



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Archons
OF THE Ecumenical
Patriarchate®

Protecting the Future of Faith®



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Patriarchate®

Protecting the Future of Faith®

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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ON THE COVER: On Wednesday, September 17, 2025, during his Apostolic Visit to the United States, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew visited Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, Virginia for a Doxology service.



Ἐκ μέρους τοῦ Θεοῦ,
Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, Νέου Ῥώμης καὶ Ἐκουμενικῆς Πατριαρχίας

BARTHOLOMEW

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

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

With paternal love and deep gratitude, we address you, the devoted spiritual children of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, whose steadfast service continues to bring honor and strength to the Holy and Great Church of Christ.

During our recent Patriarchal Visit to the United States, we were once again moved by the fervent faith, generosity, and devotion of the local Orthodox Christians, as well as the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in particular. Your visible witness to the mission of the Mother Church and your tireless efforts to promote religious freedom, human dignity, and the unity of Orthodoxy worldwide fill us with hope and pride.

The times in which we live demand vigilance and courage. Yet, through your good works and unwavering fidelity, you embody the high calling entrusted to you: to serve as defenders of the Faith and protectors of the Ecumenical Throne. May your zeal never wane, and may your labors continue to bear abundant fruit for the glory of God and the well-being of His Holy Church.

Extending to you all our Patriarchal blessing and heartfelt thanks, we invoke upon each of you divine grace, wisdom, and peace.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, October 8th, 2025

Your fervent supplicant before the Lord,

Ἐκ μέρους τοῦ Θεοῦ
Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, Νέου Ῥώμης καὶ Ἐκουμενικῆς Πατριαρχίας

✠ **BARTHOLOMEW**

*Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch*



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP
Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

September 25, 2025

The Departure of His All-Holiness from the USA

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

Esteemed Archons, Beloved Brethren in Christ,

This 2025 Annual Report is a veritable encyclopedia of the the remarkable and multi-faceted work of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The recent Visit of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is yet one more masterful achievement showcasing the devotion and the energy of the Archons on behalf of the Sacred See of Saint Andrew and the sacred person of His All-Holiness. Under their spiritual advisor, Grand Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne Father Alexander Karloutsos, the Archon participation in the Visit was visible at every level. Their devotion and dedication to the Mother Church of Constantinople for the Visit, engendered by the awarding of the Templeton Prize to His All-Holiness, is on full display here in the 2025 Annual Report.

What I would call your attention to is the many-faceted initiatives and programs in which the Order of Saint Andrew is now engaged. For many years, the Order has been expanding its role vis-à-vis raising the visibility of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for the Members of our Church and American society at-large. It also has forged new pathways for participation of young people and women to become involved with the work of the Mother Church – whether pilgrimages for youth to the Phanar or through the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation. In the pages of this 2025 Annual Report, you will witness these and the other beneficial and supportive undertakings of the Archons, which they continuously exercise on behalf of the Ecumenical Throne.

The issues of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate are addressed herein with the gravity and the thoroughness that they deserve. Every Member of our Sacred Archdiocese of America can be informed about these vital concerns by consulting this Report. For the liberty of the Mother Church to conduct her spiritual affairs unhindered and unimpeded is a concern for us all, and indeed for all freedom-loving people.

I express my profound gratitude to the National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archon Grand Aktouarios Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, and all the esteemed Members of the National Council and the Order for their amazing labors on behalf of the Mother Church. The record of their accomplishments contained in this Report affords all of us inspiration to be of greater service to the Great Church of Christ.

May our All-Holy God, through the intercessions of His First-Called Disciple Saint Andrew, grant to all the Archons and their families health, prosperity, and every spiritual and material blessing, as they continue to serve our Most Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

With blessings and gratitude in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



Archons
OF THE **Ecumenical**
Patriarchate®

Protecting the Future of Faith®

By Faith We Can Move Mountains

"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

– (Matthew 17:20)

February 13, 2026

Dear Brother Archons and Friends,

This year's Annual Report demonstrates anew a core principle of Orthodox Christianity: the central importance of FAITH.

2025 was a year of remarkable events, groundbreaking initiatives, and tremendous achievements. Archons all over the country accomplished these things while relying on the power of FAITH.

The power of FAITH was visible throughout the year. We saw it in the commemoration of the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council, the Council of Nicaea, featuring the groundbreaking and historic visit to Nicaea of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Holiness Pope Leo XIV. We saw it in the inspiring apostolic visit of His All-Holiness to the United States, where he received the prestigious Templeton Prize and dispensed his wisdom in important venues all over the country.

We saw it in the continuing success of the Archon Sprout Ecumenical Patriarchate Catechism School Curriculum and the Pilgrimage of Discovery. All this and more, as well as the \$29,000,000 pledged to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, are breathtaking examples of the superlative Archon commitment to God's Holy Church, and a wonderful and inspiring demonstration of FAITH.

It is with abiding gratitude to God that we share the news of another manifestation of the power of faith: since 2002, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate have provided \$73.9 million in direct and indirect support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

By faith, 2026 will see the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate reach even greater heights in loving service to our Holy Mother Church.

As always, it is my immense privilege to serve with each of you, my Brother Archons and Friends of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Yours in the joyful service of the Holy Mother Church,

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis
Archon Grand Aktouarios
National Commander

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



ABOUT US



Who Are We?

An Archon is an honoree by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community.

Commitment

It is by the grace of God that the Archon has been able to offer his good works and deeds of faith. Further, it is the sworn oath of the Archon to defend and promote the Orthodox Christian faith and tradition. His special concern and interest is to serve as a bulwark to protect and promote the Sacred See of St. Andrew the Apostle and its mission. He is also concerned with humankind's inalienable rights wherever and whenever they are violated – and the well-being and general welfare of the Christian Church.

This honor extended by the Ecumenical Patriarchate carries with it grave responsibilities, deep commitments, and sincere dedication. Consequently, it is of utmost importance that this honor of obligation be bestowed upon individuals of proven Orthodox Christian character, who conform faithfully to the teachings of Christ and the doctrines, canons, worship, discipline, and encyclicals of the Church.

Selected To Serve

Those selected to serve as Archons have demonstrated a commitment greater than average toward the stewardship of time, talent and treasure for the betterment of the Church, Parish, Diocese/Metropolis, Archdiocese and the community as a whole. An Archon must truly be deserving of the proclamation: AXIOS, AXIOS, AXIOS!

FIVE ISSUES OF CONCERN

The Ecumenical Patriarchate is the highest see and holiest center of the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the world.

It is an institution with a history spanning seventeen centuries, during which it retained its see in Constantinople (present-day Istanbul). This Sacred Institution and the Orthodox Christian faithful is being challenged by the Turkish Government. If not addressed, it can lead to the asphyxiation of the Orthodox Christian community.

1

No Legal Identity

The lack of a legal identity is a major source of problems for the Ecumenical Patriarchate including non-recognition of its property ownership rights and the non-issuance of residence and work permits for “foreign” (i.e. non-Turkish) priests who are essential to the continuity and functioning of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

2

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.

3

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. The Theological School of Halki was forcibly closed down by Turkish authorities in 1971. Since its closure, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has had to send the young men from its community desiring to enter the priesthood to one of the theological schools in Greece.

4

Confiscation of 1,000s of Property

The Turkish Government has confiscated thousands of properties from the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Through various methods, the Turkish authorities have confiscated thousands of properties from the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox community over the years including our monasteries, church buildings, an orphanage, private homes, apartment buildings, schools and land.

5

Non-Recognition of “Ecumenical” Status

The Turkish government does not recognize the “Ecumenical” status of the Ecumenical Patriarch and Ecumenical Patriarchate. Turkish authorities do not allow the use of the term or title “Ecumenical” for any religious activity whatsoever despite the fact that it has been used since the 6th century A.D. and recognized throughout the world.

In Meeting With Trump, Erdogan Promises To ‘Do Our Part’ in Reopening of Halki Seminary

In a meeting at the White House on, September 25, 2025, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan spoke of the reopening of the Halki Theological School, telling President Donald Trump: “We will do our part. I will discuss the issue when I return with Bartholomew,” that is, His All-Holiness.

In response, President Trump stated: “The Greek Orthodox Church was here and they would really like to have some help.” Trump was referring to his private Oval Office meeting with His All-Holiness ten days earlier. His All-Holiness later recounted that at that meeting, he briefed President Trump regarding the issue of the Halki Theological School, stating that “a dialogue began last year with the initiative of President Erdogan,” and adding, “We want to expedite this dialogue so that in September 2026 we can welcome the first students.”



The Orthodox Theological School of Halki

Since its closure in 1971, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has had to send the young men from its community desiring to enter the priesthood to one of the theological schools in Greece.



Archons

of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

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

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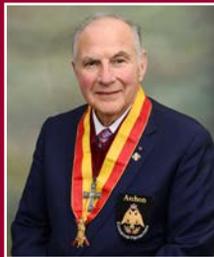
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Grammaton
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Constantinos M. Zografopoulos,
Eftaxias
Dimitrios Zygoris, Proto Notarios

History of National Commanders

The National Commander, appointed by the Exarch, is the chief executive officer of the Archons and has the responsibility for the general management of the affairs of the Archons. He sees that all resolutions and decisions of the National Council and of the meetings of the Members are carried out and supervises the work of all Committees.



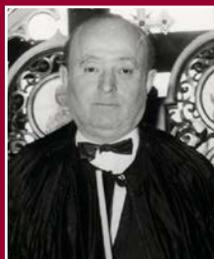
Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
(1998–Present)
Archon Grand Aktouarios



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



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



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

Evolving Archon LEADERSHIP

This past year, several appointments brought change and renewal in the Archon arena.

Officers

On December 6, at a National Council meeting elections were held for officers and functionaries. The following officers were unanimously re-elected and elected for a one-year term.



RE-ELECTED

**National Vice
Commander**

The Hon. B.
Theodore Bozonelis



RE-ELECTED

**National
Secretary**

Gus M. Pablecas



ELECTED

**National
Treasurer**

John G. Manos



RE-ELECTED

Legal Counselor

Peter
Kakoyiannis, Esq.



RE-ELECTED

**Sergeant at
Arms**

Alexander Pritsos

Functionaries

The following functionaries were unanimously re-elected and elected for a one-year term.



RE-ELECTED

Historian

Dr. George E.
Demacopoulos,
Ph.D.



ELECTED

**Assistant
Treasurer**

Chris E.
Tsamutalis, CPA

Emeritus Status

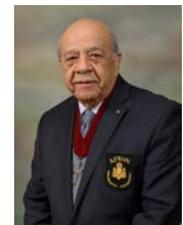
The following individuals were invited to assume Emeritus status, and they accepted.



EMERITUS

**National Treasurer
Emeritus**

Peter J. Skeadas



EMERITUS

**Assistant
Treasurer Emeritus**

Andreas D.
Comodromos, CPA

Regional Commanders

Throughout the year, five new Regional Commanders were appointed by the National Commander.



APPOINTED

**American Carpatho-
Russian Orthodox Diocese
of North America**

Gary Grysiak



APPOINTED

Metropolis of Atlanta

Frank Boardman



APPOINTED

Metropolis of Atlanta

Dr. Terry Sarantou



APPOINTED

Metropolis of Atlanta

Steve Trakas



APPOINTED

Metropolis of Detroit

Brock Martin

YEAR IN REVIEW

A Synopsis on the Work of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

BY NATIONAL COMMANDER DR. ANTHONY J. LIMBERAKIS



Archons
OF THE
**Ecumenical
Patriarchate®**

Protecting the Future of Faith®

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 Karloutsos, Spiritual Advisor and Reverend Clergy and beloved Presbyteres and

Brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America and Friends,

It has been another year of magnificent achievements by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP), and I remain thankful for each and every one of you. Some of the milestones of 2025:

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Named Templeton Prize Laureate

In a singular recognition of his “pioneering efforts to bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity’s relationship with the natural world,” **His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been named the Templeton Prize Laureate for 2025.** The Ecumenical Patriarch will receive this prestigious international award in New York City on September 24, 2025, at Lincoln Center.



Ecumenical Patriarch Receives Other Awards and Honors

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was also the recipient of the **2025 Gennadius Prize**, the highest honor of the Gennadius Library Board of Overseers of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

The Alexandrion Foundation presented a special award to His All-Holiness during the 11th edition of its Constantin Brâncoveanu Awards Gala in November 2024.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Accorded a Place of Honor at Papal Funeral

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew attended the funeral of Pope Francis in Rome on April 26, 2025, and was accorded a position of special honor, in keeping with his ecclesiastical prerogatives as stated in the canons of the Ecumenical Councils of the undivided Christian Church.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in the United Kingdom

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was the keynote speaker on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at the Ecclesiastical Law Society's 2025 Conference, "Nicaea Received: 1700 years of Canons, Councils and Ecumenism," in the historic Chichester Cathedral in England. National Vice Commander Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis and I were in attendance.



In the presence of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Judge Bozonelis and I also attended the consecration of the newly built Chapel dedicated to Saint Sophrony the Athonite, founder of the Monastery of Saint John the Baptist in Essex, in Maldon, England on Sunday, June 22, 2025.



On Monday, June 23, 2025, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP) hosted a luncheon in Cardiff, Wales, in honor of the Very Rev. Grand Ecclesiarch Aetios, Director of the Private Patriarchal Office, and devoted assistant to the Ecumenical Patriarch, after the Grand Ecclesiarch's successful defense of his doctoral dissertation.



On Tuesday, June 24, 2025, the AEP hosted a farewell dinner in honor of His All-Holiness at the historic Cavalry and Guards Club in the heart of London, the Club of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pavlos. At was at this dinner that the National Commander emphasized to the UK Archons and other leading citizens in attendance the need to adopt a "a culture of giving," so that they too, can fully participate in the EPBF and serve the needs of the Great Church of Christ.

AEP Dinner in Honor of His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine

In the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the AEP hosted a reception and dinner in New York City, in honor of His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine. This event was a notable tribute to the courage, tenacity, perseverance, and above all the faith of His Beatitude and the Ukrainian people.



The AEP Stands for Religious Freedom, which is under attack everywhere one looks...

On July 17, 2025, Holy Family Church, the sole Roman Catholic parish in all of Gaza, was struck by Israeli tank fire; three people were killed. His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew condemned this strike, the AEP echoed and reinforced the statement of His All-Holiness.

The previous week, the AEP noted with dismay and indignation the attack by Israeli settlers on the Palestinian Christian village of Taybeh in the West Bank, and called upon the Israeli government to take immediate and unequivocal action against the perpetrators.

The AEP also condemned the shocking and horrific Russian missile attack on the Ukrainian city of Sumy on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025.

In January, we welcomed a ruling of Turkey's Constitutional Court which stated that two Greek Orthodox clerics were unlawfully forbidden from serving on a foundation board. This was an extremely significant ruling that bodes well for the future of the embattled Greek Orthodox Christian community and other religious minorities in the Turkish Republic.

Also in January, we called upon the Patriarchate of Moscow and His Beatitude Patriarch Kirill to end their support for Russia's war in Ukraine, as well as to cease all uncanonical interference in other territories that lay outside of Moscow's patriarchal jurisdiction.

On December 20, 2024, we urgently beseeched the United Nations and all relevant international human rights organizations to move quickly to protect the Christians of Syria.

On December 18, 2024, I had an illuminating and productive phone conversation with President-elect Trump's nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Kimberly Guilfoyle.

Archons Lead in Both the Sacred and Secular Realms

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros chose Archon Theo Nicolakis to be his Director of National Ministries for the Holy Archdiocese of America. This position had been vacant for a quarter of a century.

President Donald Trump appointed Archon Michael J. Kratsios as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and Science Advisor to the President. In this Cabinet-level position, Archon Kratsios works on issues relating to artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency.

Archon James G. Rockas was appointed to serve as Deputy Undersecretary of Commerce for Industry and Security in the Trump Administration. In this capacity, Archon Rockas leads the Bureau of Industry and Security's mission to advance U.S. national security, foreign policy, and economic growth.



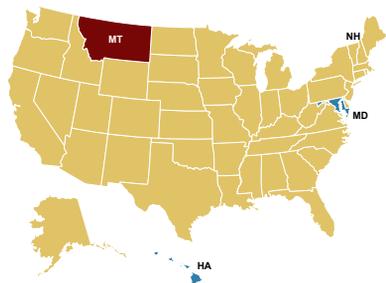
AEP Inauguration Week Activities

From January 17 to 19, 2025, the leadership of AEP hosted and attended a series of celebratory events in Washington, D.C. leading up to Inauguration Day, Monday, January 20, making and strengthening valuable contacts in positions of influence.



AEP Works for Religious Freedom

On Thursday, May 15, 2025, New Hampshire became the 47th state to adopt religious freedom resolutions in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Spearheading this all-important initiative was Archon Christos Chrisafides and Archon-elect Dick Anagnos.



The State Legislative Religious Freedom Initiative

States highlighted in **BLUE** indicate that the resolution has been introduced. States highlighted in **GOLD** indicate final adoption and no further action is necessary. States in **RED** mean no action taken.



On Sunday, December 1, 2024, parishes throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America commemorated the indefatigable work of the AEP to support and defend the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople on the first annual National Archon Sunday. Also on Sunday, November 24, 2024, as well as Sunday, December 1, 2024, Orthodox Christian children throughout the Archdiocese were introduced to the Ecumenical Patriarchate with the inaugural rollout of the Archon Ecumenical Patriarchate Catechism School Educational Initiative, a pre-k to high school age and grade-specific digital platform presenting our Catechism School teachers throughout the GOA with professionally prepared *pro bono* Sunday School lessons regarding the historical, canonical and ecclesiastical significance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the Religious Freedom challenges it faces. Kudos to Dr. Helen Nixon and Katina Limberakis Tsatalis, M.Ed. professional educators who donated their Time, Talent and Treasure to this Archon initiative. We extend deep gratitude to Archons Nick Tranto, Nick Terezis, Ted Argeroplos of the Youth Activities Archon Diakonia Ministry and Archon Mike Psaros for his \$100,000 donation to cover any potential expenses.



Greek Heritage Night in Boston

Over 3,000 Greek Americans came out to Fenway Park to celebrate Hellenism at Boston's storied Fenway Park as the Boston Red Sox hosted their annual Greek Heritage Night. Boston-area Archon Christos Chrisafides served as Chairperson of the event. Attending were the Regional Commanders for the Metropolis of Boston, Archons James Speros and Constantine Sideridis; as well as Archon Tom Gatzunis. The AEP and our message of Religious Freedom and *Protecting the Future of Faith* were honored before a packed stadium and I also had the privilege to be introduced on the field before the first pitch, along with my son John, daughter-in-law Dr. Danielle Tyree and new grandson Felix.



AEP Presentations All Over the Country

Diakonia Ministries, Regional Commanders and other Archons continued to offer incisive presentations around the nation on the central importance, history and present-day plight of our Holy Mother Church of Constantinople.

The issue of religious freedom was a primary focus of discussion at the **15th General Assembly of the World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (PADEE-WHIA)**, which was held on July 23, 2025 in the **Senate Hall of the Hellenic Parliament in Athens**. Playing a pivotal role in the proceedings was Archon Manolis Velivasakis. Also present was Archon George Zapantis.



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, addressed a **Religious Freedom Symposium, "God Created Us to Live In Harmony (Romans 12:16)."** This symposium, presented by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was held on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at the **University of South Carolina in Columbia**.





On April 23, 2025, in **New York City**, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Direct Archdiocesan District and Northern New Jersey offered a unique and informative **presentation on the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s struggle to secure property rights in Turkey**. The featured speaker was Archon Anastasios (Tassos) Efstratiades, Esq.

