



Winter 2026

The Archon

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate *Newsletter*

*The
Apostolic Visit*

His All-Holiness in America On the Occasion of the Templeton Prize

Coverage on page 14



The Archon

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Winter 2026



Pope Leo makes first visit to Phanar for the 1700th Anniversary of Nicaea

49 Pope Leo's recent visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate marked a powerful moment of prayer, dialogue, and fraternal respect. Received with warmth by the Ecumenical Patriarch, the Pope emphasized Christian unity, shared witness, and peace in a divided world. The historic encounter reaffirmed longstanding ties and renewed commitment to collaboration between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches worldwide, enduring, hopeful, future.

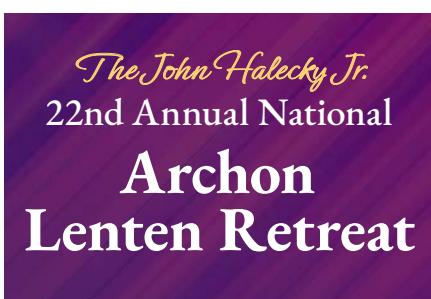
Father Alex Elevated

35 Father Alex Karloutsos, our beloved Archon Spiritual Advisor was elevated to the title of Grand Protopresbyter, during His All-Holiness visit to America. He is the only priest in the world bestowed this title!



Save the Dates!

52 Three dates and three locations around the United States have been announced for The John Halecky, Jr. 22nd Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat, all of which will be in March 2026.



Sprout Program reaches more youth during Annual Archon Sunday

53 During Archon Sunday 2025, Orthodox Christian children throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America learned about the Ecumenical Patriarchate



On the Cover: His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew holds the hand of Dr. Jane Goodall, during the Templeton Prize ceremony in New York City.

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

Spiritual Advisor:
Rev. Alexander Karloutsos

Executive Committee

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

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

National Treasurer:
John G. Manos, Eftaxias

National Secretary:
Gus M. Pablecas, Ostiarios

Legal Counselor:
Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq., Nomophylax

Sergeant-at-Arms:
Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon

Functionaries

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George E. Demacopoulos, PhD, Didaskalos Tou Genous

Assistant Treasurer:
Chris E. Tsamutalis, CPA, Skevophylax

Deputy Legal Counselor:
Nikiforos Mathews, Esq., Ekdikos

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John A. Catsimatidis, Notarios
Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA, Dikaiophylax
George E. Demacopoulos, PhD, Didaskalos Tou Genous
Stephen A. Georgios, Esq., Ekdikos
John G. Gumas, Hartophylax
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Nicholas G. Loutsion, VMD, Aktouarios
John G. Manos, Eftaxias
Gus M. Pablecas, Ostiarios
Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon
Michael G. Psaros, Ostiarios
George E. Safoi, Archiophylax
Franklin (Rocky) Sisson, Prepositos
Peter J. Skeadas, Hieromnimon
William H. Spell, Laosynaktis
Theodore J. Theophilos, Esq., Dikaiophylax
George A. Tsougarakis, Esq., Dikaiophylax
Stephen J. Yalourakis, MD, DDS, Aktouarios
John S. Zavitsanos, Esq., Ekdikos

Past Commanders

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

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

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8 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10075-0106
P: 212 570 3550 F: 212 774 0214
info@archons.org



Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo A Global Advocate For Religious Freedom Receives Athenagoras Human Rights Award

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 guaran-

tees 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.”

The Annual Archon Weekend

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 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 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 perse-



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

cution 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.



*The Turkish government's
treatment of the Orthodox Church
is textbook religious persecution."*

—Remarks of Mike Pompeo



“

*I met Mr. Bouras in 1990. His legacy of stewardship is truly extraordinary and set a very high bar for us to follow. He embodied *philotimo, philanthropia, and philoxenia* – love of honor, charity, and hospitality – and set a towering example of what it means to be a faithful steward. To have my name associated with his, is a profound privilege which I do not take lightly.*

–Address of Alexander Pritsos

At the annual Nicholas J. Bouras Award Dinner 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

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and National Commander Dr. Limberakis present the Bouras Award to Alexander Pritsos. Dr. Limberakis is wearing the maroon bow tie gifted to him by Nicholas Bouras in tribute to his memory.

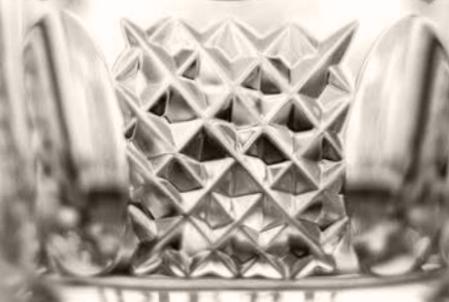


The **Nicholas J. BOURAS AWARD**

*For Extraordinary
Archon Stewardship*

PRESENTED TO

Alexander Pritsos
Archon Hieromnimon
October 17, 2025



The Annual Archon Weekend

After detailing many of Archon Pritsos' other selfless labors on behalf of the Holy Mother Church, His All-Holiness added: "Because of these manifold labors—many unseen yet indispensable — you have awakened the admiration, gratitude, and affection of so many faithful servants of the Church." That admiration, gratitude and affection were on abundant display on Friday evening.

