



Order of
Saint Andrew
the Apostle

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

2003 Annual Report to His All Holiness *Ecumenical Patriarch* *Bartholomew*

As Archons you represent and embody the oldest and greatest honor accorded in Christendom, an honor of high stature that has its roots in very ancient times. In our day you have come to the fore once again offering your time, talent and treasure in service to defend and promote our holy faith and our holy and Ecumenical Patriarchate. You have demonstrated your service in prayer, the foundation of all our actions; in words that effectively support those actions; and in assistance and witness. Your voice is heard in the world's capitals and your presence respected.

*His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
Archon Pilgrimage to Ecumenical Patriarchate*

October 22, 2002

It is with the greatest respect and humility that we offer this Annual Report to our beloved spiritual fathers His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, as well as to our brother Archons of the Great Church of Christ.

The various initiatives of the Order of St. Andrew under our core mission as *Defenders of the Faith*, can be classified under three fundamental categories: *spirituality, education and philanthropy (Christian Stewardship)*, all related to the general well being of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Succinctly, the mission of each Archon individually, and of the Order collectively, is to promote and defend the Holy Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

EDUCATION

IMPROVING THE STATUS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

This past year we have focused on the physical, geopolitical and political well being of the Ecumenical Patriarchate situated in Constantinople, present day Istanbul at the crossroads of Eastern and Western civilizations. We have undertaken an expansive program to improve the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate under the broad category of education.

Firstly we have endeavored to educate ourselves as Archons regarding the complex issues that constrain the worldwide ministry of the Mother Church; issues whose etiology rests in various international treaties, local laws, the Turkish Constitution and the geopolitical climate of modern Turkey post November 2002 when a new government was elected. In this regard we have engaged the services of Prof. Elizabeth H. Prodromou, who was retained to develop "white papers" on the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate briefing the National Council regarding confusing and complex laws, treaties and the political climate of Turkey that has resulted in an official, insidious government policy to asphyxiate the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the spiritual center of world Orthodoxy. Doctor Prodromou is Asst. Professor in the Department of International Relations at Boston University, where she is also the Associate Director of the Institute on Religion and World Affairs. Prodromou holds a Ph.D. and an S.M. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as well as an M.A.L.D. from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and a B.A. in International Relations and History from Tufts University. She has held teaching appointments at Princeton University, as well as teaching fellowships at Harvard and Tufts Universities. Thus, the Order has engaged an expert on these matters to assist us in our mission to Defend the Holy Mother Church.

With hopes of accession to the European Union, and the concomitant religious human rights requirements of the EU Aquis Communautaire, we find ourselves at a propitious time to make real progress in the following areas, some of which have been festering for decades, if not since the Fall of Constantinople in 1453:

- 1. Reopening the Theological School of Halki**
- 2. Safeguarding the property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Patriarchal Institutions who have lost hundreds of income producing properties to the Turkish government**
- 3. Abolishing Turkish government interference in the selection of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Holy Synod**
- 4. Recognizing the "ecumenicity" of the Ecumenical Patriarchate**

These papers are being formatted so that we may distribute them to all our brother Archons in America.

PROF. ELIZABETH PRODROMOU AVAILABLE TO SPEAK LOCALLY ON STATUS OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF ORDER

The Order has engaged Prof. Prodromou to be available to speak locally at various meetings throughout America regarding the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This

public service will enable regions throughout the United States to be apprised of the complex geopolitical situation of the Phanar. The Professor is scheduled to speak at the New Jersey Metropolis Clergy Laity Meeting in March 2004. For further information regarding scheduling the professor for a speaking engagement, kindly call the National Office at 212-570-3550.

EDUCATE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

White House

President George W. Bush intervenes on behalf of American Orthodox regarding religious human rights of Ecumenical Patriarchate and reopening Halki.

