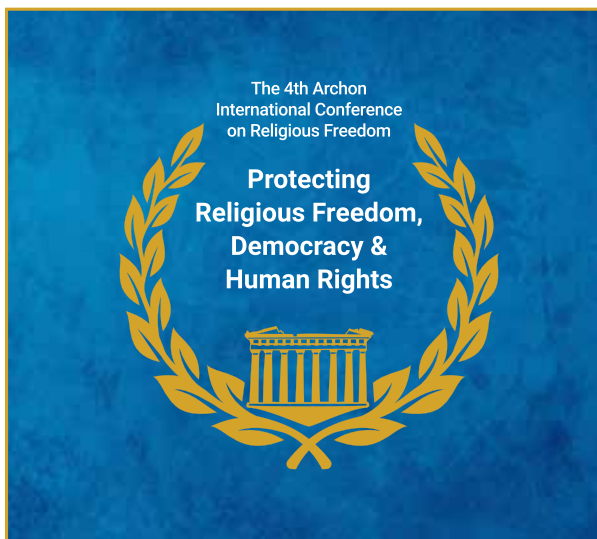
knowledge that there is still much work to do in educating our own community about the Ecumenical Patriarchate, what an Archon is, the work we do and why it's critically important. Along with the initiatives produced by our engagement committees our content strategy will pivot to be more externally focused.

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.

Preparations for the Athens Conference

The 4th Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom and Global Summit of Archons

May 26–29, 2024 Athens, Greece



Archon Delegation Meets with Key Religious, Political and Civic Leaders in Greece

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on Saturday, January 14, 2023, a preparatory delegation of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate traveled to Athens, Greece to discuss the possibilities of holding a future Archon International Conference there. His Eminence was unable to participate due to scheduling

conflicts. During the extraordinarily busy and productive weeklong visit in Greece, the Archon delegation met with some of the most important religious, political, and civic leaders in the country, including His Beatitude Ieronymos II, Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

The delegation was led by His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel, Geron of Chalcedon and included, among others, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander, the Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, National Vice Commander; and the Archon spiritual advisor, Father Alexander Karloutsos. The Archon delegation was pleased to be joined by Archon Boris and Youlianna Gurov in Greece and Archon John Kassimatis in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

Meeting with the former Consul General of Greece in New York, Dr. Konstantinos Koutras

Upon the delegation's arrival in Greece on Saturday, January 14, it met with the former Consul General of Greece in New York, Dr. Konstantinos Koutras, and his beloved wife Popita. Dr. Koutras served in New York from 2016 to 2022 and then returned to service at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens. Archon John Mindala, a member of the preparatory delegation, exhaustively documented the entire trip with photographs of the various meetings.



Divine Liturgy and Meetings with His Eminence Metropolitan Theodoretos

On Sunday, January 15, His Eminence Metropolitan Theodoretos, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Athens, celebrated the Divine Liturgy at St. Irene Church in Athens with the Archon preparatory delegation in attendance.

Meeting with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis

On Monday, January 16, the Archon delegation met with the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Archon leaders previously met with Prime Minister Mitsotakis to discuss issues of religious freedom at an Archon luncheon in Washington, D.C. in May 2020. The Prime Minister offered his full support to the efforts in planning the Fourth International Archon Conference scheduled for May 2024 in Athens, Greece.



Dinner with the U.S. Ambassador to Greece, George J. Tsunis, Archon of the Great Church of Christ

On Monday evening, January 16, the U.S. Ambassador to Greece, George J. Tsunis, and his beloved wife Olga hosted a dinner in honor of the Archon delegation at the Ambassador's Residence. During the dinner, National Commander Limberakis and Vice Commander Bozonelis presented Ambassador Tsunis, Archon Hypomnematoğrafos, and his gracious wife Olga with the Archon Sophia Award for Excellence.



Meeting with the Rector of the University of Athens, Prof. Athanasios Meletios Dimopoulos

On Tuesday, January 17, the Archon delegation met with Professor Athanasios Meletios Dimopoulos, Rector of the University of Athens and faculty. Prof. Meletios guided the Archon Delegation to several stunning venues that may be utilized during the proposed International Conference.



Meeting with President Martinos of the Pammakaristos Brotherhood of Archons

Also on Tuesday, January 17, the Archon delegation met with His Eminence Metropolitan Theodoretos and Archon Athanasios Martinos, President of the Pammakaristos Brotherhood of Archons in Europe, at offices of Archon Martinos. Discussions regarding advancing the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation globally were discussed in detail. Archon Gerasimos Fokas, Vice President of the Pammakaristos Archons and Metropolitan Theodoretos were also in attendance.



Meeting with Greece's Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Minister Niki Kerameus

The Archon delegation also met on Tuesday, January 17 with Minister Niki K. Kerameus, the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic. The Ministry's General Secretariat recently published two landmark works: The Black Book of the Persecutions and Martyrdom Suffered by Hellenism in Turkey (1914-1918) and Acts Against Religious Sites in Greece Report 2019. While in the Minister's Offices, the Delegation telephoned Archon Andy Manatos in Washington, DC to discuss the ways and means to disseminate these significant publications to Members of Congress and the Administration of President Biden.



Meeting at the Athens Patriarchal Office

On Wednesday, January 18, the Archon delegation met with His Eminence Metropolitan Theodoretos of Laodicea, the Director of the Representative Office of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Athens. His Eminence brought the delegation to the nearby Church of St. Nicholas, a gift of the Church of Athens and All Greece and the City of Athens to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Meeting with the Chairman of Contships Management Mr. Nikolas D. Pateras

Later on Wednesday, January 18, His Eminence Metropolitan Theodoretos introduced the Archon delegation to Mr. Nikolas D. Pateras, Chairman of Contships Management, Inc. During the informal visit, the delegation had an opportunity to learn more about his long tradition and expertise in the ship management of container vessels.



Visit to Mitera Hospital

Also on Wednesday, January 18, the Archon delegation met with Dr. Stephanos Chandakas, President of Mitera Hospital in Athens. The delegation was given a tour of the hospital; after the tour, the renowned celebrity chef Akis Petretzikis prepared a luncheon for the delegation that was hosted by Dr. Chandakos.



**Meeting with the Mayor of Athens
Konstantinos Bakoyannis**

On Thursday, January 19, the Archon delegation met with the Mayor of Athens, Konstantinos Bakoyannis, at Athens City Hall during which the Mayor graciously offered administrative assistance in planning the Conference.



**Meeting with Archbishop Ieronymos of
Athens**

Also on Thursday, January 19, the Archon delegation met with His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos at the Archdiocese. Commander Limberakis noted that with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, an Archon Planning Delegation traveled to Athens, Greece to begin work on what will be an extraordinary International Conference.



**Meeting with the Minister of Public
Safety Takis Thedorikakis**

The Archon delegation, again on Thursday, January 19, met with Greece's Minister of Public Safety, Takis Thedorikakis. Matters of Conference security and safety were discussed during the meeting.



**Meeting with the Minister of Defense
Nikos Panagiotopoulos**

Likewise on Thursday, January 19, the Archon delegation met with Greece's Minister of Defense, Nikos Panagiotopoulos, at the Department of Defense.



**Meeting with the Foreign Minister Niko
Dendias**

On Friday, January 20, the Archon delegation met with Greece's Foreign Minister Niko Dendias at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



**Meeting with Director of the Patriarchal
Press & Communications Office**

On Friday, January 20, members of the Archon delegation met with Mr. Nicholas-George Papachristou, Director of the Patriarchal Press & Communications Office, to discuss how the Archons can assist in improving digital communication and live-streaming religious services from the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In addition, the Pilgrimage of Discovery project was reviewed.