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."

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 re-



sources 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 expressed his profound gratitude, stating that "to be singled out with the Nicholas J. Bouras Extraordinary Stewardship Award is an honor I receive with immense gratitude."

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." He emphasized that "this award is not a finish line. It is a powerful reminder that our work is never done, it continues, and our responsibilities deepen. I leave tonight with a heart filled with gratitude and a renewed commitment to upholding the spirit of Nicholas J. Bouras — acting honorably, be generous in my heart, and with my soul anchored in faith."



Archon Pritsos' children, top, offer words of respect for their father; Maritza and Alex Pritsos, right; Hon. B. Theodore Bozoenlis, far right, congratulates Archon Pritsos who is holding his grandson; Archon Pritsos with Archons and friends, below, who came to support him that evening.



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 Sunday, October 19, 2025.

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



Father-Son Archons

Several newly-invested Archons, pictured with their fathers—also Archons. Above left, Anthony C. and Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis; top, John A. Catsimatidis with his son, John Jr.; above left, Steve Zervoudis with his son, Jimmy Zervoudis; and above right, Nikiforos Valaskantjis with his son, George N. Valaskantjis.

The Annual Archon Weekend

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, Chartoularios
West Chester, PA

Asteris James Fanikos, Esq.,
Hypomnematos, 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

Christos Marafatatos, 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, Chartoularios
Canal Fulton, OH

Nicholas Ivan Timko, Esq., Protopsaltis
Brooklyn, NY

James Peter Trakas, Exarchos
Independence, OH
Government Affairs Lobbyist

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, Prostatis Ton
Grammaton, Palisades, NY





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.



Honoring Educators

Dr. Helen Nixon & Katina Limberakis Tsatalis

“

As individuals and as an Archon family, each of us should strive to leave a legacy to inspire our children and our children's children to continue our Orthodox faith.

A critical component of this legacy is 'protecting the future of faith,' so that the light of our Orthodox faith can be perpetuated for generations to come."

—National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis

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 continuity 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."

The Annual Archon Weekend



Archons-elect Boot Camp

On Friday, October 17, Archon John S. Zavitsanos, along with Archon Gus Pablecas, National Secretary; Archon John G. Manos, Regional Commander for the Metropolis of Chicago; and Archon Rocky Sisson, Chair of the Communications Committee; addressed Archons-elect on their serious responsibilities to defend the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople.



Diakonia Ministry Reports

On that same day, the first day of the Annual Archon Weekend, Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Archon Diakonia Ministries were joined by National Council and Regional Commanders at a luncheon meeting. Above, Archon Joseph Kokolakis speaks about the Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Diakonia and Archon Dr. Cary J. Limberakis, right, delivers his report on Women in Orthodoxy Diakonia.



National Council and Regional Commanders Joint Meeting

Later, the National Council and Regional Commanders held a joint luncheon meeting. The Archons who were present offered overviews and briefings regarding their activities in their Metropolises.



Orientation Breakfast

On Saturday morning, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander introduced new Archons to the indefatigable and multifaceted initiatives of the Archons to support and defend the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople.



Annual Meeting

That afternoon, in the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate held its Annual Meeting. Various reports were offered including testimonials from young adults participating in the Pilgrimage of Discovery program.

Archons Manos and Tsamutalis New National Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

Archons Skeadas and Comodromos assume Emeritus Status

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the National Council at its meeting on December 6, 2025 elected Archon John G. Manos National Treasurer of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Archon Chris E. Tsamutalis, CPA, Assistant Treasurer.

Archons Manos and Tsamutalis succeed Archons Peter J. Skeadas and Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA, who recently informed Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, of their intention to step down as National Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, respectively. In recognition of their long and remarkable record of service, Dr. Limberakis invited both Archons Skeadas and Comodromos to assume Emeritus status, and they accepted.

Of the new National Treasurer, Archon John G. Manos, Dr. Limberakis stated: "In ten years as Regional Commander for the Metropolis of Chicago, Archon Manos has infused energy and dynamism into the Archons of Chicago in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the religious freedom initiatives of the Archons nationwide and worldwide. In fact, he and his fellow Regional Commander, Archon Gus (Kosmas) Pablecas, set the bar for Regional Commanders. Archon Manos is superbly qualified to be National Treasurer, as he has extraordinary financial background in the banking industry, having served as President of a major bank, Bank Financial. He also possesses an extraordinary commitment to our Holy Orthodox Faith, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and our Hellenic heritage, and I am grateful to God that the finances of the Archons of the

Ecumenical Patriarchate will continue to be in capable hands."