Through formal and informal means of communication, we have educated our own government regarding the concerns of all Orthodox Christians. It should be noted that President Bush in the Oval Office during an official visit of the Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan specifically expressed the concerns of the US government regarding the closure of the Halki School of Theology and other issues that concern all Orthodox faithful in America regarding the religious human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

United States Congress

Special recognition is accorded to Archon US Senator Paul Sarbanes and Archon US Congressman Michael Bilirakis who have consistently championed the cause of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Congress and who consistently assist the Order in this regard.

United States Department of State

Archon Meetings with Under Secretary of State Marc Grossman, US Ambassador to Turkey Eric Edelman and Executive Director of US Commission on International Religious Freedom Joseph Crapa.

The leadership of the Order has met with US Under Secretary of State Marc Grossman, US Ambassador to Turkey Eric Edelman and the Executive Director of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom regarding the four specific concerns of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. These meetings continue and the invaluable assistance of Secretary Grossman and Ambassador Edelman cannot be overstated. The Order continues to rely on Archon Andrew Manatos "our man in Washington" to facilitate these meetings and push our agenda at the highest levels.

1500 SCOBA CHURCHES RECEIVE ARCHON INTERACTIVE CD-ROM ON ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH / VISITING PILGRIMS TO PHANAR RECEIVE CD-ROM

Consonant with our mission to educate the faithful regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the interactive CD-ROM entitled *The Ecumenical Patriarchate* commissioned by the Order of St. Andrew and developed by the Department of Religious Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America was distributed to some 1500 individual parishes throughout the United States as a public service. In addition to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, this reference on the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Holy Archdiocese of America and the Order of St. Andrew / Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate was transmitted to parishes belonging to the Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America, the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese in the USA, the

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of North America, the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, the Orthodox Church in America, the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America and Canada, the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew distributes this CD-ROM to visiting pilgrims to Constantinople and the Phanar.

ORDER SPONSORS BOOK ON ECOLOGICAL VISION OF HIS ALL HOLINESS

The book entitled Cosmic Grace-Humble Prayer: The Ecological Vision of the Green Patriarch, Bartholomew I was published by Eerdmans Press and partially underwritten by the Order. This volume, edited by Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis presents a compilation of the numerous Patriarchal Papers, Lectures and Treatises on the ecology authored by His All Holiness.

ORDER SPONSORS PATRIARCHAL POST CARD PROJECT

The Order has underwritten the development of 5000 packets of postcards, each consisting of 10 postcards, each card presenting two photos of the Patriarchate including His All Holiness, noteworthy icons, the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George among other highlights of the Phanar. Short descriptions in English, Greek and Turkish are offered on the reverse side of the postcard. These postcards will be available to visiting pilgrims to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 2004.

ORDER DEVELOPING TRAVEL BOOK TO ORTHODOX SITES OF CONSTANTINOPLE

The Order continues to develop a travel book to Orthodox sites of Constantinople. Although this project has been delayed because of a number of logistical reasons, it is now back on track and under the guidance of Education Committee Chairman, Dr. Spiro Macris. It is estimated that another two years will be required to complete this project. We anticipate a one-of-a-kind comprehensive guide for the pilgrim, which will feature descriptions on *all* the Orthodox points of interest.

ORDER RECEIVES AHEPA MEDAL OF FREEDOM AWARD AT 81ST ANNUAL AHEPA CONVENTION PHOENIX, ARIZONA

National Commander of the Order Dr. Anthony Limberakis received the award on behalf of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America from Dr. James Dimitriou, Supreme President of the Order of AHEPA on July 31, 2003 in Phoenix, Arizona at AHEPA's 81st annual convention. Acknowledging the significance of the Award Dr. Limberakis stated, "The Order of St. Andrew is deeply honored to receive the AHEPA MEDAL OF FREEDOM. It is an honor that acknowledges the sacred mission of the Archons to protect and defend the Holy Mother Church and to strengthen the ties of the Church in America and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. As Archons, we look forward to working together with AHEPA, side by side, to serve as 'Defenders of the Faith' seeking religious freedom and the vitality of the Ecumenical Patriarchate."