Dinner hosted by Consul General of Greece to Monaco, Hon. Petros Machas

The Archon delegation departed Greece on Saturday, January 21 for more meetings in Monaco. His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew had planned to participate, but changed his plans after the passing of his beloved sister, Zacharo Anastasiadou. His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel served in Monaco as His All-Holiness' representative.



Divine Liturgy and Investiture of Archons in Monaco

On January 22, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Virgin Mary Chapel in Monaco. Following the Liturgy, four new Archons were invested by His Eminence: Petros Machas, Konstantinos Tzouvelekas, Grigoris Stasinopoulos and Nicolas Hadjioannou. In addition to the Archon Delegation, New York Regional Commander Archon John V. Kassimatis was present, who together with his wife Alexandra were visiting his beloved son Vasilios and his family in Monte Carlo. Archon Fotios Piniros, was in Monte Carlo on business, and also attended Divine Liturgy.



Cutting of the Vasilopita by the Hellenic Community of Monaco

Also on Sunday, January 22, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel participated in a celebration of the cutting of the vasilopita by the Hellenic Community at the Yacht Club of Monaco, with the Archon delegation in attendance. The Hellenic Community in Morocco is very active and plans numerous cultural events throughout the year.



Worldwide Observations

This past year, several reports and statements highlighted unfortunate tragedies for some Orthodox Christians

Archons Condemn the Bombing of Gaza's Saint Porphyrius Greek Orthodox Church and Other Humanitarian Institutions

The following statement was issued by the National Commander on behalf of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate:

With great sadness, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate join the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem in condemning the Israeli airstrike that struck the compound of Saint Porphyrius Greek Orthodox Church in Gaza City. Saint Porphyrius Church has stood since the twelfth century. We grieve for those whose lives have been lost and pray for the well-being and safety of all the members of the Greek Orthodox Community in Gaza whose lives have been affected by this tragedy.

Even when inadvertent, military actions that instill harm to houses of worship and other institutions that are dedicated to aiding and protecting the innocent people who are caught up in war are unacceptable and could have far-reaching consequences that bring even more violence upon innocents. As Thomas Friedman noted in the New York Times, "an overreach in Gaza could set the whole neighborhood ablaze."

Accordingly, we urge all people of faith and political leaders to take every precaution that prevents damage to sacred spaces and humanitarian institutions by immediately ceasing any and all operations that could harm women, children, the elderly, and others who have no conceivable responsibility for the conflict. We exhort them to recall the value of human life that is taught in their religious traditions, and accordingly to work assiduously to bring an end to this war, rather than to prolong and widen the suffering of innocent people and the damage to civilian institutions.

The Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, of which



The Church of Saint Porphyrius in Gaza City belongs to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and was the oldest active church in the city. The Church was sheltering hundreds of displaced Palestinians before it was hit overnight by an Israeli air strike.



Saint Porphyrius Church is a part, is committed to assistance, support, and refuge to those in need. We pray that all those involved will follow its lead, end actions that pressure the Patriarchate and other such institutions to abandon their sacred duties, and make the well-being of the most vulnerable and needy their utmost priority.

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate joins all those worldwide who rightfully condemn the savage terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas. We also stand as "peacemakers" who condemn all violence and call now for the bloodshed to end. Only through a profound commitment to peaceful coexistence and honest dialogue can peace dawn both in Gaza and in the entire world.

Analysis of the Orthodox Church in Contemporary Geopolitics

By Professor Elizabeth Prodromou

A recent detailed analysis of the Orthodox Church's involvement in contemporary geopolitics includes the history, structure, and current influences of the Orthodox Church in various regions of the world. The report is written by Professor Elizabeth Prodromou.

The Executive Summary begins, "The historical significance and current presence of Orthodox Churches in locations of key competition between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Russia, and in the great power rivalries of the twenty-first century, raises important questions about the role and impact of Orthodox Churches in contemporary geo-

politics. Kremlin-supported challenges by the Moscow Patriarchate to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (EP), the global leader of a unified Orthodox Church that endorses universal human rights and rule of law, have provoked intense ecclesiastical conflicts within Orthodoxy over institutional, normative, and material resources."

'Key takeaways' include:

The EP's decision establishing the autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU), concomitant with the Kremlin's ongoing war in Ukraine, positions Ukraine as an important Rorschach test for the Constantinople-versus-Moscow orientations of Orthodox Churches worldwide.

Western diplomacy that holds Kyiv accountable on religious freedom decisions will give traction to Orthodox leaderships committed to human rights. Alternatively, transatlantic indifference to Kyiv's legislative and intelligence moves that target Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) churches will weaken democracy dynamics, social cohesion, and reconciliation in a post-war Ukraine.

Generational transitions in the leadership of key Orthodox patriarchates and autocephalous Churches will impact their survival strategies vis-à-vis democratic, non-democratic, and hybrid regimes.

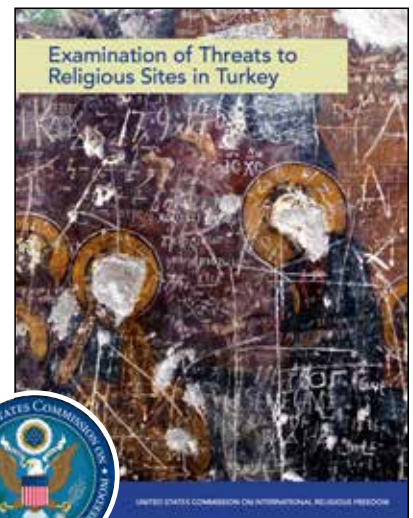
USCIRF Releases New Report: Examination of Threats to Religious Sites in Turkey

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) released a new report, Examination of Threats to Religious Sites in Turkey. This report examines threats to religious properties in Turkey, including places of worship, religious institutions, and cemeteries, and outlines important aspects of the ongoing plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The report notes that "the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne also provided protection and freedom of worship for the remaining non-Muslim communities," but that this protection and freedom of worship has often been sharply curtailed, not infrequently through action against sacred Christian sites. The report shows highest number of attacks on Greek Orthodox and other Orthodox churches took place in the Marmara region, where Istanbul is located, correlating to its higher concentration of non-Muslim populations.

The report also cites one notorious example of how "confiscation can also be used as a form of retaliation," and details how "Turkish authorities confiscated the Prinkipo Greek Orthodox Orphanage in Büyükkada, Istanbul" in 1964 and subsequently "closed it down and let it decay." By the time the Ecumenical Patriarchate was able to regain control of the site by means of an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights, "the building had sustained significant damage and fallen into disrepair. The burden is on the Greek Orthodox community to repair and preserve the site at considerable financial cost."

In summary, the report concludes that while bombings and terrorist attacks have decreased over the last decade, incidents of vandalism, destruction of religious property through arson, treasure hunting, and the lack of prosecution of these incidents have increasingly



affected the Greek Orthodox and other Orthodox communities in Turkey. These findings are an indication of a wider political indifference towards the protection and property rights of the community as a non-Muslim minority.

The Power of Presence

Several important events throughout the year occurred that required official representation.

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

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 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.





Greek Independence Day at the White House

On March 29, 2023, Archons and members of the Greek-American community were invited to the White House for a celebration recognizing Greek Independence Day. President Joe Biden hosted and Greek-American actress Rita Wilson performed, joined by her husband Tom Hanks. The day prior, Ambassador Rufus Gifford, Chief of Protocol of the United States, below right, hosted a dinner in honor of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America at The Blair House.



President Joe Biden, Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson.



Anthony Limberakis with Drs. Maria and Anthony Limberakis.



Ambassador Rufus Gifford, US Chief of Protocol



Archon George Tsougarakis and his wife Eva with Archons George Cantonis and Peter Kakoyiannis.



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros with Ambassador Archon George Tsunis and Archon Dennis and Karen Mehiel.