"As Treasurer of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation," said Dr. Limberakis, "Archon Chris Tsamutalis, CPA, has proven himself capable of navigating complex economic issues with the highest level of acumen and aplomb. We are all blessed that he will now be devoting his efforts and energies to working with Archon John Manos for the care of the national treasury of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The stellar credentials of both of these men in the financial and accounting fields ensures continued emphasis on the financial pillars of our organization: transparency and accountability. Both are top notch in their field, and both have also demonstrated their devotion to our beloved Holy Mother Church, as FOUNDERS of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation."

Regarding the retirement of Archon Skeadas, Dr. Limberakis said: "Archon Peter's lengthy and multifaceted record of devoted service to our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate and to the Archons, as National Treasurer and in so many other capacities, truly illustrates what it means to be an Archon in the fullest sense. Archon Peter's lifetime of dedication and commitment speaks more eloquently than

any word could about what it really means to give of one's time, talent and treasure for the support and defense of our holy Mother Church."

"Likewise," Dr. Limberakis said, "Archon Andreas Comodromos, a Certified Public Accountant, has performed indispens-



Archons John G. Manos, left, and Chris E. Tsamutalis, CPA, right.



Archons Peter J. Skeadas, left, and Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA, right.

able service as Assistant Treasurer of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for three decades, executing his many responsibilities with outstanding and essential technical expertise supporting our financial pillars of transparency and accountability."



The Apostolic Visit
HIS ALL-HOLINESS
BARTHOLOMEW
TO THE
UNITED STATES
OF
AMERICA

On the occasion of the
Templeton Prize

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."



ARRIVAL INTO THE UNITED STATES; GREETINGS BY ARCHONS AND FAITHFUL

📍 Dulles Airport
and The Waldorf Astoria

His All-Holiness was welcomed to the United States on behalf of President Donald Trump by Abbey Jones, pictured left, Deputy Chief of Protocol, and Deputy Secretary of State Michael J. Rigas. Representing the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America also offered a warm and official welcome. Additional greetings were extended by Ekaterini Nassika, Greek Ambassador to the United States, and Murat Uğurluoğlu, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, together with the Spiritual Advisor of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Rev. Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne Alexander Karloutsos.

His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey; His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos; and His Grace Bishop Nektarios of Diokleia also welcomed the Ecumenical Patriarch, as did National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis and The Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, National Vice Commander.



PRIVATE OVAL OFFICE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP

📍 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.







PHOTO BY J. MINNDALE



LAYING WREATH AT TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

 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 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."



PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA AND ELIZABETH FRASER



LUNCHEON HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR OF GREECE TO THE U.S.

📍 Dumbarton Oaks Museum and Gardens

His All-Holiness attended a luncheon in his honor at the Orangery of the historic Dumbarton Oaks Museum and Gardens. Hosting the luncheon was Ekaterini Nassika, the Ambassador of Greece to the United States.

After the luncheon, His All-Holiness visited the historic gardens of the Center and the Museum, viewing in particular its Byzantine collection, which consists of coins, icons, sacred vessels, and other historic and precious objects.



DINNER HOSTED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE RIGAS

 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.

During his address, His All-Holiness said, "As national identities seek to reify themselves around certain characteristics – religion often chief among them – they cut themselves off from the nature of diplomacy, embodied here at the State Department. For diplomacy means that one is willing to look at circumstances from the point of view of another. Thus, it requires a capacity, a spaciousness, if you will, to place oneself in another's condition – to be empathetic, and not only sympathetic. Such aptitude is truly apt for every aspect of life, for it keeps one honest about one's own intentions and motivations."



PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

*The
Apostolic Visit*



MEETING WITH HOUSE SPEAKER MIKE JOHNSON AND OTHER HOUSE LEADERS

📍 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-Calif.), former Speaker of the House of Representatives; and numerous other representatives and other dignitaries.

His All-Holiness noted a key similarity between the United States of America and the Orthodox Christian Faith: "The Ecumenical Patriarchate understands how it is possible for such diverse peoples to come together and to be 'E Pluribus Unum,' for the same is true of our Orthodox Christian Faith, which accepts all persons who come in sincerity of heart."



*The
Apostolic Visit*



PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



DOXOLOGY IN VIRGINIA

📍 St. Katherine's Church

His All-Holiness visited Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, Virginia, where he received an enthusiastic welcome from the faithful, under Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America expressed the hope that Greek Orthodox Christians in the United States, as "devoted and dedicated children of the Mother Church of Constantinople," would demonstrate for His All-Holiness their determination to fulfill their "Orthodox Christian vocation to live according to Christ."



PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA



PRIVATE TOUR OF MILKEN CENTER FOR ADVANCING THE AMERICAN DREAM

📍 Milken Center

On September 18, 2025, His All-Holiness was given an exclusive private tour of the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream (MCAAD) in Washington, D.C. Hosting the private tour was Archon John S. Koudounis, a frequent featured speaker at Milken Institute events.

