Despite world-wide recognition of the of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as the spiritual leader of the world’s 300 million Orthodox Christians, the government of Turkey does legally recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a corporate entity with legal personality. It will not allow the complete freedom for the election of his successor as Ecumenical Patriarch. It will not allow the local training of his clergy and the opening of the Halki Theological Seminary. It will not allow the return of all Greek Orthodox confiscated properties he needs to oversee without restrictions. His religious freedom remains constrained although the history of his country is tied to the historical doctrines and origins of Christianity.
To the honorable members of the Order of St. Andrew, esteemed Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate serving in America, our beloved in the Lord: May God's grace and peace be with you.

It is on the occasion of your Annual Meeting and the official presentation of the Annual Report of the Order of St. Andrew for 2018, that we have the great delight to address all of you with these heartfelt words of paternal embrace.

Having commemorated the start of the new ecclesiastical year, it is only natural to be filled with hopes and perhaps even questions about what may lie ahead. But then again, any concern or uncertainty for what the future holds can also be transformed into an excellent opportunity for renewal and reorientation, especially of the spiritual compass of our souls. After all, there is no better time than the present to wipe clean away any worries and, with a rejuvenated spirit and trust in the Lord, begin the work that lies ahead of each of us, whether personally or collectively.

At this point, then, with a newfound sense of Christian vigilance, which the Apostle Paul discusses in his epistle to the Colossians, each person will be safeguarded from falling captive to the deceitful snares of worldly principles, which seek to devalue the sacredness of man through the misleading promise of a greater self-deification, thus, dividing the unity of the body of Christ. And by living a genuine, Christ-pleasing and Christ-centered life, one is able to escape these treacherous and disorientating traps by maintaining a heart that is pure—filled with peace and harmony—therefore, opening himself up to receiving the mystery of the ages, that is, God's divine plan for the salvation of humanity.

With this in mind, dear sons, our focus as Christians is to keep our flame of love for the Creator burning ever so brightly, rather than simply on trying to avoid falling into the danger of losing our spiritual bearings. By putting God at the very nucleus of our being, at the core of all our works, and at the center of all of our relationships, we can quell the desire to look for satisfaction in excess. Only in this way can we come to know and experience the true knowledge and fullness of the Lord's riches and wisdom.

As you continue your noble task of supporting and advancing the sacred mission of the Mother Church of Constantinople, then, we entreat you to remain steadfast in your quest to strengthen the hearts of everyone around you, especially so that their lives may be enriched, and all may be united by the love of Christ, as one body—an indissoluble “bond of perfection” (Col. 3:14); for, a body with Christ as its head “grows with a growth that is from God” (Col. 2:19).

Together with our wholehearted Patriarchal blessings and warmest greetings, we wish you strength and health for the challenges that you will encounter throughout the new ecclesiastical year, and pray that the Almighty may bestow upon you and your families His endless heavenly grace and mercy.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the twenty-sixth of October, 2018

Your fervent supplicant before God,

* BARTHOLOMEW
Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
Dear and Esteemed Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew:

In this season of harvest, we recall the words of the great Apostle Paul, that “the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop” (1 Cor. 9:10). During long days of labor and through many months of waiting, those who toil in the Faith draw strength from the knowledge that—with the blessing of God—their efforts will come to fruition.

So may it be for our beloved Archons of the Order of Saint Andrew, who through this past year have labored so faithfully on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Mother Church of Orthodox Christianity. In this Annual Report for 2018, the record of your accomplishments and efforts comprise a remarkable list.

The Order of Saint Andrew has campaigned tirelessly for many years and specifically in 2018 for the rights of our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate. Through many meetings, conferences, and summits the Order has sought justice, peace, and full religious freedom for our Mother Church and for all the Christians of Constantinople and Turkey. You have “plowed and threshed” faithfully, and in that same faith we pray that the time of fruition will come soon for your efforts; that we will see His All-Holiness accorded the proper recognition of his Ecumenical status, the return of confiscated Church property, the reopening of the School of Halki, the restoration of the legal identity of the Patriarchate, and full freedom in the election of Church leadership.

In particular, you are to be commended for the significant international conference in Washington, DC in December 2017—the third of its kind!—highlighting the persecution of Christians in the Holy Lands and the Middle East; as well as for the Religious Freedom Summit of May 2018, which succeeded in bringing about a meeting of minds, bearing the fruits of new strategies and understandings for the future. In working for the basic rights and freedoms for all religious minorities, the Archons plant seeds of mutual respect, understanding, and brotherly love around the world. These seeds will soon spring up to a harvest of justice and freedom.

May the contents of this Annual Report bring a spiritual satisfaction and joy to your hearts, and rekindle your hope that the Lord of harvest (cf. Matthew 9:38) will bring swiftly the realization of all that you have sought and worked for so diligently.

With paternal blessings and congratulations,

†Archbishop Demetrios
Geron of America
His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew,
His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America,
Members of the Holy Eparchial Synod,
His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA,
His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA,
Reverend Clergy and beloved Presbyteres and
Brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America,

From the onset, let us all offer our profound gratitude for the extraordinary for the extraordinary ministry of His All-Holiness BARTHOLOMEW, the 269th direct successor of Saint Andrew the First Called Apostle. The dynamic ministry of Martyria (witness) and Diakonia (service) of His All-Holiness is intrepid, sacrificial and inspiring. His decision to grant autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine is such an example of this unparalleled Patriarchal ministry that has spanned 27 years (enthronement November 2, 1991), despite being situated in a country noted for its profound religious freedom deficit and the number of journalists it has imprisoned (the most in the world). Εἰς πολλά έτη Δέσποτα.

It is with great joy that we offer best wishes to our beloved Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America who observes the 51st Anniversary of his ordination into the episcopacy, and 19th as Archbishop of America. Εἰς πολλά έτη Δέσποτα.

The activities of the Order of Saint Andrew promoting religious freedom and the institutional human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate continue relentlessly. Our multifaceted efforts have been directed to the White House Administration, the State Department, Congress, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, each of the 50 states of our beloved nation, the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe based in Warsaw, Poland) and the European Union where Turkey still seeks admission.