Archon Mike Manatos



Archons Michael Karloutsos and John Georges.

President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, visits the Ecumenical Patriarchate

On 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, warmly welcomed 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 entourage, 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.

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.

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. Zelenskyy 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 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.



Archons Meet In Washington with Chair of Senate Foreign Relations Committee and U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom

On March 29, 2023, a delegation from the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, met in Washington, D.C. with Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), below, a longtime champion of the rights and freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and Rashad Hussain, bottom, the United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, in order to discuss mutual efforts to protect and defend our Holy Mother Church in Constantinople.





At OSCE Conference in Warsaw, Poland, Archons Sisson and Hon. Counelis offer strong advocacy for religious freedom on behalf of the Mother Church

Archon Rocky Sisson along with Archon Hon. Steven G. Counelis, once again raised international awareness regarding the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the annual Warsaw Human Dimension Conference of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), one of the world's largest human rights conferences, which was held from October 2 to 13, 2023.

Archons Sisson and Counelis each participated in the assembly and submitted written statements. Archon Counelis delivered an oral statement at the conference's third Plenary Session, which was devoted to issues of tolerance and non-discrimination. He called attention to the five issues which "perpetuate religious and cultural discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarchate," and noted that the Archons "strenuously object to the Turkish govern-

ment's 2020 decision to convert Hagia Sophia from a museum to a mosque."

Archon Hon. Counelis also submitted a detailed written statement, providing a wealth of detail about how the Turkish government deprives the Ecumenical Patriarchate of essential rights, and declaring: "The Turkish Constitution defines the country as a secular state. It provides for freedom of conscience, religious belief, conviction, expression, and worship and prohibits discrimination based on religious grounds. Nonetheless, the Government of Turkey has intentionally failed to create such a society for its Christian members, and other religious minorities. We call upon the Turkish Government to finally live up to its own Constitution."

While in Poland, Archon Hon. Counelis paid a visit to Auschwitz, the site of an infamous Nazi death

camp during World War II, and a lasting monument of what can be the horrific result of the same intolerance he decried at the OSCE conference.

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

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

Evolving Leadership

Several appointments were held throughout the year bringing forth change and renewal in the Archon arena.

James D. Speros, Regional Commander

A longtime parishioner and chanter at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Weston, Massachusetts, James Speros was invested as an Archon on March 10, 2002 and conferred with the offikion *Kastrinsios*. With his beloved wife Noreen, Archon Speros is a paid-in-full FOUNDER of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation. Archon Speros is also a member of Leadership 100, and was recognized with the 2014 Paradigm Award by the Pan Hellenic Scholarship Foundation as a role model to young Greek American scholars. Archon Speros is a former member of the Archon National Council, and served honorably and with excellence as Chair of the Spirituality Committee during the first seven annual Archon Lenten Retreats. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Hellenic College Holy Cross.



APPOINTED

Constantine Sideridis, Regional Commander

Constantine Sideridis was invested as Archon in 2015 and conferred with the offikion *Protonotarios*. He is a dedicated parishioner St. George Church in Lynn, Massachusetts, where he has served on the parish council and as the stewardship chairman of the parish. Archon Sideris is a fulfilled member of Leadership 100, and supports the Boston Metropolis Summer Camp. He has also served as a member of the Metropolis Council of the Boston Metropolis, and as president of the Alpha Omega Council, which is dedicated to promoting Hellenism.



APPOINTED

Archons Emeriti

This past year, the National Council conferred the honorary title of *Emeritus* upon three retired Regional Commanders.

Drake Behrakis, Regional Commander Emeritus

Drake G. Behrakis of the Taxiarchae Church in Watertown, MA, was invested as Archon in 2011 and conferred with the offikion *Maestor*. Archon Behrakis has served as a Trustee of the Endowment Fund of the Taxiarchae Cathedral, as a member of the Metropolis Council and as a supporter of the Faith and Heritage Center. He has also been a Trustee of Hellenic College - Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (1998–2000) and an active member of Leadership 100.



James A. Frangis, Regional Commander

A deeply involved and dedicated parishioner at Annunciation Cathedral Greek Orthodox Church in Atlanta since 1968 and of the Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Marietta, Georgia since 2003, Archon James A. "Jimmy" Frangis was born and grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. At Annunciation Cathedral, he served as Parish Council Treasurer as well as Treasurer of the Atlanta Greek Festival. He also served on the strategic planning and fundraising committee for the \$13M community center and gymnasium addition to the Cathedral campus. At Holy Transfiguration Church, he again served as Parish Council Treasurer, and as co-chair of the Building campaign fundraising committee. This ambitious \$7 million building project added Sunday Schools rooms, offices for the Priests, a Board room for meetings, and a gymnasium for the youth to the existing facilities. All these projects are complete now and are being enjoyed by the parish at large. Archon Jimmy also served as GOYA Winter Youth Rally advisor and basketball coach for 10+ years. He was appointed to the Saint Photios National Shrine Board of Trustees in 2018 by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios.



Archon Gerry Ranglas, Regional Commander

Archon Gerry and Jeannie Ranglas are FOUNDERS of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation and Dominion Donors to the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center (Dominion Donors contribute between \$1 and \$2 million). They stated: "We view the Saint Nicholas National Shrine as a beacon of faith, hope, and love for the Orthodox faith in America." In addition, Archon Gerry and Jeannie are members of Leadership 100 and benefactors of the Metropolis of San Francisco. Archon Gerry is a member of the Executive Committee for Leadership 100. They are the lead donors of the Gerry and Jeannie Ranglas Ancient Greek History Chair at the University of California, San Diego. Jeannie was mentioned as one of the "Extraordinary Greek People" in Archon Andrew E. Manatos' book of that name. Gerry Ranglas was invested as an Archon on March 10, 2002 and conferred with the offikion Depoutatos.



Aristotle Papanikolaou, Ph.D., Regional Commander Emeritus

Prof. Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou of Sts. Constantine and Helen in Andover, MA, and in Chicago, IL, was invested as Archon in 2010 and conferred with the offikion Prostatistis ton Grammaton. He coordinated the award by Fordham University of its highest honor, the Honorary Doctorate of Laws, to His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in 2009.



Manuel N. Tissura, D.D.S., Regional Commander Emeritus

Dr. Manuel Nick Tissura was invested as Archon in 1989 conferred with Offikion Ekdikos. Appointed State Commander of Georgia and currently serves as Regional Commander of Atlanta and is the liaison to Metropolitan Alexios for the Metropolis Archons. He wrote the proposed rules on Archon Protocols and Etiquette which awaits approval from the Hierarchs.



Archons In The Field

Archons continue their work as Protectors of the Future of Faith.

Archons Give Presentations at Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity Assembly

At the invitation of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and Very Reverend Father George Tsahakis, 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.



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

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 the Metropolis of New Jersey ‘Women In Orthodoxy’ Lenten Retreat, A Great Success

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

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, Hypommematografos, 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.



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

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.



Growth Through Education

Many events held throughout the year enabled Archons to engage and educate youth and young adults on the person of His All-Holiness, the institution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the work and mission of the Archons.



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

On 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.





Students Speak on Christ and the Ecumenical Patriarchate at Oratorical Festival

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.

Religious Freedom Youth Symposium in Chicago

On May 21, Archon 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, IL. Regional CommanderS Gus M. Pablecas and John G. Manos from the Metropolis of Chicago assisted Archon Siatis during the presentation, which focused on the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the five key issues.



Youth Participation Activities Committee Engages Young Adults at Metropolis of San Francisco YAL Conference

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



The John Halecky, Jr. Archon Lenten Retreat

On 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".