The chairman of the Milken Institute is the noted financier Michael Milken, the Chairman of the Milken Institute and founder of the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream. Mr. Milken is an internationally renowned philanthropist who is the founder of both the Prostate Cancer Foundation and FasterCures, which seeks to improve treatment of all serious diseases.



GRAND RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE ECUMENICAL Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW FOUNDATION

📍 Ned's Club

His All-Holiness on September 17 attended a Grand Reception that the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation held in his honor at the exclusive Ned's Club. Hosting the reception was Archon John S. Koudounis, Chair of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Investment Committee, and his wife Joanne. A special guest at the Reception was the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

Also in attendance were Representative Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.); Representative Jimmy Patronis (R-Fla.); Deputy Secretary of State Mike Rigas; Kimberly Guilfoyle, the Ambassador-Designate of the U.S. to the Hellenic Republic; Former U.S. Representative John Sarbanes.



DOXOLOGY AT SAINT NICHOLAS NATIONAL SHRINE

📍 Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center

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.



MEETING WITH UN SECRETARY- GENERAL

📍 United Nations

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew met with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres at the United Nations Headquarters.

The meeting was warm and constructive, with discussions focusing on dialogue between peoples, religions, and cultures, as well as shared initiatives for peace and care for the natural environment.



PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

MAJOR ADDRESS OF RELIGION IN PUBLIC LIFE

📍 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."





TREE PLANTING AND MEETING WITH NY/NJ YOUNG ADULTS; BEACON OF HOPE DINNER

📍 Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center

On September 20, His All-Holiness participated in a tree-planting ceremony outside of St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine in lower Manhattan. He then proceeded to meet with the Young Adult Leaders of New York and New Jersey of that community. In his remarks to the youth, His All-Holiness stated: "You are much more than the future of our Church; you are also the 'Now' of our Church."

That evening, he attended the Inaugural Beacon of Hope Dinner of Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine at Casa Cipriani, where the first responders of September 11, 2001 were recognized and honored. Archon Michael Psaros played pivotal roles in the completion of the National Shrine and offered introductions and remarks that evening.



'GREEN PATRIARCH' HONORED ON INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

📍 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.

As part of the observance of International Coastal Cleanup Day, His All-Holiness went aboard the R/V Peconic-Southampton from Stony Brook University's marina to tour an inlet of Shinnecock Bay, in the east end of Long Island, and heard remarks from several of the university's researchers.



PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

“

Today's celebration is entitled, "Oceans of Hope," and there is still reason to be hopeful about the future. Our world is over seventy percent water, and the oceans contain over ninety-five percent of that water. A newborn-child is around seventy-five percent water, which decreases as we age. Water is our source of life and well-being and events such as this International Coastal Cleanup Day can help to focus us to address the pressing needs of our day.

—Address of His All-Holiness, "Oceans of Hope" Environmental Tribute



BANQUET HELD IN HONOR OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

📍 Dormition of the Virgin
Mary Cathedral

A banquet was held in honor of His All-Holiness at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Southampton.

In his remarks at the banquet, His All-Holiness noted that “our humble person has a most significant relationship with the clergy families that serve this extraordinary parish. Father Alex and Presvytera Xanthi and their family – Father Constantine and Presvytera Anastasia. They are extraordinary leaders – both the Presbyters and Presbyteres, and they manifest legacies that reach back to their blessed and ever-memorable parents.”



FATHER ALEX KARLOUTSOS ELEVATED TO GRAND PROTOPRESBYTER

📍 Dormition of the Virgin
Mary Cathedral

On September 21, His All-Holiness celebrated the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Cathedral in 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. The Archon Spiritual Advisor is the only clergyman in the world who holds this very special title and honor.



SYNAXIS OF THE HIERARCHS

📍 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 Spiriual Advisor, Father Alex Karloutsos, in Southampton, for the Synaxis (Assembly) of the Hierarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the United States.



JOHN AND MARGO CATSIMATIDIS HOST DINNER

📍 **Popup By Rocco**

On September 21, a dinner was hosted by Archon John and Margo Catsimatidis at Popup by Rocco in Southampton. This event officially concluded His All-Holiness visit to Long Island's East End.



PHOTOS BY J. J. MINDALA



BARTHOLOMEW FOUNDATION / ARCHON RECEPTION

📍 Archdiocesan Cathedral

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. Reflections from the Pilgrimage of Discovery were offered by Heather Marcella, 2025 Alumni Participant and a special concert was offered by the Archdiocesan Youth Choir.



*The
Apostolic Visit*



MEETING WITH UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT ZELENSKYY

📍 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.





CONCORDIA ANNUAL SUMMIT

📍 Sheraton Hotel

Greeted by George Logothetis, His All-Holiness was the keynote speaker at the 2025 Concordia Annual Summit in New York City. The Ecumenical Patriarch quoted a passage from the Book of Genesis: "And God formed the human being from dust of the Earth, and breathed into their nostrils the breath of life; and the human being became a living soul."

