The Enthronement of
HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS
of AMERICA

Coverage on page 2
Archbishop Elpidophoros visits the Oval Office

During his first official visit to Washington, D.C., Archbishop Elpidophoros had the privilege to visit the White House and meet with the President of the United States.

The Vicar General

It is the Order’s honor and privilege to share with you the extraordinary news that Archbishop Elpidophoros has appointed our beloved Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alexander Karloutsos to be Vicar General of the Holy Archdiocese of America.

Save the Date for Archon Weekend, Oct 18–20, 2019

Please save the date for the Order’s annual assembly, to be held at the New York Hilton in New York City as we honor Metropolitan Epifanios of Ukraine with the Athenagoras Human Rights Award and Archon John Zavitsanos with the Nicholas J. Bouras Award.

Remembering the NBA’s oldest employee

The Archons wish to pay tribute to recently reposed 93-year-old Archon Peter Anton—the father of Metropolitan Tarasios of Buenos Aires, who spent decades working with the San Antonio Spurs, becoming a well-known figure at AT&T Center in San Antonio.
His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, on Friday received the 2019 ECOS® Award for exceptional leadership in environmental protection. The Ecumenical Patriarch received the prestigious award in honor of his lifetime of environmental advocacy and global influence on environmental protection.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has played a critical role in environmental advocacy in his role as the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Church, proclaiming the importance of spiritual values in determining environmental ethics and actions. His life’s work to protect the environment earned him the title “Green Patriarch” from the then-Vice President of the United States and fellow world leader in the environmental movement, Al Gore. In 2008, Time Magazine named Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew one of its 100 Most Influential People in the World for “defining environmentalism as a spiritual responsibility.” He famously said that “to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin.”

Also in attendance at the award ceremony was Mike Manatos, an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and President of Manatos & Manatos in Washington, D.C., who said, “We are honored and humbled that this pioneer in environmental protection through faith has received the ECOS Award. We are excited to also announce the establishment of the ‘Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Environmental Scholarship’ — a $1,000 scholarship, sponsored by ECOS® and Manatos & Manatos, that will be given each year to a student from his childhood home of Imroz, Turkey, who writes the best essay on the importance of protecting the environment.”

The 2019 ECOS® Environmental Award was presented to the Ecumenical Patriarch at his headquarters in Istanbul, Turkey, on Friday by Earth Friendly Products’ President and CEO Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks.

Vlahakis-Hanks said, “His All-Holiness is truly one of the greatest environmental advocates in the world today, with a tremendous influence that is building greater awareness of the urgent environmental crises we face and clarifying our moral obligation to create real change for our planet.”

Earth Friendly Products®, the maker of ECOS® environmentally friendly cleaning products, established the annual ECOS® Environmental Award to recognize world leaders who are creating powerful impacts to protecting our environment and the health of the earth’s citizens.
His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America was enthroned at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity on Saturday, June 22, in New York City. It was an immense honor for the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to participate in the Enthronement and the luncheon that followed. Over 1,700 people attended the luncheon and over 1,300 the Enthronement.

In a letter he sent marking the occasion, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew stated: “Everyone at the Ecumenical Patriarchate feels great joy because of the unanimous election and imminent enthronement of the new Archbishop of America, His Eminence Elpidophoros, who is succeeding the venerable Archbishop Demetrios, who faithfully served this, our great Eparchy, for two decades.”

His All-Holiness added that Archbishop Elpidophoros is “distinguished for his erudition, experience, mastery of languages, dedication to the Mother Church and his ardor to shepherd the People who bear the name of Christ in the United States.”

In his Enthronement Address, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros declared: “My heart is especially ready and steadfast to serve this Archdiocese and nation, both of which I have long admired since childhood and from my ministry at the Phanar.”
His Eminence stated that he was inspired to “stir and sustain the grace that flows from God to the Mother and Daughter Churches of Constantinople as well as to our Archdiocese here in America….Therefore, I gratefully “remember among the first” (ἐν πρώτοις) my Archbishop and Patriarch Bartholomew, who bears the foremost burden and first responsibility of unity in the Church. It is he who instructed me in his ‘daily concern for the welfare of all the churches of God’ (2 Corinthians 11:28). It is he who entrusted and encouraged me from the earliest moments of my ministry. It is he who prepared and predisposed me to serve the people of God.”