On February 16, 2025, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the **Metropolis of Chicago** gave a **presentation on the five key issues impacting the Ecumenical Patriarchate at Christ the Savior American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church**. Archon Wesley Stinich introduced keynote speakers Archon National Secretary and Regional Commander Gus M. Pablecas and Regional Commander John G. Manos.



On February 15, 2025, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the **Metropolis of Chicago** gave a series of presentations and hosted an **Archon vendor table during the YAL Chicago Conference**.

On February 2, 2025, the **Academia Symposium Diakonia** of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate presented a webinar, **“Archiving and Translating Ottoman Historic Records at Mount Athos, the Holy Mountain.”**

On January 18 and 19, 2025, Archons Steve Trakas and Dr. Terry Sarantou gave presentations on the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the **Hellenic Dance Festival (HDF) in Winston-Salem, North Carolina**.



On Sunday, December 8, 2024, the **Women in Orthodoxy Diakonia Ministry** of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP) presented a **webinar, “The History of the Archons in America & Women Archons – Past, Present & Future.”** Hosted by Women in Orthodoxy Diakonia Ministry Chair Archon Cary J. Limberakis, DMD and Vice Chair Professor Elizabeth H. Prodromou, PhD, the session’s featured presenters included Archons George Demacopoulos, PhD; Aristotle Papanikolaou, PhD; and John Fotopoulos, PhD.

On November 26, 2024, Archons Prof. Dr. George E. Demacopoulos and Prof. Dr. Aristotle “Telly” Papanikolaou were featured speakers at a **major conference in Athens, Greece on the state of Orthodox Theology**. The conference was sponsored by the Church of Greece and the University of Athens.



Before the Divine Liturgy on November 10, 2024, Archon Constantine Sideridis, Regional Commander for the Metropolis of Boston, and I were interviewed on **Grecian Echoes, a popular New England radio show** focusing on the Greek American community.



Also on Sunday, November 10, 2024, I made a presentation at **Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Somerville, Massachusetts**. At the festive event, Archon Bill Galatis was honored as the first Archon to be invested from the Somerville parish in 58 years.

Another Successful Pilgrimage of Discovery

The Archons once again chose sixteen exceptional young adults to participate in the 2025 Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD). Sponsored and funded by the AEP, the POD is a life-changing journey to Constantinople, giving participants a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to the Sacred Center of the Orthodox Faith. Kudos to the Archon Perry Siatis, Mrs. Hellena and Archon Judge Chrones, Archon Professors Fotopoulos, Kyrou, Professor Elizabeth Prodromou and the entire POD, both those who participated in the Constantinople Trip and the huge support team in the USA.

The AEP held the first-ever Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD) Alumni Retreat on May 16-18, 2025, in Chicago. The event was organized by the Pilgrimage of Discovery Alumni Leadership Network (ALN), a branch of the Archon Youth Participation Activities Diakonia Ministry.



The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation (EPBF) Continues to Experience Steady Growth

As of this writing, there are 269 FOUNDERS (\$100,000 pledge payable over 10 years) in good standing, with \$29.2 million pledged from all contributors. Full transparency and accountability are the foundational pillars of the EPBF; these principles 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

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Chicago, Illinois has become the latest parish in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to undertake the sacred, all-important mission of becoming a FOUNDER. Assumption is the first parish of the Metropolis of Chicago to become a FOUNDER.

As I was reviewing my personal Archon Archives in my computer, I came across my notes for a meeting with His All-Holiness dated August 31, 2000, which included the subject "The Need for a Foundation for Ecumenical Patriarchate." The EPBF, a long-sought, 25-year-dream has finally come to fruition!

Officers and Functionaries Unanimously Elected

On December 6, 2025, at an AEP National Council meeting, elections were held for officers and functionaries of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP). These officers and functionaries were each unanimously re-elected for a one-year term:

Officers

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

National Secretary: Gus (Kosmas) M. Pablecas, *Archon Ostiaros*

National Treasurer: John G. Manos, *Archon Eftaxias*

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

Sergeant at Arms: Alexander Pritsos, *Archon Hieromnimon*

Functionaries

Historian: Dr. George E. Demacopoulos, Ph.D., *Archon Didaskalos Tou Genous*

Assistant Treasurer: Chris E. Tsamutalis, CPA, *Archon Skevophylax*



Emeritus

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

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

The Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, appoints the National Commander.



Five Regional Commanders Appointed

Gary C. Grysiak was appointed Regional Commander for the American Carpatho-Russian Diocese of North America. Archons Frank Boardman, Dr. Terry Sarantou, and Stephanos G. Trakas were appointed Regional Commanders for North and South Carolina and Brock Martin for the Metropolis of Detroit.



Archon Lenten Retreat Expands to the West Coast

The AEP hosted the John Halecky Jr. 21st Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat on the West Coast for the first time on Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29, 2025 at St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church in Pasadena, California. The East Coast Retreat followed on April 4 and 5, 2025 at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Southampton, New York.



Father Alex's 80th Birthday Celebration

After the conclusion of the John Halecky Jr. 21st Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat on the East Coast, a joyful overflow crowd filled the banquet hall at Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church in Southampton, New York, on the evening of April 5, to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Father Alex Karloutsos, Spiritual Advisor of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Congratulations and Special Thanks to our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alex and Presbytera Xanthi

The AEP and the EPBF offer congratulations to our Archon Spiritual Advisor, Father Alex, as he was conferred the title **The Grand Protopresbyter** of the Holy and Great Church of Christ.

We also offer our profound gratitude to Fr. Alex and Presbytera Xanthi for their unparalleled commitment, devotion and hard work to ensure our sacred mission to serve the needs of the Great Church of Christ and our worldwide Spiritual Father His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is successful. This legendary team has always put the Church First in all their endeavors and for that, they deserve our highest praise and commendation. ΑΕΙΟ!!



Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Receives the 2025 Athenagoras Human Rights Award

At Archon Weekend on Saturday, October 18, 2025, the 2025 Athenagoras Human Rights Award was presented to the Hon. Michael R. Pompeo, the 70th Secretary of State of the United States of America and 6th U.S. Director of the CIA. His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew observed that Secretary Pompeo was “recognized for his consistent advocacy for religious freedom and his steadfast support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other religious minorities during his distinguished public service.”



Archon Alexander Pritsos Receives Nicholas J. Bouras Award

Also at Archon Weekend on Friday, October 17, 2025, AEP Sergeant at Arms Alexander Pritsos, Archon Hieromnimon, received the 2025 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. His All-Holiness stated that Archon Pritsos has “exemplified steadfast faith, sacrificial giving, and quiet strength.”



Dr. Helen Nixon and Katina Limberakis Tsatalis, M.Ed., Educators Who Developed Archon Sprout Program Receive Sophia Award

Also at Archon Weekend, the AEP presented the Archon Sophia Award for Excellence to Helen Nixon, Ed.D. and Katina Limberakis Tsatalis, M.Ed. for developing (pro bono) the all-important Archon Sprout Program. Dr. Nixon emphasized: “We want our Orthodox youth to know and understand that they are defenders of our Mother Church.”

The AEP Serves the Worldwide Church

The AEP National Council donated \$50,000 for the repair of Holy Trinity Church in Gothenburg, Sweden. After Saint George Cathedral in Stockholm, this parish is home to Sweden's second largest Greek congregation, numbering approximately 5,000 parishioners.

Our Exceptional Archon Band of Brothers is most grateful to our Spiritual Father in America, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, The Exarch

We continue to be unshakably devoted to Defending the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople and securing its religious freedom. It is our ongoing great privilege to work with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, The Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as we seek his guidance regarding the depth and breadth of the AEP programing.

As I stated above, our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Alex is absolutely indispensable in the strategic planning and execution of the AEP initiatives. I remain indebted to my beloved friend, our exceptional National Vice Commander Honorable B. Theodore Bozonelis, whom I consult on a daily basis. The Archon officers are always a tremendous blessing: along with Judge Bozonelis, we are blessed with 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. We remain especially indebted to our National Treasurer, Archon Peter J. Skeadas, and Assistant Treasurer Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA for their careful oversight of the Archons' financial books. Accountability and Transparency are the two paramount pillars of the AEP and EPBF, without which nothing could be accomplished.

Our hard-working Sergeant-at-Arms Alex Pritsos richly deserves this year's Nicholas J. Bouras Award in recognition, among so much else, for yet again carrying off the detailed logistics of Archon Weekend with aplomb! Thank you as always, Brother Archon Alex!

We remain grateful for the contributions of the Regional Commanders, Archons Theodore P. Vlahos, M.D.; G. Thomas Yearout, Esq.; John C. Scurtis; Frank Boardman; James A. Frangis; Dr. Terry Sarantou; Gregory B. Saad; Stephanos G. Trakas; James Speros; Constantine Sideridis; John G. Manos; Gus M. Pablecas; Pericles C. Siatis; Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas; Christopher J. Pappas; Lazaros A. Kircos; Inspector John V. Kassimatis; Nikiforos Mathews, Esq.; Michael P. Neamonitakis; Michael D. Camarinos, Esq.; Cary J. Limberakis, D.M.D.; Andrew E. Manatos; George A. Tsougarakis, Esq.; Nicholas Terezis; Nicholas J. Tranto; Isidoros Garifalakis; Gerry Ranglas; Theodore Konopisos; Paul Sogotis; the Hon. Steven G. Counelis; as well as to our superb Graphic Designer Archon John J. Mindala II, our tireless Administrative Assistant Leah Kats, and Tsesme Consulting, which manages our social media initiatives and the Religion and Faith section of our website.

I am most grateful to my own children, Anthony C. Limberakis, (2025 Archon-elect) and Elizabeth L. Limberakis, MBA. Anthony is an accomplished IT expert who has donated countless pro bono hours to transform the operational software of the AEP and EPBF to a new digital state-of-the-art platform. Elizabeth, who is a national expert on social media communications, is a vital member of the Archon Communications Team and donates her Time, Talent and Treasure to ensure the AEP communicates effectively.

The assiduous efforts of Archon Congressman Gus Bilirakis, as he carries the torch of religious freedom in the hallowed halls of Congress, are deeply appreciated!

Once again, we continue to offer thanks for the ongoing legacy of Archon Stewardship to Nicholas J. Bouras of blessed memory. The Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation is one of the premier philanthropic organizations providing much-needed aid to Greek Orthodox agencies, churches and human service organizations and most especially to the AEP and EPBF. The Bouras Foundation, through the efforts of its Trustee Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, and the AEP National Vice Commander has empowered the Archons to pursue religious freedom

Archon Michael J. and Robin Psaros have offered extraordinary beneficence to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, educational institutions, the AEP, the EPBF and many more charitable endeavors and institutions for which we offer profound gratitude. Archon Mike is truly the Cheerful Giver par excellence (2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.")

And the People Without Whom All This Would Not Be Possible... Our wives and families...

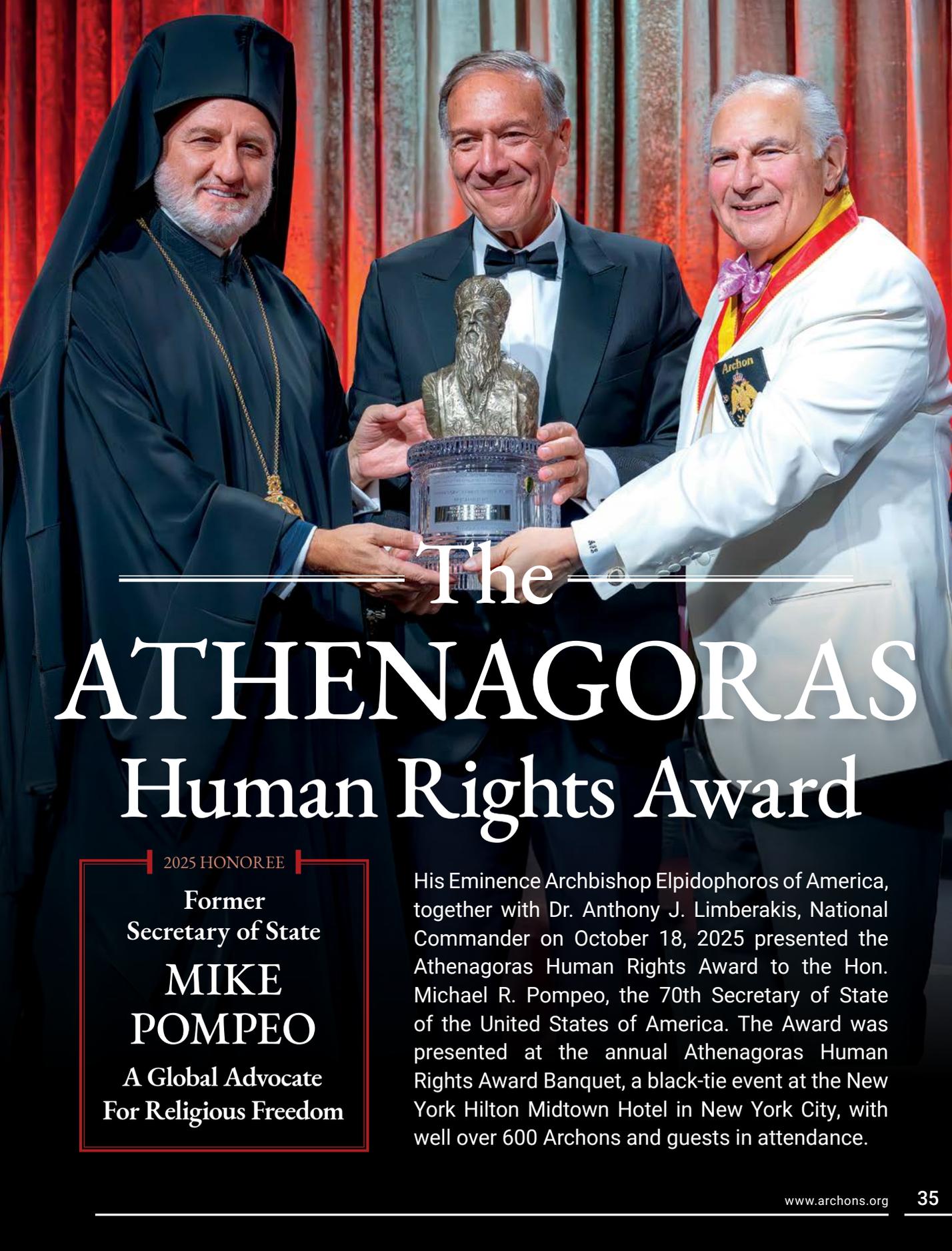
We express our continuous and profound gratitude to our beloved wives and families. Being an Archon is a commitment of service not just to our God and our Church, but to our families. Without the ongoing love, encouragement, patience and understanding of our wives and families, we simply could not fulfill our holy calling to be Defenders of the Faith.



In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

Anthony Limberakis, MD

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis
Archon Grand Aktouarios
National Commander



The ATHENAGORAS Human Rights Award

2025 HONOREE

Former
Secretary of State
**MIKE
POMPEO**
A Global Advocate
For Religious Freedom

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, together with Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander on October 18, 2025 presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to the Hon. Michael R. Pompeo, the 70th Secretary of State of the United States of America. The Award was presented at the annual Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet, a black-tie event at the New York Hilton Midtown Hotel in New York City, with well over 600 Archons and guests in attendance.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, in a message commemorating the occasion, observed that Secretary Pompeo is “recognized for his consistent advocacy for religious freedom and his steadfast support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other religious minorities during his distinguished public service.”

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros also praised Secretary Pompeo’s dedication to religious freedom, stating that he “has been a leader in the struggle for human rights and guarantees of religious liberty across the globe, and he has a special love and concern for the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.” His Eminence added that “in honoring Secretary Pompeo, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate continues its longstanding tradition of recognizing the best and the brightest among the world’s leaders, choosing persons who offer the world honorable and exemplary service for the betterment of the human family.”

Dr. Limberakis likewise paid tribute to Secretary Pompeo, stating: “Every so often in the public arena, there arises a man who embodies what it means to be a true servant-leader, giving voice to the



National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis greets Mike Pompeo.

voiceless and in this case, a forum to address egregious international human rights and religious freedom violations. This evening’s honoree, the honorable Michael R. Pompeo, is such a man. Throughout his long and ongoing distinguished career in Washington, Mike Pompeo has consistently labored selflessly to improve the lives of Americans and people all over the world. He has demonstrated a heartfelt and deeply informed concern for the plight of people who have suffered for simply exercising their God-given freedom of

conscience, and in particular, for the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey and persecuted religious minorities all over the world.”

In his own remarks, Secretary Pompeo thanked the AEP for the “incredible honor” it had bestowed upon him, and added that “the work done by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at home and abroad to protect both the ability of your 300 million Orthodox Christians to practice their faith freely, and for all peoples to enjoy religious freedom, is truly an inspiration.” He emphasized that “My relationship with the Archons and with the Orthodox Church holds a special place in my heart, and I’ve had the privilege of collaborating with you on so many important initiatives to advance religious freedom and human rights, both during my time as Secretary of State and out of office.”

Secretary Pompeo also pointed out that “protecting religious freedom around the world is one of America’s oldest foreign policy traditions, dating back to the 1800s, when



Archon Michael Psaros, left, makes dais introductions as Archon Mike Emanuel, serves as the evening’s Master of Ceremonies.

the US government denounced the persecution of Orthodox Christians and other religious minorities living under the Ottoman Empire.” He spoke about his efforts as Secretary of State to highlight “issues that previous administrations had soft pedaled, such as the ongoing persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by the Turkish government.”

The Secretary declared unequivocally that “from the forced closure of the Halki seminary to the refusal to grant the Church legal identity, to the profound disrespect shown to the Ecumenical Patriarch and his role as leader of the world’s 300 million Orthodox Christians, the Turkish government’s treatment of the Orthodox Church is textbook religious persecution.” He put this conviction into action as Secretary of State: “So when I had the opportunity to meet Patriarch Bartholomew in Istanbul in 2020, I declined to also meet with Turkish officials in order to convey a simple message: This Church must

remain independent of the state and free to worship.”

Secretary Pompeo went on to applaud the courageous decision of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to grant autocephaly to the Orthodox Church in Ukraine in January 2019, saying: “The wisdom of Patriarch Bartholomew’s decision was unfortunately made even clearer by the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, as the Kremlin has continued to use the Russian Orthodox Church as a spy network within Ukraine, and has cynically enlisted Patriarch Kirill to justify Putin’s war of aggression as a holy enterprise.”

Concluding his remarks, Secretary Pompeo stated: “I thank the

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for upholding that witness in this fallen world, and I pray that America always remains a country dedicated to protecting religious liberty at home and around the world. May God bless His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop Elpidophoros, the Archons and all of you here tonight, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you.”



Archon John A. Catsimatidis congratulates Mike Pompeo following the Banquet.



[Secretary Pompeo] has been a leader in the struggle for human rights and guarantees of religious liberty across the globe, and he has a special love and concern for the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.”

–Archbishop Elpidophoros of America



THE 2025 HONOREE



Official visit of the US Secretary of State to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, November 17, 2020



Secretary of State Pompeo and his wife, Susan attend the FOUNDERS Dinner of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, October 29, 2021



Secretary of State Pompeo was the featured speaker at the 4th Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom, in Athens, Greece, May 28, 2024.