His All-Holiness explained that "this sacred narrative demonstrates for all time that our relationship with our planet is intricate and that every human being, family, and society is inextricably linked through the physicality of shared world. Such a realization of our interdependence with our 'Mother Earth' should inform every major decision that affects Her health and prosperity. Moreover, we cannot divorce our concern and care for the environments in which we live, from the human beings with whom we share these environments."

RECEIVING THE KEY TO NEW YORK CITY

📍 Greek Orthodox
Archdiocese of America

At the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, now past mayor of New York City, Eric Adams, presented His All-Holiness with the Key to New York City. Mayor Adams stated: "It was a great honor to stand with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America today as we presented a 'Key to the City' to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. His commitment to the environment and his inspiring leadership serve as an example for many."





DOXOLOGY AT SAINT GEORGE

📍 Saint George Church

His All-Holiness presided over a Doxology Service at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in New York. Archon Nick Scandalios offered welcoming remarks. Later, a blessing reception occurred with the Greek Orthodox faithful from Constantinople, Imvros and Tenedos and compatriates.





VISIT TO FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

📍 Fordham University

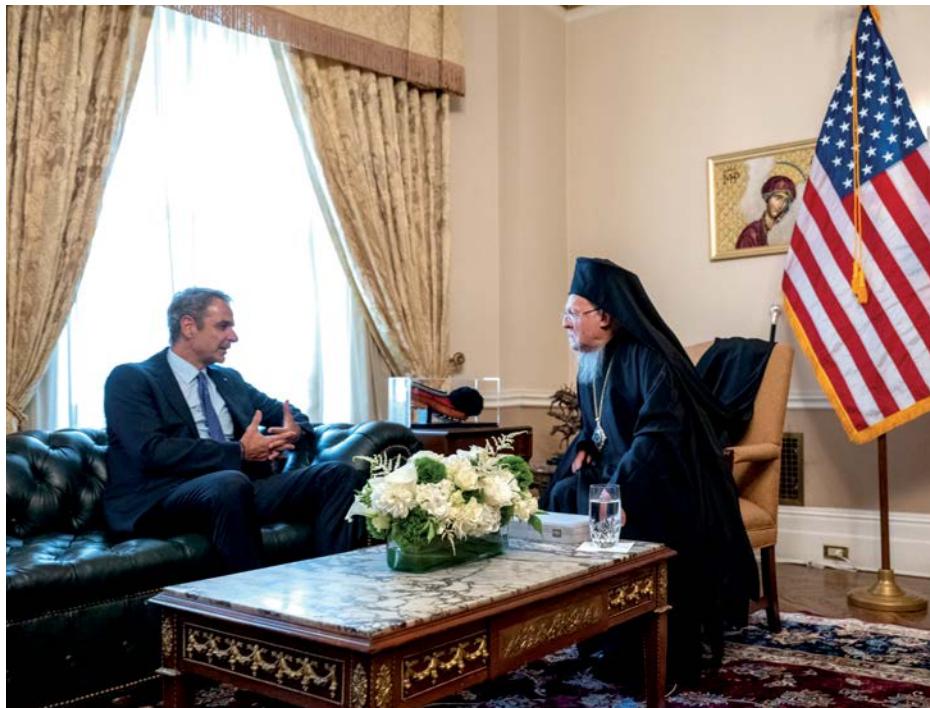
On September 23, His All-Holiness visited Fordham University in the Bronx, NY. While there, a concert for the Environment in the University Church was held, featuring Cappella Romana Choir. His All-Holiness later visited the Orthodox Christian Studies Center, escorted by its co-directors, Archons George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

MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN LEADERS

📍 New York City

On September 24, His All-Holiness met with Kyriakos Mitsotakis, right, the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic. His All-Holiness expressed his gratitude 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.

Below, His All-Holiness also met with the President of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan, left, and then later with the Prime Minister of Bulgaria Rosen Zhelyazkov, right.





Templeton Prize



TEMPLETON PRIZE CEREMONY

📍 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.