The Order is proud of our fulfilled $1 million commitment towards the rebuilding of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine which has temporarily paused but undoubtedly will re-start. The collective Archon Stewardship supporting St. Nicholas is a demonstration of our commitment to the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness and freedom over tyranny…and that, Brother Archons, will never be paused or put on hold.
The ensuing pages of our 2018 Annual Report reviews the 5 Issues of Concern that constitute the profound religious freedom deficit in Turkey, the major activities and initiatives of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW and a pictorial summary of the local and national activities of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America. The Report reviews the multifaceted, domestic and international initiatives of the Order in our relentless pursuit of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archon Congressman Gus Bilirakis leads the Washington presence of the Order assisted by the Manatos Team and Archon John A. Catsimatidis who chairs the Religious Freedom Committee. In the European Union arena, the Order works closely with the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union. Highlights of the past year include:

- The Third Archon International Religious Freedom Conference (December 2017)
- The Third Archon Religious Freedom Summit (May 2018)
- Religious Freedom Presentation Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Clergy Laity Congress (July 2018)
- Reorganization of archon website: archons.org
- Establishment of new website: christianpersecution.com in follow up to the Washington Religious Freedom Conference

The major components of our strategy include the following:

- Washington, DC Initiative, coordinated by Regional Commander Archon Andrew E. Manatos and Archon Mike Manatos
  - White House
  - State Department
  - Congress, including meetings with Speaker Paul Ryan and Congressional Foreign Policy leaders
  - United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
- Archon 50-State Religious Freedom Legislative Resolutions Initiative, coordinated by Archon Stephen P. Georgeson, Esq. This year Archon Bill Spell spearheaded the effort to obtain religious freedom resolutions from the House and Senate State Legislatures of Minnesota.
- Patriarchal Properties and Minority Concerns Initiative, coordinated by Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis
- Social Media Initiative, Chaired by Archon Rocky Sisson and initially generously funded by Archon Michael G. Psaros and expanded by Archon Theo Nicolakis, Archon James Gabriel, Fr. Constantine Lazarakis, Elizabeth L. Limberakis, MBA, social media coordinator Stavros Antoniou and Archon-elect John Mindala
- European Union Initiative
- Regional Religious Freedom Presentations throughout the United States
This Annual Report also reviews the spiritual, educational and philanthropic activities of the Order during Archon Weekend. The 2017 Athenagoras Human Rights Award was presented to Efstratios Valamios and Emilia Kamvisi. These individuals were completely unique among recipients of the Award; a Greek fisherman and grandmother from the island of Lesbos. The duo did not receive the Award for themselves, but as representatives of the fishermen and residents of Lesbos and the Greek islands who had intervened in the Middle East refugee crisis, using their boats and fishing equipment to save thousands of refugees attempting the short but dangerous crossing from Turkey to Greece. In addition, during Archon Weekend 2017 twenty-four worthy churchmen were invested by the Exarch as Archons of the Great Church of Christ, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to each of them we again proclaim Άξιος!

Integral to Archon Weekend is the presentation of the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship, named after the beloved and deeply admired late National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, for whom a lasting tribute was developed eight years ago with the establishment of the Award. The 2017 Bouras Award reviewed in this Annual Report was presented to the Order’s outstanding Religious Freedom Chair, Archon John A. Catsimatidis and this year, the 2018 Award will be presented to the Archon George E. Saffioli, a most worthy honoree. Archon Bouras of blessed memory through his extraordinary stewardship empowered and continues to empower the Order to pursue its extensive domestic and international religious freedom initiatives that have been effective over the years, but costly. His constant encouragement, advice and exemplary personal conduct as churchman, philanthropist, war hero and patriot will continue to inspire all who had the privilege to know him, and those who will learn of his remarkable life in the years to come.

On behalf of the Order, we extend our deep gratitude to Rev. Alexander Karloutsos, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and our Spiritual Advisor who indefatigably offers his enormous efforts and guidance to the Order, as the Archons pursue the institutional human rights and religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Indeed, how fitting it is for Fr. Alexander and Presbytera Xanthi to receive the 2018 Athenagoras Human Rights Award! Άξιος!

To our National Archon Office Team, headed by Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos and joined by Graphic Designer Archon-elect John Mindala II, Administrator Christa Pourou and consultant Archon Andrew Venioupolos we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

In accordance with our raison d’être to support the initiatives of the Mother Church, the Order formed an Ad Hoc Committee regarding the Ukrainian Autocephaly issue to ensure the accurate, authentic and objective enlightenment of the world community and to counter prevarications initiated by propagandists. The Committee, Chaired by Archon Theodore Theophilos, Esq. and comprised of leading theologians, scholars and Archons has prepared a comprehensive memorandum included in this Annual Report. In addition, the Order is working on initiatives to contribute to the long term financial security of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as the proceeds of this year’s 2018 Athenagoras Human Rights Award will be used exclusively for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
In closing, the foundation and strength of an organization is based on its membership and its leadership team. It is a great personal honor for me to work side-by-side with the devoted officers of the Order, National Vice Commander John Halecky, Jr., Secretary Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis whom we call upon for his sage advice and our newly elected Treasurer Peter J. Skeadas who has efficiently reorganized the finances in accordance with the recommendations of the Audit Committee (Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq., Chair); our hardworking functionaries, Historian Prof. George Demacopoulos, PhD, Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, Sergeant-At-Arms Alexander Pritsos and Assistant Treasurer Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA; Members of the National Council and the Regional Commanders, including our Religious Freedom Chairman Archon John A. Catsimatidis, Archon Michael G. Psaros Athenagoras Human Rights Award Chair and Banquet Underwriter along with Archons John A. Catsimatidis, William P. Doucas, Dean Poll and the Bouras Foundation; Archon John Zavitsanos who reorganized the Annual Exarch’s Appeal and who now chairs the new Archon Boot Camp Committee, Archon Rocky Sisson coordinator of our Social Media Initiative and the hundreds of Archons throughout America who offer their Time, Talent and Treasure in service to the Great Church of Christ.

At this time it is fitting to pay tribute to three Archons who not only serve the Ecumenical Patriarchate with distinction, but have selflessly served our beloved nation, as well: Archon Reince Hercules Priebus, former White House Chief of Staff, Archon George D. Gigicos, former Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of White House Advance and Archon Michael A. Karloutos, former Acting Chief of Protocol, State Department! We all share in heartfelt brotherly pride in the ecclesiastical and patriotic achievements of these exemplary Archons!

The Archons of America, under the leadership of the Exarch Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America again pledge to all that we will to relentlessly pursue the institutional human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate so that one day, the bells of religious freedom will be heard around the world emanating from the Patriarchal Cathedral of Saint George and may that sacred day soon come!

In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Aktouarios
National Commander
Government Interference in Patriarchal Elections

The Turkish government imposes restrictions on the election of the Ecumenical Patriarch and hierarchs who vote for him by requiring that they must be Turkish citizens. In fact, the government arbitrarily can veto any candidate for the position of Ecumenical Patriarch.

With the dwindling population of hierarchs and Orthodox Christians in Turkey, we may not be able to elect an Ecumenical Patriarch in the not too distant future. This is tantamount to the asphyxiation of the leadership of the Holy Mother Church and a clear illustration of the direct intervention of the Turkish government in ecclesiastical matters.