ORDER CO-SPONSORS LECTURE ON BALUKLI HOSPITAL AT ARCHDIOCESAN CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY

The Balukli Hospital, and Home for the Aged, a Patriarchal institution consisting of a medical complex with 650 inpatient bed hospital and various outpatient clinics serving 40-50,000 patients a year celebrated its 250th anniversary serving the medical needs of the citizens of Constantinople. In recognition of this milestone anniversary Dr. Yannis Skarlatos, Secretary Balukli Board of Trustees, presented a lecture entitled: Balukli: the Epitome of Greek Orthodox Philanthropy, on October 21, 2003 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity under the co-sponsorship of the Order of St. Andrew and the Constantinopolitan Society of New York. It should be noted that Balukli Hospital and Home for the Aged receives a donation from the Order every year and is a budgeted line item.

NEW BYLAWS RATIFIED BY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MARCH 2003

The new Bylaws of the Order, developed under the guidance of Bylaws Committee chairman Archon Christopher Stratakis, Esq. were unanimously adopted by the membership of the Order at its Annual Meeting on March 8, 2003 in New York City and received the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Bylaws of the Order articulate our mission, internal administration, responsibilities and privileges as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and it is important for all of us to familiarize ourselves with its content. This document facilitates the Order in executing our mission to promote and defend the Holy and Great Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

It should be noted that the Bylaws provides the framework for a *single, united national body* of Archons in America known as the Order of St. Andrew / Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In this context, the separate organization of local Archons into splinter groups in a particular metropolis or diocese pursuing local and parochial endeavors is not consistent with the governing Bylaws of the Order. We are, and must remain a *national* organization under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its Exarch in America.

ARCHON LEADERSHIP PILGRIMAGE TO ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE & RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MISSION TO ANKARA SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2004

Members of the National Council, under the guidance of Archon Alexander Pritsos, chairman of the Pilgrimage Committee are scheduled to travel to the Ecumenical Patriarchate to meet with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. While in Turkey during the pilgrimage, the Archon Delegation will travel to Ankara to meet with US Ambassador to Turkey, Eric Edelman and leading officials of the government of Turkey to discuss issues concerning the religious human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

ORDER UPGRADES WEBSITE; WWW.ARCHONS.ORG

Under the Technology Committee chairmanship of Archons James D. Speros and Alexander Pritsos, the National Council has engaged the Department of Information Technologies of the GOA, Theo Nicolakis, Director to upgrade our website which serves as a resource on the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the mission of the Order. Phase I of the \$40,000 project will be completed in mid 2004. The site will be a robust, user-friendly site, which will enhance the education mission of the Order.

2003 ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHT AWARD PRESENTED TO IOCC & OCMC IN NYC

Through the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Archbishop Demetrios of America, the Order presented two agencies of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) with the Athenagoras Human Rights Award: The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) at our grand banquet at the New York Hilton Hotel on March 8, 2003.

Since its creation in 1992 as the humanitarian and philanthropic agency of SCOBA, International Orthodox Christian Charities has evolved into an important relief organization that is internationally recognized and respected. In its first decade, IOCC has become a vital conduit enabling Orthodox Christians in the churches of America to channel resources of human energy, as well as financial and material support towards those in need. IOCC has distributed more than \$160 million in aid through its initiatives both domestically and in 21 countries around the world. It has carried out its mandate of humanitarian service with distinction, responding to the needs of victims of war, poverty, disease and natural disasters. IOCC has earned numerous commendations for both its organizational efficiency and program effectiveness.

The Order also selected the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, the international missionary agency of SCOBA, as a worthy recipient of the Athenagoras Award. For almost two decades, the Mission Center has been the vehicle for Orthodox Christians in America to participate in the Church's missionary endeavors around the world. Since its inception in 1985, the Mission Center has offered missionary support to over 35 countries through sending long-term and short-term missionaries, supporting the development of indigenous Orthodox churches, and funding educational and philanthropic programs. During this time, the Mission Center has sent more than 800 dedicated volunteers on teaching, building and medical teams, conducted 25 building and restoration projects of churches, schools and medical clinics, and financially supported over 230 indigenous Orthodox clergy in twelve countries. Last summer OCMC sent 11 teams to regions of East and West Africa, Central America, Eastern Europe, Asia, and Alaska.