In his address, Archbishop Elpidophoros also noted that “the unparalleled history of service and sacrifice encapsulated by the Mother Church of Constantinople over the centuries is a source of inspiration and regeneration to all its daughter churches and eparchies throughout the world. This is a relationship that we are all called to nurture and reinforce unceasingly and increasingly.”

“Of the many areas that I hope to address with a sense of pastoral urgency,” said His Eminence, “I would highlight the loving ministry to our beloved youth, the reinforcement of our theological education, as well as the completion of the shrine at Ground Zero.” He concluded on an inspiring note, reminding those present that “we are all called to become members of the communion of saints—fellow travelers on the magnificent journey that God has so graciously and generously prepared for us in this blessed archdiocese, church and land. Let our hearts, therefore, remain ready and steadfast. Amen!”

The National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, addressed the Enthronement banquet at the New York Hilton Midtown. “AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!,” said Dr. Limberakis, adding: “That says it all on this historic and monumental day for our Holy Archdiocese.”

Addressing His Eminence, Dr. Limberakis stated: “In your person we see with our own eyes and hear with our own ears the timeless faith and the limitless love of our Holy Mother Church and...
I am particularly moved to see—and to express my thanks to—my mother and my family members.... I hope to inspire all those entrusted in my care as Archbishop with the same love and support that you have shown me throughout my life.”

—Archbishop Elpidophoros

The Archbishop greets his mother with a kiss as he enters the Cathedral.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, whom you served with distinction for the past 25 years, first as deacon, then as priest/monk, then as Metropolitan and Abbot and now, as Exarch of the most important Eparchy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.”

Dr. Limberakis added: “We, the Archons of the Great Church of Christ, express our profound gratitude to His All-Holiness and the Holy and Sacred Synod for your unanimous election to the Archiepiscopal Throne of America. We expect great things from you, Your Eminence, because we know that you have been trained in greatness, by a great Ecumenical Patriarch, who has set the highest standard for servant-leadership, for all to emulate....As Archons of the Great Church, we have had numerous opportunities to work with you, to personally experience your servant-leadership, to know you, first-hand as a minister of the Gospel, and a servant of all God’s children.”

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II, Secretary of Health and Human Services, also spoke at the Enthronement in the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, saying: “I bring greetings to the new Archbishop and to all of you from President Trump and Vice President Pence, who have a great appreciation for the work of the Church in America and the value that Americans of all faiths bring to our country.”

Secretary Azar pointed out that “the Greek Orthodox Church has played a powerfully positive role over the course of American history....As Greek Americans put down their roots in America, they never forgot the pain of persecution and discrimination. Knowing what it was like to be marginalized, the Orthodox Christian community in America has often led in defending the rights of minorities. In fact, one of Archbishop Elpidophoros’s predecessors, Archbishop Iakovos, was one of the key faith leaders who advanced America’s civil rights movement in the 1950s and 60s. His commitment to justice led him on a 54-mile
journey right alongside Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., a journey that would later be known as the Selma Freedom March.” Secretary Azar also noted that “the most recent Archbishop of America, Demetrios, also distinguished himself with his heroic service to our nation on and following September 11, with his service and witness to the victims of the terrorist attack on this city.”

The Secretary reminded those present that none of the achievements of the Greek Orthodox community in America would have been possible without religious freedom, and noted that “one in nine Christians worldwide experience high levels of persecution. A century ago, Christians represented about 20 percent of the population of Middle East and North Africa. Today, they represent less than 5 percent of the population. In all, 245 million Christians around the world have faced persecution as a result of their faith. And the attacks have only grown stronger. What should be our response? America and the Church today must follow the example of leaders like Archbishop Iakovos.”

The Order is extremely honored to have been among those welcoming His Eminence to the United States, and looks forward to working with him in service of the Orthodox Church in America and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

“
We expect great things from you, Your Eminence, because we know that you have been trained in greatness, by a great Ecumenical Patriarch, who has set the highest standard for servant-leadership, for all to emulate.” —Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D.

Record attendance
Over 1,700 faithful attended the enthronement luncheon, the most ever held for a luncheon in New York Hilton’s history.