No Legal Identity

The lack of a legal identity is a major source of problems for the Ecumenical Patriarchate including non-recognition of its ownership rights and the non-issuance of residence and work permits for “foreign” (i.e. - non-Turkish) priests who are essential to the continuity and functioning of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Turkish authorities do not allow the Ecumenical Patriarchate to own any property - not even its churches! The Patriarchal house itself is not recognized as the Patriarchate’s property.

Confiscation of Property

The Turkish Government has confiscated thousands of properties from the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Through various methods, the Turkish authorities have confiscated thousands of properties from the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox community over the years including our monasteries, church buildings, an orphanage, private homes, apartment buildings, schools and land. Left unchecked, the remaining Greek Orthodox community of Constantinople (present day Istanbul) - the cultural heirs of the Byzantine Empire - will be threatened and ultimately be no more.

Forcible closure of Halki Seminary and Inability to Train New Clergy

The Ecumenical Patriarchate is unable to train new clergy in Turkey and its theological school was forcibly closed down by the Turkish Government.

The Theological School of Halki was forcibly closed down by Turkish authorities in 1971. Since its closure, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has had to send the young men from its community desiring to enter the priesthood to one of the theological schools in Greece. In many instances, they do not return given the onerous restrictions in getting work permits and the general climate of intimidation.

Despite promises by the Turkish government to re-open our theological school, there has been no progress. Left unresolved, the administrative functioning and future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is imperiled.

Non-Recognition of "Ecumenical" Status

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

Turkish authorities do not allow the use of the term or title of “Ecumenical” for any religious activity whatsoever despite the fact that it has been used since the 6th century A.D. and recognized throughout the world. Turkey regards the Patriarchate as an institution whose leader is seen as the spiritual head of Orthodox Christians in Turkey alone rather than the leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide.
The Church of Constantinople was founded by St. Andrew, the first-called Apostle. The feast day of its patron is November 30. The first Bishop of Byzantium was Stachys (38-54), Andrew’s disciple.

Following its establishment as capital of the Roman Empire in 330, the status of “Constantinople-New Rome” was elevated to its current position. The 2nd Ecumenical Council (381) conferred on its Bishop second rank after the Bishop of Rome; the 4th Ecumenical Council (451) granted Constantinople equal ranking to Rome, expanding its jurisdiction.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate is referred to as the “Great Church of Christ,” being the reference point for liturgical and administrative matters. It is also called the “Phanar” (or “lighthouse”), referring to the old Greek Orthodox neighborhood in Istanbul. Moreover, it is known as “the Great Monastery,” functioning as a monastic brotherhood under the spiritual direction of the Ecumenical Patriarch.
The MOTHER CHURCH AND UKRAINE

A sign to strengthen a nation’s aspirations and religious liberty

St. Michael Cathedral
Located in the Golden-Domed Monastery in Kyiv, Ukraine, the structure was rebuilt in the Ukrainian Baroque style in the 18th century while the interior remained in its original Byzantine style.
In a momentous statement at the observance of the 1030th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivan Rus in which the Slavic Peoples were Christianized through the missionary work of Saints Cyril and Methodios sent by Ecumenical Patriarch Photios in the 9th century, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, representing His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, declared that His All-Holiness “will not leave his Ukrainian sons unprotected and abandoned.” He added: “The Ecumenical Patriarch cannot remain blind and deaf to the appeals that have been repeated for more than a quarter of a century. Sons of the Ukrainian Church and its leaders have the right to their place among the Churches. The Mother Church already passed the ruling on April 20 this year. Namely – to begin the procedure for achieving the ultimate goal – to provide autocephaly [independence] to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.”

His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel added that this procedure became possible after the appeal of the Ukrainian authorities, the president of Ukraine, “which is the successor to the political structure of Kyivan Rus.” “We are sure that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is on your side. You will not be orphaned because the Mother Church will find a way to become involved in your progress, your success, your growth in the faith of Christ,” Metropolitan Emmanuel said.

Ukraine’s President Petro Poroshenko added: “Autocephaly is an issue of our independence. This is an issue of our national security. This is an issue of the entire world geopolitics. Dear friends, the time of autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church has definitely come.” Referring to interference from Moscow, he said it was “absolutely necessary to cut off all the tentacles used by the country-aggressor within our state body.”

What His All-Holiness stated ten years ago, during the 1020th baptismal anniversary of Kiev-Russia, remains true: “As the Mother Church of all Orthodox people, the Ecumenical Patriarchate never identified itself with one Orthodox nation in particular, but rather supported willingly the historic destinies of all Orthodox nations, even at the cost of its own jurisdictional or other benefits, co-operating always on equal terms with the civic and political leadership of these nations, in accordance with the shining example set by our Lord, the Apostles and the eminent Fathers of the Church.”

We offer our prayers to our Lord Jesus Christ and beseech the Most Gracious Savior to bring peace and a new flowering to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.
Concerns on Ukraine

On Friday morning, August 31, 2018, following his communicated desire, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, arrived at the Phanar in order to deliberate with His All-Holiness on matters of inter-Orthodox concern.

The two Primates then held a lengthy private discussion in the Patriarchal Office together with Their Eminences Metropolitans Emmanuel of France and Hilarion of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for External Church Relations.
The Russian Orthodox Church has accused you of ‘interfering’ in its affairs—what is your response?

Response of ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW during an interview with Hannah Lucinda Smith, correspondent of the newspaper “Times of London” in Turkey.

The Russian Orthodox Church has accused you of ‘interfering’ in its affairs—what is your response?

THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH OF RUSSIA, BECAUSE UKRAINE DOES NOT LIE WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION.


THEREFORE, WHATEVER CONSTANTINOPLE IS DOING TODAY IN UKRAINE, IT IS DOING LAWFULLY (IPSO IURE) AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RIGHT THAT IT ALONE POSSESSES TO GRANT THE STATUS OF AUTOCEPHALY.
UKRAINE AUTOCEPHALY
Brothers and Sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ:

Many of you have been following the recent events regarding the Orthodox Church in Ukraine and the actions of His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In order to help you with an accurate understanding of the issues involved, we convey to you a brief memorandum. This memorandum is the product of the pertinent research of leading scholars and fellow archons.
The Orthodox population in Ukraine is divided into three groups: the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate ("UOC-KP") (25%/~11,000,000 adherents); Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate ("UOC-MP") (15%/~6,600,000 adherents); and Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church ("UAOC") (1.8%/~790,000 adherents). This division started in the 1920s and was greatly complicated by powerful geo-political events. The twentieth century was a brutal era for the Ukrainian people. During the Soviet period millions of Ukrainians perished under a ruthless regime. Historians estimate that in 1932-33, three to five million Ukrainians starved to death in the Holodomor (in Ukrainian, literally “death by starvation”). This genocide was orchestrated by Stalin to enforce collectivization in Ukraine. This catastrophe was followed by

### The Current State of the Church in Ukraine

1989

- The UAOC receives legal status by the Ukraine government. A few bishops and clergy from the Moscow Patriarchate form the UAOC and elect Metropolitan Mstyslav Skrypnyk as the Patriarch – he is enthroned in 1990. Metropolitan Mstyslav was ordained by bishops from the canonical Orthodox Church in Poland in 1942.