Archons' Presentation to Orthodox Christian Fellowship at West Virginia University Is Enthusiastically Received



On September 6, 2023 Archon Nicholas J. Tranto, Regional Commander for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh and Archon Dr. Chris Vasilakis, MD made a joint presentation to the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) chapter at West Virginia University. The presentation took place at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Morgantown, West Virginia. Joining Archons

Tranto and Vasilakis was the Rev. Fr. Jon Emanuelson, the spiritual advisor to the OCF group.

The group of students included multi-jurisdictional Orthodox and converts to Orthodoxy who remained fully engaged throughout an extended ninety-minute session, asking thought-provoking and often poignant questions about His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Archon Regional Commander Tranto gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on the current issues and political realities facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate; Dr. Vasilakis supplemented this with accounts of his personal experiences at the Phanar and Hagia Sophia.

Archon Regional Commander Dr. Papadeas Enlightens Youth About the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Denver

Dr. Gregory Papadeas, who is a Regional Commander for the Metropolis of Denver Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and member of the Youth Participation Activities Committee, has recently hosted one youth event and spoke at another regarding the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, helping to raise awareness among Greek Orthodox young people about the great need of our holy Mother Church in Constantinople.

On Sunday, January 15, 2023, Archon Dr. Papadeas hosted a Young Adult League (YAL) In Your Backyard Retreat in Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado.



Archon Achievements

The Archons are proud of the accomplishments of our members and what they have contributed to the Holy Mother Church, our Archdiocese and society.

His All-Holiness Confers Special Honor Upon National Commander Dr. Limberakis, commemorating 25 years of service

On September 3, 2023 at the Holy Church of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra, the Metropolitan Church in Pyrgos, Greece, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew elevated Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander, to the offikion Archon Megas (Grand) Aktouarios. In his patriarchal letter to Dr. Limberakis, His All-Holiness explained that this honor was bestowed in view of the National Commander's "twenty-five years of service and devotion to the Great Church of Christ."



His All-Holiness, addressing Dr. Limberakis as “esteemed Grand Archon,” conveyed to him his “Paternal and Patriarchal joy and pride” at Dr. Limberakis’ quarter-century of service, “leading the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to ever greater effectiveness, action, and support for the Mother Church of Constantinople.”

His All-Holiness noted that Dr. Limberakis has “followed in the footsteps of your beloved father, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne John Limberakis, and your father-in-law, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Dr. Anthony G.B. Borden - both of blessed memory.” Dr. Borden served as National Commander of the Archons of Ecumenical Patriarchate from 1976 to 1989.

“From these spiritual giants,” the Ecumenical Patriarch continued in his patriarchal letter to Dr. Limberakis, “you learned a deep and abiding love for the Mother Church, and together with your beloved spouse, Maria, you

have not only served humanity as physicians of great skill and compassion, but you have served the Church with a filial love and devotion worthy of the finest humanity can offer.” His All-Holiness then presented Dr. Maria with a Patriarchal Holy Water Ecclesiastical vessel.

His All-Holiness also praised Dr. Limberakis for laying the groundwork for the future stability of both the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Archons not just in the United States, but around the world. His All-Holiness said: “Your ministry through the Archons will give the generations to come another set of shoulders to stand upon and expand their vision of the possible. For with dedication and unrelenting commitment, you have consistently and powerfully forged connections between the Mother Church and Her sons and daughters throughout the United States and indeed, around the world. And you have shown your abiding care for Her by the establishment of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, an initiative of enormous

significance in the modern history of the First Throne of Orthodoxy.”

In conclusion, His All-Holiness stated: “Together with our gratitude and pride, we offer our Paternal and Patriarchal prayers for you to continue your sacred offering as National Commander for many years to come, and that the Lord our God may pour forth upon you, your family, and the whole Order of Saint Andrew the First-Called, health and happiness, through His grace and His infinite mercy.”

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America remarked, “The elevation of National Commander, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, to Grand Archon Aktouarios by the Ecumenical Patriarch today in Pyrgos tis Elias is an occasion of pride and joy for the entire Church in America. Grand Archon Limberakis’ twenty-five year stewardship of the Order of St. Andrew has manifested many and diverse blessings for the Mother Church of Constantinople and the Sacred Archdiocese of America. ΑΞΙΟΣ!”



...You learned a deep and abiding love for the Mother Church, and together with your beloved spouse, Maria, you have not only served humanity as physicians of great skill and compassion, but you have served the Church with a filial love and devotion worthy of the finest humanity can offer.

—His All-Holiness

Archon Executive Committee Honors National Commander during Annual Weekend

On October 21, 2023, during the Annual Meeting of the Archons, Archon leadership also honored the National Commander, together with his wife, Dr. Maria, for his 25 years of tireless and selfless service.

The Hon. Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis, National Vice Commander, offered remarks and then invited the Spiritual Advisor of the Archons, Father Alex Karloutsos, along with the Executive Officers and the Limberakis family, to the dais for the presentation of a plaque that recognized their twenty-five years of service to the Archons.



[the honor was not for Dr. Limberakis alone, but for] his beloved wife and partner, Dr. Maria A. Limberakis, who herself has served our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate and Archdiocese for these twenty-five years, and provided the wisdom, guidance, and support to the National Commander in his vision and leadership that has transformed the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from an honorary award into a call to action to become the most worthy and dynamic organization dedicated to the protection, preservation, and promotion of the Ecumenical Patriarchate."

—Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis



Hellenic Bar Association Honors Archon Perry Siatis As Lawyer of the Year

On, Nov. 18, the Hellenic Bar Association Foundation honored Archon Perry Siatis with its prestigious 2023 Lawyer of the Year Award, conferred at the Foundation's 73rd Annual Scholarship Ball.



Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos Society Honors Archon Christopher and Mary Stratakis

The Board of Directors of the Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos Society honored Archon Christopher Stratakis, Esq., and his wife Mary at their annual Chrysanthemum Ball, Nov. 17.



Archon Harry T. Cavalaris Receives 2023 Metropolitan's Choice Award from Metropolis of Atlanta

Archon Harry T. Cavalaris was chosen as the recipient of the 2023 Metropolitan's Choice Award of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta, Nov. 11.



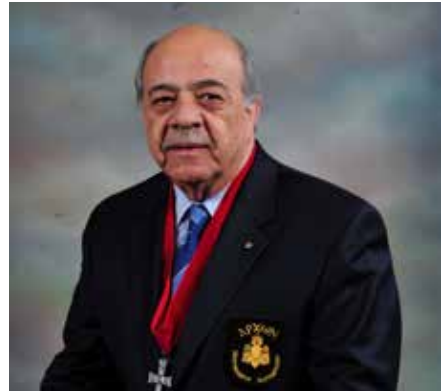
Archon Nikiforos Mathews Honored by the Hellenic Lawyers Association

The Hellenic Lawyers Association honored Nikiforos Mathews at its 33rd Annual Scholarship Dinner Gala, in New York City on Nov. 10.



Archon Andreas Comodromos Receives Distinguished Merit Award of Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Archon Andreas D. Comodromos, Founding President and President Emeritus of the Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce, was honored with that organization's annual "Distinguished Merit Award." on Nov. 2.



Hellenic Federation of New Jersey honors Archon Dr. Elias A. Iliadis with Hippocrates Community service award

The Hellenic Federation of New Jersey honored Archon Dr. Elias A. Iliadis with the Hippocrates Community service award at their 10th Annual Gala Banquet, Oct. 15.



Archon Savas Tsivicos elected as Supreme President of the Order of AHEPA

Congratulations to Archon Savas Tsivicos, on his recent election as Supreme President of the Order of AHEPA.



Archon Hon. Steven Counelis Receives the 2023 AHEPA District 20 Periclean Award

Archon Hon. Steven Counelis, was named the recipient of the 2023 American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) District 20 Periclean Award, June 2-3, 2023.



Archons honored with Servant Leadership Award

Under the auspices His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the first annual Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan District Servant Leadership Banquet was held 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.