Archon Involvement
Several key Archons, opposite page, were involved in planning the Enthronement for several weeks, and others helped support, including, beginning top left:

1. Archon Nicholas Furris in command for live broadcast
2. Archon Michael Psaros enters the Cathedral
3. Archon Rocky Sisson greets the Archbishop
4. Archon John A. Catsimatidis and his wife Margo
5. Archon Michael Karloutsos escorts His Eminence
6. Archons George Tsougarakis, Nikiforos Mathews, Thomas Suehs attend the luncheon
7. Archon Dr. Dean Vafiadis, National Commander Limberakis, and Archon Harry Cavalaris before the Ceremony
8. Archon Andrew Venioupolis directs the flower girls before the procession
9. Archons Nicholas Karacosta and George E. Loucas in attendance
10. Archon Dr. Stephen J. Yallourakis and his wife Dr. Anna
Archbishop Elpidophoros makes first official visit to Washington, D.C.

- Participates in Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom
- Holds meetings with President Trump and Vice President Pence
- Visits with Politicians and Dignitaries
- Attends Interreligious Prayer Service
- Welcomed with Archon Reception
On Wednesday, July 17, 2019, in the Burns Auditorium of the State Department Marshall Center in Washington, DC, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America spoke at the United States State Department’s Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. His Eminence addressed the session on “Atrocity Prevention—Protection of Vulnerable Religious Minorities in Conflict and Crisis Settings.” Other panelists included Denise Natali, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations; Lawrence Woocher of the United States Holocaust Museum; and Ben Rogers of Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, National Secretary Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, and Archon Andrew E. Manatos also attended the Ministerial, as well as Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Order of St. Andrew Spiritual Advisor and Vicar General of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

The Theological School of Halki has ceased to function as a school that trains clergy, the lifeblood for the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate inside Turkey and worldwide.
His Eminence stated: “There is widespread evidence from around the world that tells us that religious freedom and atrocity prevention are intrinsically related. Specifically, where we see state protections and societal support for religious freedom, we tend to see lower levels of religiously-targeted violence and discrimination, two of the most well-known warnings of coming atrocities, whether in the form of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide.”

“Given these global realities,” Archbishop Elpidophoros continued, “it is clear that there is a global urgency for developing a broad range of tools for promoting religious freedom, a goal in its own right, but also, so that those tools and structures that protect ‘freedom of thought, conscience and religion’ (Art. 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) can serve as tools for atrocity prevention.”

His Eminence pointed out that “conflicts informed by religion or perpetrated in the name of religion are some of the most violent of our time and produce the kind of human loss and suffering that are antithetical to the respect for humankind that is the bedrock of all religions.” He noted that “religious faith aims to bring peace to humanity, to ensure peace in the relationships between individuals and communities, states and societies: by bringing humanity closer to God, religious faith brings human beings closer to one another. Therefore, how do we explain the distortion of the inherent peacebuilding sensibility of religious faith into a motivation for violence? The answer is straightforward: fanaticism and the instrumentalization of religion produce violations in religious freedom and, consequently, contribute to atrocities.”

In response to “the logic of fanaticism that I have just described,” said His Eminence, “minorities aim to develop structures and tools for self-protection and, ultimately, for survival.” He declared that “a remarkable example of such a religious freedom tool, a historic structure and place that has timely value for promoting religious freedom as a means to prevent discrimination and persecu-

Inside the Oval Office
Archbishop Elpidophoros had the privilege to meet with President Donald J. Trump, along with Vice President Mike Pence and Alex M. Azar II, who represented the President at his enthronement.
tion in the name of religion and against vulnerable religious minorities, is the Theological School of Halki.”

Archbishop Elpidophoros informed those present that “the School operated from 1844 to 1971, with a principle mission to educate and train priests for the Greek Orthodox minority community of the Ecumenical Patriarchate within Turkey—although, the ecumenical status of the Patriarchate meant that those clergy trained at Halki could serve the global, transnational Orthodox ministry over which the Ecumenical Patriarchate presides jurisdictionally, with Orthodox communities stretching from Turkey to all of the world’s continents and peoples.”