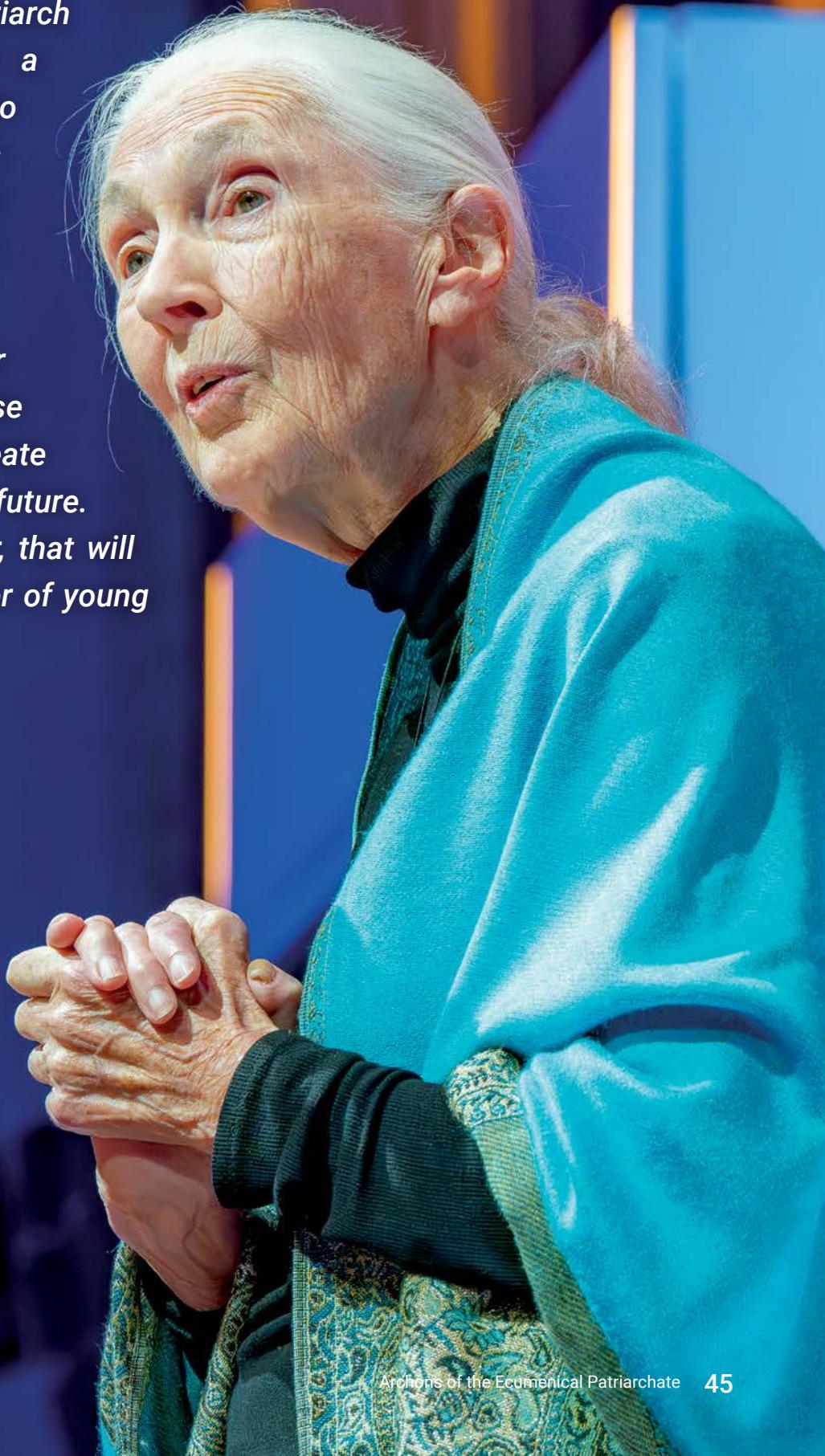
PHOTOS BY J. MINDALA

“

I first met the Green Patriarch on Halki Island. What a great idea it was of his to bring environmentalists together on that beautiful island to discuss ways of saving nature.

I know very well that, Your Holiness, the way you use this prize will help to create a better world for the future. If we can work together, that will really increase the power of young people everywhere.”

—Address of Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE





“

You defined environmentalism not just as a practical, necessary solution, but also as a spiritual responsibility.”

—Prime Minister Mitsotakis



Templeton Prize
New York



Templeton Prize

each year honors a person 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 2025 TEMPLETON PRIZE IS AWARDED TO

His All-Holiness Bartholomew

Archbishop of Constantinople - New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

Spiritual leader of 300 million Eastern Orthodox Christians, whose pioneering efforts to bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity's relationship with the natural world have brought together people of different faiths to heed a call for stewardship of creation. For over 30 years Bartholomew of Constantinople has articulated a compelling moral and theological vision of humanity's responsibility care for the Earth and to uphold harmony, unity, and mutual love within and across religious communities.

It is a distinct honor for the John Templeton Foundation, the Templeton World Charity Foundation, and the Templeton Religion Trust to celebrate and congratulate His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.



“

When I see a physicist measuring the acceleration of melting glaciers in the Arctic and a theologian contemplating the groans of creation (Romans 8.22–23), I see two people reading the same book—the book of nature and the book of scripture—in different languages. When I witness a climate scientist's agony over dying forests and hear the prophet lament that “the earth is utterly torn and violently shaken” (Isaiah 24.19), I recognize the same broken heart beating in both. The disassociation between faith and science must end. They are both on the same page.”