Theodore Germanakos, right.



Thomas Dushas, second from right.

Archon George A. Tsougarakis Named Hellene of the Year by the Hellenic Medical Society

The Hellenic Medical Society honored George A. Tsougarakis as Hellene of the Year. This prestigious award was conferred at the Hellenic Medical Society's Annual Scholarship Gala, Dec. 9.



John A. Catsimatidis Receives AJCF Allyship Award

On 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 downtrodden, and a firm friend of all people of faith both in the United States and throughout the world. Congratulations to John! Axios!"



Archbishop Elpidophoros Awards Medal of Saint Paul to Archon George P. Zimmar

On December 24, 2023 at the Greek Orthodox Church of Our Saviour in Rye, NY, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America honored Archon George Zimmar, PhD, with the Medal of Saint Paul, the highest commendation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



Archon Nikolaos Letsios Recognized with 'Goddess Artemis' Award by EAWC

In Washington D.C. on Dec 14, at a significant gathering of leaders, Nikolaos Letsios, 3rd from left, was honored with the "Goddess Artemis" award by the Euro-American Women's Council.



Philanthropy

The Archons made considerable charitable gifts this past year.



Archons Donate \$50,000 to Ecumenical Patriarchate For Earthquake Relief

More than 28,000 people were killed and tens of thousands were injured after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Türkiye and Syria on Monday, February 6, 2023.

In close consultation with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, who was personally affected by the loss of relatives, the Executive Committee of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, voted unanimously on February 8, to donate \$50,000 through the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to the Ecumenical Patriarchate for earthquake relief.

“In initiating the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Earthquake Relief Fund,” Archbishop Elpidophoros explained,

“the focus of our Archdiocese is to help with both the immediate needs and the longer-term implications of the devastation from the deadly earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. Our Archdiocese will partner with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) to identify trusted organizations for aid distribution.”

National Commander Limberakis, stated: “The magnitude of this disaster is truly heart-rending, and the fervent prayers of all the Archons and our families are with those who are bereaved and suffering. We are grateful to our loving and merciful God that we are able to provide this measure of relief for those who are enduring this calamity.”



Archons Help Fund Pilgrimage of Discovery Program

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, the Youth Participation Activity Engagement Committee of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate launched a new initiative, the Pilgrimage of Discovery Journey to Constantinople (POD) Pilot Program. Through the Youth Committee, the Pilot Program representing the Archons was assigned to the Metropolis of Chicago as a test program.

The POD Journey to Constantinople pilot program granted five young adults from the Metropolis of Chicago (ages 23-28) an all-ex-

penses-paid round-trip journey to Constantinople to meet with His All-Holiness and travel to ancient holy sites of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Engagement Committee announced the pilot program on January 15, and planned its travel to Constantinople in August 2023.

50/50 funding for the POD was made possible by donations by the Archons from the Metropolis of Chicago and funding from the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This funding covered travel costs, travel guides, meals, lodging, air fare, and more, including the expenses of a film crew from the United States and Turkey.



Archons
OF THE **Ecumenical**
Patriarchate
Protecting the Future of Faith™

\$60,459,166 MILLION RAISED AND PLEDGED

**in Direct and Indirect Support
for the Ecumenical Patriarchate
by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America**

Report prepared by Assistant Treasurer Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA
assisted by AEP National Treasurer Peter J. Skeadas and EPBF Treasurer Chris E. Tsamutalis, CPA

(Details available upon request.)

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America from 2002 to 2023 has raised **\$60,459,166**, which includes **\$22,822,574** in Pledges and Bequests, for the direct and indirect support of the sacred mission of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The detailed report prepared by the Archon's Assistant Treasurer Archon Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA at the request of Commander Limberakis, indicates that **\$37,636,592** was raised for the direct and indirect benefit of various initiatives supporting the Ecumenical Patriarchate which includes the full gamut of the Archons' domestic and international religious freedom programming (documentation available upon request). This **\$37,636,592** (which including **\$7,539,506** of donated services) coupled with the **\$22,822,574** received in Pledges and Bequests by the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, another initiative of the Archons, amounts to **\$60,459,166**, a most significant statement reflective of the Order's ongoing diakonia to the Holy Mother Church. The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is extremely proud of our Band of Archon Brothers, who serve as Stalwart Protectors of the Future of Faith offering their Time, Talent and Treasure abundantly and generously for the well-being of the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople.

Archon Engagement Committees

Among the many ways in which the Archons exercise its sacred mission of supporting and protecting the Mother Church is through eleven Archon Engagement Committees.



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.

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

30 Year Christian Genocide in the Late Ottoman Period, 1894 - 1924. On September 10, 2023, the Academia Symposium Committee presented a webinar panel discussion entitled, "30 Year Christian Genocide in the Late Ottoman Period, 1894 - 1924". Louis Katsos moderated the panel discussion and the panelists included Author/Painter/Journalist, Thea Halo,

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

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

The Legal Status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Under the 1923 Treaty Lausann, aired on June 9, 2023 to 218 subscribers to an audience of 136 viewers. The viewers represented several regions of the United States with viewers from 23 states, with CA, FL, and NY having plus 15 viewers and DC, IL, MD, NJ, PA, and VA with plus 10 viewers; MA, NC, and TX; with plus 5 viewers. Foreign viewers from Greece, United Kingdom, and Australia came to 23.

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

Chair

George P. Zimmar, PhD

Vice Chair

Stamatios V. Kartalopoulos, PhD



Communications Committee

Chair
Franklin (Rocky) Sisson

Vice Chair
Theodore H. Vagelos

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.

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

phasis and focus on the Ecumenical Patriarchate while retaining the connection to Saint Andrew the Apostle graphically.

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

Patriarchate - the historical spiritual center of the world's 300+ million Orthodox Christians."

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

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



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation

Chair
Anthony J. Limberakis, MD

Vice Chair
George E. Safiol

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.

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. Catrickes, 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 inceptioned 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 oversized 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.



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.

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

- Letter to the Editor, Wall Street Journal, "Persecuted Christians Have Much to Teach", February 25th "Houses of Worship", only scratches the surface concerning the oppression and persecution of Christians throughout the Middle East and in the Holy Lands of Christianity's birth... In Turkey, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, a leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, lives virtually a captive at the Patriarchate in Istanbul, unrecognized by Turkish authorities, deprived of any legal standing with no recourse for stolen and destroyed church properties, prevented from raising or managing funds to maintain Patriarchate facilities or care for its remaining properties, unable to educate Orthodox Christian clergy in Turkey as the only Orthodox seminary was closed by Turkey more than

40 years ago and remains closed today, and now having witnessed conversion of the famed Hagia Sophia cathedral from a non-denominational museum into a working Islamic mosque... The author concludes revival of the Western Church can only come with a rediscovery of the Eastern Church, but that rediscovery has long been underway here in America and elsewhere. Orthodox Christianity continues to grow in the West, and it continues to expose the nature and depth of Christian persecution in Turkey and the Middle East, seeking only truth and love of life, and the long-term goal of multi-religious cohabitation in the Holy Lands and the Middle East. The Western Church and freedom loving people of all faiths can and must do no less.

- Letter to the Editor, New York Times, "Ukraine's use of legal means to remove pro-Russian monks from the "Monastery of the Caves" in Kyiv, omits the fact there are two Orthodox churches in Ukraine. The people, priests and monks of both churches are citizens of the same country and believers of the same faith, Orthodox Christianity. The majority view Russia as the enemy and have sons and daughters fighting the invasion. The old Ukrainian Orthodox Church mentioned in the article is currently under the auspices of the autocephalous Orthodox Church of Russia. This is by ancient agreement with the Mother Church of Orthodox Christianity, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in Istanbul, at a time when Ukraine had ties to Russia. In 2019, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual head of the world's 300 million Orthodox including the Orthodox Church of Russia, granted independence to Ukrainian Orthodox faithful who had

petitioned for their own autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine. He has rebuked the Russian Church for its shared responsibility in the Russian State's crimes of aggression in Ukraine. Ukraine's intent to evict monks from the Monastery, the majority of whom side with the state against the invasion, can only further divide the Orthodox faithful of the two churches. Rather, the government of Ukraine might accept Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's offer to assist in returning Russian and Ukrainian faithful to the shared values of Orthodoxy.