“However,” he observed, “the Theological School of Halki has ceased to function as a school that trains clergy, the lifeblood for the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate inside Turkey and worldwide. Unfortunately, for categorically political reasons, the Turkish state closed Halki in 1971, and in the ensuing 48 years, not a single Turkish government has shown the political courage to reopen Halki, a move that would amount to an admission that Halki’s shutdown was a mistake whose negative impacts extend beyond the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the small, at-risk, Greek Orthodox Christian community of Turkey. The closure of Halki, with its progressive and peace-building spirit, has deprived all of Turkey’s citizens and polity of ideas, people, and actions for promoting and protecting religious freedom and, consequently, for preventing the warning...
signs that so easily lead to atrocities."

His Eminence stated that "Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has spent the 28 years of his ministry trying to convince Turkish governments to permit the reopening of Halki. Western governments, including the United States, have also struggled vainly to convince Turkey that reopening Halki is consistent with international human rights and religious freedom law, but also, is in the interests of all of Turkey’s people." And he declared: "I emphasize the significance of Halki not just for the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Turkey’s vulnerable Greek Orthodox Christian community, but as well, for the interests and values of Turkey. Halki’s ongoing closure brands Turkey as a country that is hostile to the living presence of Christianity inside Turkey, and also sends a message that the Turkish state and society are intolerant towards diversity and pluralism within Turkey."

Archbishop Elpidophoros then added that the closure of Halki "stands as a violation of the universal human right of religious freedom....It should be obvious that the closing of the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s Theological School of Halki amounts to an attempt to produce the slow death of our religious community, our Church in its historic lands of origin." He pointed out that the late Archbishop Iakovos, Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in North and South America; the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras; and our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, were all graduates of Halki. ■

Archon reception in honor of Archbishop Elpidophoros

Earlier on July 16, the Order held a dinner in honor of Archbishop Elpidophoros with a special guest in attendance, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem.

The timing and location of this dinner was particularly important in light of the fact that the persecution of Christians worldwide continues to escalate, and is now as widespread as it is unnoticed.

In addition to Archbishop Elpidophoros and Patriarch Theophilos, in attendance were His Eminence Archbishop Yevstratty, Ukrainian Orthodox Archbishop of Chernihiv; Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL); members of the Trump Administration; and members of the diplomatic corps, as well as numerous Archons and other distinguished guests.

Representing the Order of AHEPA was its newly elected Supreme President Archon George Horiates and Supreme Treasurer Archon Savas Tsivicos, who is also the Honorary Chair of the Cyprus Children’s Fund. AHEPA Executive Director Archon Basil Mossaides was also present.

Representing the American Hellenic
Archons Host Religious Freedom Sidebar at U.S. Capitol with Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Members of Congress and Diplomats joining Archbishop Elpidophoros

The Order held a sidebar during the U.S. Department of State Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom at the United States Capitol Visitor Center led by Archbishop Elpidophoros, on July 17. In attendance were numerous members of Congress, including Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. The Order of St. Andrew was invited to present a sidebar during the State Department Ministerial by U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback at a previous dinner meeting the ambassador had with the Archon leadership.

National Commander Limberakis noted that Speaker Pelosi was “truly an extraordinary figure in the history of our beloved Nation, as the highest ranking elected woman in United States history and the only woman to have served as Speaker of the House.” He added that she was also “a longtime friend of the Greek Orthodox community in the United States, friend of our beloved Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and advocate of religious freedom,” and that she “honors our newly enthroned Archbishop Elpidophoros with her presence as she welcomes His Eminence to the Capitol.”

Archbishop Elpidophoros during his remarks at the sidebar thanked Speaker Pelosi and other Members of Congress for their efforts promoting religious freedom and in particular their support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Other speakers included:

- The Rev. Protopresbyter Alexander Karloutsos, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of America and Spiritual Advisor of the Order of St. Andrew;
- Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias;
- Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee;
- Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), a Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee;

Institute was its Executive Director Archon Nick Larigakis. The Hellenic Initiative was represented by Archon George Stamas, its president, and the National Hellenic Society by its Executive Director, Art Dimopoulos. Representing the American Hellenic Leadership Council was its Executive Director, Endy Zemenides. The Hellenic American Women’s Council was represented by its cofounder Theodora Hancock, and the National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes by Archon Andy Manatos. The Western Archon Nick Larigakis. The Hellenic American Women’s Council was represented by its cofounder Theodora Hancock, and the National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes by Archon Andy Manatos. The Western Policy Center was represented by Archon John Sitilides.