Past Recipients of The Award

2025 · Hon. Michael R. Pompeo	2007 · Archbishop Demetrios of America
2024 · Yulia Navalnaya	2006 · Nicholas J. Bouras
2023 · The Prince's Trust	2005 · Mikhail Gorbachev
2022 · His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa	2004 · Alex G. Spanos
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	2003 · IOCC & OCMC
2019 · His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine	2002 · President George H. W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush
2018 · Father Alexander and Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos	2001 · Archbishop Anastasios of Albania
2017 · Emilia Kamvisi and Efstratios Valamios	2000 · Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu
2016 · Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	1999 · Elie Wiesel
2015 · Vice President Joe Biden	1998 · Nana Mouskouri
2014 · Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD	1997 · Reverend Clergy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
2013 · 60 Minutes	1996 · Order of AHEPA
2012 · Stavros Niarchos Foundation	1995 · Hon. Edward Derwinski
2011 · Admiral James G. Stavridis	1994 · Hon. Paul S. Sarbanes
2009 · Anthony J. Limberakis, MD	1993 · George Douris
2008 · Rabbi Arthur Schneier	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

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.



The BOURAS Award

Honoring
Alexander Pritsos



On October 17, Archon Alexander Pritsos received the 2025 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew sent his personal congratulations to Archon Pritsos, stating: "Since your investiture as Archon Hieromnimon in 1992, you have exemplified steadfast faith, sacrificial giving, and quiet strength. As the only person ever to hold the office of Sergeant at Arms of the Order, you have provided logistical leadership, often behind the scenes, ensuring that the many ministries and events of the Order, such as the Archon Weekend, the Athenagoras Award Banquet, and national meetings, are executed with excellence and dignity."



The 2025 Recipient

Alexander Pritsos is pictured middle, with his wife Maritza, their children and grandchildren, after receiving the prestigious Award.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America noted that "for over thirty years, since his investiture as an Archon in 1992, Alex has served the Order with the same energy and commitment with which he served the Saint Nicholas Parish

in Flushing – where he was President of the Parish Council. His service was recognized by the ever-memorable Archbishop Iakovos, who awarded him the highest commendation of our National Church, the Medal of Saint Paul."

Past Recipients of The Award

2025 · Alexander Pritsos
Hieromnimon

2024 · Peter J. Skeadas
Hieromnimon

2023 · George M. Marcus
Exarchos

2022 · Michael G. Psaros
Ostiarios

2019 · John S. Zavitsanos
Ekdikos

2018 · George E. Safiol
Archiophylax

2017 · John A. Catsimatidis
Notarios

2016 · † Theofanis V. Economidis
Ekdikos

2015 · † Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas
Hartoularios

2014 · Christopher Stratakis, Esq.
Notarios

2013 · Dr. Stephen J. Yallourakis
Aktouarios

2012 · † James C. Fountas
Depoutatos

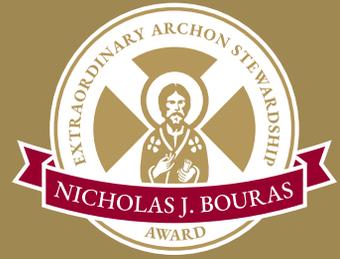
2012 · † John Halecky, Jr.
Ekdikos

2011 · George D. Behrakis
Depoutatos

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis stated: "For decades now, Archon Alex Pritsos has been a living embodiment of what it really means to give one's time, talent and resources in support of our Holy Mother Church of Constantinople, the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the United States, and the mission of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. It is highly fitting to recognize his long years of selfless

service by naming him as the recipient of this prestigious Award. Axios!"

Upon receiving the Award, Archon Pritsos explained that "for me, the term 'extraordinary stewardship' means accepting that nothing we have is truly ours. Our time, our talents, and our treasures are all gifts, entrusted to us and our only job is to manage those gifts wisely, so they may grow ensuring they multiply for the benefit of others."



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.



Alexander Pritsos receiving the Nicholas J. Bouras Award.



The Archon SOPHIA AWARD For Excellence

Honoring Educators

Dr. Helen Nixon & Katina Limberakis Tsatalis



On October 18, at the Annual Archon Agape Family Luncheon, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate presented the Archon Sophia Award for Excellence to veteran educators Dr. Helen Nixon and Katina Limberakis Tsatalis, M.Ed. for creating (pro bono) the AEP Ecumenical Patriarchate Catechism School Education Initiative.

Upon receiving the Award, Ms. Tsatalis stated: “We dedicate this award to our Archon Sprouts team and most especially to the countless Sunday school teachers who, with love and perseverance, plant the seeds of faith in the hearts of our children. It is their quiet labor, week after week, that ensures the strength and con-

Past Recipients of The Award

2025 • Dr. Helen Nixon and Katina Limberakis, M.Ed.

for creating (pro bono) the AEP Ecumenical Patriarchate Catechism School Education Initiative

2024 • John G. Gumas

and to the GUMAS Advertising Team in effectively communicating the identity and ancient mission of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the modern world

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

tinuity of our tradition. Helen and I value this honor as both a celebration of what has been achieved and a solemn charge to continue advancing the noble work of education, always in the service to God, His Holy Mother Church, and the generations to come.”

Dr. Nixon emphasized: “We want our Orthodox youth to know and understand that they are defenders of our Mother Church. These Sprout lesson plans are the building blocks of a systemic solution to enhance their knowledge and fluency on the Patriarchate and His All-Holiness.”



Each of us should strive to leave a legacy to inspire our children and our children's children to continue our Orthodox faith.”

***—National Commander
Dr. Anthony J. 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.



The CLASS *of* 2025

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Add 38 Distinguished New Members

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, along with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, and His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, presided at the Investiture of thirty-eight new Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from throughout the United States on October 19, 2025.



As Ecumenical Patriarch, we rejoice in honoring those who, having adorned themselves with piety and virtue, have proven their ability and willingness to serve the diverse needs of the Church in many different ways, especially with inspired zeal, reverence and faithfulness."

—His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



Archons Invested in the Class of 2025

John A. Aivazoglou, Esq.,
Nomophylax
Glen Mills, PA

Dick "Dikaos" Anagnost, Hymnodos
Bedford, NH

Hon. Stavros Steve Anthony, PhD,
Referendarios, Las Vegas, NV

Thomas Constantine Bartzokis, MD,
Aktouarios, Boca Raton, FL

John Andreas Catsimatidis, Jr.,
Kastrinsios, New York, NY

Anthony Joseph Diamandakis,
Eftaxias
New York, NY

Peter Takis Dionisos, Chartouarios
West Chester, PA

Asteris James Fanikos, Esq.,
Hypomnematographos
Chesterfield, NJ

Demetrios Fokas, Ekdikos
Little Neck, NY

William John Georgas,
Hieromnemon
Palm Beach, FL

Stephen Hanna, Chartophylax
Huntsville, AL

Emmanuel Chris Kaitson, Esq.,
Dikaiophylax, Bellaire, TX

Steven Nicholas Kalkanis, MD,
Skevophylax, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Konstantinos (Gus) M. Karpathakis,
Ostiarios, Hampton Bays, NY

Kostas Katsohirakis, Maistor
Salt Lake City, UT

Basil C. Kollias, Esq., Nomodotis
Greenville, DE

Amb. Michael Kozak, Esq.,
Depoutatos
Falls Church, VA

Anthony C. Limberakis, Ostiarios
Newtown, PA

Paul G Loupakos, Chartophylax
Lemont, IL

Pericles A. Maillis, Esq., Protekdikos
Nassau, NP, Bahamas

Christsos Marafatsos, Didaskalos
tou Genous, Richmond, VA

Konstantinos Mastorakis,
Referendarios
Boca Raton, FL

David Gus Matty, PhD, Eftaxias
San Juan Capistrano, CA

James A. J. Nickolas, Esq.,
Hypomimneskon, Chicago, IL

Dennis George Pantazis, Esq.,
Nomophylax, Vestavia Hills, AL

George Anast Pappas, Hymnodos
Murray, UT

Michael Petridis, MBA, Kastrinsios
Ovilla, TX

John Pogas, Orphanotrophos
Royersford, PA

Stephen Seremetis, Laosynaktis
Manhasset, NY

Dimitri Sigounas, MD, Ritor
Potomac, MD

Nicholas Spanakis, Chartouarios
Canal Fulton, OH

Nicholas Ivan Timko, Esq.,
Protopsaltis
Brooklyn, NY

James Peter Trakas, Exarchos
Independence, OH

John H. Trihas, Hypomimneskon
Strongsville, OH

George Nikiforos Valaskantjis,
Orphanotrophos
Dana Point, CA

Stavros Veletsis, Symbolitis
Alexandria, VA

Konstantinos L. Vellios, Depoutatos
Brooklyn, NY

John Harry Vratsinas, Skevophylax
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Jimmy Zervoudis, Prostatitis Ton
Grammaton, Palisades, NY



Templeton Prize



WORLDWIDE OBSERVATIONS

Patriarchal Visit to the United States

**His All-Holiness receives the prestigious Templeton Prize;
visits Washington, D.C., New York and Southampton communities**



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's eighth Apostolic Visit to the United States took place September 14–25. During his visit, His All-Holiness had a private meeting in the Oval Office with President Donald Trump. He also met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy; Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and other foreign leaders. His All-Holiness also received the prestigious Templeton Prize “for his pioneering efforts to bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity’s relationship with the natural world, bringing together people of different faiths to heed a call for stewardship of creation.”

Private Oval Office Meeting with President Trump at The White House

His All-Holiness met privately with U.S. President Donald Trump in the Oval Office on Monday, September 15, 2025. President Trump is the sixth U.S. president to meet with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Also in attendance were U.S. Vice President JD Vance; Archon Michael Kratsios, the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Archon Reince Priebus, a member of the President of the United States' intelligence advisory board.



Dinner hosted by Deputy Secretary of State Rigas at the U.S. State Department

On September 16, His All-Holiness delivered an extraordinary address at a dinner in his honor at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. Hosting the dinner was the Hon. Michael J. Rigas, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.



Meeting With House Speaker Mike Johnson And Other House Leaders at the U.S. Capitol Building

A luncheon was held in honor of His All-Holiness at the U.S. Capitol Building. Hosting the luncheon was the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Mike Johnson (R.-La.). In attendance were the Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D.-N.Y.), the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D.-Ca.), former Speaker of the House of Representatives; and numerous other representatives and other dignitaries.



Laying Wreath at Tomb of The Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery

In a solemn and moving moment on the morning of Tuesday, September 16, 2025, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in northern Virginia.

Escorting His All-Holiness was Archon General Andrew Poppas, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces Command, who is of Greek descent; as well as Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director of Arlington National Cemetery. After the presentation of the wreath, a bugler played "Taps."



Doxology at Saint Nicholas National Shrine

The Ecumenical Patriarch returned to Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at Ground Zero in Lower Manhattan, where he performed the Thyranoxia (Door-Opening) during his last visit in 2021, and celebrated a Doxology service, offering a series of moving reflections on the importance of the Shrine.

Dignitaries, including the former Vice President of the United States, Mike Pence, as well as many community members and parishioners were also on hand.



Major Address of Religion in Public Life at the Council on Foreign Relations

His All-Holiness delivered a remarkable address on the role of religion in public life and the global geopolitical situation at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City. In his remarks, His All-Holiness stated that the Council on Foreign Relations was "a most valuable and significant center of thought and dialogue in our world today."



'Green Patriarch' Honored On International Coastal Cleanup Day at Stony Brook University

Stony Brook University hosted an event entitled "Oceans of Hope: The Green Patriarch Recognizes Stony Brook Southampton's Marine Sciences Mission." The event, sponsored by Archons Joseph and Anna Kokolakis, was held on International Coastal Cleanup Day, September 20. His All-Holiness also received the Stony Brook Council University Medal—the highest honor the university can award.



Synaxis Of The Hierarchs and Divine Liturgy at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Cathedral

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was warmly welcomed at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Cathedral by Archon Spiritual Advisor, Father Alex Karloutsos, in Southampton, for the Synaxis (Assembly) of the Hierarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the United States.

After the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy the next day, His All-Holiness elevated Dormition church to the status of cathedral, as he conferred the title Grand Protopresbyter of the Holy and Great Church of Christ upon Father Alex.



Bartholomew Foundation / Archon Reception at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

A reception was held in honor of His All-Holiness by the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation and the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

National Commander Dr. Limberakis offered a welcome and special presentation. Presentations were made on the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation by Audit Committee Chair, Carl Hollister, Investment Committee Chair, John Koudounis and a Treasurer's Statement by Chris E. Tsamutalis, CPA.



Meeting with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy at the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations

His All-Holiness met on September 22 with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the Ukrainian delegation's office in New York. The meeting took place as leaders from around the world assembled in New York for the UN General Assembly.

During their meeting, His All-Holiness emphasized the Ecumenical Patriarchate's unwavering support for Ukraine amid Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war. He assured President Zelenskyy of his unshakeable support for and solidarity with the Ukrainian people, and expressed his hope that Ukraine could soon conclude a victorious peace.



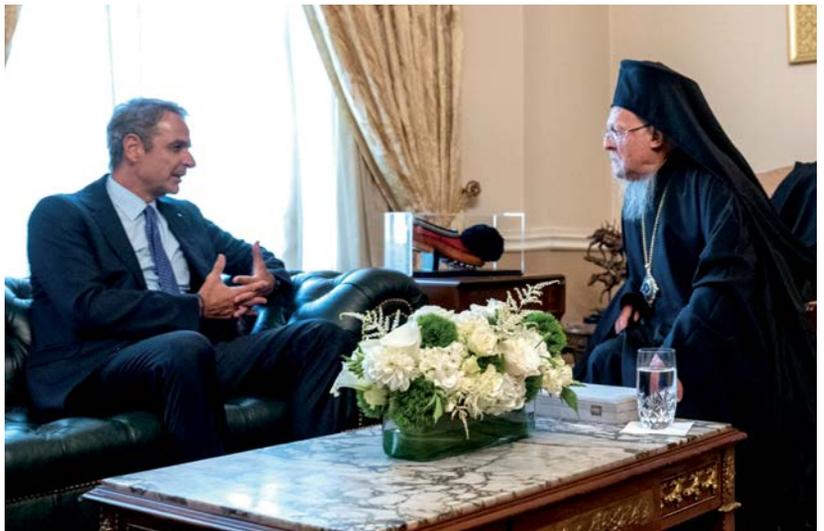
Visit To Fordham University

On September 23, His All-Holiness visited Fordham University in the Bronx, NY. While there, a concert for the Environment in the University Church was held, featuring Cappella Romana Choir. His All-Holiness later visited the Orthodox Christian Studies Center, escorted by its co-directors, Archons George Demacopoulos and Aristotle Papanikolaou. Later, a dinner was held by President Tania Tetlow.



Meeting with Prime Minister Mitsotakis

On September 24, His All-Holiness met with Kyriakos Mitsotakis, right, the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic. His All-Holiness expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for Greece's steadfast support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its global mission, including its support for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



Templeton Prize Ceremony at the David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center

His All-Holiness received the Templeton Prize at a ceremony in New York City on September 24.



The John Templeton Foundation stated that His All-Holiness was receiving the prestigious Prize "for his pioneering efforts to bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity's relationship with the natural world, bringing together people of different faiths to heed a call for stewardship of creation." Speaking at the event was Jane Goodall, the noted environmental activist and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic. Also attending was His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan. Special performance was offered by Cappella Romana.



Ecumenical Patriarch And Pope Leo Recite The Creed Together During The 1700th Anniversary of Nicaea



Archon Officers Participate In Historic Pilgrimage To Nicaea



In a historic moment—1,700 years after the First Council of Nicaea—His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Holiness Pope Leo XIV gathered in Nicaea, now Iznik, for a profound display of Christian unity. At the conclusion of the prayer service, they recited the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed together at the very site where it was first proclaimed and prayed: the ancient Basilica of Saint Neophytos.



Ecumenical Patriarch And Pope Sign Joint Declaration Affirming Commitment To Unity, Rejection Of Violence

At the Phanar, on November 29, 2025, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Holiness Pope Leo XIV signed an historic Joint Declaration that reiterated their commitment, on behalf of both Churches, to continue to pursue dialogue for the ultimate goal of restoring full communion between the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. The Declaration also reaffirms the Hierarchs' mutual rejection of using religion to justify violence. This Joint Declaration will form the foundation of future efforts to heal ancient divisions and heed the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, "that they all may be one" (John 17:21).

The Declaration firmly rejects religious violence and concludes on an inspiring note of abiding faith in these troubled times: "While we are deeply alarmed by the current international situation, we do not lose hope. God will not abandon humanity."

Archons Undertake Historic Pilgrimage; A Commemoration of Unity at the Birthplace of the Creed

The Archon delegation, led by officers National Treasurer emeritus Peter J. Skeadas, National Secretary Gus (Kosmas) Pablecas and Sergeant-At-Arms Alexander Pritsos, began



its pilgrimage to Nicaea, where they stood on the very ground where the early Church Fathers first proclaimed the universal confession of faith that begins, "We believe..."

Walking upon the ancient stones of Nicaea, the Archons reflected on the enduring significance of the Creed, born amid theological controversy yet destined to anchor the unity of Christians across centuries. The visit deepened ones appreciation for the Church's ongoing mission to preserve and proclaim the apostolic faith in a world still marked by division.

Honoring the Legacy of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

The Archons continued to the site of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, held in 787 AD, where the controversy over the veneration of holy icons was resolved and the theology of the Incarnation reaffirmed. Today a mosque, the historic church retains unmistakable spiritual resonance, echoing the courageous witness of the bishops who defended the rightful place of icons in Christian worship.

For the Archons, this visit offered a powerful reminder of the Church's steadfast commitment to truth, beauty, and sacred tradition, even amid centuries of challenge and change.



How appropriate it is that this historic gathering of the ancient Patriarchs of the undivided Church is occurring under the aegis of the Ecumenical Throne, as Christianity itself, although born in Jerusalem, was established, developed, and grew in the sacred space of the Ecumenical Patriarchate."

—Remarks of Peter J. Skeadas, National Treasurer, delivered during a dinner held in honor of His All-Holiness.

An Extraordinary Honor: Witnessing a Meeting of Christian Leaders

During the pilgrimage, the Archons were granted the exceptional honor of attending the celebration of the Eastern Divine Liturgy at St. George Cathedral between His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, occurring, where ancient hymns, incense, and solemn prayer underscored the continuity of the Church through the ages.

Seeing the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Bishop of Rome together, praying side by side, offered a living, tangible sign of Christian hope and the continuing pursuit of unity first affirmed at Nicaea.

Observing Diakonia and Martyria in the Person of His All-Holiness

Throughout the visit, the Archons were profoundly moved by the diakonia (service) and martyria (witness) embodied by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. His gentle humility, pastoral warmth, and unwavering dedication to the Church were evident in every gesture.

His global advocacy for ecological stewardship, human dignity, and inter-Christian dialogue continues to shine as a modern testimony to the Gospel. Standing beside Pope Leo XIV, his witness was magni-

fied demonstrating that unity is not merely a historical aspiration but an urgent call for the present age.

A Pilgrimage That Inspires Action

As official representatives of the Order of Saint Andrew, the three Archons returned from their pilgrimage deeply inspired and renewed in purpose. The encounter with sacred history, the living ministry of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the hopeful signs of strengthened Christian brotherhood reinforced their mission and commitment to:

- Promote Orthodox–Catholic dialogue,
- Support the sacred mission of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and
- Bear active witness to the unity for which Christ prayed: “That they all may be one.”

In Conclusion

The Archon delegation couldn't help but feel a deep sadness upon entering the glorious Orthodox Cathedrals and Churches that have now been converted into mosques. The sense of repression was perceptible, yet the steadfast fortitude of the Orthodox Christians remains undiminished, sustained by the abiding truth that Christianity endures in the land of Constantinople and by the assurance that God dwells within their

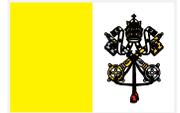
hearts. Moreover, the visit to the Halki Monastery and its historic School of Theology offered a profound sense of hope, reminding the delegation of the vital role it has played, and will one day play again in educating and forming priests for future generations. Its legacy stands as a beacon of renewal for our Orthodox faith and a promise of spiritual restoration.

