ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO CONSTANTINOPLE AND ST. NICHOLAS SYMPOSIUM AT MYRA

By Archon Christo Daphnides

The 1988 Pilgrimage to Constantinople and the St. Nicholas Symposium at Myra will be remembered as one of the most successful pilgrimages to date.

The announcement of Archbishop Iakovos participating and leading the way created enormous joy and excitement among the group of 72 pilgrims from the U.S.A. and Canada. Regretfully, His Eminence cancelled for health reasons.

Having more time to spend in Constantinople this year, we visited more places and saw more people with whom we shared our happiness, prayed together and exchanged expressions of brotherly love. These were beautiful moments of our trip which made us feel a part of the history and tradition which derives from the Holy See of Orthodoxy.

We further our education by visiting those magnificent monuments of Byzantine art because there is always a legend behind every historical church or monument. We intensify our faith by attending religious services in the archaic and correct ecclesiastical practice in centuries-old churches. Our archaeological knowledge becomes more extensive as we visit ruins of temples and entire excavated cities with a wealth of samples of Hellenistic ideology and civilization.

TOURING CONSTANTINOPLE

Our stay in Constantinople was pleasurable, educational, spiritual, interesting and most of all, emotional.

The first day, which happened to be Sunday, we visited the Church of "Eisodeia of Theotokos". Here our Choir had their first appearance to chant the entire liturgy. This came as a surprise to the local parishioners. They were impressed with the choir's outstanding knowledge of the sequence, as well as with the melodic execution of the hymns. The expression of love of the congregation was reflected in the very warm reception held for their Orthodox brothers and sisters from America. After this fine gesture, we looked with great anticipation toward our afternoon schedule, which called for a visit to St. Nicholas.

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ARCHONS' VIDEO PRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

One Hour Documentary

One of the most recent achievements of the Archons of the Order of St. Andrew will be a documentary film made and produced in conjunction with EVENSTAT, International Satellite and Video Productions. The Video Committee of the Archons with Christo Daphnides as Chairman and Fr. Efthimiou as Advisor, recently met with the Executive Producer of EVENSTAT, Mr. Basil Nikas, and Pamela Iloft, former Executive Producer of Religious Programming for CBS, and drafted the final script and areas of concentration.

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ARCHONS TO HOST THE ANNUAL SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY WEEKEND MARCH 18-19, 1989

This year's reverential observance of the Sunday of Orthodoxy will be celebrated by the Greek Orthodox faithful with religious and ecclesiastical ceremonies. As it occurs every year, the Sunday of Orthodoxy falls on the first Sunday of Lent. This year is an especially important observance because the 1989 recipient of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award is the retiring National Commander, Dr. Anthony G. Borden. Archons and their families and friends throughout the United States and Canada, will gather in order to celebrate the historical event of the restoration of the holy icons in the 8th century, the event which best describes the commitment in the 20th century of all Archons to be "Defenders of the Faith."

The festivities on Saturday, March 18, will be held at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel at 45 Street and Broadway. The program is as follows:

Saturday, March 18, 1989
12 Noon Meeting/Luncheon - for Regional/State Commanders and Members of the National Council only. (Empire Room 7th floor)
2:00 p.m. Annual Meeting - All Archons to attend this meeting. (Agenda to be distributed at meeting. Among the topics to be discussed are: Annual Report; Financial Report; Pilgrimage and Symposium in Turkey; Future plans; Elections; Presentation and charge to new Archons; and other important items related to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. (Jolson & Cantor Room 9th floor).
3:00 p.m. Order of St. Andrew Reception and Tea. (Kern and Sullivan Room 4th floor).
5:00 p.m. Reception for Archons and guests. (Astor Ballrm. 7th fl.).
7:30 p.m. Grand Banquet. (Broadway Ballroom 6th floor).
Presentation of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award.

Sunday, March 19, 1989
Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral
9:00 a.m. Matins (Orthros)
9:30 a.m. Archons assemble in Cathedral auditorium for procession to reserved seating. Wear your Archon paraphernalia. New Candidates — purchase your cross ($200) so that it can be blessed during the service.
10:00 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of Orthodoxy celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, assisted by Bishops and visiting clergy.
1:30 p.m. A luncheon will be hosted by the Cathedral Board in the new Cathedral Center next door.

DR. ANTHONY G. BORDEN
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the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.
The third recipient was Mother Teresa who was recognized for her global mission which has touched millions — the poor, the elderly, the orphaned, the sick and disabled.
The Archons of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle are dedicated laymen of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America who have been honored for their outstanding service to the Church by having the patriarchal title bestowed upon them by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.

Dr. Anthony G. Borden, Archon Megas Aktouarios, and the National Commander of the Order of St. Andrew for the past thirteen years, has submitted his letter of resignation to His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, for the reason, as he stated it, to pay more attention to his ever expanding medical practice. His Eminence, although saddened by his resignation, immediately appointed Dr. Borden as Commander Emeritus of the Order.