1990

- The Ukrainian Exarchate receives the canonical status of “broad autonomy and independence of self-governing” – (but neither autonomy nor autocephaly). The Ukrainian Exarchate is now known as the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP).

1991

- Ukraine is recognized as an independent nation and adopts a democratic constitution.

1992

- The Moscow Patriarchate declines to support the appeal for autocephaly and charges Metropolitan Filaret with leading the Church into schism. It is alleged that Metropolitan Filaret promises to retire (in April 1992), but changes his mind when he returns to Kyiv.

1992 (June)

- under the assumption that there was broad-based consensus among the Orthodox clergy in Ukraine, the UAOC convenes a unification council with the UOC-MP; however, only one UOC-MP bishop and Metropolitan Filaret attend. This council receives Metropolitan Filaret into its ranks and appoints him deputy to Patriarch Mstyslav. This council changes the name of the Church to the UOC-Kyivan Patriarchate. Patriarch Mstyslav does not accept the name change. The Church divides into the UOC-KP (much larger) and the UAOC.

1992 (May)

- The UOC-MP convenes a synod in Kharkiv – without Metropolitan Filaret (arguably in violation of canonical law) – and elects Metropolitan Volodymyr Sabodan as the new primate of UOC-MP. The council of clergy of the UOC-MP declares its firm commitment to obtaining canonical autocephaly. The Moscow Patriarchate deposes Metropolitan Filaret from holy orders on the charge of leading the Church into schism. Metropolitan Filaret appeals this deposition to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to other Autocephalous Orthodox Churches. To date, his appeal has not been decided.
the heinous Nazi occupation of Ukraine during World War II. Ukraine was the epicenter of what is referred to as the “Bloodlands” -- the territory which both the Russians and the Germans fought to integrate into their empires. In the last 15 years Ukraine has experienced renewed strife with Russia. In 2014 an international crisis arose when the Russian Federation, ignoring fundamental principles of international law and recognized tenets of national sovereignty, militarily occupied and annexed the Crimean peninsula in Ukraine and fomented civil war.

The division of the Orthodox population arises out of the Ukrainian people seeking an autocephalous church and their desire for “Ukrainianization” of their local church (i.e., use of Ukrainian in church services and respect for local church customs). To understand how these rifts have deepened and solidified in the last several years, a brief chronology of the relevant events during the late/post-Soviet period will be helpful.

1 23.2% identified as “just Orthodox” or “other Orthodox”, See 2016 Survey-Razumkov Centre.
The entire Church structure in Ukraine has fractured into a desperate condition. As the above diagram indicates, the Orthodox Church in the Ukraine—from its inception to this day—has been part of the canonical territory of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The claims of canonical jurisdiction by the Moscow Patriarchate are based on an incorrect reading of a 1686 transfer of administrative authority where only the right to confirm and enthrone the Metropolitan of Kyiv was transferred, subject to the Ecumenical Patriarchate maintaining its canonical jurisdiction including its authority granted through the Ecumenical Councils to create autocephalous churches. The document that the Moscow Patriarchate relies upon for its jurisdictional claim is belied by the very document itself which states that the then Ecumenical Patriarch Dionysios IV, only made a limited transfer of authority with three critical points:

1. The Moscow Patriarchate could only ordain legally elected Metropolitan of Kyiv;

2. All future Metropolitan of Kyiv would continue commemorating the canonical name of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as exarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and

3. Following the commemoration of the Ecumenical Patriarch, then the Moscow Patriarch would be commemorated.
Ukraine is a mature independent nation-state. It is a country of over 44 million people and the largest country in Europe proper, with a landmass of more than 223,000 square miles – roughly the size of the States of Colorado and New Mexico combined. According to a 2016 survey conducted by the Razumkov Centre, 65.4% of the population of the Ukraine identified as being Orthodox (over 28 million people) – multiples larger than the combined Orthodox populations living in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America and South America.

In the modern era, the Orthodox Church has consistently fostered and supported autocephalous churches on the model of the mature independent nation-state.

It is important to remember that the institution of autocephaly is a unique Orthodox process deployed by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to reinforce the unity of the Church. It is an institution that highlights both the local church and our ecclesial unity across national and cultural borders. Although it may seem counter-intuitive (i.e., how can localization of Church authority create greater unity), ecclesial unity has been preserved by granting mature local churches hierarchical independence and, thereby, preventing the hegemonic designs of others.

Canon law makes clear that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is the Mother Church of all autocephalous churches, with the exception of the four ancient churches of Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Cyprus. The Patriarchates of Moscow, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Georgia, as well as the Churches of Greece, Poland, Albania, the Czech lands, Finland, and Estonia, were separated from the spiritual jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which granted them the right of autocephaly or autonomy, and even the status of patriarchate in some instances. It is within the duties of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to determine when it is time for a Church to become autocephalous. When making this determination in the post-Byzantine era, the same criteria are always applied:

1. The Church must be based in an independent state; and,
2. The petition for autocephaly must be made by the local church and state.

It cannot be disputed that these criteria are met in granting Ukraine autocephaly.

We conclude with a quote from Archbishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, dated September 24, 2018:

"In the past few weeks I have reviewed numerous articles, thoughts and opinions about the prayerful decision of the Mother Church of Constantinople to take appropriate action in order to resolve the anomaly of ecclesiastical division in Ukraine. It is interesting to observe how conveniently some of us tend to interpret the Sacred Canons and history of the Church without truly studying the reasons for the Canons coming into existence and historical events developing in different ages of the Church's growth and development. ..."
Modern Examples of the Ecumenical Patriarchate granting status of Autocephaly, Self Governing or Autonomous

- **Orthodox Church of Greece**
  - Granted Autocephaly in 1850

- **Orthodox Church of Serbia**
  - Granted Autocephaly in 1879

- **Orthodox Church of Romania**
  - Granted Autocephaly in 1885

- **Orthodox Church of Finland**
  - Granted Autonomy in 1923

- **Orthodox Church of Poland**
  - Granted Autocephaly in 1924

- **Orthodox Church of Albania**
  - Granted Autocephaly in 1937

- **Orthodox Church of Bulgaria**
  - Granted Autocephaly in 1945

- **Orthodox Church of Georgia**
  - Granted Autocephaly in 1990

- **Orthodox Church of Estonia**
  - Granted Autonomy in 1993

- **Orthodox Church of Czech Lands**
  - Granted Autocephaly in 1998

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Respectfully, on behalf of the Archons of St. Andrew of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
National Commander