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

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

Chair
George P. Vittas

Vice Chairs
George G. Demos, Esq.
George Horiates, Esq.



Federal and State Governmental Affairs Committee

Chair

Mike A. Manatos

Vice Chair

Stephen A. Georgeson, Esq.

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

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

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

Committee Co-Chairs Manatos and Georgeson then engaged with each Archon before their meetings

to share with them some “tricks of the trade” to maximize the impact of their meeting. We then capture the outcome of each of these meetings.

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

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

- *On August 30 with Senator Lindsay’ Graham’s Regional Director Angie Omer.*
- *They are working to secure meetings with each of the Senators personally.*
- Archon Theodore Klingos (1) had a call with Congressman Jerrold Nadler’s District Director Robert Gottheim and discussed a meeting with the Congressman and Archon constituents in early October; (2) had a call with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand’s Legislative Assistant Sachin Mathur who committed to send some dates on which the Senator could meet with an Archon delegation.
- South Florida Archons Scurtis, Powell and Haralambides are working to secure meetings with their Senators and Member.

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



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.

The Religious Freedom Conference

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

The conference will integrate

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

Participants included Dr. William Antholis, Director and CEO of the Miller Center of Public Affairs, at the University of Virginia and former managing director of the Brookings Institute, Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou, Visiting Scholar in the International Studies Program at Boston College, Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis along with other

members of the National Council, Costa Sideridis, George Rockas, Dr. Harry Dimopoulos and Nicholas R. Larigakis. Potential topics and speakers are being discussed with the goal of having all topics and speakers determined by early fall.

International Meeting Of Archons

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

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

Chairs

George C. Rockas, Esq.
Constantine Sideridis

Vice Chairs

Harry G. Dimopoulos, PhD
Nicholas R. Larigakis



Metropolis and Parish Education Committee

Chair
Frank Boardman
Vice Chair
John Thibault

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.

The Metropolis and Parish Education Engagement Committee meets monthly (except in the summer) to discuss Archon educa-

tion initiatives in our Metropolises and Parishes. We have developed a shared drive with the new logo, video presentations and power point slides for all Archons to use for presentations. We are currently compiling a spreadsheet of available members to be on call for the Regional Commanders to make Archon presentations. List of speakers will be available later this year.

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

on November 30th. Our goal for this initiative is:

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



Patriarchal Green Initiatives Committee

Chair
John Harbilas

Vice Chair
George J. Spanos

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).

Met multiple times via Zoom with the Patriarchal Green Committee.

1. Established and communicated our mission, strategies and goals.

a. Mission - to disseminate information to Christian faithful and government decision makers on those Green Initiatives identified by His All Holiness as most critical, as well as to highlight the various symposia and activities hosted by the Patriarch highlighting the endangered areas around the world (e.g., Antarctic, Amazon River, Mississippi River).

b. Strategies – To Engage and Educate

c. Goals –

i. Raise awareness in Orthodox Christians worldwide on the role and impact of His All Holiness on the Climate initiative. Provide communications to other Archon Engagement committees to reach their target audiences (e.g. Government Affairs, Youth & Young Adults)

ii. Engage the youth and young adults to take on initiatives to “Green our Parishes”.

iii. Create actionable resources for churches to use to improve the climate efficiencies of their buildings.

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

2. Invited guest speakers to address the group as follows

a. Fr. John Chryssavgis – spoke to the Patriarch’s long history in leading the dialog on issues of the environment.

b. Diane Liakos and Denise Pappas Sosi presented their efforts to establish a Green Parish at St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church in Cherry Hill NJ

c. Archon Dr. Zenon Christodoulou is our next scheduled speaker.

3. Issued recommendations to the Regional Commanders for ways to recognize September 1st as the Day of Protection for the Natural Environment.

a. Share the Patriarchal Message for the Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year and the Solemn Day of Prayers for Natural Environment (September 1, 2023) at the Parish level

b. Work with your Sunday School Teachers to talk to the children on that day about September 1 as the Day of Protection of the Natural Environment and show them a picture of His All Holiness.

c. Have your GOYANS and/or your Young Adults do something in support of the environment in your community – a clean up day, plant a tree, put out recycling bins.

4. Drafted Key “talking points” that can be used when engaging in informal discussions about His All Holiness’ role as the Green Patriarch.



Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Committee

Chair

Joseph J. Kokolakis, Esq.

Vice Chair

Theodore M. Kakoyiannis, Esq.

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

Introduction:

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

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

The 2023 Turkish election featured two contrasting candidates: the incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and his main opposition rival, Ekrem Imamoglu, the charismatic Mayor of Istanbul. Imamoglu represented a coalition of opposition parties that united against Erdogan’s ruling party. He gained national recognition for winning the mayoral election in Istanbul in 2019, ending Erdogan’s longstanding control over the city. Imamoglu’s campaign centered on a platform of transparency,

good governance, and the rule of law. He appealed to a broad spectrum of Turkish society by emphasizing the need for unity and inclusivity and pledging to address issues such as freedom of the press, judicial independence, and economic reform. While he ultimately did not win the Presidential election, Imamoglu’s candidacy marked a significant challenge to Erdogan’s dominance in Turkish politics and underscored the growing desire for change in the country.

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

All in all, the 2023 election in Turkey had minimal impact on relations with the Ecumenical Patriarchate. While some symbolic gestures of goodwill were made, (especially in light of the overwhelming response to the tragic earthquake by the Greek government, Greek diaspora throughout the world, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Earthquake Relief Fund which raised \$700,000 in donations), substantial progress addressing long-

standing issues remains elusive. If anything, the election underscored the ongoing challenges in achieving full religious freedom, including property rights and legal recognition of our Ecumenical Patriarchate, in Turkey.

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

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

The report noted that the Turkish government took no steps to grant legal personality to religious communities, permit conscientious objection to mandatory military service, or reopen the Theological School of Halki or any other seminary. As such, the USCIRF recommended that Turkey remain on the Special Watch List and that U.S. diplomats, “Raise in all meetings with Turkish government officials and press at the highest levels for the reopening of the Theological School of Halki (Halki Seminary) and for full compliance with European Court of Human Rights rulings on freedom of religion or belief.”

Engagement Committee Activity Update:

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

Legal Identity:

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

Foundation System and Patriarchal Properties:

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

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

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

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

ing day and will now permit services on August 15th at the monastery.

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

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

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



Youth Participation Activities Committee

Chair

Nicholas J. Tranto

Vice Chairs

Hon. Steven G. Counelis

George K. Moutis

Pericles C. Siatis, Esq.

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.

Youth Participation Activities – Regional Commander Nick Tranto (Pittsburgh) nationally chairs the Archon Youth Participation Activities (YPA) Committee, which is comprised of five separate, but related and connected subcommittees, with the goal of substantially increasing Ecumenical Patriarchate Education to Youth and Young Adults.