On the Holy ground the Archons walked, stones that once held the footsteps and prayers of the early Patriarchs, clergy and the faithful Orthodox Christians, the Archons felt a reverence that words cannot hold. Despite the diminishing population of Orthodox Christians in a predominantly Muslim nation, the Archons were deeply moved by the unmistakable and enduring presence of the faith in these sacred places. The intrinsic strength of Christianity, rooted not in numbers, but in the living power of the Holy Spirit, was palpable in the air and even in the stones beneath their feet. Though the Christian community today is small, the sense of Orthodoxy remains monumental: a spiritual legacy that has shaped these lands for centuries and continues to radiate a quiet but overwhelming strength. Here, the Archons witnessed firsthand that Orthodoxy endures—then, now, and forever and without question, is the land it sits on.



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew stands with His Beatitude Theodore II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and Archons.

Archons Of The Ecumenical Patriarchate In America Congratulate Pope Leo XIV, The First American Pope



The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America issued a statement congratulating the new Pope of Rome, and reemphasized the words of His All-Holiness:

“The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America have received the news of the election of the new Pope of Rome, His Holiness Leo XIV, with great joy.

We offer our heartfelt congratu-

lations to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, and look forward to a new period of fruitful cooperation and collaboration with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers.”



Indeed, a Pope of American origin has been elected, who took the name Leo XIV. From what I remember during my time in Rome, Leo XIII was distinguished for his social teachings. We hope that Leo XIV will also embrace the Church's contribution to the world, not only in the social sphere but by offering answers to the existential questions that continue to concern humanity.”

—His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

AEP Welcomes Decision Of Turkey's Constitutional Court On Violation Of Rights Of Greek Orthodox Clerics



The Archons welcomed a ruling of Turkey's Constitutional Court which stated that two Greek Orthodox clerics were unlawfully forbidden from serving on a foundation board. The court ruled that this was a violation of their constitutional right to freedom of association.

National Commander Dr. Limberakis, said: “This is an extremely significant ruling that bodes well for the future of the embattled Greek Orthodox Christian community and other religious minorities in the Turkish Republic. We pray and hope that it will be only the beginning of a new flowering of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and for all people in Turkey.”

The Stockholm Center for Freedom reported that “clerics Atanasios Mamasis and George Kasapoğlu, affiliated with the Ecumenical Patriarchate of İstanbul, were elected to the board of the

Samatya Aya Anapisis Greek Orthodox Church Foundation in 2011. However, the General Directorate of Foundations (VGM), a Turkish government agency responsible for the oversight and administration of foundations, refused to validate the election unless the clerics were removed, citing their religious roles as incompatible with board membership.”

The clerics, however, “challenged the decision, arguing that the 2008 Foundations Regulation did not prohibit clergy from serving on foundation boards. The VGM countered, citing the Treaty of Lausanne, which they interpreted as barring religious leaders from administrative and political roles.”

The Treaty of Lausanne of 1923 guaranteed, among other rights, the right of non-Muslim minorities to manage religious, educational and charitable institutions. However, as the Stockholm Center for Freedom

noted, “Turkish authorities have often interpreted the treaty as a basis for limiting the political and administrative roles of minority religious leaders, arguing that their responsibilities must remain strictly spiritual.” Yet “critics of this interpretation contend that the Treaty of Lausanne does not explicitly restrict clergy from serving on administrative boards, arguing that such limitations undermine the autonomy promised under the treaty.”

The court “awarded each applicant 30,000 Turkish lira (\$847) in non-pecuniary damages and ordered that a copy of the decision be sent to the VGM and the Ministry of Justice.”

Dr. Limberakis added: “The Treaty of Lausanne is still binding. May this ruling be the linchpin of a new respect for that treaty among Turkish authorities.”

Patriarchal Visit to the United Kingdom

Major Address Delivered On The First Ecumenical Council At International Conference



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew made an official visit to the United Kingdom. Archons from the United States, including National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis and National Vice Commander Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, joined His All-Holiness on his visit, which coincided with the year 2025 marking the 1700th anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council at Nicaea, an event of cardinal importance in both ecclesiastical history and the history of the world in general.

His All-Holiness was also the keynote speaker on June 21, at the

Ecclesiastical Law Society's 2025 Conference, "Nicaea Received: 1700 years of Canons, Councils and Ecumenism."

This international conference, a landmark event for ecclesiastical lawyers, church historians, and ecumenists, was held in the historic Chichester Cathedral, which is celebrating its 950th anniversary as the Nicene Council marks its 1700th, and The Bishop's Palace in Chichester, England, from Friday, June 20 to Sunday, June 22, 2025.

His All-Holiness addressed the conference on the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and the council's key role in the forma-

tion of core elements of canon law.

The newly built Chapel dedicated to Saint Sophrony the Athonite, founder of the Monastery of Saint John the Baptist in Essex, was also consecrated in Maldon, on June 22.

During the consecration, National Commander Dr. Limberakis found opportunity to speak to the Archons of Great Britain on the importance of becoming FOUNDERS or Builders of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.

The next day, the Archons hosted a luncheon in Cardiff, Wales, in honor of the Very Rev. Grand Ecclesiarch Aetios, Director of the Private Patriarchal Office.





The occasion for the luncheon was the fact that Father Aetios received word, in the presence of His All-Holiness, that he had successfully defended his doctoral dissertation with the highest distinction “without any corrections” and was granted a Ph.D. in Canon Law from Cardiff University’s School of Law & Politics. Archimandrite Aetios’ doctoral thesis is entitled: “The Creation of a System of Orthodox Canon Law: The Case of the Pedalion (1800).”

On the final evening of the Patriarchal Visit to the United Kingdom, the Archons hosted a farewell dinner in honor of His All-Holiness at the historic Cavalry and Guards Club in the heart of London, the Club of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pavlos.



National Commander Dr. Limberakis thanked His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pavlos, Vice President of King’s Trust International and eldest son of King Constantine and Queen Anne-Marie of Greece, for welcoming His All-Holiness and the other guests.



Patriarchal Visit to Sweden

Calls For 'Peace In A World That Hungers And Thirsts For Unity, Solidarity, And Integrity Like Never Before'



On August 21, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to began his Patriarchal visit to the Holy Metropolis of Sweden and to the Lutheran Church of Sweden, which invited His All-Holiness to participate in the centennial observance of Sweden's Ecumenical Week. His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia and the Most Reverend Martin Modéus, Archbishop of Uppsala and Primate of the Lutheran Church of Sweden greeted His All-Holiness, along with National Commander Limberakis and National Secretary Gus M. Pablecas.

His All-Holiness delivered a major address on August 22 at the

Ecumenical Celebration – Time for God's Peace at the Filadelfia Church in Stockholm, Sweden, on the crucial importance of unity among Christians of differing faith traditions.

"We owe it to our global community," His All-Holiness stated, "to be united in faith and action. We can only offer a credible witness when we stand together in prayerful invocation of God's peace that surpasses our understanding and achievements. These are the lessons that we have and learned from our participation in the Central and Executive Committees, as well as the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches."



On August 23, the Archons hosted a breakfast in honor of His All-Holiness in Stockholm, Sweden. His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas offered remarks, followed by National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Secretary Gus



(Kosmas) M. Pablecas, along with the Regional Commanders Gerry Ranglas and Isidoros Garifalakis.

That same day, in the presence of His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf and Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, along with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, His All-Holiness delivered a homily during an Ecumenical Prayer Service of the Lutheran Church's Ecumenical Celebration – Time for God's Peace. His All-Holiness pointed out that "unity and peace have been the fundamental and distinctive characteristics of the disciples of Jesus Christ

from the earliest apostolic times," and offered a prediction: "If our age will be remembered, it may well be for those who dedicated their lives to the cause of the unifying peace."

His All-Holiness also presided in chorostasia over the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy at Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Stockholm on August 24. Then he proceeded to Uppsala for the final Ecumenical Prayer Service of Ecumenical Week, a series of ecumenical anniversary celebrations commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the historic Stockholm Conference of 1925.



Archons Question White House Meeting With Russian Orthodox Clergy Who Are Lobbyists For Putin



The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate noted with dismay and regret that Russian Orthodox clergy who are boosters of Vladimir Putin's unjust, immoral and monstrous war against Ukraine were meeting with White House officials and Congressional leaders in Washington.

The Hill reported that "lobbyists and clergy with ties to the Russian Orthodox Church, which has been a staunch backer of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, are campaigning this week on Capitol Hill and meeting with the Trump administration." The AEP condemned this deceptive attempt to legitimize Russia's use of the Orthodox Church as an arm of its aggressive foreign policy.

The meeting sought to solicit an American blessing upon its misleading tactics, which result in the persecution of the Orthodox Christians in Ukraine. The AEP expressed our

heartfelt gratitude to U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) for calling attention to the fact that the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church is facing "increasing pressure and persecution in Ukraine."

Rep. Wilson declared: "The Russian Orthodox Church is not a separate religious organization but an extension of the Russian state. Evangelizing is illegal in Russia and Christians are targeted and killed in Ukraine. Members should not entertain this intelligence operation."

We were grateful that Rep. Wilson called attention to this deplorable situation, to which His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has called the world's attention for years.

When the Ecumenical Patriarch granted autocephaly (independence) to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine on January 6, 2019, a splinter group calling itself the Ukrainian Orthodox Church remained aligned

with the Moscow Patriarchate. That splinter group, an arm of the Moscow Patriarchate, is now targeting and killing members of the canonical Orthodox Church in Ukraine, targeting civilians in order to sow terror among the population and make them too frightened to join the canonical Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

Rep. Wilson rightly noted that the Russian Orthodox Church, including the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR) has been operating as an extension of the Russian state, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has criticized it for doing so on numerous occasions.

The Archons urged the Trump administration to cancel this meeting with what are essentially Russian state agents, and to stand in solidarity with the suffering Ukrainian people and the canonical Orthodox Church of Ukraine.



The Russian Orthodox Church is not a separate religious organization but an extension of the Russian state. Evangelizing is illegal in Russia and Christians are targeted and killed in Ukraine. Members should not entertain this intelligence operation."

—U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson (R. S.C.)

Reception and Dinner in Honor of His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine



In the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Archons hosted a reception and dinner on February 10, 2025 in honor of His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine, recipient of the 2019 Athenagoras Human Rights Award. This event, a key element of His Beatitude's Archpastoral Visit to the United States, was a notable tribute to the courage, tenacity, perseverance, and above all the faith of His Beatitude and the Ukrainian people.

That evening, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, far right, offered a historical overview, speaking about how Moscow's appropriation of the double-headed Byzantine eagle was a masquerade that was intended to delegitimize Constantinople.



Archons Condemn Criminal Russian Missile Attack On Ukrainian City Of Sumy On Palm Sunday



The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate condemn the shocking and horrific Russian missile attack on the Ukrainian city of Sumy on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025, which killed at least 34 people and injured well over a hundred more.

Russia, as an Orthodox Christian nation, should have spent Palm Sunday in prayer and worship, celebrating the Entry of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem and the beginning of Holy Week. Instead, it had the demonic audacity to launch missile

strikes on this holy day against a city in a brother Orthodox nation, against which it has been carrying out an unjustifiable and unprovoked war for over three years now.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has repeatedly condemned Russia's war against Ukraine, and has decried the fact that throughout this war, Russian hierarchs "gladly bless the sacred weapons, the murderous ones, against the Orthodox Ukrainians who defend the territorial integrity of their country."

On this Palm Sunday, those weapons even targeted an area near a church, turning one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Christian calendar into a day of fear and terror, with Orthodox worshipers, many of them advanced in years, fleeing in panic, while others' lives were snuffed out in the blasts.

The victims in Sumy were civilians. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said: "Only villains can act in this way, taking the lives of ordinary people."

Bulgarian Patriarch's Visit To The Ecumenical Patriarchate 'A Clear Expression of Mutual Respect'



Signaling a new, close bond between the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, His Beatitude Daniil, Metropolitan of Sofia and Patriarch of Bulgaria, traveled to the Phanar, the Sacred Center of Orthodox Christianity, in what was his first official visit following his election and enthronement on the Throne of the Patriarchate of Bulgaria. This important visit included joint services, brotherly meetings, and events of significant ecclesiastical and historical sites, and was marked by a spirit of understanding, dialogue, and unity.

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniil arrived at the Phanar on the Feast Day of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, December 25, 2025, and departed on December 28.

After concelebrating the Divine Liturgy with Patriarch Daniil on December 26, at the Patriarchal Church of St George in the Phanar, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew emphasized that "the sacred bonds between the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Bulgarian people are, as is well known, ancient, reaching back to the ninth century and to the illustrious Patriarchal tenure of the eminent



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Beatitude Patriarch Daniil of Bulgaria, during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Ecumenical Patriarch Saint Photios the Great, who demonstrated particular and tangible concern for the Christianization of the Slavic nations."

His All-Holiness continued: "At that time, the ruler of the Bulgarians, Boris, having been baptized and having received the name Michael, became a spiritual child of Saint Photios, who addressed him as 'his most illustrious and beloved son, the noble and genuine offspring of his own spiritual travail.' These very words of Patriarch Photios to Boris-

Michael may likewise be spoken, with rightful pride, by the Church of Constantinople to the entire devout people of Bulgaria."

The Ecumenical Patriarch noted that relations between the two Churches had not always been free of difficulties: "Indeed, there have been, at times, through envy and the connivance of the evil one, turbulent fluctuations in our inter-ecclesiastical relations, always profoundly painful and most often attributable to extra-ecclesiastical factors and interventions. Yet the

prism of love in Christ has in no way been diminished, and our spiritual bond has never been severed. 'We are members one of another,' inseparably and indivisibly united in our common Faith and confession, in our shared experience of the Holy Spirit, and in the common hope of eternal life and salvation in Christ."

"It was a joy to be in communion with distinguished hierarchs and metropolitans of the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, whom we have known for a long time and with whom we maintain friendly relations," the Ecumenical Patriarch added.

In his own address, His Beatitude stressed the unbreakable bond between the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Patriarchate of Bulgaria: "Your All-Holiness," he said, "Allow me, in conclusion, to once again assure you, personally and on behalf of the Hierarchy, the sacred clergy, and the faithful people of God of the Patriarchate of Bulgaria, of our brotherly love and our profound respect for you, as well as for the venerable Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople entrusted to you. From the depths of our hearts, we wish you steadfast health, strength granted by God, and apostolic zeal in your ministry." He added: "Glory and gratitude be to God for this fra-



His Beatitude Patriarch Daniil of Bulgaria and his delegation, arriving at the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

ternal communication and for the opportunity for this peaceful visit to take place."

His Eminence Metropolitan Ioan of Varna described the visit as "a clear expression of mutual respect," and stated: "It was such a beautiful outcome of the decision of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria and the kind invitation of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, that the first official visit of Patriarch Daniil to the Mother Church, the Archdiocese of Constantinople, could take place."

Archon Boris Gurov, who was present for the visit, observed that "history was made at

the Phanar when His All-Holiness warmly welcomed His Beatitude Patriarch Daniil. This visit manifested the unity of the Holy Orthodox Church, and the maternal care that the Holy Mother Church has for all of the Orthodox Churches of the region, and of the world at large." Archon Gurov's beloved wife Youlianna added: "Those of us who were present received an immense blessing. The fraternal bond between these two holy hierarchs was an inspiration to all of us to persevere in love and pursue reconciliation with all people."



Archon Boris Gurov, and his wife Youlianna, pictured with His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, were instrumental during the Archon Religious Freedom Mission to Bulgaria, June 2022.

After the official welcome Patriarch Daniil honored, on behalf of the Holy Synod of the Church of Bulgaria, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with the Order of "St. John of Rila" 1st degree for his merits in overcoming the Bulgarian ecclesiastical schism in 1998.

Ecumenical Patriarch And Patriarch Daniel Of Romania Lead Consecration Of Romanian National Cathedral



On October 26, in Bucharest, Romania, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania consecrated the stunning new mosaic iconography of Romania's National Cathedral.

His All-Holiness was in Romania to commemorate the centenary of the Romanian Patriarchate, as well as the 140th anniversary of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's granting of autocephaly to the Romanian Orthodox Church.



Alexandrian Foundation Honors Ecumenical Patriarch In Bucharest



During the Apostolic Visit of His All-Holiness to Romania, Antonio Salameh, Chairman of the Alexandrian Foundation, presented a special award to His All-Holiness for his promotion of peace and spiritual unity.

The Alexandrian Foundation is a Romania-based humanitarian organization that was founded by Archon Dr. Nawaf Salameh of blessed memory. The award presentation took place at the JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel on Sunday, October 26, 2025.

Among those present were His Eminence Metropolitan Emanuel, Geron of Chalcedon, as well as His Eminence Nifon, Archbishop of Târgoviște, Honorary Metropolitan and Patriarchal Exarch, who gave an address.

The Ecumenical Patriarch also honored the memory of the late Archon Dr. Nawaf Mtanios Salameh, saying: "Our only comfort in this bereavement was that his falling asleep in the Lord occurred on the very day of the Holy Pascha, when the gates of the Heavenly



Spheres were wide open to receive his blessed soul." His All-Holiness added that Archon Dr. Salameh was "a man for all seasons," full of "discretion, circumspection, and foresight."

Archons Condemn Israel's 'Freeze' Of Bank Accounts Of Greek Orthodox Patriarchate Of Jerusalem



The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP) unequivocally condemn the Jerusalem Municipal Authority's move to "freeze" all bank accounts belonging to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem. This reckless and ill-advised decision means that the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate cannot pay the salaries of its clergy, teachers and staff, severely undermining its ability to carry out its sacred mission.

The decision to freeze the Patriarchate's bank accounts comes in the context of a long-standing Israeli property tax. Historically, churches in the Holy Land have never paid either municipal or government taxes on their properties; this held true for centuries, throughout the periods

of Ottoman, British, Jordanian and Israeli rule over Jerusalem.

However, the Jerusalem municipality decided in 2018 that the tax exemption for churches applied only to properties that were being used "for prayer, for the teaching of religion or for needs arising from it." This left unprotected numerous properties that the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and other Church organizations owned, including guest houses and cafés for pilgrims. The Jerusalem municipality began attempting to collect tens of millions of shekels in taxes from the Patriarchate and other ecclesiastical entities.

In 2018, Jerusalem's then-mayor, Nir Barkat, froze the bank accounts of several Jerusalem churches. In protest, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem, along

with Armenian Patriarch Manougian and Custos of the Holy Land Fra Francesco Patton, closed the venerable Church of the Holy Sepulchre for three days. The controversy only ended when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intervened directly and the municipality backed down. The Archons call upon Prime Minister Netanyahu to intervene again and end this dispute once and for all, protecting the religious freedom of all people in Jerusalem.

His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos' group, Protecting Holy Land Christians, stated: "As religious institutions, churches play vital roles in maintaining educational, welfare and charitable institutions that serve the local population, Christian or otherwise."

The Power of PRESENCE

Several important events throughout the year occurred that required representation.

Archon Leadership Plays Prominent Role In Presidential Inauguration Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. | From January 17 to 19, 2025, the leadership of the Archons hosted and attended a series of celebratory events in Washington, D.C. leading up to Inauguration Day, Monday, January 20.