Anthony Borden and Senator Sarbanes leading the Procession of the Icons

Dr. Anthony C. Borden will be recognized for his untiring efforts as National Commander of the Order of St. Andrew for the past thirteen years in the field of religious freedom and human rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox faithful. Dr. Borden has appeared numerous times in Washington protesting abuses and treaty violations perpetrated on the Greek Orthodox faithful in that part of the world. Due to his leadership of the Archons in the Americas, the Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox faithful including the residents at the Balukli Hospital enjoy more freedom and live in better conditions during a time when the function of the Patriarchate was going through extremely problematical times and the life of Greek Orthodox Christians was unbearable. The Order of St. Andrew, under the leadership of Dr. Borden, consistently informed the American public of the discriminatory and negative conditions that the Ecumenical Patriarchate was undergoing at a time when the U.S. was supporting Turkey with billions of dollars in foreign aid.

Dr. Borden consistently reminded all concerned that this country which has been and is a champion of human rights and religious freedom should also extend its voice throughout the free world in a reappraisal of its attitude toward the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Supporting the spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Western Hemisphere, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, Dr. Borden led the Order through difficult times in many improvements at the Patriarchate.

Today, the new administration building at the Ecumenical Patriarchate which is ready to have its dedication services, is a testimony to the work and ideals that Dr. Borden stood for.

Dr. Borden is considered an authority in the field of radiology and he is the Attending Emeritus of the Department of Radiology at Albert Einstein Medical Center. He previously taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, and Thomas Jefferson School of Medicine. His medical training began at the University of Athens where he received his M.D. and continued at Harvard, Columbia, and New York University Schools of Medicine and the Pennsylvania Graduate School where he received his specialty training. He has published in scientific journals and has received radiology awards including the AMA Physicians' Recognition Award. He was invited as guest speaker to the International Congress of Radiology in Munich, Montreal, San Francisco and elsewhere.

Dr. Borden and his wife Lillian of the Annunciation Church in Elkins Park have two children, George and Dr. Maria Limberakis and several grandchildren.

On Sunday, March 19, Archbishop Iakovos Chairman of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America (SCOBA) will celebrate the hierarchical Divine Liturgy of the Sunday of Orthodoxy (first Sunday of Lent), with fellow SCOBA Hierarchs at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Other Archdiocesan priests, and many of the priests of the newly elected candidates to become Archons will also be serving in the hierarchical liturgy.

A luncheon will be hosted by the Cathedral Board in the new Cathedral Center next door.
THE NEW PATRIARCHAL BUILDING IN PHANAR COMPLETED

Thanks to the generous contribution of the Angelopoulos Family of Greece, the new Patriarchal building at the Phanar has been completed. The first witnesses to the completed seven story building, which will house the new administrative and secretarial offices of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, were the members of the Archon Pilgrimage/Symposium who traveled to Turkey in the fall of 1988 for the Annual Pilgrimage. Final touches were being added to the exterior of the buildings, in preparation for the completion of the inner offices and rooms including halls, lecture and seminar rooms, kitchen facilities, etc. It is anticipated that the thyranyexia and dedication of the building will take place sometime this year. It is also anticipated that the Archons will participate in the dedication ceremony along with His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos.

The new building is a modern facility, and will have apartments for distinguished guests, for the clergy, the Patriarch, Holy Synod and administrators, as well as a special hall for lectures, receptions, etc. The newly remodeled Patriarchate "will add much space to the present building as well as enhance the whole appearance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate," His Eminence said.

Additional funds are being raised by the Order of St. Andrew for additional renovations to the Patriarchal Church of St. George, the Library and Archives at the Phanar as well as the Halki School of Theology, and other facilities connected with the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

PILGRIMAGE

Sophia, a visit which stirs in all of us that awe of its original magnificence and greatness, combined with a deep sense of sorrow for Orthodox Christians today. As we entered the Basilica past the gates of the Narteh, we all felt a sense of belonging, a sense of returning to our house of worship where God still looks over us in peace and love.

Next morning, we got ready for our trip to Halki. This was an outstanding feature of our pilgrimage, as we missed it last year. The Dean of the School, Metropolitan Maximos of Stavroupolis, had arranged a wonderful program for the day, including a delightful lunch in the students' dining room. First, we celebrated our visit with the choir singing the Doxology in the Church of the Holy Trinity, which dates back as a Monastery many centuries before the school was built. The school was erected in 1844 by the great benefactor, Paul Skilitsis Stephanovic. For us, this was an opportunity to visit the classrooms, the magnificent library housing thousands of tomes, and the private section which serves as summer living quarters for the Ecumenical Patriarch.

The momentum of excitement was increasing as the next day we called on Balukli Hospital to see and talk to those wonderful people, who waited at the door to greet us. This year we gave them a special gift. Our choir had prepared a well arranged concert for them, "the audience."

After visiting the monastery of Zoodochos Pigi nearby and conducting a memorial prayer at the tombs of the Patriarchs in the courtyard, we returned to Phanar to attend the vesper services for St. Andrew's Feast Day. That evening we met with His Holiness, the Patriarch, for whom our choir sang special hymns, much to his pleasant surprise.