Archbishop Elpidophoros addressed Patriarch Theophilos, saying: “Your Beatitude, on behalf of all those assembled, please accept our profound respects, love, and appreciation for the role that you play in the protection – not only of the Orthodox Christians of the Holy Land and Jordan, but of all those who bear the Name of Christ throughout the Middle East.”

The Archbishop also noted: “This week, we are participating in this ‘Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom.” A thousand participants from the world over have gathered here in the Nation’s Capital to advance the cause of religious freedom for every human person, and we all know how much the esteemed Order of Saint Andrew has done in this regard. It is significant to note that the opening of the Ministerial took place at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the closing will be at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. In the former we remember those who perished from an ethnic and religious hatred; in the latter we commemorate those in our own land who endured the inhumanity of slavery and subsequent racial discrimination. Although nearly every people of the world has suffered oppression, hatred, and even genocide at one time or another, it is our fervent pledge that we will never stand for such to happen anywhere again.”

The Archbishop added: “Therefore, we must see our goals for the Diaspora and for all our Orthodox Christian Homelands in this bright and shining light – the light of liberty of conscience and freedom of worship. Whether it be in Constantinople or Jerusalem, in Greece or Ukraine, in Cyprus or Egypt, in Syria or Israel – our duty is to speak truth to power with love and with authority, even as the Lord spoke the Message of the Kingdom during His earthly ministry.”

National Commander Limberakis, National Commander stated: “How appropriate it is for the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which has been the victim of religious persecution for centuries, to participate and speak at this ministerial, having served the Mother Church for over 25 years and who has witnessed first-hand the Martyria of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.”

Dr. Limberakis praised Archbishop Elpidophoros’ tireless work for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church in general, noting in particular his efforts on behalf of Autocephaly for the Orthodox Church in Ukraine: “His clarion voice in the magnificent book he authored in advocacy of Ukrainian Autocephaly which supported the brilliant and just decision of His All-Holiness was a tour de force… And yes, Ukrainian Autocephaly is a statement in support of Religious Freedom!”

Dr. Limberakis added: “We are especially honored this evening with the presence of His Beatitude Theophilos III, the Patriarch of Jerusalem where the very birthplace of Christianity is being threatened with the complete asphyxiation of the Christian Community.”

Explaining the urgency of the Ministerial, Dr. Limberakis said: “Whether you look at the Middle East, or Africa, or Asia, the countries of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Egypt, Turkey, Yemen, China, Pakistan, India… it’s horrific that Christians are persecuted globally. According to our own State Department, Christians face persecution in more than 60 countries around the world, that’s more than one out of every three countries in existence today. Stated another way, although Christians comprise only 30% of the world’s population, 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination are directed at Christians.” He also said that “the Order of St. Andrew commends President Trump, Secretary Pompeo and Ambassador for International Religious Freedom Brownback for organizing this Ministerial in which over 1000 individuals representing 130 countries are participating to focus attention on religious persecution and deliberating on the ways and means this evil can be contained and ultimately overcome.”
Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), an Archon and Co-Chair of the Hellenic-Israel Alliance, Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, and Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee;

Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Global Rights Subcommittee and Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission;

Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), a Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee;

Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, Co-Chair of the Hellenic-Israel Alliance and Vice Chair of the Joint Economic Committee;

Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI), a Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Europe Subcommittee;

Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), a Member of the House Judiciary Committee and Oversight Committee.

During his remarks, Dr. Limberakis noted that “the persecution of Christians is a global phenomenon that is as widespread as it is unnoticed. Almost everywhere that Christians are in the minority, they face regular harassment, discrimination, and worse. 30 percent of the world’s population identifies as Christian, but 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination are directed at Christians. Nor is this persecution restricted to one particular region of the world: Christians face persecution today in more than 60 countries. Between 2007 and 2014, Christians had been targeted for harassment in more countries than any other religious group. Millions of Christians regularly face interrogation, arrest, torture, and even death because of their religious convictions.”

Dr. Limberakis focused in particular on the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, saying that “in Istanbul, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the center of our Orthodox Faith, continues to suffer. The Turkish government is persistent in maintaining policies that, if not reversed, could lead to the asphyxiation of Orthodox Christianity in Turkey, one of its historical heartlands, and nothing less than the threatened end of our Holy and Great Mother Church.”