Archon leadership hosted a luncheon with Archon John Gountanis, former Department of Homeland Security Acting Chief of Staff; Archon James G. Rockas, Deputy Undersecretary of Commerce for Industry and Security, Alexandra Veletsis, Director of the White House Visitors Center, and her fiancé, Matthew Guarino; Christos Marafatsos of the Trump transition team and his wife attorney Andrea Marafatsos, Dr. Dimitri Sigounas, leading neurosurgeon at George Washington University School of Medicine, and his wife, Viviana and other Greek American leaders.



Additionally, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and key US policymakers were in attendance at a dinner hosted by the Archons.

On January 17, the Archons hosted a dinner, below, in Washington, D.C. as part of a series of events recognizing the Presidential Inauguration. Along with Archon leadership, others attending the dinner included Archon Dr. Andrew and

Georgia Ekonomou, Federal Judge Gregory Katsas and Federal Judge Eleni Roumel and Andrew Olmem, former Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Deputy Director of the White House National Economic Council. Dr. Maria A. Limberakis, below middle, offers a champagne toast to her beloved husband, on the occasion of his nameday—St. Anthony the Great.



Archon Sisson Travels To Warsaw, Poland For OSCE Conference

WARSAW, POLAND | At the annual Warsaw Human Dimension Conference of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on October 13, 2025, Archon Rocky Sisson, Archon Prepositos, spoke forcefully about how the Christian population of Turkey is facing elimination while the world stands idly by.

Archon Sisson spoke at the sixth Plenary Session, which was entitled “Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: Addressing racism, xenophobia and discrimination, anti-Semitism and tolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims, and members of other religions.” In his remarks, Archon Sisson detailed the actions of the Turkish government toward the Ecumenical Patriarchate that violate universally accepted standards of human rights. He declared that “Accompanying the now near-total eradication of the Greek



Archon Rocky Sisson addressed the OSCE's annual Warsaw Human Dimension Conference—Europe's largest annual human rights and democracy conference.

Orthodox community of Turkey has been a consistent record of legal and institutional discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the spiritual center of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians.”

Archon Sisson added: “The

Turkish government's goal is clear: it is trying to squeeze the life out of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and completely eliminate the indigenous people of Asia Minor, the Hellenic community, which has been present there for millennia, long predating the Turkish presence.”

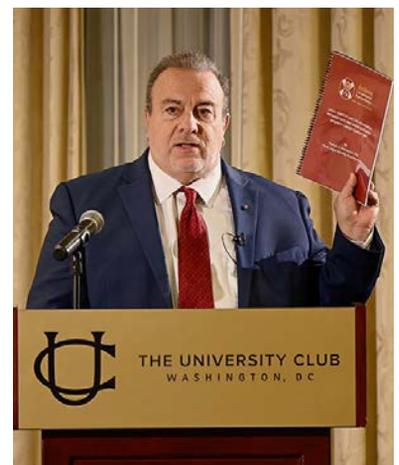
Forum On Safeguarding The Ecumenical Patriarchate Under Turkish Law And The Critical Importance Of Legal Identity

WASHINGTON, D.C. | On November 6, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Committee (PPL) held a landmark forum on the critical need for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey to gain legal identity under Turkish law for its future preservation.

The two speakers were the Hon. Senior Judge Delissa A. Ridgway of the U.S. Court of International Trade and Archon George S. Kounoupis, Esq., Chair of the Legal Identity Subcommittee of the PPL. Judge Ridgway and Archon Kounoupis

delivered a highly informative and powerful presentation which highlighted the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey. They also provided a well-reasoned legal analysis of why it is so important for the Ecumenical Patriarchate to have legal identity under Turkish law, and provided possible actions that might be taken by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to obtain such legal identity.

The event was held at the prestigious University Club in Washington, D.C



Archon George S. Kounoupis, Esq.

Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat Takes Place in Two Cities

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate hosted the John Halecky Jr. 21st Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat on the West Coast for the first time on Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29, 2025 at St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church in Pasadena, California.

At the Inaugural West Coast Lenten Retreat, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos provided outstanding pastoral guidance. Father Stavros Akrotirianakis provided wisdom and insight in his capacity as the Retreat Master, as he will also at the East Coast Retreat. Father Stavros spoke on the topic, "Renewing Our Call to Be Disciples: Understanding Who We Are Called

to Be and Recommitting Ourselves to Our Sacred Charge." His deeply spiritual and enlightening presentation won considerable acclaim from attendees.

The West Coast Retreat was the result of excellent planning and execution on the part of the local committee headed by Southern California Regional Commanders Archon Hon. Steven and Stacia Counelis; Archon Theodore and Jeri Konopisos; and Archon Gerry and Jeannie Ranglas. Father Peter Stratos gave generously of his time in serving as Retreat Pastor.

The East Coast Archon Lenten Retreat was held on April 4-5, 2025 at Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Southampton, NY.



Father Stavros Akrotirianakis of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, FL served as the Retreat Master for both West and East Coast.

Hosting the retreat was the Archons' Spiritual Advisor, the Rev. Protopresbyter Alexander Karloutsos, and Father Constantine Lazarakis, who served as Retreat Pastors.



Archon Religious Freedom Symposium At University Of South Carolina



COLUMBIA, SC | His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America addressed a Religious Freedom Symposium, "God Created Us to Live In Harmony (Romans 12:16)." This symposium, presented by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was held on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

Other featured speakers included His Eminence Cardinal Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States from the Holy See of Rome; the Reverend Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace, Ordained Pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church; and National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis.

The organizers of the symposium were Archons Steve Trakas, Dr. Terry Sarantou and Drew Theodore; the moderators were Archon Professor Aristotle "Telly" Papanikolaou, Professor of Theology and Archbishop Demetrios Chair in Orthodox Theology and



Symposium Organizers

Profound gratitude is expressed to an exceptional Archon team of leaders, Archons Drew Theodore, Steve Trakas and Dr. Terry Sarantou, who were instrumental in all planning aspects for the Symposium.

Culture and Co-founding Director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University; and Professor Elizabeth Prodromou, Professor of the International Studies Program at Boston College and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow of the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center. Archons throughout the east coast were in attendance.

The symposium's mission was to look through the lens of the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant faith teachings to better understand how our loving God has protected His flock and the issues facing Christians today.

Archons Spearhead Religious Freedom Proclamation In New Hampshire State Senate

CONCORD, NH | On Thursday, May 15, 2025, New Hampshire State Senator Denise Ricciardi (R-Bedford) made a speech in the New Hampshire State Senate, urging the state body to adopt a Proclamation for Religious Freedom. Spearheading this all-important initiative was Archon Christos Chrisafides.

The Proclamation, signed by Ricciardi and 22 other New Hampshire state senators, recognizes the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the spiritual leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, and calls out the denial of religious freedom by the Turkish government in modern-day Turkey, where the Ecumenical Patriarchate has been located since the dawn of Christianity two thousand years ago.

The Proclamation observes that "the Turkish government's current treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is inconsistent with the membership conditions and goals of the European Union," and that "Orthodox Christians in this state and throughout the United States stand to lose their spiritual leader because of the continued actions of the Turkish government." It calls upon the Turkish government to "uphold and safeguard religious and human rights without compromise," and to "cease its discrimination" against the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston with Regional Commander Constantine Sideridis and Archon Christos Chrisafides, who was instrumental in spearheading the initiative, along with other supporters.



A religious freedom proclamation is read on the floor by New Hampshire Senator Denise Ricciardi.

"This is a very significant accomplishment for us," said Archon Christos Chrisafides. "We are grateful to Senator Ricciardi and Dick Anagnost for orchestrating and executing today's historical event, and to Congressman Pappas for lending his support. We are all grateful for this opportunity to serve and defend our Holy Mother Church of Constantinople."

"As a member of the Greek Orthodox church," said Senator Ricciardi before the event, "I'm extremely proud to be delivering remarks at the Proclamation of Religious Freedom." She expressed her gratitude at having an opportunity to "stand for dignity, human rights, and the freedom for people of all faiths to practice their religion without fear of discrimination!"



Presentation on the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Property Rights in Turkey

NEW YORK, NY | On April 23, 2025 at Kyma Flatiron in New York City, the Archons of the Direct Archdiocesan District and Northern New Jersey offered a unique and informative presentation on the Ecumenical Patriarchate's struggle to secure property rights in Turkey. Along with the Hellenic Lawyers Association, which co-sponsored the event, the AEP offered an illuminating perspective on the Ecumenical Patriarchate's efforts to deal with continuing Turkish government encroachment on historic properties of the Church.

The featured speaker, Archon Anastasios (Tassos) Efstratiades, Esq., then gave the presentation "Ownership of Patriarchal Properties through the Turkish System of Foundations: A Historical Perspective and Recent Developments."



Archon Velivasakis Delivers Message For Religious Freedom At World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association's General Assembly

ATHENS, GREECE | The issue of religious freedom was a primary focus of discussion at the 15th General Assembly of the World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (PADEE-WHIA), which was held on July 23, 2025 in the Senate Hall of the Hellenic Parliament in Athens. The Association unanimously adopted a resolution condemning governments and regimes around the world that violate this fundamental freedom. Playing a pivotal role in the proceedings was Archon Manolis Velivasakis, who delivered a major speech on the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the importance of safeguarding its rights. Also present was Archon George Zapantis.

Archon Velivasakis, a FOUNDER of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, delivered a magnificent example of



what it means to give of one's time, talent and treasure as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He gave an in-depth presentation on the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the existential issues it faces under Turkey's author-

itarian regime. On the Patriarchate of Alexandria and the severe challenges posed by illegal takeovers of its communities, churches, and schools in Africa by the Russian Church, Archbishop Ioannis of Zambia and Mozambique delivered a statement.

POD Makes Another Successful Pilgrimage To Constantinople; Ecumenical Patriarch Expresses Gratitude To Archons

ISTANBUL, TURKEY | The 2025 Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD), an annual program of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, completed another successful pilgrimage to Constantinople with 16 young adults from across the United States.

The young adults were selected from a large number of applicants to participate in the pilgrimage, which took place from August 1-8 and included visits to many important spiritual sites and a special audience with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

The Ecumenical Patriarch addressed the young adults in an inspiring speech, saying: "Your presence here, as part of the commendable initiative known as the Pilgrimage of Discovery, brings light and consolation to our hearts. For in you, we behold the luminous faces of our future: faithful and professional young men and women who seek Christ, not only in the quietude of



personal prayer, but within the living and life-giving tradition of His Holy Church."

The Ecumenical Patriarch also expressed his appreciation to the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for the POD program, and beautifully described the profound impact of the program, which demonstrates that the POD's mission is being fulfilled.

"We are profoundly grateful to the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate," said the Ecumenical Patriarch, "for their steadfast support of this visionary program. Through their labors and your openness of heart, a bridge is being built linking generations, cultures, and continents through the living experience of Orthodoxy."

Archons Support Boston's Homeless

BOSTON, MA | Regional Commander Costa Sideridis of the Metropolis of Boston and Mike Tzerakis deliver 2400 pairs of socks to the Pine Street Inn located in Boston. The organization is the largest homeless services provider in New England.



Philadelphia Archon Symposium Illuminates The Importance Of The Council Of Nicaea For Today

PHILADELPHIA, PA | “Nicaea Then and Now,” a groundbreaking Archon Symposium, was held on November 15, at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia. The Symposium took participants into the world of the First Ecumenical Council, the Council of Nicaea, and illuminated that Council’s continuing importance for Orthodox Christians, as well as Christians of other faith traditions, even today.

After welcoming remarks from His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, Regional

Commander Dr. Cary J. Limberakis, who organized the Symposium along with the Archons of the Metropolis of New Jersey, explained the central importance of the Council of Nicaea for all Christians. Dr. Cary Limberakis discussed how the Council defined the core beliefs in the Holy Trinity and the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ that all the faithful hold to this day, as well as setting a common date for the celebration of Easter.

Speakers included Archon Anastasios “Tom” Papademetriou, PhD, Professor of Greek History

and Director of the Dean and Zoe Pappas Center for Hellenic Studies at Stockton University in Galloway, New Jersey; Archon Dr. George E. Demacopoulos, the Fr. John Meyendorff & Patterson Family Chair of Orthodox Christian Studies at Fordham University and Co-Director of Fordham’s Orthodox Christian Studies Center; and Dr. Edward Sicienski, Professor of Religion and Clement and Helen Pappas Professor of Byzantine Civilization and Religion.



Anastasios “Tom” Papademetriou, PhD



His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberaki and symposium organizer Regional Commander Dr. Cary J. Limberakis.



Prof. George E. Demacopoulos



HONORS & 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.

Archons among those honored with The Medal of Saint Paul

WASHINGTON, D.C. | His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros presented the Medal of Saint Paul, the highest honor for a layperson in the Greek Orthodox Church, to Archon John Catsimatidis; Deputy US Secretary of State-designate Michael Rigas; White House Science & Technology Director-designate Michael Kratsios; Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-New York); and Lt. Governor Anthony. Special guests and hosts included U.S. Ambassador to Greece-designate Kimberly Guilfoyle, as well as Archons Catsimatidis, Michael Psaros, John Georges, John Payiavlas, and Savas Tsvicos.



Archons Michael Kratsios and James Rockas Appointed Positions in the Trump Administration

WASHINGTON, D.C. | President Donald Trump announced his appointment of Archon Michael J. Kratsios as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and Science Advisor to the President. In this Cabinet-level position, Archon Kratsios works on artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency.

Archon James G. Rockas was appointed to serve as Deputy Undersecretary of Commerce for Industry and Security in the Trump Administration. In this capacity, Archon Rockas leads the Bureau of Industry and Security's mission to advance U.S. national security, foreign policy, and economic growth.



Grand Ecclesiarch Aetios Successfully Defends His Doctoral Dissertation



CARDIFF, WALES | The Very Rev. Grand Ecclesiarch Aetios, Director of the Private Patriarchal Office, and devoted assistant to the Ecumenical Patriarch, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation with the highest distinction “without any corrections” and was granted a Ph.D. in Canon Law from Cardiff University’s School of Law & Politics. In celebration, the Archons hosted a luncheon, June 23, 2025, in Cardiff, Wales.

Archon Kyprianides Receives Medal Of Exceptional Service From President Of Cyprus



NICOSIA, CYPRUS | In the Presidential Palace in Nicosia, Cyprus on August 29, 2025, Archon Andreas Kyprianides received the Medal of Exceptional Service from Nikos Christodoulides, the President of the Republic of Cyprus. Archon Kyprianides received this honor in view of his many decades of devoted and multifaceted service to Cyprus, the Cypriot diaspora, and Hellenism in General.

USC President Dr. Amiridis becomes invested as an Archon



COLUMBIA, SC | Coinciding with a Religious Freedom Symposium at University of South Carolina in March 2025, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America invested Dr. Michael D. Amiridis, President of the University of South Carolina, as an Archon. That evening, Archon Dr. Amiridis, along with university First Lady Ero Aggelopoulou-Amiridis, hosted a reception and dinner at the official presidential residence on campus for Symposium panelists, moderators and Archons.

Archon Religious Freedom Symposium Day



COLUMBIA, SC | Archon Hon. Nick Theodore, the 85th Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina from 1987 to 1995 presented an official Proclamation issued by Henry Dargan McMaster, the Governor of South Carolina proclaiming March 22, 2025 as Archon Religious Freedom Symposium Day, during the Symposium at the University of South Carolina.

Ecumenical Patriarch Elevates Fr. Alex, Archon Spiritual Advisor, To Grand Protopresbyter Of The Holy And Great Church Of Christ

SOUTHAMPTON, NY | On September 21, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew celebrated the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Southampton, New York. The Patriarchal Divine Liturgy took place during His All-Holiness' Apostolic Visit to the United States, which included numerous activities in Washington, D.C. and New York City before the Ecumenical Patriarch traveled to Southampton.

After the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy, His All-Holiness elevated Dormition church to the status of cathedral, as he conferred the title Grand Protopresbyter of the Holy and Great Church of Christ upon the Spiritual Advisor the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Father Alexander Karloutsos. Father Alex was instrumental in the expansion of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Cathedral.



Hellenic College Holy Cross Awards Honorary Doctorate To Father Alex

BROOKLINE, MA | Father Alex received an Honorary Doctorate degree from his alma mater Hellenic College / Holy Cross School of Theology at the 83rd commencement ceremony on May 17, 2025.

Father Alex's service as Spiritual Advisor of the Archons has been indispensable. He was instrumental in the creation of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, a watershed initiative of the Archons to ensure that the Ecumenical Patriarch can perform his worldwide spiritual mission in perpetuity. Father Alex and Presbytera Xanthi also received the Athenagoras Human Rights Award in 2018.



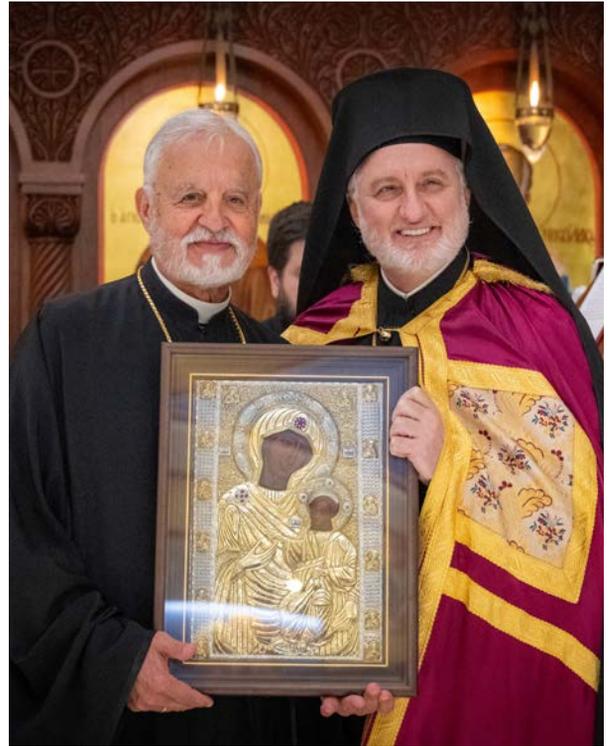
Archbishop Elpidophoros, and Archons, Pay Tribute To Father Alex On The Occasion Of His 80th Birthday

SOUTHAMPTON, NY | His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America offered praise and gratitude to Father Alexander Karloutsos, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Spiritual Advisor of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

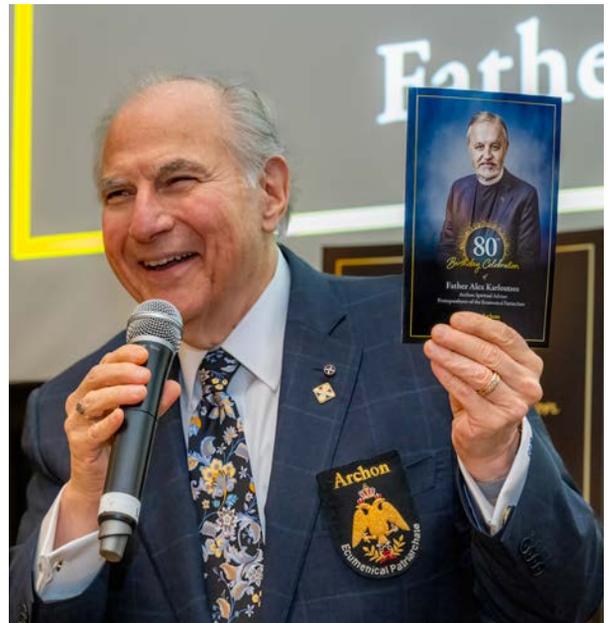
His Eminence called attention to Father Alex's remarkable energy, expressing wonder that Father Alex could actually be turning 80 on April 5, 2025 when he was still so active and tireless in service to the Church. His Eminence also expressed his gratitude for the fact that Father Alex has continued to share his remarkable talents with the Archdiocese of America even after his official retirement.