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In my opinion, at this particular time of history, the only individual who has exhibited the will to imitate Christ and act with His intentions and through His teachings is His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. The call from the Patriarch has consistently been to prayer, reflection, reconciliation and now to action that is based on the Sacred Scriptures and pure pastoral care... so, I would encourage people to pray, reflect, speak and work for the glory of God ... ."
Patriarchal News

President of Turkey
His All-Holiness met with His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at the Presidential Palace in Ankara and lasted more than half an hour. His All-Holiness thanked President Erdogan for everything he has done so far to solve the issues of the Hellenic Community and the Ecumenical Patriarchate and raised the issues that are still pending. The President of Turkey showed particular interest in the issues of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Community. Accompanying His All-Holiness were His Eminence Metropolitan Elpidophoros of Bursa, Archimandrite Joachim Billis, Chief Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod, Archon Laki Vingas and Mr. Georgios Papaliaris, Vice-President of the Supporting Association of Roman Community Institutions.

President of the State of Israel
On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, His All-Holiness met with the President of the State of Israel, His Excellency Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin, at the Presidential Palace in Jerusalem. During his trip, His All-Holiness also visited the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where following a special ceremony he was awarded a Doctorate Honoris Causa.

Patriarch Neophyte of Bulgaria
On Sunday, January 7, 2018, His All-Holiness received His Beatitude Patriarch Neophyte of Bulgaria together with the members of his entourage—various metropolitans and clergy of the Church of Bulgaria—at the Ecumenical Patriarchate, during His Beatitude’s visit for the reopening of the newly renovated Church of St. Stephen in the Phanar District.
The following press statement concerning the Ecumenical Patriarch's decision to grant autocephaly to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church was issued by the U.S. Department of State's Heather Nauert, Department Spokesperson:

"The United States strongly supports religious freedom, including the freedom of members of groups to govern their religion according to their beliefs and practice their faiths freely without government interference. The United States respects the ability of Ukraine’s Orthodox religious leaders and followers to pursue autocephaly according to their beliefs. We respect the Ecumenical Patriarch as a voice of religious tolerance and interfaith dialogue.

The United States maintains unwavering support for Ukraine and its territorial integrity in the face of Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine and the Russian occupation of Crimea. We also support Ukraine as it charts its own path and makes its own decisions and associations, free of external interference."
International Symposium discusses Ecology, Economy, and Ethics

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew officially opened the international ecological symposium “Toward a Greener Attica: Preserving the Planet and Protecting its People” at the Acropolis Museum in Athens.

In his keynote address, the Green Patriarch observed how “The ecological crisis has revealed that our world constitutes a seamless whole, that our problems are universally shared.”

He highlighted the ecological problems of the surrounding region of Attica and Greece: “Much remains to be done in order to reduce the unacceptable trash in the surrounding mountainside.

The 9th Ecological Symposium

The symposium brought together 200 theologians and scientists, political and business leaders, professors and students, as well as activists and journalists from Asia, America, Africa, Europe, and Greece.
IF WE ARE GUILTY OF RELENTLESS WASTE, IT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE LOST THE SPIRIT OF WORSHIP. WE ARE NO LONGER RESPECTFUL PILGRIMS ON THIS EARTH; WE HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO CARELESS CONSUMERS OR PASSING TRAVELERS. THIS SPIRITUAL VISION OF WORSHIP GUIDES US TO A LIFE THAT SEES MORE CLEARLY AND SHARES MORE FAIRLY, MOVING AWAY FROM WHAT WE WANT INDIVIDUALLY TO WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS GLOBALLY. THEN, WE BEGIN TO VALUE EVERYTHING FOR ITS PLACE IN CREATION AND NOT SIMPLY ITS ECONOMIC VALUE TO US, THEREBY RESTORING THE ORIGINAL BEAUTY OF THE WORLD, SEEING ALL THINGS IN GOD AND GOD IN ALL THINGS.”

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on the topic of 'Sacrifice and Waste'
An Archon, is layman honored by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community.

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

Archons in the United States

745

Archons in the Metropolis of Atlanta: 112
Archons in the Metropolis of Boston: 59
Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago: 70
Archons in the Archdiocesan District: 156
Archons in the Metropolis of Detroit: 48

Archons in the Metropolis of Denver: 49
Archons in the Metropolis of New Jersey: 139
Archons in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh: 35
Archons in the Metropolis of San Francisco: 77

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October 2017–October 2018

Tom Angelos, Eftaxias
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Offikion date: 11/1/09

Chris Brous, Architekton
Offikion date: 2/18/01

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Offikion date: 3/15/81

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Offikion date: 10/28/07

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Offikion date: 3/9/03

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Offikion date: 3/4/90

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Offikion date: 3/5/00

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Offikion date: 3/15/92

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Offikion date: 10/26/08

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Offikion date: 4/4/99

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Offikion date: 1/1/75

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Offikion date: 1/14/72

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Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
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Spiritual Advisor

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Franklin Manios, Depoutatos
Paul G. Manolis, Megas Hypomnametografos
John G. Manos, Eftaxias
Mark F. Manta, Depoutatos
Steve A. Manta, Laosynaktis
Charles Marangoudakis, Kastrinsios
Zachary Marantis, Depoutatos
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Pat Margas, Depoutatos
William B. Marianes, Exarchos
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Nikiforos Mathews, Ekdikos
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Basil Mossaidis, Maestor
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Louis Nicozisis, Primikirioi
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Tom Nixon, Dikaiophylax
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Paul Pavlides, Nomophylax
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Theodore Pedas, Exarchos
Harold A. Peponis, Depoutatos
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Pantelis Perdikaris, Depoutatos
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John Perros, Depoutatos
Chris Peters, Notarios
Panayiotis Peters, Laosynaktis
Alfred Dwayne Peters, Laosynaktis
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Manuel Phakis, Maestor
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Paul J. Plumis, Ekdikos
John Poles, Ipomnimon
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Dean Poll, Kastrinsios
Demetrios Polos, Hieromnimon
Arthur Poly, Hartophylax
Theodore J. Poplos, Hartophylax
George Possas, Depoutatos
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Harry Steven Poulos, Ostiarios
Nicholas Poulos, Exarchos
Peter E. Prevovolos, Hartophylax
Reince Priebus, Nomophylax
Apostolos Pries, Skevophylax
Alexander Pritsos, Hieromnimon
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Gus P. Psaras, Depoutatos
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Michael N. Stefanoudakis, Orphanotrofos
George R. Stephanopoulos, Megas Nomophylax
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Dr. Nicholas T. Zervas, Ostiarios
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Tikey A. Zes Ph.D., Lambadarios
George Peter Zimmar Ph.D., Prostatis Ton Grammaton
Constantinos Modestos Zografopoulos, Eftaxias
Demetrios C. Zonars, Maestor
Dimitrios Zygiouris, Proto Notarios

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Honoring the People of Lesbos and the Greek Islands and Nobel Peace Prize Nominees Emilia Kamvisi and Efstratios Valiamos
YOU DIDN’T DO WHAT YOU DID TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, OR TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD. YOU DID IT BECAUSE IT WAS RIGHT.”