The Speaker
The Order was honored to have Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi offer words.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

In attendance were 17 Members of Congress:

- Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), an Archon and Co-Chair of the Hellenic-Israel Alliance, Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, and Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee;
- Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH), a Member of the House Infrastructure Committee and Veteran’s Affairs Committee;
- Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, Co-Chair of the Hellenic-Israel Alliance and Vice Chair of the Joint Economic Committee;
- Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee;
- Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY), Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations;
- Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Global Rights Subcommittee and Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission;
- Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Co-Chair of the House Problem Solvers Caucus;
- Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI), a Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Europe Subcommittee;
- Rep. Sean Maloney (D-NY), a Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence;
- Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), a Member of the House Appropriations Committee;
- Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN), a Member of the House Armed Services Committee and Budget Committee and Oversight Committee;
- Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), a Member of the House Judiciary Committee and Oversight Committee;
- Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), a Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee;
- Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), a Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Present from the Senate were Senators Menendez and Van Hollen.

Numerous religious leaders and foreign dignitaries also attended the event, including His Beatitude Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem; His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, the Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London; the Ambassador of the European Union to the United States, Stavros Lambrinidis; Ambassador Marios Lysiotis, the Cypriot Ambassador to the U.S.; Theodoros Bizakis, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Greece; and Achilles Rakinas, Political Affairs Officer of the Embassy of Greece.

Speakers also noted the persecution of Christians in the Middle East, Asia, China, India, Africa and elsewhere, calling attention to the gravity of this global catastrophe.

Dr. Limberakis acknowledged the efforts of Regional Commander Archon Andrew E. Manatos, Archon Mike Manatos, Liz Fagan and Archon Andrew Veniopoulos and Archon John Mindala in the organization of this historic Archon initiative in its overall global strategy to secure the complete and unfettered religious freedom of the Spiritual Center of the world’s 300 million Orthodox Christians, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, located in Istanbul, Turkey.
A Reflection

By Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Aktouarios, National Commander

If the Archbishop’s recent whirlwind tour in the Nation’s Capital left you with memories and impressions of the late Archbishop Iakovos, you were not alone. Less than 30 days from his Enthronement, Archbishop Elpidophoros swept into Washington, DC with a thousand other religious and civic leaders for the second State Department sponsored “Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom,” but his reception was like no other. The Archons who participated in the State Department Ministerial witnessed firsthand the dynamism and intense commitment of His Eminence to the Church in America, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the American ideal of religious freedom and human rights by effectively and substantively working with our political leadership.

Not since the days of Archbishop Iakovos, who was welcomed into the Oval Office by every President from JFK to Bill Clinton, has the Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America been received with such esteem and appreciation. During the week of July 15th, His Eminence met not only with the President and the Vice President, but he met as well with three cabinet members – Secretary of State Pompeo, Secretary of Health and Human Services Azar (an Orthodox Christian who represented the President at the Enthronement), and Secretary of Commerce Ross. He also met with the Speaker of the House, the Senate Minority Leader, the White House Acting Chief of Staff, the National Security Advisor, various Members of the Congress, and leading officials of the State Department.

Through the decades, the head of our Church in America has had such opportunities, many of them only photo-ops. But like Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory, Archbishop Elpidophoros has substantively engaged our national leadership, and not as a matter of politics, but rather of responsibility.

Every Church leader knows that the members of his flock span the spectrum of political involvement and commitment. This is natural enough. Every leader also understands the difference between the “office” and the person who occupies it. And there are times when, like Archbishop Iakovos and his legendary walk with Martin Luther King, Jr., you are called to speak truth to power. Nevertheless, establishing relationships of substance is a responsibility of the Primate of our Archdiocese, as the international breadth of Orthodox Christianity calls for lines of communication and dialogue.

Archbishop Elpidophoros was in Washington to specifically address religious freedom issues that affect the global community of Christians and indeed, all people of faith and good will. Whether it is the freedom of expression and security for our Ecumenical Patriarchate, the position of all Christians in the Middle East, the persecution of Christians and people of faith around the globe, or issues of national moral and ethical weight, the basis for all such dialogue is communication and mutual respect.

The political life of any nation will always be fraught with difficulty and controversy. In the United States of America, where freedom of religion is guaranteed in our Bill of Rights, the relationship of “Church and State” is not so easily navigated. It requires skill, energy, and a sincere commitment to the American ideal of freedom of conscience. Our Church can rest easy that we have a leader who possesses all those and more.