Father Alex has loved the Church, His Eminence explained, with an intensity and devotion that is worthy of a true child of God. "You have conducted yourself," His Eminence said to Father Alex, "with the highest values of the priesthood."

On the evening of April 5, Archons and friends had the opportunity to deliver Father Alex best wishes during a special reception and dinner held in his honor.



Archon Michael Karloutsos, Presbytera Anastasia Lazarakis and Olga Karloutsos, top, offer reflections. Archon Jim Speros, above, presents a celebratory t-shirt to Father Alex.



National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis holds a commemorative book on Fr Alex's life and ministry, prepared to mark the occasion.

Archon National Commander And AEP Honored At Boston Red Sox's 2025 Greek Heritage Night



BOSTON, MA | As baseball's Boston Red Sox prepared to square off against the Tampa Bay Rays on the evening of June 10, 2025 at Boston's storied Fenway Park, the Alpha Omega Council of Boston teamed up with the Red Sox to host its annual Greek Heritage Night.

Over 3,000 Greek Americans came out to Fenway Park to celebrate Hellenism; among them were Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP), who was named as a "special honoree";

the Regional Commanders for the Metropolis of Boston, Archons James Speros and Constantine Sideridis; and Boston-area Archon Christos Chrisafides, who served as Chairperson of the event. Along with Chairperson Archon Chrisafides, and Archon Costa Sideridis, the Alpha Omega Council Greek Heritage Night's planning committee includes Archon Tom Gatzunis.

The announcement went out over the stadium as the Limberakis family stood on the field: "Tonight we honor the Archons of the



Ecumenical Patriarchate. Please welcome our very special honoree and a few guests – the National Commander of the Archons and a renowned radiologist, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, along with his family members, son John Limberakis and his spouse, Dr. Danielle Tyree; and grandsons of Dr. Limberakis, Anthony and Felix Limberakis."

Archon Theo Nicolakis appointed Director of National Ministries for the Archdiocese of America

NEW YORK, NY | His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros chose Archon Theo Nicolakis to be his new Director of National Ministries for the Holy Archdiocese of America.

This position has been vacant for a quarter of a century. The appointment of Archon Theo to this position demonstrates the relentless

dedication of the AEP to fulfilling our mission of supporting and defending our Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church worldwide.

Archon Nicolakis is a graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He was invested as Archon in 2011 and conferred with the offikion Kastrinsios.



ARCHON SUNDAY

Archon Sprout Program Reaches More Students

Surrounding the feastday of Saint Andrew, parishes throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America commemorated the indefatigable work of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to support and defend the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople on the annual National Archon Sunday, which has been established by unanimous decision of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Sacred Archdiocese of America.

Additionally, Orthodox Christian children throughout many parishes were introduced to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and to the challenges that His All-Holiness and the Church of Constantinople face today, with the Archon Sprout Program. The Archon Sprout Program, an initiative of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to raise awareness about and love for our Ecumenical Patriarchate, is an age-specific and grade-specific program that covers every grade level from preschool to high school with a pre-prepared curriculum.

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte, NC

Thirteen Sunday School classes with over 600 children in the Catechism School, learned about the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



All Saints Church, Peoria, IL

Archon Frank Lagouros with Sunday School students



Annunciation Church, Elkins Park, PA

Elizabeth L. Limberakis Alone teaching Sunday School students.





St. Paul Church, Hempstead, NY

Fathers Flavianos Karianakis and Demetrios Kazakis with Archons Dr. Paul Kymissis, George K. Lavas, William C. Kallinikos and Regional Commander John Kassimatis.



Archangel Michael Church, Port Washington, NY

Fathers Alex Gratsias and John Lardas with Archons Stephen Seremetis, Gus Rogdakis, Nick Papain, Peter Gerazounis and Jim Ziozis



Annunciation Church, Elkins Park, PA

National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis with his son, Anthony C. Limberakis, Archons Apostolos Fisis, Fr. John L. Johns, Craig Godshall and Peter J. Gouris.



Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA

Archons John Harbilas, George Spanos, and Nick Theofanis



St. Sophia/Ss. Faith Hope & Agape Church, Valley Forge, PA

Archons George Reganis, Thomas Cox, Alexander Nikas, Anthony Pantazopoulos, and Dr. Peter Zavitsanos.



St. Sophia Cathedral, Miami, FL

Father Gustavo with Regional Commander John C. Scurtis, and Archons Alexander Haralambides and Nicholas Patricios.



St. Andrew Church, Chicago, IL

Archons Constantinos Zografopoulos, Paul G. Loupakos, Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos, Consul General of Greece in Chicago Emmanuel Koubarakis, Rev. Fr. Kosmas Kallis, Rev. Fr. Chrysanthos Kerkeres, Archon Alexander Gianaras, Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Johnson, Archons Hon. Jeffery Chrones and James Nickolas, Esq.



Holy Cross Church, Whitestone, NY

Above, Sunday School Students learn about His All-Holiness



All parishes are urged to take time to acknowledge the Archons of the Great Church of Christ, and to take full advantage of the many initiatives of the Order of Saint Andrew. As children of the Mother Church of Constantinople, we all – Archon or no – have a responsibility to Her and Her spiritual mission, to share the Gospel of the Messiah, Who was found first by Saint Andrew, with all our brothers and sisters.”

–Excerpt taken from the Encyclical of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America for Archon Sunday



Archon DIAKONIA MINISTRIES

The mission of the Archon Diakonia Ministries is to provide meaningful opportunities for all Archons to participate in the active and ongoing defense of the Ecumenical Patriarchate across a wide range of fields. Divided into several, subject matter specific subcommittees, the Archon Diakonia Ministries are designed to encourage participating Archons to develop original initiatives for consideration of inclusion in the national policy of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Academia Symposia Diakonia

Communications Diakonia

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation

Editorial Publication Diakonia

Federal and State Governmental Affairs Diakonia

International Archons Diakonia

Metropolis and Parish Education Diakonia

Patriarchal Green Initiatives Diakonia

Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Diakonia

Youth Participation Activities Diakonia

Technology Diakonia

Women in Orthodoxy



Academia Symposia Diakonia

This diakonia 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.

On September 14, 2025, the Academia Symposia Diakonia presented a Webinar panel discussion on The Legacy of the Council of Nicaea on its 1700th Anniversary “Sponsor and Moderator, Louis Katsos.

On May 11, 2025, the Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Diakonia and the Academia Symposia Diakonia of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate presented an educational seminar: “The Ecumenical

Patriarchate: An Overview of Legal Personality in Türkiye (Turkey) and the Preservation of Greek Community Properties.”

On February 2, 2025, the Academia Symposia Diakonia, held an educational webinar, Archiving and Translating Ottoman Historic Documents at Mount Athos, The Holy Mountain. Sponsor and Moderator: Louis Katsos who also participated in the Webinar.

Chair

George P. Zimmar, PhD

Vice Chair

Stamatios V. Kartalopoulos, PhD



Communications Diakonia

The mission of the diakonia 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.

- Produced an ongoing series of long-form weekly articles designed to shine a brighter light on the Patriarchate and HAH’s activities and positions.
- Provided extensive coverage of AEP and Patriarchal news on a variety of social media platforms and partnered with GOA to broaden our reach in their channels.
- Maintained the Archon website with significant news, information and photographic coverage of key events and activities leveraging John Mindala.
- Provided daily coverage throughout HAH’s recent visit to the U.S. with over 20 press releases covering high profile events including HAH’s visit to the Oval Office, the awarding of the Templeton Prize, elevation of Fr. Alex to Megas Protopresbyter, speeches given at various key events, etc.
- Coordinated with the Metropolis & Parish Education Engagement Diakonia creating two scripts for use on Archon Sunday on November 23rd. The scripts ensure consistency and accuracy in our messaging.
- Adopted Dash Social as platform to facilitate greater ease/flexibility in posting material and tracking the results of our social media activity which has shown consistent growth in engagement - especially during HAH’s visit to the U.S.
- Live stream equipment has been specified, purchased and temporarily installed at the Patriarchate. Final high-quality set-up is contingent on Turkish fiber optic provider’s facility upgrade. When completed, cameras will be calibrated for launch. Date TBD.

Chair

Franklin (Rocky) Sisson

Vice Chair

Theodore H. Vagelos



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation

Chair
Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis
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.

As of October 3, 2025, the total Foundation assets are over \$31 million, exclusively earmarked to support the work and sacred mission of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

There are 17 parishes out of some 500 of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America who are FOUNDERS

The report of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Diakonia Ministry is as follows:

There are 269 FOUNDERS (previously 258 on July 14, 2025) of which

87 are fulfilled (previously 86 on July 14, 2025)

The total amount pledged is \$29.2 Million.

It is critically important that we all do what we can within our means to provide the economic support necessary for the needs and ministries of the Ecumenical Patriarchate – especially given the intense religious persecution faced by the Holy Mother Church in Constantinople and Christians around the world.

Latest list of FOUNDERS: bartholomew.foundation/foundingmembers

Latest list of Builders: bartholomew.foundation/builders



Editorial Publication Diakonia

Chair
George P. Vittas
Vice Chairs
George G. Demos, Esq.
George G. Horiates, Esq.

This diakonia 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.

The Editorial Publications Diakonia has revised its mission statement to clarify its role in identifying new issues to Archon Leadership, while continuing its supporting role to Archon Communications in the research and preparation of proposed responses, statements, and actions as determined by Executive Leadership. The Diakonia has recently worked closely with Archon Communications and Regional Commander Committee chairs to

prepare a public statement on the subject of the Republic of Turkey's exploitation of Orthodox Christian historical sites in promoting tourism while ignoring its history of Christian genocide and its continuing, insidious form of ethnic and religious cleansing as potentially the last stages of that genocide. The plight of Orthodox Christian citizens of Turkey must be acknowledged, and their rights guarded and guaranteed.



Federal and State Governmental Affairs Diakonia

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

New Hampshire is one of the few US States whose State Legislature has not yet passed a resolution supporting the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Archon Chris Chrisafides undertook a months-long, very sophisticated effort to pass such a resolution starting last year and into this year. Below is the culmination of these efforts.

On May 15, 2025, New Hampshire State Senator Denise Ricciardi (R-Bedford) made a speech in the New Hampshire State Senate, urging the state body to adopt a Proclamation for Religious Freedom. Spearheading this all-important initiative was Archon Christos Chrisafides.

The Proclamation, signed by Ricciardi and 22 other New Hampshire state senators, recognizes the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the spiritual leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians, and calls out the denial of religious freedom by the Turkish government in modern-day Turkey, where the Ecumenical Patriarchate has been located since

the dawn of Christianity two thousand years ago.

The Proclamation observes that "the Turkish government's current treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is inconsistent with the membership conditions and goals of the European Union," and that "Orthodox Christians in this state and throughout the United States stand to lose their spiritual leader because of the continued actions of the Turkish government." It calls upon the Turkish government to "uphold and safeguard religious and human rights without compromise," and to "cease its discrimination" against the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Chair
Mike A. Manatos

Vice Chair
Stephen A. Georgeson, Esq.



International Archons Diakonia

The critical task of this diakonia 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.

Committee Scope

The critical task of this committee is to help develop separate organiza-

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

The Religious Freedom Conference

With the resounding success of the Fourth International Archons Religious Freedom Conference and the First International Meeting of Archons in 2024, the committee remains steadfast and dedicated to

help promote a 5th conference at a future date.

International Meeting of Archons

Current efforts are underway for a meeting with our brother Archons in Canada for an event in 2026. This eventual meeting will be a product of the International Meetings of Archons in Athens as a goal of cultivating cooperation between Archons from across the globe and building a coalition to address the concerns of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. A second goal of the meeting will be to further educate and solicit sponsors for the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation (EPBF).

Chairs

George C. Rockas, Esq.
Constantine Sideridis

Vice Chairs

Harry G. Dimopoulos, PhD
Nicholas R. Larigakis



Metropolis and Parish Education Diakonia

Chair
Frank Boardman
Vice Chair
John Thibault

This diakonia 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 committee meets every third Monday of the month at 8 pm est.

Our committee has developed two scripts for Archon Sunday in November 2025. Both scripts have been reviewed and approved by the Executive Council.

Scripts for Archon Sunday

Script 1: Five Issues Talk

- a. Covers the basics - great introductory or first presentation
- b. Used in a community that has never had an Archon presentation
- c. Written by Robert Spencer
- d. 5-minute presentation

Script 2: Protecting the Holy Mother Church

- a. More advanced topics
- b. Covers the threats on our Ecumenical Patriarchate
- c. Covers what Archons are doing to protect the future of faith
- d. Written by Jim Speros
- e. Verified by Dr. George Demacopoulos
- f. 5-minute presentation

We will continue to monitor any political changes in regards to the EP in order to update our presentations

Our next initiative was to set a firm date for Archon Sunday for 2025.

Our proposal has been reviewed and is pending further approval by Archbishop Elpidoforos. The initiative is as follows: We would like to recommend that the Executive Council designate Sunday, November 23, 2025 as Archon Sunday for the following reasons:

St. Andrew day falls on Sunday, Nov. 30, which coincides with Thanksgiving weekend—a time of historically low church attendance

The new Pope of Rome is scheduled to visit HAH for the Feast of St. Andrew. Celebrating the week prior would allow us to announce this

Establishing a set date promotes a consistent and unified Archon presence



Patriarchal Green Initiatives Diakonia

Chair
John Harbilas

Vice Chair
George J. Spanos

This diakonia 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).

There have been a number of events this year allowing us to connect the Orthodox Faithful to create awareness of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as the “Green Patriarch”

1. His All-Holiness Ecumenical

Patriarch Bartholomew has been named the Templeton Prize Laureate for 2025 which “honors individuals whose exemplary achievements advance Sir John Templeton’s philanthropic vision: harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind’s place and purpose within it.” The announcement and receipt of this award gives us significant opportunity to raise awareness. The communications committee has primary responsibility and has done a great job using their Social Media platform.

2. Release of his annual encyclical on September 1, the day of pro-

tection of our natural environment. We have requested that all Archons circulate this encyclical in as many local forums as possible – reading it from the Solea, distributing it as an insert to Sunday Bulletins and Monthly Newsletters, and inclusion in the parish’s Social Media Page.

3. We have discussed with the Sprout team the need to have age-appropriate lessons about the Green Patriarch that could be presented in September, coinciding with the day of protection of our natural environment.

4. We continue work on a national contest built around the previous work of Greening the Parish



Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Diakonia

Chair
Joseph J. Kokolakis, Esq.

Vice Chair
Theodore M. Kakoyiannis, Esq.

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

1. “Legal Identity” Subcommittee Chair Kounoupis has completed a draft of the “White Paper” on the Legal Personality of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Subcommittee Chair

Kounoupis is coordinating with Archon Lakis Vingas and Archon Paris Asanakis. Subcommittee Chair Kounoupis is currently updating the draft with recent caselaw.

2. Subcommittee Chair Kounoupis attended the Annual America Bar Association International Law Conference in Washington DC from April 28-May 1, 2025. Archon Kounoupis met with colleagues and

members of the International Bar to discuss legal issues impacting the Ecumenical Patriarchate and prepare for his November 6, 2025 presentation in Washington D.C.

3. On April 23, 2025, PPC Committee Members and Archdiocesan District Regional Commanders Nikiforos Mathews and Mike Neamonitakis (jointly sponsored by the Hellenic Lawyers Association

and the Archdiocesan and Northern New Jersey Archons) held a presentation with the featured speaker being Subcommittee Chair Tassos Efstratiades. Entitled, *Ownership of Patriarchal Properties through the Turkish System of Foundations: A Historical Perspective and Recent Developments*. The event was well attended (approximately 75 attendees) and provided much needed insight and education regarding the status of Patriarchal Properties.

4. PPC Committee Members and Regional Commanders Dr. Ted Vlahos and Mike Neamonitakis, along with Committee Chair Kokolakis, attended Religious Freedom Symposium held at the University of South Carolina on March 22, 2025. It was a spectacular and informative weekend. Conference organizers Archons Drew Theodore, Steve Trakas and Dr. Terry Sarantou should be commended for their efforts.

5. Archon Andrew Eliopoulos recommended that we reach out and coordinate efforts with the Armenian Orthodox community. The Los Angeles area is home to the largest concentrations of Armenians in the United States. Our interests align with many issues and collaboration can help further our singular mission to protect the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The possibility of developing a West Coast presentation on joint issues and communality with the Armenian plight could be productive.

6. PPC Committee Co-Chair Kakoyiannis coordinating a Zoom conference with two NYS legislators, Andrew Gounardes who is a member of the NY State Senate, and Michael Tannousis, who is a member of the NY State Assembly. Both are willing

to support our efforts to educate and mobilize our State and Federal leaders. They emphasized the need for a concise and easy to read "white paper" that clearly lays out the issues impacting the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The legislators advised that the paper should include a "call to action" with a well-defined "ask" for them to get behind and solicit support from their fellow politicians. Both Legislators also recommended that we coordinate our efforts with other established organizations such as: The Hellenic American Leadership Council, and The Saint Andrew's Freedom Forum

7. PaDEE-WHIA Conference July 22-23, 2025, Athens, Greece. "Political Initiatives" Subcommittee Chair Archon Emmanuel Velivasakis attended and presented his paper, "A String Message for Religious Freedom" at the 15th General Assembly Of The World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association (Pa.D.E.E. – W.H.I.P.A.) and the Hellenic Parliament on July 22-23, 2025, Athens, Greece. Archon Velivasakis submitted a resolution on the Ecumenical Patriarchate Resolution that was unanimously adopted by the Assembly.

8. "Legal Identity" Subcommittee Chair, Archon George Kounoupis and committee member, Archon Anthony Djinis are coordinating a forthcoming presentation in Washington DC entitled, "The Plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey; Why It Is So Important for the Ecumenical Patriarchate to have "Legal Identity" Under Turkish Law". This presentation will be the first deep dive into the legal identity issue. It will tie together the importance of legal identity to the founding of the United States and in

the First Amendment. It will review the international and rule of law precedents on legal identity for religious groups by international institutions, courts and experts. The legal, historical, political and social impediments existing in Turkey as well as the Turkish and Ecumenical Patriarchate historical context will be discussed. Potentially viable paths to proceed formally will be evaluated. Finally, the reasons why legal identity is critical to the continued existence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate will be discussed against the current legal and geopolitical risks and threats. The presentation was held November 6, 2025, at The University Club of DC.

The mission of the Patriarchal Properties and Legal Affairs Diakonia 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 diakonia will collaborate with all other Archon Diakonia Ministries and individual Archons throughout the world in defense of our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople. We are committed to working together with all other diakonia ministries 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.



Technology Diakonia

Chairs

Anthony C. Limberakis
David G. Matty, PhD

To leverage technology as a catalyst for amplifying the Archons' mission of protecting religious freedom and sustaining the Ecumenical Patriarchate. By mobilizing the time, talent, and treasure of our community through innovative digital tools, we will connect global communities, amplify voices of faith, preserve sacred heritage, and foster inclusive dialogue—ensuring that the future of faith thrives in an interconnected world.

In 2025, the Technology Diakonia focused on strengthening the digital infrastructure, security, and stewardship capabilities of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its affiliated ministries. A central initiative was the design, implementation, and successful rollout of the Bloomerang CRM and fundraising platform for both The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation and the AEP. This major undertaking included the careful manual migration of all existing pledges, pledge payments, and historical donation data from QuickBooks, ensuring data integrity and continuity for long-standing donors and financial records.