Archon Reince Priebus

Honoring a Modern Day Hero

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, together with National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to Efstratios Valamios and Emilia Kamvisi. This year’s Honorees are completely unique among recipients of the Award; a Greek fisherman and grandmother from the island of Lesbos. The duo does not receive the Award for themselves, but as representatives of the fishermen and residents of Lesbos and the Greek islands who have intervened in the refugee crisis, using their boats and fishing equipment to save thousands of refugees attempting the short but dangerous crossing from Turkey to Greece.
IN THE MARTYRIA OF SIMPLE FISHERMEN AND A HUMBLE YIA YA, WE BEHOLD THE BEST OF THE CHRISTIAN AND HELLENIC IDEALS: PHILOTIMO, PHILANTHROPIA AND PHILOXENIA. AS TOO MANY IN THE WORLD TURNED A BLIND EYE TO THE SIX MILLION SYRIANS WHO HAVE HAD TO FLEE THEIR HOMELAND, OUR FELLOW HELLENES OPENED THEIR EYES, THEIR ARMS, AND THEIR HEARTS TO THE PLEIT OF THEIR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS.”

National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis
His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America was honored by The Order during the Athenagoras Human Rights Award banquet with an episcopal staff, in commemoration of his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Episcopate.

His Eminence was elected to the Episcopacy on June 20, 1967 and consecrated as Bishop on September 17 of that same year. He was elevated to Metropolitan on August 20, 1991 and enthroned as Archbishop of America on September 18, 1999.

On November 26, 2015, by a unanimous decision, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate bestowed upon Archbishop Demetrios the high title of Geron in recognition of his invaluable services to the Mother Church.

1997 Reunion
Members of the 1997 Patriarchal Team are gathered together with Archon Lee Gounardes, director of the trip.
JOHN A. CATSIMATIDIS

honored with the Nicholas J. Bouras Award

Catsimatidis is "Notarios" for his Extraordinary Archon Stewardship

Archon Catsimatidis was joined by his wife, Margo and by his children, Andrea and John Jr., who introduced their father, as he received the prestigious Award. Archon Catsimatidis was bestowed with the title Archon Notarios and serves as the Religious Freedom Chairman for the Order of St. Andrew. He spearheaded and fulfilled a $50,000 matching funds grant for the new class of Archons in 2016, appealing that each new Archon sponsor at least one day for the Order of St. Andrew. The response from the new Archons was nearly 100% and this year, through his generosity, Archon John has agreed to match the campaign again.
Twenty-Four Archons Invested

On Sunday morning, October 22, Archbishop Demetrios presided at the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City. Following the Divine Liturgy the ceremony of investiture of the new Archons took place.

It is the Archon who is the most ardent supporter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate...
Dennis N. Assanis, Ph.D.  
Prostatis Ton Grammaton

Harry George Athanasiou  
Eftaxias

Michael Nicholas Bapis  
Depoutatos

Frank Paul Boardman  
Maestor

Justin Koutras Bozonelis  
Kastrinsios

Philip John Economopoulos  
Hypomnematografos

George Cepynsky  
Depoutatos

Themis James Fotieo  
Nomophylax

John Fotopoulos, Ph.D.  
Didaskalos Tou Evangelou

Thomas George Gatzunis  
Hartoularios

Carl Robert Hollister  
Referendarios

Demetrius G. Kalamaras  
Dikaiophylax

William Michael Korchak  
Ostiarios

John Koutsoupis  
Eftaxias

Constantine Steve Liollio  
Hartophylax

George Marinides, MD, Ph.D.  
Aktouarios

Jeffrey Vasilios Michals  
Ieromnimon

George Harry Mitsanas  
Referendarios

Alfred Dwayne Peters  
Notarios

George Anthony Sifakis  
Nomophylax

John Sitilides  
Referendarios

Peter Angelo Tsudis  
Depoutatos

John C. Tsunis  
Orphanotrophos

George Peter Vittas  
Ekdikos

...and serves as a goodwill ambassador of the Phanar in his daily life.
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SUMMIT
Focus on Survival and the Persecution of Christians in the Middle East and Turkey

The senior leaders of the Archons of Saint Andrew met in New York in their indefatigable effort to assist the senior leader of the Orthodox Christian Church in the world - Ecumenical Patriarchate Bartholomew of Constantinople - to maintain his perilous perch in the Church’s most prestigious Sacred See in Istanbul.
International Conference focuses on Consequences and Solutions

With the blessings of Archbishop Demetrios, the Archons held the Third International Conference on Religious Freedom. The theme of the Conference was: “The Persecution of Christians in the Holy Lands & The Middle East: Consequences and Solutions.” The International Conference took place in Washington, D.C., December 4-6, 2017.

Invited keynote speakers included Speaker of the House Paul Ryan; the Chairs of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees: Senator Bob Corker and Congressman Ed Royce. Additional speakers and panelists included noted scholars, journalists, human rights advocates, diplomats, and politicians.
THESE MEN HAVE BECOME ICONIC–THE MARTYRS OF LIBYA–THEY CHANGED THE WORLD. TYPICALLY AND TRADITIONALLY, COPTIC CHRISTIANS WOULD HAVE A CROSS TATTOOED ON THEIR WRISTS... JUST AS A SIGN THAT’S WHO THEY ARE. I GREW UP IN AUSTRALIA, I DIDN’T HAVE ONE, DIDN’T SEE THE NEED. BUT WHEN I WATCHED THIS VIDEO, AND THE INCREDIBLY COURAGEOUS MAN IN THE MIDDLE HAVING TO MASK HIS FACE, SO THAT HE WOULD NOT BE KNOWN, POINTED THAT KNIFE AND SAID ‘WE ARE AFTER YOU THE NATION OF THE CROSS,’ I FELT A NEED TO GET THIS CROSS, FOR THEM.”