The 5 subcommittees and their Archon chairs are:

1. Archon Sprout Program (Pre-k-Grade 12) (aka Ecumenical Patriarchate Education Campaign): Chair Tranto
1. GOYA (Middle -High School): Chair Moutis
1. YAL/OCF (College through age 35): Chair Counelis
1. Pilgrimage of Discovery Journey to Constantinople (POD) Chair: Chrones
1. Archon Leadership Network (ALN): Chair Siatis

Here is a brief synopsis of each subcommittee:

Archon Sprout Program (Ecumenical Patriarchate Educational Campaign)

The committee has partnered with the Department of Religious Education (DRE) Director, His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, and an outside Archon pro-bono consultant, to launch a comprehensive 5-phase plan on the topic of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Education. The digital and printed educational material, enhanced by our theologians and scholars, will address ages Pre-k through grade 12, and organizations including GOYA, YAL/ OCF and beyond. It will include an updated curriculum for religious education in our Sunday Schools, and a digital library of educational material to which all youth educators and archons will have access to educational material regardless of the demographic. The committee has just begun Phase I of the plan after receiving the blessing of HE Archbishop Elpidophoros to begin the work.

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

GOYA Youth Subcommittee Report

Our committee is in the process of contacting GOYA’s in the Delmarva region of the east coast areas to make future presentations to GOYA based on presentations outlined below. Based on the feedback from GOYANS and observers, we will have a subcommittee meeting to finalize our presentation. The plan is to have everything completed by end of October/November 2023 to be ready for the winter retreats and youth meetings.

Below is a summary of the presentation we are making to this age group.

GOYA Youth Subcommittee Presentation

- Our demographic is middle school to Grade 12
- The goal is to inform, educate, explain the role of the Archons and the historical significance of of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy See of Constantinople
- Our audience are 12-18 year olds so we must focus on “why do we matter as “Protecting the Future of Faith”

Our presentation will include but not limited to:

- Church History
- Photos of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew & Pope Francis
- Explain “Who is the Patriarch as “First among Equals” amongst the 15 autocephalous churches of multiethnic jurisdictions

- What does it mean to be an Archon and our primary purpose/mission
- Announce the name of the local archons of that church
- Explain the Five Issues facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate

YAL / OCF Subcommittee Report – Activities from March 2023 through October 2023.

The information below was provided by Archons from within each Metropolis.

Metropolis of San Francisco

Annual YAL Conference, Orange County, California, 8/31-9/4/23
RC Counelis and RC Papadeas [Denver] Members of the YPA made a presentation to 450 young adult attendees about the Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD). Two videos were presented: 1) a compilation of the POD promotional materials for the pilot program, and 2) an early version of the two-minute teaser of the POD documentary that will be released soon. The attendees showed great interest and were encouraged to subscribe to the POD Instagram and Facebook pages. As a result, at least 38 new followers connected with POD Instagram during the Conference.

Metropolis of Pittsburgh

OCF - Archon and Ecumenical Patriarchate presentations were held during the past year with the OCF of Duquesne University of Pittsburgh Pa. (April 2023) and West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV (Sept 2023). Archon Schooley is planning to present in Columbus, OH to The Ohio State University's OCF chapter during the fall semester, the date is to be determined. Contact was made with Deacon Merek Simon, Director

of OCF as increased OCF outreach is being planned at campuses throughout our 3-state region. Participating were Regional Commanders Nick Tranto and Nick Terezis and Dr Chris Vasilakis.

YAL Conference in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh on October 12- 14, 2023, featured Archon Dr. Jim Schooley of Annunciation GOC Columbus, Ohio as the main speaker who highlighted his own experience at the Patriarchate and spoke about the Pilgrimage of Discovery Journey to Constantinople scholarships as a historic opportunity for Orthodox youth to reconnect with the Holy Mother Church. Also in attendance were Regional Commanders Nick Tranto and Nick Terezis.

Metropolis of Atlanta

OCF – Archon Sarantou made a presentation to the at the University of North Carolina Charlotte OCF ski weekend, Blowing Rock, NC on March 10, 2023.

Archon Trakas and Archon Sarantou presented at the Metropolis of Atlanta Oratorical Festival, Charlotte, NC, May 13, 2023.

Archon Trakas and Archon Sarantou presented at the Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy Laity Meeting (two sessions, not exclusively YAL but some young adults attended), Tarpon Springs, FL, June 23.

Archon Trakas and Archon Sarantou are scheduling presentations at OCF events in North and South Carolina for this fall 2023.

Metropolis of Chicago

Members of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chicago participated in the YAL Conference, held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago from February 17-19, 2023. During a lunchtime session,

with the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago who was in attendance, Pilgrimage of Discovery Co-Chairs Archon Hon. Jeffery Chrones and Hellena Chrones informed the YAL of one of the latest National Archon pilot program endeavors, the Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD), a pilgrimage to Constantinople for young adults ages 23-28 years old. Archon National Secretary and Archon Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas and Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos also gave a presentation on "What is an Archon." During the weekend, Archon Dr. John Fotopoulos also led a YAL workshop titled, "Living Scripture and Our Path to Wellness." The Archons also established an Archon vendor table where YAL participants could ask questions, obtain publications, and learn more about the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate throughout the three-day weekend.

Pilgrimage of Discovery 2023 Pilot Program (POD)

The Pilgrimage of Discovery 2023 Pilot Program was by all accounts an overwhelming and exceptional success. The Pilot Program, run through the Metropolis of Chicago, sent 5 young adults on an all-expense paid, 7-day journey to Constantinople to visit His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and important historical and theological sites.

The POD was created, developed, nurtured, and led by Chairs Archon Hon. Jeffery and Hellena Chrones, joined by Archon Perry Siatis, the Archons of the Metropolis of Chicago and the extremely gifted and talented group of volunteers with academic, legal, marketing, film, and social media expertise from Metropolises throughout the country.



Women in Orthodoxy

We support the greater participation of women in the life of the Church. The WORD was established by our Lord and Savior and evangelized by the Four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, but the very FIRST Evangelists were the Myrrh-bearing Women. The Myrrh-bearing Women were the very first to witness the empty tomb and were instructed by the risen Lord to bring the joyful news to the Apostles. That voice of the very first Evangelists, transmitted through the millennia, needs to be heard today from the countless Orthodox women who are the backbone of every parish in America. Consonant with the encouragement of the Exarch, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, and the official policy of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, this Engagement Committee Women in Orthodoxy is designed to foster that greater participation and is open to Archons and non-Archons, women and men.

In late August 2023, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis announced, with the unanimous approval of the Executive Board and blessing from spiritual advisor Father Alex Karloutsos, the establishment of the eleventh Archon

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

expressed interest in serving on this Committee.

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

This Committee is in its infancy and its workings will take time to crystallize. Nonetheless, we are inspired by the remarkably enthusiastic expression of interest to serve, evidence that Women in Orthodoxy is long overdue.

Chair

Cary J. Limberakis, DMD

Vice Chair

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The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation

For the Sacred See of Saint Andrew

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation:
For the Sacred See of Saint Andrew, has been established
as an endowment by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Ours is a global mission and invitation for everyone
across the various Eparchies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
to be united as one.



Renowned Cappella Romana Ensemble Presents Concert for Religious Freedom for FOUNDERS

On October 19, 2023, the Byzantine Chant Ensemble that made headlines around the world chanting at the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III presented a Concert for Religious Freedom. This was an exclusive performance for FOUNDERS in good standing and new FOUNDERS of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation. (FOUNDERS donate \$100,000 payable over 10 years). The Concert was held at the Saint Nicholas Greek

Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan. An elegant reception followed at Skinosa, on Washington Street in New York City.

Cappella Romana chanted *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. By means of modern technology, it presents how chanting actually sounded in Hagia Sophia.

Cappella Romana performed selections from the Offices of Vespers and Matins, as well as from the Divine Liturgy, for the Exaltation and Veneration of the Holy Cross, as they sounded at Hagia Sophia, The Great Church of Christ.