Selma exhibit

On July 19, Archbishop Elpidophoros attended the concluding reception for the State Department Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom which was held at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC. His Eminence had the unique opportunity to have a private tour of an exhibit dedicated to Selma, below, in which Archbishop Iakovos chose to go to Selma and stand with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. supporting equality and change.
John Zavitsanos named recipient of Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle is pleased to announce that John Zavitsanos, Archon Ekdikos, has been nominated to receive the 2019 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. Archon Zavitsanos is a member of the Order’s governing body, the National Council, and assumed leadership of the Exarch’s appeal in 2014. A special tribute dinner dance will be held at the Metropolitan Club, Friday evening, October 18, as part of the Order’s annual three-day assembly, October 18-20.

Archon George Safiol, Award Committee chairman, said, “Archon Zavitsanos has exemplified tremendous stewardship of time, talent and resources in support of the Mother Church of Constantinople, the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the United States, and to the mission of the Order of Saint Andrew in which all children of God should be granted religious freedom as a fundamental, inalienable human right. With the blessings of Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the National Council deemed it most appropriate to recognize his efforts and name him as the recipient of this prestigious Award in recognition of the extraordinary service exemplified by National Vice Commander Bouras of blessed memory.”

Metropolitan Epiphani奥斯 of Kiev and all Ukraine named Athenagoras Human Rights Award recipient

His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniios of the newly-established autocephalous church of Ukraine will be honored as the 2019 recipient of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award. The Award will be presented by the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, at the organization’s annual banquet Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the New York Hilton Hotel.

The Award, established in 1986, is presented annually to a person or organization that has consistently exemplified by action, purpose and dedication concern for the basic rights and religious freedom of all people. It is named in memory of Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, who reigned on the Ecumenical Throne from 1948 until his death in 1972. Prior to his election as Ecumenical Patriarch, he was the second Archbishop of North and South America.

Past recipients of the Award have included Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H. W. Bush, Mother Teresa, Elie Wiesel, Mikhail Gorbachev, Admiral James Stavridis, Vice President Joe Biden and last year’s recipient, Father Alex and Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos.
Friday, October 18

4PM—5:30PM  
Joint Meeting of National Council and Regional Commanders  
NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, CONCOURSE A, LOWER LEVEL · Private meeting with members of the National Council and Regional Commanders

7PM—11PM  
Nicholas J. Bouras Award For Extraordinary Archon Stewardship Award Presentation and Dinner Dance  
NEW YORK METROPOLITAN CLUB · Honoring John Zavitsanos, Archon Ekdikos

Saturday, October 19

8:30AM—9:30AM  
Orientation Breakfast for Archons-elect and their spouses  
NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, RENDEVOUS & PETIT TRIANON · Presentation by the National Commander

9:30AM—12:30PM  
Archon General Assembly  
NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, TRIANON BALLROOM · Meeting to discuss religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

12:30PM—1:30PM  
Archon Agape Luncheon  
NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, MERCURY SUITE · Agape Luncheon which will featuring a prominent speaker.

1:30PM—2:30PM  
Archon Boot Camp  
NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, NASSAU ROOM · Chairman John Zavitsanos to address Archons-elect on responsibilities.

6PM—10PM  
Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet  
NEW YORK HILTON MIDTOWN, GRAND BALLROOM · Black-tie gala honoring Metropolitan Epiphanios of Ukraine

Sunday, October 20

9AM  
Matins and Procession of Archons and Archons-Elect  
ARCHDIOCESAN CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY, UNDERCROFT · Group portrait and procession into the Cathedral for Matins.

10AM  
Archiepiscopal Divine Liturgy and Investiture of the Class of 2019  
ARCHDIOCESAN CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY · Divine Liturgy and Investiture.

1PM  
Archon Fellowship Reception  
CATHEDRAL CENTER BALLROOM · Archon Fellowship Reception of Thanksgiving

archons.org/archonweekend
In a feature article last February, ESPN called him “the brightest star nobody knows outside of the San Antonio Spurs organization.” Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich said he was “like a father, grandfather, son, brother, to whomever it may be generationally, to all of us here.”

He was Archon Peter Anton, a Spurs media relations official who worked for the team from the first day of their existence, through 46 basketball seasons. Archon Pete, who was the oldest NBA employee at 93 before his recent passing, also had a connection to the Greek Orthodox Church: he was the father of His Eminence Metropolitan Tarasios of Buenos Aires.