The Patriarch was so moved after Father Milton, on behalf of our group, addressed His Holiness, that he descended from the throne and spoke to the young people in a very touching sincere manner. He stepped further and embraced everyone in the choir and stood among them while photographers recorded this memorable event.

As completed to date in preparation for interior finishing

We were all so ecstatic and impressed with all that was happening around us as again next morning with deep solemnity we attended the entire liturgy at the Patriarchal Church. The Holy Synod consisting of 12 Hierarchs participated.

We ended that day with a beautiful lunch on the shores of the Bosphorus and then we sailed down by steamer, completing a very special day in this great city, which, as one Greek author, Mr. Psathas, once said, "is so much of a city that it needs no name."

TOURING ASIA MINOR

The second chapter of our trip began immediately the following day by flying to the region of Ionia to the great city of Smyrna which has historical significance for all Greeks. From here we started our studies, research and observance of our Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine backgrounds.

Ephesus was beyond description; many civilizations passed and left their traces here in many rich and valuable monuments. In 431 A.D., the third Ecumenical Council was held here at the Basilica of Theotokos.

We spent the night at a seaside resort of Kusadasi and continued our adventure eastbound, following the same route Alexander the Great took in the 4th century to conquer the East.

We arrived at Hierapolis at night. This is the city where Saint Philip preached Christianity in the 1st century. The next day we all were anxious to visit the new addition on this year's itinerary—Aphrodisias—approximately 160 miles east of Smyrna in the old region of Asia Minor called Caria. There is no doubt that it was one of the greatest cities of the classical era, named after Aphrodite. However, historians say its foundation dates back to much earlier times—as early as 5,800 B.C. When Christianity became a state religion, the name was converted to Stavroupolis (City of the Cross).

Aphrodisias' Temple, the Odeon, the Stadium—one of the largest so far (720 feet long), the Museum, the Theatre, the Gates and many other of its monuments

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ARCHONS’ VIDEO PRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

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centation so that the documentary will indeed be of a first rate quality.

The film will highlight the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Balulki Hospital, the Pilgrimage/Symposium to Myra (Demre, Turkey), the Patriarchal Liturgy of St. Andrew at the Phanar, and the historic trip of Patriarch Dimitrios I to Pope John Paul II in Rome. Film footage, owned and incorporated by the Order, will be shown on national television in the United States, and eventually will be sold to individuals, groups, and churches for public viewing. The Order of St. Andrew allotted $150,000 for this project.

Short Version

A nationally acclaimed fifteen minute video production has been completed and is being sold by the Order of St. Andrew for $29.95. (It may be purchased by sending a check payable to the Order of St. Andrew, at 8 East 79 Street, New York, NY 10021.) The fifteen minute video is already in the hands of the regional/state commanders who may utilize the film during various functions, such as the Feast Day of St. Andrew, the Sunday devoted to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, etc.

Future Videos

Valuable and unprecedented footage that is in the Archon Archives includes historical footage of the High Mass at St. Peter in Rome with the Pope and the Patriarch reciting the Creed without the “filioque”, and Pope and Patriarch blessing from the balcony at St. Peters Square (a first—never has a cleric stood on the balcony with the Pope of Rome), and the blessing of the faithful in St. Peters Square by Patriarch Dimitrios I.

Complete videos on these subjects will be in production in the near future.

PILGRIMAGE

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are proof that this city thrived in all periods—Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine. We could well have spent all day here, but we had a long way to travel down south to Antalia on the shores of the Mediterranean through the famous valley of Lycidikia.

PILGRIMAGE TO MYRA

Over the Taurus Mountains, the scenery was breathtaking; the sky had a deep purple hue as the sun had just dipped into the waters of the Mediterranean beyond the horizon.

Next morning on the agenda was a tour of the three ancient cities of Side, Perge and Aspendos, where our choir gave a concert in the most outstanding theater and well preserved up to this day in the region of Pamphylia.

The following day, for the sake of protocol, we were busy visiting with the Governor and Mayor of Antalya. In the afternoon we attended the 6th International Symposium of St. Nicholas which was followed by a reception given for us. In the evening our choir had another opportunity to give forth beautifully their talented voices under the fine direction of Catherine Zarbis, the choir mistress.

On December 6th, the Feast Day of St. Nicholas, we arose at 5 a.m. and departed at 7 a.m. It was with joy that everyone boarded the motorcoaches for a 3 hour drive to Myra, southwest of Antalya, as the sun shone on the shores and cliffs of the Taurus Mountains ahead of us.

Entering the 6th century Cathedral, we sensed the same feelings emerging within us as we did when we entered St. Sophia. This was a very special day, as the old Cathedral only once a year opens its gates to function as a church and invites pilgrims from all over the world to come and pray over the tomb of St. Nicholas with a celebration of a liturgy. The highlight and most moving experience was hearing the echoes of our choir and those prayers of the Bishops and priests during the liturgy reverberating from within this archaic Cathedral, as the congregation participated and received Holy Communion.

As a result of the keener sense of awareness of the wealth of our heritage, it made us all swell with even greater pride and humility than we felt, upon embarking on this historical pilgrimage.