As part of this effort, the Technology Diakonia launched multiple new online donation portals to expand and modernize giving opportunities. For the Bartholomew Foundation, a brand-new, donor-friendly online donation portal was introduced, enabling supporters to submit contributions securely and efficiently. Similarly, customized donation portals were developed for the AEP to support the Exarch's Appeal, Memorial Donations, Lenten Retreats, and Pilgrimage of Discovery, providing each initiative with a tailored and streamlined digital giving experience.

Beyond fundraising systems, the Technology Diakonia prioritized cybersecurity and operational resilience. Working closely with Pro4ia, the team evaluated, approved, and prepared for the implementation of enhanced cybersecurity coverage for both the Bartholomew Foundation and the AEP. These efforts significantly strengthened the organizations' digital defenses, helping safeguard sensitive donor data, financial systems, and internal communications against emerging cyber threats.

The Technology Diakonia also took important steps toward improv-

ing digital content organization and long-term asset management. In 2025, the team engaged with Canto and completed an agreement to adopt the Canto digital asset management platform beginning in early 2026. This solution will allow the AEP and its ministries to centrally store, organize, and access photos, videos, documents, and other digital assets, improving efficiency, consistency, and collaboration across teams.

In addition, Technology Diakonia provided targeted technical support to active ministries within the organization. This included working with the Pilgrimage of Discovery team to establish new email addresses, helping ensure clearer communications, improved branding, and more secure correspondence for this growing initiative.

Through these efforts, the Technology Diakonia played a vital role in modernizing systems, strengthening security, and enabling more effective stewardship and communication across the AEP in 2025, helping lay a strong technological foundation for future growth and mission-driven work.



Youth Participation Activities Diakonia

The mission of this diakonia 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.

Sprout Program

The YPA “Sprout” Committee was humbled to learn that our two educators, Dr. Helen Nixon and Katina Limberakis Tsatalis were chosen to receive the “Archon Sophia Award for Excellence.”

YAL/OCF

The Metropolis of San Francisco held their YAL Conference on Labor Day Weekend 2025 in Seattle, WA. RC Hon. Steven Counelis and RC Dr. Gregory Papadeas introduced three 2025 Pilgrimage of Discovery Alumni: Lenie Tsakonas, Chris Benis, and Demetra Zouzas.

Pilgrimage of Discovery Program

16 Pilgrims returned jubilant after a 7-day spiritual journey to Constantinople where they had a personal meeting with HAH Bartholomew at the Phanar. Pilgrims visited the Holy sites of the Holy Orthodox Church and experienced the many challenges faced by our Patriarch and the RUM community. His All-Holiness in a speech to the

pilgrims while they were on the pilgrimage said the following: “We are profoundly grateful to the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, for their steadfast support of this visionary program. Through their labors and your openness of heart, a bridge is being built linking generations, cultures, and continents through the living experience of Orthodoxy.” Fundraising continues with approximately \$108,000 raised to cover the entire cost of the program.

Archon Alumni Leadership Network

Chair Dr. Jimmy Schooley reached out to regional commanders in November so that they can help assign mentors to both the 2024 and 2025 POD Alumni.

Chair

Nicholas J. Tranto

Vice Chairs

Hon. Steven G. Counelis

George K. Moutis

Pericles C. Siatis, Esq.



Women in Orthodoxy

Chair

Cary J. Limberakis, DMD

Vice Chair

Elizabeth H. Prodromou, PhD

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, Women in Orthodoxy is designed to foster that greater participation and is open to Archons and non-Archons, women and men.

The Women in Orthodoxy Diakonia Ministry convened several zoom meetings this year to address

the topics the Diakonia Ministry identified as chief areas of focus.

The participants continually returned to the issue of reinstatement of women Archons, including with designated offikia, as the leading concern. After researching what archives were available in the GOA, it was discovered that women Archons existed, 32 in all, who were named by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, during the late 1960's and early 70's. These names are listed in the Orthodox Observer, June 28, 1972. The practice ended with the passing of His All Holiness and never resumed. The participants repeatedly stressed both the symbolic value and the pastoral and institutional impact of reinstatement of women Archons, with offikia – drawing on our scriptural teachings that “there is neither male nor female”(Galatians,3:28) and that we are all created in the image of God (Genesis, 1:26-27).

The Diakonia Ministry also focused on the role of women in leadership positions in the Orthodox Church. Questions raised were:

“Does the Church use a theological-ly grounded concept of leadership to include/exclude women in leadership?”, “What are the institutional and organizational structures in the Church where women are empowered to be decision-makers?”, and “How do we develop plans for action?” The consensus was that Orthodox faithful is not knowledgeable of our own theology, with educational resources lacking in this area. Education needs to emanate from our hierarchs and clergy so that myths and untruths are debunked.

The third topic with which the Diakonia is making progress is the design of a robust survey addressing the myriad concerns regarding Women in Orthodoxy, focusing on the GOA. Presently, the survey is nearly complete and ready for a pilot test. The Archon Executive Committee will be consulted prior to finalizing parameters for the pilot and for subsequent broad dissemination. The survey results will be professionally analyzed with recommendations drawn there from.



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.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Hosts Exclusive FOUNDERS Dinner

With the blessing and in the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Board of Trustees of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation (EPBF) presented a unique and exclusive FOUNDERS Dinner at the beginning of the annual Archon Weekend of the Archons of

the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The FOUNDERS Dinner was held on Thursday evening, October 16, 2025, the first evening of Archon Weekend at the exclusive and landmark restaurant The Pool NYC in the Seagram Building in Manhattan.

The Dinner was presented in support of the EPBF, and was open

to FOUNDERS in good standing (pledges up-to-date) of the EPBF. After a welcome and introduction from Archon Michael Neamonitakis, Chair of the EPBF New Members Committee, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Chair of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation offered a special greeting.





The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Investment Portfolio was established at the end of February in 2022. Since then, we have invested approximately \$15.97mm (net of withdrawals). As of August 30th, the total portfolio value is approximately \$20.05 million, generating around \$4.08 million (net of fees), or about 9.9% annualized returns (net of fees) - the long-term annualized return target for the overall portfolio is 8%. During the investment period, global equity markets (MSCI ACWI)

have risen approximately 11.1%, and the U.S. fixed income markets (U.S. Bloomberg Aggregate) are up 0.20%. The portfolio is currently allocated 63.3% to equities, 18.1% to alternatives, and 18.6% to fixed income and cash.

Over the past year, we have shifted more of the allocation into alternative investments, including private equity, credit, and real asset markets. We have increased our allocation from 7% in alternatives at the end of 2023 to 18%, with the objective of reaching 30% over the

next couple of years. This strategy aligns with other Endowments and Foundations similar to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Our focus is to build out the allocation over time to provide vintage year diversification and to identify best-in-class managers across every sub-asset class, including firms such as KKR, Lexington, Ardian, Golub, HPS, Blackstone, and Blue Owl. We expect this portion of the portfolio to provide additional long-term alpha and diversification.

Financial Performance Report

Chris E. Tsamutalis, CPA, Treasurer

It is both an honor and a blessing to address you today as Treasurer of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation. I stand before you with a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity to serve this sacred mission—one that safeguards and strengthens the spiritual center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The work of this Foundation is vital. It is not simply about financial stewardship; it is about ensuring that the Mother Church of Constantinople can continue to shine as a beacon of faith, unity, and hope for generations to come. By supporting this Foundation, we are directly supporting that sacred mission.

It is an honor and a solemn responsibility to also mention the foundation's unwavering commitment to transparency and accountability. This reflects our commitment to full and open disclosure of our finances and to ensuring that our accounting

practices meet – and exceed – the rigorous standards expected of a charitable organization of our size and mission.

Our collective efforts this year have been nothing short of inspiring. I am pleased to share with you the financial position as of the close of our most recent reporting period.

According to our Treasurer's Report, which reports on the cash basis of accounting - Total Foundation assets as of July 31, 2025 stand at \$31,037,103.

This total is comprised of:

Cash and Investments: \$19,650,213

Pledges Receivable: \$11,386,890

This reflects an increase of almost 18% in total Foundation Assets over the prior year for the same period. (\$26,384,865).

Also note that during this initial period, we have been operating under a five year freeze on all spending, with the exception of reasonable and proper expenses necessary

to administer the Foundation. This disciplined approach reflects our commitment to the long-term vision of the Foundation. I am humbled to share that the foundation can plan to make its very first mission grant next year - in 2026.

However, as we celebrate this progress, we must also recognize that our work is far from finished. The needs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate are ongoing and significant. I urge each of you to remain steadfast in your support, as every act of giving strengthens the very essence of our faith and ensures that His All-Holiness and the Ecumenical Patriarchate have the resources necessary to fulfill their sacred mission.

On behalf of the Board and our entire team, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your generosity and vision. Together, we are building a legacy of faith and hope that will endure for the ages to come.

First and foremost, I wish to thank the members of our committee, Andrew C. Zachariades and James G. Lakerdas, for their tireless efforts and true sense of duty they display throughout the year.

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation ("EPBF") was established formally as a charitable entity in the State of New York in January 2019. Our tax-exempt status as a 501c3 foundation was approved by the IRS on August 26, 2020. Since inception the EPBF Board of Trustees led by Dr. Anthony Limberakis has been demanding in establishing and maintaining the highest degree of professionalism, fiduciary care, and transparency. The audit committee's charge is the safeguarding of this transparency, integrity, and accountability for our financial operations. We have followed the Crawl, Walk, Run strategic methodology to guide and develop our oversight. We have been cautiously deliberate in our implementation of processes and procedures to mitigate risks and develop best practices. Since last year we have strengthened our internal Cyber

Security tools and protocols. We have also developed protocols for receiving securities as contributions in kind as well as establishing a process for receiving Bequests and Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts.

We have a professional and collegial relationship with our auditors, the team at Forvis Mazars LLP, one of the largest tax and audit firms globally with strong core competency with non-profit organizations. The Committee works closely with our most capable EPBF Treasurer Chris E. Tsamutalis and Assistant Treasurer Andreas Comodromos, both of whom commit countless hours making sure the numbers are correct. Our monthly financials are reconciled by our accountants at Crane, Rosenberg, Pacio & Company who always respond in a timely manner. The monthly financial reports, including reports on the investment accounts, are reviewed by multiple teams.

Of course, this all starts with the memorialization of commitments of pledges and the collections of those pledges by our Office Administrator Leah Kats. Leah ensures that all funds received are deposited and re-

corded same day received. We have checks and balances in place to verify what was received and where it was deposited.

Under the direction of the Investment Committee Chair, John Koudounis, the foundation has developed an efficient process to make sure the contributions deposited for investment are allocated in accordance with the investment policy statement adopted by the foundation. The investment accounts are professionally managed by JP Morgan and reviewed by the investment and audit committees.

The level of internal oversight for the EPBF and the strong collaboration working with our auditors continues to be the primary reason we have received "clean audits" for the last four years. To those of you who have entrusted the foundation with your generous contributions we thank you. To those of you who have yet to decide to make a gift, whether as a Founder or as a Builder rest assured in the processes and protocols we have put in place to be worthy stewards of your gifts to serve the missions of our Mother Church.

Joseph Kokolakis, Co Chair

New Members Committee Update

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation was honored to host its Founders Gala, an exclusive evening of celebration, gratitude, and inspiration. This highly anticipated event took place on October 16, at The Pool in New York City.

This elegant gathering was limited to the FOUNDERS, who are in good standing and whose vision-

ary support continues to ensure the spiritual and financial sustainability of the Sacred See of Constantinople.

Guests enjoyed a fine dining experience in one of Manhattan's most storied and architecturally celebrated venues, located in the historic Seagram Building. The evening included special remarks reflecting on the global impact of the Foundation's work, as well as acknowledgments

of the Founders whose leadership makes this mission possible.

Adding a touch of wonder to the evening's festivities was a live performance by Phil the Magic Man, the renowned mentalist and illusionist known for his captivating blend of comedy, sleight of hand, and mind-reading. His performance surprised and delighted all.

LEGACY DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Ireland, Washington, Ukraine, *and the* Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation

*One Archon's
Remarkable
Journey*



Born to an Irish-American family and raised in the Roman Catholic Church, Archon Miceál O’Hurley is now the Secretary of the Holy Orthodox Metropolis of Ireland. His unswerving dedication to truth and justice, however, has taken him not only into the Holy Orthodox Church, but to two of the most prestigious universities of the United States of America, and even to the battlefields of Ukraine. Archon O’Hurley’s journey is one of the most unusual and inspiring stories of our tumultuous age, and a stirring testimony to the power of faith in one man’s life.

“I came to Orthodoxy,” Archon O’Hurley explained, “having been raised a Roman Catholic. For years, I worshipped in the Eastern Rites of the Church, but I always felt ‘incomplete.’” “When I married Oksana,” his beloved Ukrainian wife Oksana Shadrina, Archon O’Hurley continued, “we decided to worship in one Church, so I became Orthodox, coming to the faith the same way every Orthodox Christian does, by Baptism and Chrismation. I was received into the Orthodox Church at Saint Michael’s Golden Domed Cathedral in Kyiv.”

In Ukraine, Archon O’Hurley became familiar with Vladimir Putin’s unjust and fratricidal war against the Ukrainian people. “My wife and I have watched Ukraine suffer since 2014,” Archon O’Hurley explained, “when parts of Donbas and Crimea were occupied. We engaged like so many others in charitable acts to support the Ukrainian people with medical and humani-



Archon O’Hurley with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

tarian aid and to support Ukraine’s defense.”

Archon O’Hurley’s determination to see the Ukrainian people receive justice took him to Turkey: “I was at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in 2022, when the Russians and Ukrainians met in a last-ditch effort for a peace deal.” These efforts, however, were foredoomed: “Given Russia’s ambitions for territory, and its desire to put an end to Ukraine’s re-emergence as a nation, peace was not possible without Ukraine agreeing to be subsumed by Russia, in much the same way the Bolsheviks did in 1917.”

Back in Ukraine as the war began, Archon O’Hurley witnessed horrors that brought him to realize that the implications of the conflict were much larger than just a dispute between two nations: “A few days after the full-scale invasion, I was in Kyiv, where I was embedded with a Marine unit. I remember being at the mass grave in Bucha, holding a

blood-stained blanket that served as a funeral shroud for a woman murdered and dumped into a mass grave without any human dignity being afforded her or the others, let alone a funeral liturgy. I knew in my heart it was not a political struggle between Russia and Ukraine, but an existential contest between Good and Evil.”

Accordingly, Archon O’Hurley determined that he must join the struggle himself, and volunteered to serve. “I have had the honor to have served with the United Council of Ukrainian and Foreign Cossacks, named after Hetman [military commander] Alexander Levando, a hero of the Ukrainian Cossack people, in Ukraine, in Bakhmut and other points on the front. Most of my work, however, has been about organising relief efforts and providing vehicles from tactical vehicles to buses used to evacuate civilians from the line of contact to donating ambulances that save lives.”



His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine recognized Archon O’Hurley’s selfless labors for the Ukrainian people, honoring him with the Order of Liberty.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine recognized Archon O’Hurley’s selfless labors for the Ukrainian people. “Aside from military awards and decorations, I was presented a different honor from His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy, including the Order of Liberty.” The greatest reward, however, was not a ribbon, plaque, or title. Archon O’Hurley recounts that “the most meaningful rewards, however, came in knowing I played some small part in saving lives and ensuring my Orthodox brothers and sisters, who were freed to worship without the fear, oppression and control of their oppressors by means of the Tomos of Autocephaly granted by the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Great and Holy Synod of the Church, will continue.”

Regarding Ukraine, Archon O’Hurley concluded that the nation “has suffered much since its conversion to Christianity in 986 A.D. but it is the nation’s sense of Orthodoxy, fidelity to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and tradition that have sustained its people. Whatever happens, that must continue, and we will keep working to ensure it will.”

Archon Miceál O’Hurley and Oksana Shadrina are the authors of the new book, *Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing: The Russian Orthodox Church’s Threat to European Security and Democracy* (Ibidem/Columbia University Press, 2025) which explores the politicization of the Moscow Patriarchate by means of its “Third Rome” ideology, which leads it to claim to be the legitimate center of worldwide Orthodox Christian life within the context of the Russkiy Mir (Russian World).

After his extraordinary service in Ukraine, Archon O’Hurley returned to his native land. “Living in Ireland,” he remarked, “our family worships in the Greek Orthodox Church, where we were welcomed warmly. Here at home in Ireland, our many prayers for a resident bishop came true in 2024, when His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Ireland, Exarch of the Celtic Sea, was elected and enthroned to both lead and serve us.”

Archon O’Hurley explained that “His Eminence is the first resident Orthodox Bishop in Ireland for almost 1,000 years, since the Great

Schism of 1054. I have the pleasure to serve him as the Metropolitan Secretary and assist him in implementing his vision, unworthy though I am to do so. In testament to the wisdom of the Synod in creating this Metropolis (we were formerly under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain), our numbers are growing, and the Divine Liturgy is celebrated weekly and on Feast Days.”

“Metropolitan Iakovos,” Archon O’Hurley continued, “has sustained an incredibly strong Greek Orthodox ethos, with Hellenism being dear to us all, even if we are Irish, Lebanese, Syrian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Albanian, Russian or of other Orthodox Christian traditions. Like Saint Patrick, who came before to call Ireland to holiness, we, too, are called to build a Metropolis from the ground up that bears witness to the God-Man Jesus Christ and to the Orthodox Church, in a spirit of freedom, love, and coexistence among all people. His Eminence ministers to all Orthodox Christians in Ireland, even amidst the presence of other jurisdictions longer established and carrying the funding and assistance of their national governments. His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos genuinely reflects the mission and diakonia of the Ecumenical Patriarch and makes everyone welcome to the Orthodox Christian Faith.”

Archon O’Hurley’s role as Metropolitan Secretary is just one aspect of his diakonia. “I have been fortunate,” he states, “to have been raised to engage in a life of service. I had written a bestselling book, *The Passionate Steward: Recovering Christian Stewardship from Secular Fundraising* (St. Brigid Press – 2000),

focusing on the aspect of how faith calls us to a life of generosity according to our means.”

Archon O’Hurley’s emphasis on giving of one’s time, talent and treasure in the service of God’s Holy Church has not been merely theoretical in Ireland any more than it was in Ukraine. “Aside from our family’s support for Ukraine and the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, I have enjoyed helping connect donors with good causes around the globe, including in Lebanon, where I continue to support the International Orthodox College in Zahle, that gives children a superior education meant to help them and their Christian communities thrive in a challenging environment. I was invited by Archbishop Damianos to assist with the legal team helping the Monastery of St. Catherine in the Sinai defend its rights in the Egyptian Court of Appeals where, with great thanks to the leadership of the Greek Government, the Monastery’s future has been secured. Most recently, I have been assisting Metropolitan Iakovos with the design and permitting process to improve the church in Dublin and begun to raise money for its expansion and construction.”

In light of all this tireless activity, it was only a matter of time before Miceál O’Hurley was called to become an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. “I was both surprised and honored,” he recounts, “to be informed I was to be invested an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with the offikion of Νομοφύλαξ (Nomophylax – Lawkeeper). I found the experience unusual, because we are a working-class family, and there is a misnomer that to be called to serve as an Archon required sig-

nificant financial donations. His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, with whom I have had to pleasure to meet in Albania, Constantinople and at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum earlier this year, explained that Archons are called to serve with their time, talent and treasure. In November 2025, His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Ireland invested me as Archon Nomophylax in Dublin, Ireland with my family watching and supporting me.”