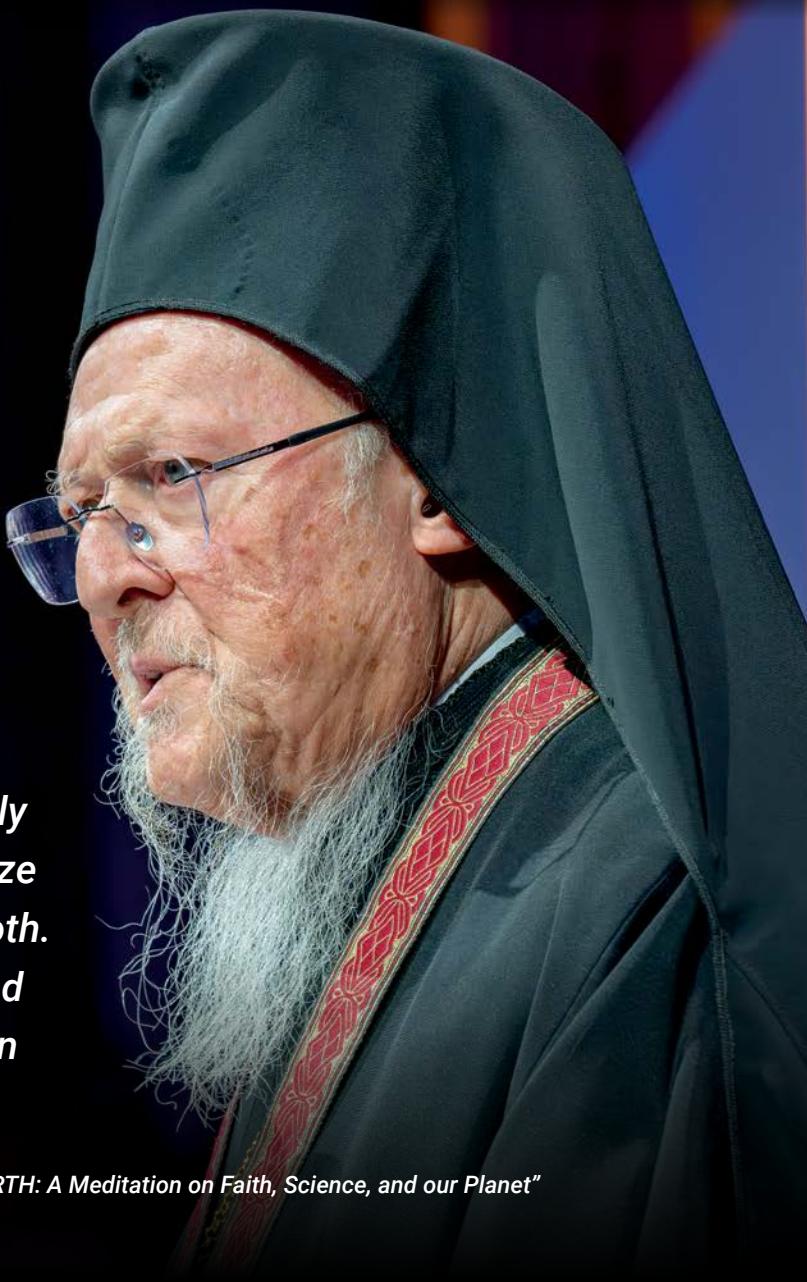
—Address of His All-Holiness, “WHERE HEAVEN MEETS EARTH: A Meditation on Faith, Science, and our Planet”



“

When I served as Vice President of the United States in 1997, we celebrated him for his work to remove the barriers that separate people from one another, from their God, and from the natural environment.

—Vice President Al Gore





FAREWELL LUNCHEON HOSTED BY CALAMOS INVESTMENTS

📍 Rockefeller Center

At the conclusion of his Apostolic Visit to the United States, His All-Holiness on September 25, attended a Farewell Luncheon in his honor at Calamos Investments. Hosting the luncheon was His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, along with Archons John Calamos, John Koudounis and Yannis Sianis. The luncheon also was held in gratitude to Rabbi Arthur Schneier, a distinguished human rights advocate and Founder and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

Also attending were Hierarchs and representatives of various faith communities; Mrs. Mareva Grabowski, wife of the Prime Minister of Greece; the new U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Hon. Kimberly Guilfoyle; and numerous other dignitaries, Archons, and prominent figures.

Later, His All-Holiness concluded his Apostolic Visit departing from Teterboro Airport in New Jersey.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew And Pope Leo Recite The Creed Together During The 1700th Anniversary of 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).



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, above, stands with His Beatitude Patriarch Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and Archons. Left, Peter J. Skeadas, National Treasurer Emeritus, delivered remarks during a dinner held in honor of His All-Holiness.

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.

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 magnified 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 and Pope Leo at the Phanar.



Archons and Pilgrims outside Hagia Sophia.



Archons and Pilgrims with Hon. Michael J. Rigas, center, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

The John Halecky Jr.

22nd Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat

With the blessings of
His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America,
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Archons will be
hosting three Retreat weekends throughout the United States
in order to extend our spiritual outreach
to our brother Archons.

March 6–8

**St. Photios National Shrine / Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
SAINT AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA**

March 13–15

**St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**

March 20–22

**Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Cathedral
SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK**



RSVP, accommodations, schedules and detailed information
will become available at: archons.org/lentenretreat

Archon Sunday



& The Sprout Program



Surrounding the feasday 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 Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew 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.