Archbishop Angaelos
Coptic Orthodox Bishop of London
History of the Christian Church

George E. Demacopoulos
Fr. John Meyendorff & Patterson Family Chair of Orthodox Christian Studies at Fordham University

Sidney H. Griffith
Professor of Early Christian Studies, Catholic University

Mark L. Movsesian
Frederick A. Whitney Professor and Director of the Center for Law and Religion, St. John’s University

Samuel Tadros
Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute

James C. Skedros
Professor of Byzantine Studies, Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

Persecution of Christians and Possible Solutions

Elizabeth Proctor
Tufts University Fletcher School for Law & Diplomacy Visiting Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Diocesan Legate in Washington, D.C. and Ecumenical Director of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) USA

Kate Nahapetian
Executive Director of the Armenian Legal Center for Justice and Human Rights

Rabbi Arthur Schneier
President and Founder, Appeal of Conscience Foundation

Ambassador Patrick N. Theros
U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) to Qatar
Freedoms of Religion and the Press

Lauren Green
Chief Religion Correspondent, Fox News

Kristina Arriaga
Vice Chairwoman, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom

Nathaniel Hurd
Policy Advisor, Commission on Security & Cooperation in Europe, US Helsinki Commission

Gene Policinski
Chief Operating Officer, Newseum Institute

Timothy Samuel Shah
Senior Director, Religious Freedom Institute

Sacred Sites and Property Rights

William Antholis
CEO of the University of Virginia’s Miller Center of Public Affairs

Archbishop Dionysius Kawak
Archbishop and Patriarchal Vicar, Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of the Eastern United States

Archbishop Angaelos
Coptic Orthodox Bishop of London

V. Rev. Fr. Isaac Crow
Ss. Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church

Anna Koulouris
Communications Advisor, Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Johny Messo
President, World Council of Arameans (Syriacs)
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

**Senator Marco Rubio**
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Human Rights Subcommittee & Commissioner, Helsinki Commission

**Senator Ben Cardin**
Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and former Chairman, Helsinki Commission

**Wilbur Ross**
Secretary of Commerce

**Congressman Ed Royce**
Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee
Senator James Lankford
Speaking on the unjust incarceration of Pastor Brunson in Turkey

Jordan Sekulow
American Center for Law and Justice (ACJL)

Jay Alan Sekulow
Chief Counsel, American Center for Law and Justice and the European Centre for Law and Justice

Hank Hanegraaff
President, Christian Research Institute
THE WAVE OF VIOLENCE THAT AFFECTS MANY REGIONS OF THE WORLD HAS RESULTED IN THE ANNIHILATION OF PEOPLES AND THE PERSECUTION OF OUR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE ESPECIALLY PRAY FOR THOSE CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE BEEN MARTYRED AND ADDRESS OUR APPEAL TO ALL CONCERNED FOR THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITY AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
New website offers insights on the issues facing Christians living in the Holy Lands and the Middle East, and wherever they are suffering for their faith.

In accord with the goals of the 3rd Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom (Washington, D.C., December 2017), and as a result of the follow-up meeting of the Religious Freedom Summit (New York, May 2018), the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has established a new and dynamic website dedicated solely to the burning issue of the persecution of Christians worldwide.

The new site, ChristianPersecution.com, which launched on July 1, 2018, calls attention to the disturbing increase in the persecution of Christians in the broad area of the Holy Lands and the Middle East, and worldwide, by posting news articles about this persecution, along with commentary to help Orthodox Christians, other Christians, and all people of good will understand what is happening to Christians around the world, and why. Articles are published almost daily, and the site also offers people an opportunity to report on instances of persecution wherever and whenever they take place around the globe.

One principal focus of ChristianPersecution.com is to provide ongoing news updates about the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in its relationship with host Turkish government.

This site also provides regular news of the persecution of Christians throughout the broader geographic region and around the world. As Orthodox Christians and Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, our concern for our fellow Christians is truly ecumenical; we stand in solidarity and raise our voices in fervent prayer for all of those around the world who are suffering for bearing the name of Jesus Christ.

Above all, we should heed the words of the Lord Jesus: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (St. Matthew 5:44).

The Archons also hope that the news presented on this site about the persecution of Christians worldwide will help to inspire concerted efforts by governments, human rights organizations, and other relevant entities to alleviate their plight.

**Wrecked by Hate**

A desecrated icon at the Sumela Monastery on the Turkish Black Sea coast.

The skeleton of a Church, opposite page, remains standing in Syria.
Current Countries showing signs of Christian Persecution

Current Countries showing signs of Christian Persecution

Kenya Pakistan Russia West Bank

Turkey Myanmar India Indonesia

Central African Republic Iran Nicaragua Algeria

Uganda Syria Iraq Cyprus

Rwanda Chad Nigeria Egypt

"THE TARGETING OF CHRISTIANS CAN NEVER BE JUSTIFIED IN THE NAME OF ANY RELIGIOUS CREED OR CONVICTION. WHAT WE ARE WITNESSING IS THE UPROOTING NOT ONLY OF A RELIGIOUS MINORITY, BUT OF AN ENTIRE CIVILIZATION. THE EXTERMINATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER – MUCH MORE SO IN THE SUPPOSED NAME OF RELIGIOUS CONVICTION – IS THE ELIMINATION OF THE FUTURE. IT MUST BE CHARACTERIZED AS NOTHING LESS THAN GENOCIDE."

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
15th Retreat features 'Bible Answer Man' Hank Hanegraaff

The 15th Annual Archon Lenten Retreat took place at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Southampton, NY, March 16-18, 2018. Hank Hanegraaff, also
known as the Bible Answer Man, was the retreat speaker who spoke on the topic of “Experiencing the Authentic Christian Life”. The retreat was organized under the chairmanship of Archon Peter J. Skeadas and co-chairman Archon Michael G. Psaros.
Ecumenical Patriarchate’s Religious Freedom issues presented by Archons Caras and Sisson at annual OSCE Human Rights Conference in Warsaw, Poland

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) convenes its Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw, Poland annually. HDIM is Europe’s largest annual human rights and democracy conference and is a platform for the 57 OSCE participating nation states, international organizations and other relevant actors to take stock of the implementation of the OSCE human dimension commitments.

Since 2005, the Order has sent a delegation to the OSCE meetings, to present to the international community the Turkish Republic's continuing violations of human rights and religious freedom asphyxiating the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archons Constantine G. Caras, Esq. and Rocky Sisson represented the Order at this year's 2018 OSCE Conference in Warsaw.

Archons Caras and Sisson each participated in the assembly on September 10-21, submitted written statements, and presented oral arguments on September 12th detailing the discrimination and impediments to religious freedom faced by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey today. Many of the 57 participating nation states send ambassadors to the OSCE. The Turkish ambassador to the OSCE, who always attends during presentations by the Order, is offered the opportunity to respond and does so.

Because of the stature that the conference enjoys, the US State Department sends a delegation to monitor the meetings as well. The Archons representing the Order conferred with the participating U.S. State Department representatives, and provided them with the most current information regarding the status of our Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey, the major issues, the most recent developments and current documents of the Order.

