

Letter to Clergy
From National Commander/Regional Commander

May 21, 2007

Dear Father,

THE MOTHER CHURCH NEEDS YOU! As a devoted clergyman of our Archdiocese and Christ, we ask you to use some of your precious time and talent as all of us, clergy and Archons, fight for *Religious Freedom* for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Order of Saint Andrew is committed to doing everything possible to live up to its noble calling to be truly defenders of the faith. We have taken our message of *Religious Freedom* to the White House and Congress, the European Union and Turkey, and we have sent a clear message globally via the New York Times and the International Herald Tribune. We gave of ourselves and our resources to promote and project the historic visit and meeting of Pope Benedict XVI with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in order to highlight the historic and important role of our Sacred Apostolic See located in Istanbul.

With the blessings of our beloved and revered Exarch, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, and the esteemed Holy Synod of America, we call upon you to become a committee of one and reach out to your fellow clergy, the Archons of your parish and our fellow Orthodox Christians to enact a *Religious Freedom Resolution* in your state, city, town or village on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We feel it is time to take our ecumenical message to the local level and only *you* and your brother priests can make it happen locally.

Dr. Nicholas Loutsion (724.554.8522) or loutsion@verizon.net) and Father Alexander Karloutsos (212.774.0550) or fralex@goarch.org) are coordinating this grass-roots effort in conjunction with the Archon regional commanders and state coordinators. Please feel free to contact any one of us and we will be happy to assist you in your efforts to secure a *Religious Freedom Resolution* for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Enclosed please find a *Religious Freedom Resolution* packet which will be of immense help to you as you bring the enlightening message from the Phanar to our neighbors, Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike. The packet includes:

1. Sample of *Religious Freedom Resolution*
2. House Resolution of the U.S. Congress respecting the rights and religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
3. State of New Jersey Joint Resolution.
4. State of Pennsylvania House Resolution.
5. A Memorandum entitled "Problems faced by the Ecumenical Patriarchate".
6. Senate Letter to President Bush.
7. House Foreign Affairs Committee's Letter to Prime Minister Erdogan and Robert Wexler's letter to the President.
8. U.S. House Foreign Affairs Chairman Tom Lantos' Speech
9. A letter protesting harassment of U.S. pilgrims during Papal visit by Turkish officials and police.
10. Islamic Teaching on Dhimmi Status.

Further information may be found on our website at www.archons.org under "Issues".

As an expression of our appreciation for your leadership and support, please accept the quite moving DVD on *The Return of the Sacred Relics* of Saints Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. Allow us to thank you, once again, for responding to the call of our Mother Church.

In the service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,



Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Aktouarios
National Commander



Peter Skeadas
Archon Hieromnimon
Regional Commander, Archdiocesan District