All Saints Church, Canonsburg, PA

Left, children hold coloring pictures of His All-Holiness.

St. John the Theologian Cathedral, Tenafly, NJ

Below, Archons John Mavroudis, Steven Papdatos, Dean Vafiadis, Regional Commander George Tsougarakis, Steve Zervoudis, Stephen Ferranti, Regional Commander Michael Camarinos, Spiro Dongaris, Philip Philiou, George Staphos, Andreas Zigouras, and Jimmy Zervoudis.





Annunciation Church, Elkins Park, PA

Kate Limberakis teaching the Sunday School Sprouts Program along with Archon Craig Godshall's daughter, Kali Godshall.



All Saints Church, Peoria, IL

Archon Frank Lagouros with Sunday School students



Holy Cross Church, Whitestone, NY

Above, Sunday School Students learn about His All-Holiness

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte, NC

Below, all 13 Sunday School classes (Pre-K to 12th Grade), with over 600 children in the Catechism School.





St. Sophia Cathedral, Miami, FL

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



Church of Our Savior, Rye, NY

National Treasurer Emeritus Peter Skeadas with Archons Emmanuel Velevasakis and George Zimmar.



Annunciation Church, Elkins Park, PA

Archon Anthony C. Limberakis



Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA

Archons George Spanos, John Harbilas and Nick Theofanis



St. Andrew Church, Chicago, IL

Archon Paul G. Loupakos



St. John the Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA

Regional Commander Hon. Steve Councilis



St. Paul Church, Hempstead, NY

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



Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte, NC

Archon Frank Boardman offers a presentation after both Divine Liturgies.



St. Andrew Church, Chicago, IL

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

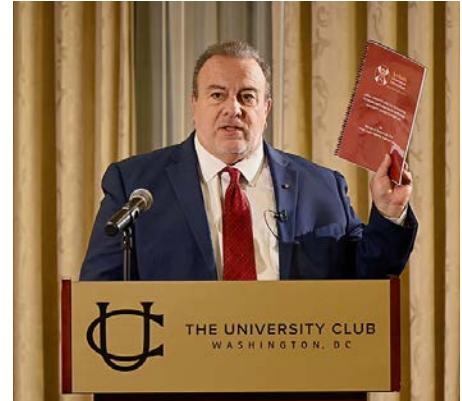
Forum On Safeguarding The Ecumenical Patriarchate Under Turkish Law And The Critical Importance Of Legal Identity

On November 6, 2025, the Archons Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Diakonia Ministry (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., which provided a beautiful conference room and delicious hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and desserts. 83 people attended, including many Archons and their family members from Florida to New York, as well as the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area priests, Georgetown and American University students, and business leaders from the Washington area. Archon Regional Commander Andy Manatos, who gave the welcoming remarks, congratulated the Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Committee for "holding an excellent, well attended, highly informative forum which hopefully will lead to future action to help preserve the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey."

The AEP recognizes the outstanding efforts of the Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Committee, which is headed by Chairman Joseph J. Kokolakis and



Archon George S. Kounoupis, Esq., delivered a highly informative and powerful presentation which highlighted the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey, at the University Club in Washington, D.C.

Vice Chairman Theodore M. Kakoyiannis, in organizing this important event. Also instrumental in spearheading this event were Regional Commander Manatos and Archons Kounoupis and Anthony W. Djinis.

Archon Sisson Travels To Warsaw, Poland For OSCE Conference

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 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."



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



Archons in Chicago Raise Awareness at Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly

The Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago continually strive to raise awareness among the faithful about the issues related to religious freedom and to convey the mission of the Archons as one united family under the direction of the Archon National Council. In that vein, area Archons participated in the Metropolis of Chicago Clergy-Laity Assembly, held at the Meridian Banquet & Conference Center from November 4-6 in Rolling Meadows, Illinois.



Archons Support Boston's Homeless

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

"Nicaea Then and Now," a groundbreaking Archon Symposium, was held on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia (Father Anastasios Bourantas, Dean of the Cathedral). 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.

In Memoriam

Dr. James P. Pappas

Depoutatos
Norman, OK
Departed on August 2, 2025

Harry Raptakis

Exarchos
Hempstead, NY
Departed on July 21, 2025

Franklin R. Manios

Depoutatos
Warren, OH
Departed on October 7, 2025

Peter J. Couchell

Hartoularios
Charlotte, NC
Departed on October 6, 2025

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ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEW FOUNDATION
For the Sacred See of Saint Andrew

FOUNDERS

\$100,000
Donors

269 Founders | \$29.2M Pledged

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
Founding Benefactor and Founding Member

Mr. and Mrs. Athanasios and Marina Martinos
Fulfilled \$300,000 Donation

Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation
Fulfilled One-Million-Dollar Match

Drs. Stephen and Anna Yalourakis
Fulfilled \$230,000 Donation

** Participant in
Bouras Foundation
\$1 Million Match

List as of January 9, 2026

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