Archons Caras and Sisson also conferred with the Ambassador of the Greek Republic to the OSCE, and others in attendance who are sympathetic to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Following the Warsaw conference, Archons Caras and Sisson traveled to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and briefed His All-Holiness on the Conference.
The OSCE has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities. All 57 participating States enjoy equal status, and decisions are taken by consensus on a politically, but not legally binding basis.
The Order, led by the herculean efforts of Archon George A. Tsougarakis, Esq., calls on three major Institutions to return holy manuscripts stolen from the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
For more than two years, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has been making efforts to recover certain manuscripts that are currently in the collection of three American institutions, but which were stolen during World War I from the Monastery of the Theotokos Eikosiphoinissa in Drama, Greece. These manuscripts are currently at Duke University, Princeton University and the Morgan Library & Museum in New York City. The Order calls upon these institutions to recognize that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is indeed the rightful owner of these precious and irreplaceable documents, and to return them immediately.

The holy manuscripts at issue, painstakingly written out by hand and diligently preserved for centuries, were stolen in 1917 by marauding Bulgarian troops from the Monastery of the Theotokos Eikosiphoinissa, along with nearly the entire contents of the library. The volumes were then sold in bookshops all over Europe and either acquired by the institutions or by collectors who then donated them to the institutions.

In matters such as this, the law is clear: a purchaser, even one who had no idea that he is buying stolen goods, cannot acquire valid title to stolen property, and has an obligation to return it. In 2016, when the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago learned that one of the manuscripts in its collection, Eikosiphoinissa Monastery Codex 1424, had also been stolen from the monastery by the Bulgarian guerrillas in 1917, the School’s President, Dr. James Nieman, gave many principled reasons for returning the manuscript to its rightful home. He also movingly noted that when asked that the manuscript be returned, he and his colleagues asked themselves three questions: “If you could right a wrong you never caused, would you? If you could befriend a stranger, would you? And if you could by a single act show the good news of Jesus to others, would you?”

The answer to these questions for the Lutheran School was a resounding and unqualified yes. The Order hopes that officials at Duke University, Princeton University and the Morgan Library & Museum will also answer these questions affirmatively, and move swiftly now to return to the manuscripts in their collections to their rightful home in the Eikosiphoinissa Monastery.
Archon Family Reception
A custom 4th of July themed plate depicting Paul Revere holding a lantern with the slogan, “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works in heaven.” were presented to the hierarchs.
Archon Family Reception and Luncheon in honor of Patriarchal Representatives

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle held an Archon Family Reception during the Clergy-Laity Congress in Boston, MA, July 4, 2018. National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis welcomed guests and hierarchs which included His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America, His Eminence Apostolos Elder Metropolitan of Derkon, His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Selyvria, and His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston. Later that week, the Order hosted a luncheon at Mistral Restaurant in honor of the Patriarchal Representatives in attendance.

ALL OF US WANT YOU TO KNOW – ESPECIALLY THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN GRANTED THE HONOR TO BEAR THE NAME “ARCHON” – THAT ALTHOUGH OUR BODIES DWELL HERE IN THESE UNITED STATES, OUR HEARTS ARE WITH YOU IN THE QUEEN OF CITIES, OUR BELOVED CONSTANTINOPLE. OUR INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONS ARE HERE, BUT OUR INTENTIONS AND MEDITATIONS ARE THERE. OUR DAILY THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS ARE HERE IN THE MUNDANE PURSUiTS OF OUR LIVES, BUT OUR ETERNAL ASPIRATIONS AND CARES ARE WITH YOU; FOR WITHOUT YOU, THERE IS NO MORE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH IN THIS LAND WE CALL AMERICA.”

–National Commander Dr. Limberakis
The Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate have taken a strong stand for religious freedom by calling on the government of Turkey to guarantee full religious and human rights for the Ecumenical Patriarch and all religious minorities.

With the issuance of a House Resolution, sponsored by Rep. Ron Kresha, and a Senate Resolution, sponsored by Senator Jim Abeler, Minnesota joins 45 other states in which the legislatures have expressed support for the Patriarch’s rights. These states have adopted a total of 58 such resolutions in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, representing over 95% of the population of the United States.

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, the Minnesota effort was led by Archon Bill Spell and Minnesota Clergymen, Fathers George Dokos, Richard Andrews, Timothy Sas and Mark Munoz.

The nationwide effort to adopt Religious Freedom resolutions in all fifty states has been a part of a multi-faceted effort of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle.

“We thank the Minnesota Legislature for its bold action in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Orthodox Christian community of Minnesota”, Spell said.

The Turkish government refuses to recognize the global character of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew’s office and regards him as no more than the bishop of the 2,500 or so Orthodox Christians remaining in Turkey (down from 1.8 million in 1914). It has insisted that new Patriarchs be elected from the rapidly dwindling population of Greek Orthodox citizens of Turkey.

The government has confiscated hundreds of churches and other properties historically belonging to the Orthodox Church, and in 1971 it forcibly closed the seminary at Halki, the major center for the education of future Church leaders.

In the Resolutions, the House and Senate “urge the government of Turkey to uphold and safeguard the religious and human rights without compromise, including granting the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate international recognition, ecclesiastical succession, and the right to train clergy of all nationalities, and respecting the property rights and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.”
Over the course of 12 years, 58 such resolutions have been adopted by 46 states, representing 95% of the United States population.
Archons host luncheon for Archimandrite Ephraim of Vatopedi Monastery

On Wednesday, October 3, 2018, the Order of Saint Andrew hosted a luncheon in honor of Archimandrite Ephraim, Abbot of Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos.

Archons educate Holy Cross/ Hellenic College Students

On March 25, 2018, seminarians of Holy Cross/Hellenic College gathered at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America where they had the opportunity to become further educated on the work of the Order of Saint Andrew by National Vice Commander John Halecky, Archon Alexander Pritsos, Sergeant at Arms and Archon Nikiforos Mathews.

Metropolis of Chicago Archons

On April 30, 2018, Regional Commanders Gus Pablecas and John Manos together with the Archons of the Metropolis of Chicago met with His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael, presenting him with a Archpastoral staff.
Archons of New England host Retreat

On March 28, 2018, the Archons of the New England area hosted a Lenten Retreat at Saint Demetrios Church in Weston, MA. Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou, Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution at Tufts University Fletcher School for Law & Diplomacy, led a discussion.

Archon Damianakis leads Retreat on Iconography

On March 23-25, 2018, Archon Elias Damianakis of New Port Richey, FL led a Lenten Retreat for 15 students at Hellenic College Holy Cross, aimed at promoting the art of iconography. Archon Damianakis emphasized the importance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on the development of Christian Art, Orthodox Iconography, and the Fine Arts.

Archons educate faithful on Religious Freedom issues at Our Saviour Church in Rye, NY

On September 23, 2018, Archons educated faithful on various religious freedom issues that currently affect the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the Church of Our Saviour in Rye, NY.