New Members Committee Established

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Dr. Limberakis, Chair of the EPBF, appointed Archons Joseph J. Kokolakis, Esq., Markos K. Lagos and Michael P. Neamonitakis as Chairs of the New Members Committee of the EPBF.

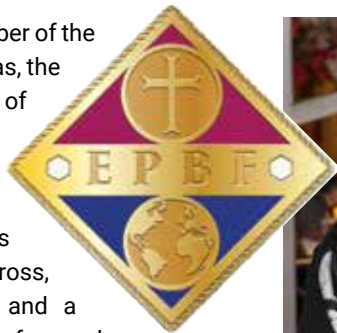
"It is an immense honor that I make these appointments," said Dr. Limberakis. "Archons Kokolakis, Lagos and Neamonitakis are exemplary Greek Orthodox Christians, energetic servants of our Church and our Omogeneia, and tireless warriors for our holy Mother Church of Constantinople. They have won respect and renown for all that they have done to strengthen and defend our Orthodox Faith."

The New Members Committee will enable the Ecumenical Patriarchate to continue and expand its sacred mission.



EPBF FOUNDERS Pin Unveiled in Exclusive Debut at Concert: A Symbol of Distinction and Commitment

Maria Allwin, a distinguished member of the EPBF Board, and Aphrodite Skeadas, the esteemed Communications Chair of the EPBF, unveiled an exquisitely crafted FOUNDERS pin during the evening concert. This meticulously designed pin showcases the iconic Patriarchal Byzantine Cross, the Foundation's initials "EPBF," and a symbolic globe that represents the far-reaching ministry of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on a global scale. The pin serves as a testament to the FOUNDERS' commitment and the Foundation's profound connection to its mission. The Foundation is grateful to Maria Allwin for underwriting the design, development and fabrication of the elegant FOUNDERS pin.



Investment & Audit Update

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation (EPBF): For the Sacred See of Saint Andrew (the “Foundation”), has been established as an endowment by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Ours is a global mission. We aim to unite everyone from the various Eparchies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in order to preserve, grow and support the missions that His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, is entrusted with through his Holy See. Together, we can ensure that the Ecumenical Patriarchate, “the Light – continues to shine in the darkness.” The Board of the Foundation accepted this charge with humility, great care, and professionalism. In an effort to be transparent to our benefactors and show the application of the highest fiduciary oversight, we would like to report several key developments.

Our Board of Trustees, led by Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Chair of the EPBF, has created committees to work with our professional partners and provide expertise, discipline and transparency to the Foundation, its benefactors and stakeholders. After

diligent reviews of multiple proposals and scopes of work, we have engaged the audit, tax and consulting firm of FORVIS LLP, a top ten North American Audit firm. FORVIS LLP was created out of the merger of Baird, Kurtz & Dobson (BKD) and Dickson, Hughes & Goodman (DHG). FORVIS LLP offers first-in-class audit experience with non-profit corporations as well as the for-profit side. Their insight, access and availability make them the right choice for our Foundation.

The same level of care and diligence went into comparing leading investment management teams from across North America. In accordance with the Investment Policy Statement compiled by our Investment Committee, we are proud to have selected J.P. Morgan Private Bank as the Foundation’s investment manager. Our team at J.P. Morgan delivers guidance and access to investment opportunities from world-class specialists. J.P. Morgan is a global institution that has, historically and consistently, weathered every storm and guided their clients to calmer seas.



**Report by John R. Koudounis,
Chair, Investment Committee
and Carl R. Hollister,
Chair, Audit Committee**

The Board takes very seriously our responsibility to be good stewards to the Foundation and our commitment to our Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and New Rome, His All-Holiness Bartholomew and the See he is serving in such an ecclesiastically majestic and loving way. In a short period of time, we have raised commitments in excess of \$22 million with current contributions received of over \$9.55 million. To those of you who have entrusted us with your precious contributions, we thank you. To those of you who have yet to decide, please take heart in the processes and protocols we have put in place to be worthy stewards of your gifts that serve the greater missions of our Mother Church.

EPBF Chair speaks on the Foundation in Mobile, AL

At its seventh annual GreekFest Charity Gala on November 11, 2023, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church / GreekFest Charity Gala, Inc. in Mobile, Alabama announced that it was becoming a FOUNDER of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation. At the Gala, the parish gave special honor to the Foundation, names it as one the Gala's 2023 beneficiaries. Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Chair of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, was on hand. Dr. Limberakis delivered a presentation on the History of the Orthodox Church; what an Archon is; and the Archons' efforts in the U.S. and Europe to protect and defend the Ecumenical Patriarchate and stand for religious freedom. He also spoke about the work of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.



Father Matthew Carter, along with Archon Greg Saad, top, announce Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church / Greek Fest Charity Gala becoming FOUNDERS.



National Commander Dr. Limberakis and Archon Dr. Dimitris Kyriazis, also visited the Monastery of the Presentation of the Theotokos at Malbis Plantation.



Board of Trustees Meeting of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation

On October 19, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Board of Trustees met at a breakfast meeting. After an invocation and opening remarks from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, the Epistle and Gospel of the day were read. The Trustees then heard and discussed reports from Treasurer Chris E. Tsamutalis, CPA, and Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA, Assistant Treasurer; Carl R. Hollister of the Audit Committee; Aphrodite Skeadas and Maria Allwin with Archon John J. Mindala II of the Communications Committee; and Markos K. Lagos, Joseph J. Kokolakis,



Esq and Michael P. Neamonitakis of the New Members Committee. The Foundation's role in various events of Archon Weekend was discussed, as

well as the special recognition that should be accord to FOUNDERS when they fulfill their \$100,000 pledge.





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In Memoriam

Eternal Be Their Memory

Henry Angelo, Jr.

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Departed on Jan 17, 2023

Anastasios S. Betzelos

Hartoularios
Glenview, IL
Departed on Oct 6, 2023

Robert D. Cosgrove

Laosynaktis
Port Orange, FL
Departed on April 14, 2023

John G. Dallas

Ostiarios
Norwell, MA
Departed on Oct 31, 2023

Dr. Michael P. Gabriel

Aktouarios
Brooklyn, NY
Departed on Feb 25, 2023

Nicholas Galifianakis

Depoutatos
Raleigh, NC
Departed on March 27, 2023

George Gritsonis

Ekdikos
Arlington Heights, IL
Departed on Jan 19, 2023

George M. Kalambokis

Depoutatos
Stoughton, MA
Departed on April 10, 2023

Andrew G. Kampiziones

Depoutatos
Florence, SC
Departed on Feb 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. Kistorizos

Exarchos
Lexington, MA
Departed on March 15, 2023

Frank L. Kuchuriz

Depoutatos
Lincolnwood, IL
Departed on Dec 8, 2023

Michael Kundrat

Hartoularios
Johnson City, NY
Departed on Dec 31, 2022

Arthur Labros

Nomophylax
Brookfield, WI
Departed on Jan 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. Manessis

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

Stephen A. Manta

Laosynaktis
Chicago, IL
Departed on Jan 4, 2023

Victor A. Panagos

Architekton
Gaithersburg, MD
Departed on Aug 15, 2023

James Pantelidis

Notarios
New York, NY
Departed on April 13, 2023

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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

Harry G. Plomarity

Ekdikos
Corpus Christi, TX
Departed on Nov 9, 2023

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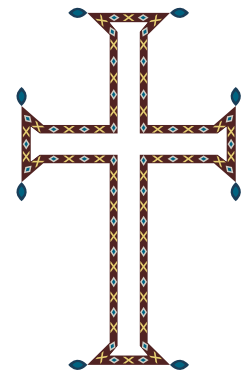
Notarios
Queen Creek, AZ
Departed on March 18, 2023

Basilios Theodosakis

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Brooklyn, NY
Departed on Oct 29, 2023

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Exarchos
Panama City, Panama
Departed on May 17, 2023





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