IOCC Board Chairman Bert W. Moyar and Executive Director Constantine M. Triantafilou accepted the award on behalf of IOCC. Board President Helen Nicozisis and Executive Director Fr. Martin Ritsi accepted the award on behalf of the OCMC.

SPIRITUALITY

1ST ANNUAL ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT HELD AT HELLENIC COLLEGE / HOLY CROSS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

A first-ever national Lenten retreat was conducted by the Order at Hellenic College / Holy Cross School of Theology on March 21 and 22, 2003. More than 45 Archons from across the United States attended the historic event that was convened under the spiritual guidance of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and renowned professor of Orthodox theology, the Reverend Stanley S. Harakas who served as the retreat leader.

The theme of the retreat, "Growing Spiritually," provided Archons with the opportunity to delve into the role of spirituality in their personal lives, in the church, and in the world. Each of these three areas provided the basis for prayer and reflection through a series of breakout sessions that were preceded by remarks by Reverend Harakas. In addition, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios led the group in bible study focusing on Psalm 23 *The Lord is My Shepherd*. Archons began and ended each day by attending the Salutations and Vesper services at the beautiful Holy Cross Chapel.

2ND ANNUAL ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT SCHEDULED AT ST. BASIL ACADEMY

Recognizing the supreme importance of spirituality in our daily existence, the Spirituality Committee of the National Council chaired by Archon James D. Speros, has organized a Lenten retreat on March 19 and 20, 2004 at the Saint Basil Academy entitled, "Ascending the Heights: Climbing the Ladder of Divine Ascent." The Order is both blessed and very fortunate to have His Grace Bishop Savas, Bishop of Troas and Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, serve as retreat master under the spiritual guidance of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

2004 ARCHON PILGRIMAGE TO ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE BEING PLANNED

The National Council is planning a general Archon Pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate scheduled for the latter part of the year. The Pilgrimage, which is open to all Orthodox faithful, presents a unique opportunity for the Archons and communicants of our faith to witness the Martyria and Diakonia, of His All Holiness and the Holy and Sacred Synod constituting the spiritual center for 300 million Orthodox worldwide.

PHILANTHROPY

CONTINUED ECONOMIC SUPPORT OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE; SINCE 1998 THE ORDER OF ST. ANDREW HAS CONTRIBUTED OVER \$900,000 TO ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Philanthropy, in the most literal sense of the word, represents the love of mankind; the Love that Jesus Christ embodies; the love that as Christian Stewards we possess in our hearts. Philanthropy, i.e. *Christian Stewardship* is one of the three core missions of the Order of St. Andrew / Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America. Through our love of Jesus Christ and as we strive for personal salvation, we attempt to be exemplary Stewards. To this end the Archon of the Great Church of Christ serves the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Holy Archdiocese in America, his local Metropolis and parish through his personal commitment of *Time, Talent and Treasure*.

The Order extends its sincere gratitude to Executive Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras who exemplifies *Christian Stewardship* for the Glory of God. His major financial donations have enabled the Order to pursue various initiatives that benefit the Great Church of Christ and the Holy Archdiocese of America.

DONATIONS TO PATRIARCHAL INSTITUTIONS & HELLENIC COLLEGE / HOLY CROSS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Throughout the past year, the Order of St. Andrew has made significant donations to the Balukli Home for the Aged and the Halki School of Theology, institutions of the Holy Mother Church located in Constantinople. In addition, \$10,000 for Hellenic College / Holy Cross School of Theology was donated soon after the Archon Lenten Retreat which was held on the Holy Hill overlooking the city of Boston.

IOCC & OCMC RECIPIENTS OF DONATIONS

During the 2003 Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet in March 2003 a \$5000 donation was presented each to IOCC and OCMC in support of their missions to benefit the physical and spiritual lives of those in need.

PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS AND OF REGIONAL COMMANDERS IS EXEMPLARY AND INSPIRING

I am exceedingly proud of the personal stewardship offered by the officers and members of the National Council, as well as the Regional Commanders and it is a great privilege to serve by their side. The entire Order is indebted to these individuals who toil in the vineyard of the Lord with extraordinary dedication and distinction, offering their *Time, Talents and Resources* for the Glory of God and the defense of the Holy Mother Church. Executive Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras works unceasingly to further the mission of the Order and generously offers his resources to promote and defend the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Holy Archdiocese. Archon John Halecky, Jr. of the Carpatho-Russian Church, our superlative National Secretary not only meticulously maintains the records of the Order, but also is a tremendous source of creative initiatives to benefit the Holy Mother Church and spiritually enrich the individual Archon. Archon James C. Fountas, our outstanding National Treasurer is an engineer by profession, but certainly deserves an honorary "CPA" for his comprehensive and detailed work regarding the economics of the Order, including our Annual Banquet. Archon Christopher Stratakis, our devoted Legal Counselor is a true *Defender of the Faith*, researching the ways and means to improve religious freedom and tolerance in Turkey so that the Ecumenical Patriarchate can pursue

its sacred mission unfettered by government constraints. Archon Christo Daphnides, the Order's Historian is a great source of artistic creativity in the development of the written publications of the Order and is of great assistance during our Annual Archon Banquet.

The remaining National Council members deserve our deepest appreciation for the dedication and service to the Ecumenical Patriarchate: Archons Steve E. Alexander, Constantine G. Caras, Stephen Cherpelis, Andreas D. Comodromos, Gregory G. Demetrakas, Theodore D. Demetriou, Nikitas Drakotos, Dr. Steven Gournardes, Dr. George C. Kiriakopoulos, Elias J. Kulukundis, Dr. Spiro J. Macris, John N. Panas, Steven P. Papadatos, Alexander Pritsos, George S. Regas, George E. Safiol, James Speros, Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas and Konstantine L. Vellios. Regional Commanders, who are responsible for recommending new Archons from their regions and developing local programming to facilitate the mission of the Order are commended for their efforts: Andrew A. Athens, Harold Peponis (Chicago), Theofanis Economidis (San Francisco) Peter Zikos (Pittsburgh), Gregory G. Demetrakas (Boston), Nicholas D. Mamalis, MD (Denver), Steve Alexander (Atlanta), Mark Stavropoulos (Detroit), Constantine G. Caras (New Jersey) and Harry Magafan and Andrew E. Manatos (Washington, DC).

Appreciation is expressed to our hard-working Administrator, Ms. Linda Paul.

Father Alex Karloutsos and Presbytera Xanthi are recognized for their assistance in organizing our pilgrimages to the Phanar, as well as planning events in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We look forward to working more closely with Father Alex in the months to come.

ADDITIONAL REGIONAL COMMANDERS APPOINTED

With the blessings of the Exarch Archbishop Demetrios of America, and in accordance with the Bylaws, Commander Limberakis appointed the following additional Regional Commanders for a renewable one year term: Florida: Archon Harry Demos, New Jersey: Archon Peter Kakoyannis, Charlotte: Archon Harry Thomas Cavalaris, Virginia: Archon Nicholas Gretakis, Southern California: Archon Dr. James Kallins, Alabama: Archon George Yearout. A Regional Commander workshop is scheduled for Spring 2004 to be held at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

2003 ANNUAL EXARCH'S APPEAL

During the past calendar year ending December 31, 2003 \$173,685 was received from 265 Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America.

THE NEED FOR A PATRIARCHAL ENDOWMENT

In an era when many of our own parishes in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese have their own individual endowment and many of the Metropolises have an endowment, as well as the GOA embarking on a second endowment, it seems that as a matter of fairness, the Holy Mother Church should have its own endowment to secure its economic vitality. We Archons in the most wealthy and powerful country in the world must seriously consider how we can transform the dream of a Patriarchal Endowment into reality.