Archon O’Hurley states that “as a member of the Order of Saint Pammakaristos, I was greeted warmly by Archons across the world, with whom I now feel an affinity. In my correspondence with Dr. Anthony Limberakis, National Commander of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the United States, I was made to feel a true sense of brotherhood. In our conversation, we chatted about our shared experiences of serving on Capitol Hill, he as a page and I as a legislative assistant and later counsel, and many other shared ideas and values. It was that sense of camaraderie and Christian kindness that led me to learn more about the works of the Archons of the United States and the

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.”

Moved by their conviction that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is entrusted with an indispensable global ministry, Archon Miceál and Oksana ultimately made a \$75,000 legacy donation to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation. “Although our household can by no means considered wealthy, the mission, achievements and accountability of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation led us to review our estate planning and, to our surprise, God willing, we will be able to make a Testamentary Gift to the Foundation from the proceeds of our life insurance. Our lawyer explained that by naming the Foundation and the Holy Orthodox Metropolis of Ireland as ‘contingent beneficiaries’ in our wills, once our family is provided for and all estate costs discharged, any residual assets can be donated to causes that reflect our life’s values. We might only be able to give the proverbial ‘Widow’s Mite,’ but we decided to do what we can as every gift helps build up the Church and secure the Ecumenical Patriarch’s future.”



With Her Royal Highness Princess Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh at event raising money for Christian children in Syria through Awareness Foundation.



ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEW FOUNDATION
For the Sacred See of Saint Andrew

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17 FOUNDER Parishes

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Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Elkins Park, PA

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church / GreekFest Charity Gala, Inc. Mobile, AL

Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity New York, NY

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Chicago, IL

Cathedral of Saint John the Theologian Tenafly, NJ

Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral Brooklyn, NY

17 FOUNDER Parishes (continued)

Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Cathedral, In Honor of the 80th Birthday of Father Alexander Karloutsos

Southampton, New York

Holy Trinity

Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Camp Hill, PA

Holy Trinity

Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Carmel, IN

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church,

In Memory of Nicholas J. and Anna

K. Bouras

Westfield, NJ

Kimisis Theotokou Greek Orthodox

Church, Brooklyn, NY

Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church

Plymouth, MI

Saint George Church / Lazaros

Kircos Charitable Fund

Southgate, MI

Saint Katherine

Greek Orthodox Church

Naples, FL

Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church,

The Clergy and Archons of Saint

Mark in Memory of Peter Dion

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New York, New York

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Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos,

In Honor of His Grace's Ordination

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Dongaris

Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek

Orthodox Cathedral, In Honor of the

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Dr. Elias N. Tsoukas • Aktouarios • 03/08/87

Peter A. Tsudis • Depotatos • 10/22/17

Adam M. Tzagournis • Quaistor • 10/18/15

George N. Valaskantjis • Orphanotrophos • 10/19/25

Dr. Chris Vasilakis • Imnodos • 10/31/21

Demosthenes Vasiliou • Depotatos • 10/31/10

John Vasiliou • Ostiarios • 10/22/23
James D. Vavas • Maistor • 10/28/18

Theodore Vavoulis • Depotatos • 10/20/19

Stavros Veletsis • Symbolitis • 10/19/25

Emmanuel E. Velivasakis • Eftaxias • 03/10/02

George P. Vittas • Ekdikos • 10/22/17

George J. Vlahakos, Esq. • Nomodotis • 10/9/22

Dr. Theodore P. Vlahos • Aktouarios • 10/22/06

Gus Vratsinas • Ostiarios • 03/10/02

John H. Vratsinas • Skevophylax • 10/19/25

Gary M. Vronis • Eftaxias • 10/23/05
Kevin M. Wilcox • Chartophylas • 10/22/23

Dr. Stephen J. Yallourakis • Aktouarios • 10/23/05

Dr. Chris Yiantsou • Aktouarios • 10/28/18

Andrew C. Zachariades • Kastrinsios • 10/16/16

George P. Zaharas • Myrepso • 10/16/11

George N. Zapantis, Esq. • Hypomemneskontis • 10/9/22

Dr. Theodore J. Zaravinos • Aktouarios • 03/03/96

Steve E. Zeis • Skevophylax • 10/28/18

Steve Zervoudis • Hartophylax • 10/16/16

Dr. George P. Zimmar • Prostatist Ton Grammaton • 10/23/05

Demetrios J. Ziozis • Eftaxias • 10/20/19

Friends (Below 1 Day)

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- Dr. William J. Antholis • Prostatitis • Ton Grammaton • 10/31/10
- James M. Arakas • Kastrinsios • 10/28/07
- Andrew P. Arbes • Depotatos • 06/14/81
- Clifford Argue • Eftaxias • 10/10/04
- Hon. Andrew S. Armatas, Esq. • Ekdikos • 03/07/82
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- Nicholas Balidis • Maistor • 10/20/19
- John S. Balourdos • Depotatos • 10/23/05
- Peter J. Bassett • Ekdikos • 03/20/94
- Drake G. Behrakis • Maistor • 10/16/11
- Dr. Gerald J. Biernacki • HHieromnemon • 10/21/12
- Hon. Michael Bilirakis • Notarios • 03/23/86
- John S. Buzas, Esq. • Proto Ekdikos • 10/19/14
- Emil Bzdil • Depotatos • 02/17/01
- George M. Cantonis • Exarchos • 03/08/87
- Nicholas T. Catranis • Ostiarios • 03/05/00
- James T. Cavalaris • Depotatos • 03/03/85
- Arthur N. Chagaris • Notarios • 03/09/03
- Stephen Cherpelis • Dikaiophylax • 02/18/01
- Paul G. Chiligris • Nomophylax • 10/31/10
- Gerald Clonaris • Depotatos • 03/03/96
- Peter J. Condakes • Hieromnemon • 10/26/08
- Prof. Demetrios Costaras • Notarios • 03/11/79
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- George Danis • Hartoularios • 02/28/99
- George J. Dariotis • Ostiarios • 02/18/01
- John Daskos • Depotatos • 10/22/06
- Sergio Deligiannis • Depotatos • 10/20/19
- Dr. George Demacopoulos • Didaskalos • 10/31/10
- George Demchenko • Megas • 02/28/99
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- Peter G. Demetriades • Skevophylax • 03/06/93
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- James Dimitrion • Laosynaktis • 03/05/00
- George N. Donkar • Orphanotrophos • 10/21/12
- William P. Doucas • Notarios • 10/18/15
- Steven Doulaveris • Maistor • 11/01/09
- Michael E. Economou • Skevophylax • 10/31/21
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- Anastasius Efstratiades • Hypomnematographos • 10/19/14
- Dr. Andrew J. Ekonomou, Esq. • Dikaiophylax • 10/19/14
- Andrew J. Eliopoulos • Hartoularios • 10/9/22
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- Apostolos Fisfis • Laosynaktis • 10/22/23
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- Nicholas J. Furriss • Eftaxias • 10/23/05
- Sam E. Galeotos • Depotatos • 10/28/18
- Thomas G. Gatzunis • Hartoularios • 10/22/17
- David Gdovin
- Leslie P. George • Ekdikos • 10/22/06
- Renos Georgiou • Ostiarios • 10/23/05
- Fotios Gerasopoulos • Exarchos • 03/20/94
- Theodore Germanakos • Hartoularios • 10/20/19
- Dr. Larry R. Gess • Notarios • 03/12/95
- Geoffrey Greenleaf • Depoutatos • 10/19/14
- Dr. John Grossomanides Jr. • Hartoularios • 07/04/05
- Vassilios B. Grous • Eftaxias • 10/28/07
- John Halecky III • Notarios • 10/20/13
- Michael Halikias • Exarchos • 03/07/93
- Ron J. Harb • Depotatos • 0/0/2002
- Spiro C. Hondros • Ostiarios • 10/23/05
- George G. Horiates • Notarios • 10/21/12
- Larry Hotzoglou • Notarios • 10/26/08
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- Demetrius G. Kalamaras • Dikaiophylax • 10/22/17
- Harry Kalas • Kastrinsios • 03/05/00
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- Christ J. Kamages • Architekton • 12/10/00
- Michael Kapeluck • Maistor • 10/31/10

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03/23/86

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Orphanotrophos • 10/22/06

George K. Moutis • Hartophylax •
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10/16/11

Tom Nixon • Dikaiophylax • 10/16/16

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02/18/01

Dr. Harry Oryhon • Aktouarios •
10/16/11

Steve C. Padis • Exarchos • 10/20/13

Chris G. Pallis • Laosynaktis •
10/22/23

Anastasios G. Papademetriou •
Didaskalos • 10/31/21

Nicholas Papain • Nomophylax •
10/31/21

Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou • Prostatas
Ton Grammaton • 10/31/10

George F. Pappas • Nomophylax •
10/28/18

Dean G. Pappas • ProtEkdikos •
10/31/21

Ted P. Pappas • Depotatos • 02/28/88

Peter Pappas, Jr. • Notarios • 10/31/10

Nicholas L. Papson • Nomophylax •
03/10/02

Panagiotis Parthenis, Sr. •
Referendarios • 10/28/07

Friends (Below 1 Day) (continued)

- Jimmy Theo Patronis, Jr. •
Dikaiophylax • 10/22/23
- Prof. Lewis J. Patsavos • Proto
Ekdikos • 11/01/09
- John Patzakis • ProtEkdikos •
10/28/18
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- Apostolos Pries • Skevophylax •
10/19/14
- John M. Psaltos • Hartophylax •
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- George P. Psihogios • Kastrinsios •
10/26/08
- Michael P. Psyllos, Esq. • Kastrinsios •
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- Dino A. Ralis • Depotatos • 10/28/07
- Dr. Michael G. Rallis • Referendarios •
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- George T. Reganis • Referendarios •
10/28/07
- Michael Ristvey Jr • Nomophylax •
03/15/92
- Christopher G. Rongos • Primikirios •
10/16/16
- Nicholas J. Sakellariadis •
Dikaiophylax • 03/05/00
- John C. Scurtis • Hartouliarios •
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- Dr. Nicholas Seketa • Ritor • 10/28/18
- Steven N. Sellas • Hieromnemon •
11/01/09
- Theodore Sepsis • Ostiarios •
10/23/05
- Demetrios Seremetis •
Hypomimniskontos • 11/01/09
- Anis N. Shamiyeh • Notarios • 10/31/21
- Robert G. Shaw • Megas Proto Ekdikos
• 03/10/03
- George A. Sifakis • Nomophylax •
10/22/17
- Dr. Dimitri Sigounas, • Ritor • 10/19/25
- Louis S. Sinopulos • Primikirios •
01/01/68
- John Sitolides • Referendarios •
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- George Skoufis • Dierminefs •
03/05/00
- George J. Spanos • Ostiarios •
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- George A. Stamboulidis • Ekdikos •
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- Gregory J. Stamos, Esq. • Proto
Ekdikos • 10/16/11
- Angelo A. Stamoulis • Notarios •
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Hypomnimatografos • 10/20/19
- Demetrios G. Stathopoulos •
Referendarios • 10/19/14
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- Nikolaos Theofanis • Hartouliarios •
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- Dr. Theoharis Theoharides •
Hieromnemon • 03/05/00
- Dr. Manuel N. Tissura • Ekdikos •
03/19/89
- Andreas Touzos • Ostiarios • 02/18/01
- James P. Trakas • Exarchos •
10/19/25
- Constantine M. Triantafilou •
Orphanotrophos • 10/22/06
- Nicholas Tsapatsaris • Kastrinsios •
10/26/08
- Elias Tsekerides • Depotatos •
10/19/14
- Savas Tsvicos • Kastrinsios •
03/16/97
- John C. Tsunis • Orphanotrophos •
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- Dr. Manuel Tzagournis • Aktouarios •
03/09/03
- Dr. Andreas G. Tzakis • Aktouarios •
10/10/04
- Dr. Dean Vafiadis • Hieromnemon •
03/08/98
- Theodore H. Vagelos • Eftaxias •
10/31/21
- Nikiforos Valaskantjis • Depotatos •
03/10/02
- Sarantos Vallas • Eftaxias • 10/28/18
- Argyris Vassiliou • Notarios • 10/16/11
- Konstantine L. Vellios • Depotatos •
01/01/69
- George C. Venizelos • Referendarios •
10/20/13
- Stefanos Vertopoulos • Ostiarios •
10/28/07
- George M. Ververides • Depotatos •
03/15/81
- John P. Volandes • Hartophylax •
03/12/95
- Bill J. Vranas • Notarios • 03/20/94
- Constantine N. Vrettos • Notarios •
10/23/05
- Howard E. West Jr. • Notarios •
10/28/18
- Dr. " Thomas " Williams, DDS, M.D. •
Orphanotrophos • 10/9/22
- Nicholas Yakubik • Referendarios •
10/28/07
- Philip G. Yamalis • Proto Ekdikos •
10/21/12
- G. Thomas Yearout • Ekdikos •
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- James E. Zaferis • Laosinaktis •
10/9/22
- James B. Zafiros •
Hypomnimatografos • 10/31/10
- Jimmy Zervoudis • Prostatist Ton
Grammaton • 10/19/25
- Constantinos M. Zografopoulos •
Eftaxias • 11/01/09

In Memoriam

Departed Archons In 2025

Michael J. Wesko

Notarios
Endicott, NY
Departed on January 4, 2025

Ted. J. Theodore

Didaskalos Tou Genous
Cleveland, OH
Departed on Jan 7, 2025

Dr. William N. Hunter

Hartoularios
Bethesda, MD
Departed on Jan 11, 2025

Alvin C. Galloway

Depoutatos
Atlanta, GA
Departed on February 1, 2025

Dr. Sotirios J. Vahaviolos

Hartoularios
Princeton, NJ
Departed on Feb 6, 2025

John G. Poles

Ipomnimon
Scarsdale, NY
Departed on March 5, 2025

Theodore Pedas

Exarchos
Washington, D.C.
Departed on March 21, 2025

Constantine V. Politis

Referendarios
Upper Darby, PA
Departed on April 2, 2025

Zachary Marantis

Depoutatos
Harrison, NY
Departed on April 3, 2025

Nawaf Salameh

Referendarios
Bucharest, Romania
Departed on April 20, 2025

Dr. Tikey A. Zes

Lambadarios
San Jose, CA
Departed on May 7, 2025

Dr. Thomas Lelon

Notarios
Weston, MA
Departed on May 18, 2025

James Thomas

Hieromnemon
Highland, IN
Departed on May 23, 2025

Nicholas Kapnison

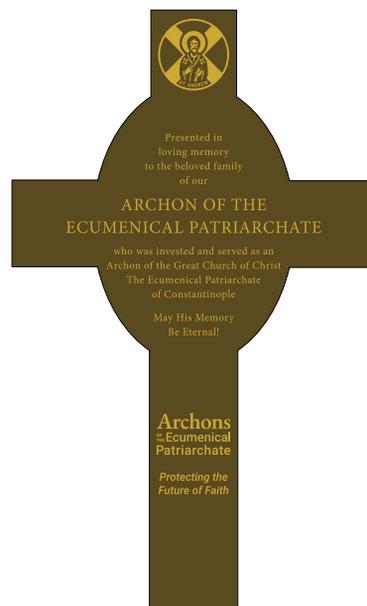
Depoutatos
Albuquerque, NM
Departed on June 11, 2025

Harry Raptakis

Exarchos
Hempstead, NY
Departed on July 21, 2025

Dr. James P. Pappas

Depoutatos
Norman, OK
Departed on August 2, 2025



Eternal Be Their Memory

George Victor Matthews

Aktouarios
Marietta, GA
Departed on September 15, 2025

Peter John Couchell

Hartoularios
Charlotte, NC
Departed on October 6, 2025

Franklin R. Manios

Depoutatos
Warren, OH
Departed on October 7, 2025

Theofanis V. Economidis

Ekdikos
San Jose, CA
Departed on November 29, 2025

PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS

\$73.97 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 and EPBF Treasurer
Chris E. Tsamutalis, CPA
(Details available upon request.)*

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America from 2002 to 2025 has raised **\$73,969,933** which includes **\$28,449,375** in collectible Pledges and Bequests from 2020 to 2025, 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 and EPBF Treasurer Archon Chris E.

Tsamutalis, CPA and EPBF Assistant Treasurer and Archon's Assistant Treasurer, Emeritus Archon Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA at the request of Commander Limberakis indicates that **\$45,520,558** was raised for the direct and indirect benefit of various initiatives supporting the Ecumenical Patriarchate which includes the full gamut of the Archon's domestic and international religious freedom programming

(documentation available upon request). This **\$45,520,558** (which includes **\$8,385,506** of donated services) coupled with the **\$28,449,375** received in Pledges and Bequests by the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation (EPBF), another initiative of the Archons, amounts to **\$73,969,933**, a most significant statement reflective of the Order's ongoing diakonia to the Holy Mother Church.

Archon National Council Gives \$50,000 To Repair Damage To Sweden's Second-Largest Church

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate National Council donated \$50,000 for the repair of Holy Trinity Church in Gothenburg, Sweden. After Saint George Cathedral in Stockholm, this parish is home to Sweden's second largest Greek congregation, numbering approximately 5,000 parishioners.

In the winter of 2022, sustained low temperatures (-4 degrees Fahrenheit) along with a series of heavy rainfalls,

caused severe damage to the church. Insurance covered only 20 percent of the original cost, due to the age of the building, and the iconostasis, icons, bishop's throne, chanters' stands, pews, and other essential items were not covered at all.

That was where the AEP stepped in, responding to an urgent appeal from His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia. In response to the Archons' donation, His

All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew wrote in a letter: "Your magnanimous gesture, which brought to our minds donors and benefactors of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and our devout Genos over the centuries, became a reason to praise the name of the Lord from Whom comes every good and perfect gift, and Who most wisely, provides for the ministry of His Church and offers earthly blessings to noble hearts."

Archon Dr. Stephen and Dr. Anna Yallourakis Again Make Possible the Restoration of Holy Transfiguration Chapel on Halki



In the presence of His All-Holiness, the newly restored Chapel of the Transfiguration of Christ Our Savior Monastery on Halki was dedicated during a Service of Door-Opening (Thyranoixia) on August 5, 2025. Present at the Thyranoixia were Archon Dr. Stephen Yallourakis and his wife Dr. Anna, whose generosity once again made possible the restoration of this historic chapel of the Skete on Halki. Also present were their children, Michael and Stephanie Katherine.

His All-Holiness thanked Archon Drs. Stephen and Anna for again

providing the funding to restore the chapel, and observed that it now stands before us "in another form, fully renovated, truly transfigured."

Drs. Yallourakis are fulfilled \$230,000 FOUNDERS of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundaton. This is the second time that they have rebuilt this monastery, after it was first vandalized by Turkish Forestry officials in 2009, pictured right.



Ecumenical Patriarch Expresses Gratitude To The Archons For Donating \$100,000 For His Apostolic Visit To The U.S.

His All-Holiness addressed a letter to National Commander Dr. Limberakis, expressing his "profound gratitude" for the Archons' donation of \$100,000 during His All-Holiness' Apostolic Visit to the United States in September 2025.

The Ecumenical Patriarch explained that the donation "not only facilitated practical aspects of our journey but also bore testimony to the enduring bond that unites the faithful with the Ecumenical Throne.

His All-Holiness stated that "such expressions of devotion and fidelity

strengthen our shared mission to uphold the Church's apostolic witness and advance the peace, reconciliation, and unity that flow from her sacred vocation."





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Archon John J. Mindala II, Creative Director

The 2025 Annual Report

Editor & Graphic Designer
Archon John J. Mindala II

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All lists and information current as of
February 2, 2026



PHOTIC

ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΟΝ
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ΑΝΤΙΣΤΑΣΙΝ