San Antonio Spurs Honor the Memory of Peter Anton
Father of Metropolitan Tarasios of Buenos Aires

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America has appointed the Rev. Protopresbyter Alexander Karloutsos to be the Vicar General of the Holy Archdiocese of America. The office of Vicar General is an extraordinary office, one which is used only at the discretion of the Archbishop. The last Vicar General of the Archdiocese served under the late and blessed Archbishop Iakovos.

Speaking of the appointment, His Eminence said: “Father Alex, as he is known to all, has served our Holy Archdiocese and Ecumenical Patriarchate with distinction for over forty years. His service as Vicar General recognizes his unique abilities and role to advance the mission of the Church. I look forward to his continuing fruitful ministry to our Church.”

Fr. Alex has been and continues to be a mentor par excellence to so many of us and his devotion to the Holy Mother Church and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is unparalleled. The Order thanks His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros for making this appointment that portends a very bright future for our Holy Archdiocese of America.

Serving the Ecumenical Patriarchate for over 40 years
Pictured opposite page (from left to right) Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Presvytera Xanthi Karloutsos, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and Fr. Vasileios Drossos.
In the ESPN article, which was published several months before Anton’s passing, Popovich recounted Archon Anton’s effect on the team: “Sure, he’d like the Spurs to win every game. But his deal is just being good to people and helping to create an environment that we all like being around. And that’s really his thing. He’s just one of those fine human beings that when you’re around him, you’re like, ‘He’s a better person than me.’ You just know it when you’re with him, and that’s who Petey is.”

Archon Pete Anton began working with the Spurs in 1973, after the franchise moved from Dallas to San Antonio. According to ESPN, he “started working the team’s media gate on an invitation from next-door neighbor Pinky Whitney, who spent 12 years in Major League Baseball as a third baseman and played in the 1936 All-Star Game. Whitney was working for the San Antonio Missions minor league baseball team at the time.”

Archon Anton recalled with a laugh: “Pinky said that if they wanted him, they had to take me too.” But he was no afterthought: over the years Pete became indispensable to the Spurs. In the fall of 2018, he underwent eye surgery and had to inform the Spurs that he wouldn’t be able to drive to the AT&T Center, where the Spurs play their home games. The Spurs, however, were unwilling to do without Archon Anton. As Archon Anton recalled, “They said, ‘Don’t worry about it. We’ll pick you up and take you home. We need you here.’” Spurs staffers drove Anton to and from games after that, until shortly before his passing. Archon Anton was so valued in the Spurs organization that basketball communications coordinator Jordan Howenstine called the drivers “our game-night saviors” for making sure Anton was there.

“Archon Anton clearly loved people far beyond the scope of the San Antonio Spurs. He gave his son such a firm grounding in the Orthodox Faith that he has now risen to the ranks of the episcopate. The recognition within the Church of His Eminence Metropolitan Tarasios’ talents and abilities was a tribute to the faith and perseverance of the father who raised him. The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, is grateful to God for the deep, abiding, and exemplary faith of Archon Peter Anton. Eternal be his memory.”
The Ecumenical Patriarchate and Ukraine Autocephaly

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle presents a one of a kind offering for all Orthodox Christians and indeed for all people of goodwill who are particularly interested in learning more about the Orthodox Church.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate and Ukraine Autocephaly: Historical, Canonical, and Pastoral Perspectives is presented in portable eBook format and now available to download through our website and social media platforms.

The eBook includes the following articles written by a diverse and noteworthy assembly of Orthodox commentators.

Foreword
by National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis

Introduction:
The Ecumenical Patriarchate and Ukraine Autocephaly
by Evagelos Sotiropoulos (Editor)

The Voice of Silence: A Monastic Voice on the Ukrainian Question
by Mother Abbess Theoxeni

Pastoral Perspectives of the Ukrainian Autocephaly: A Personal Face to a Political Issue
by Fr. John Chryssavgis

Penalty or Abuse of Power? Canonical Sanctions and Ukrainian Autocephaly
by Fr. Nicholas Denysenko

What has Korea to do with Ukraine? Russia’s Tragic Assault on Korean Unity
by Fr. Perry Hamalis

Ukrainian Autocephaly: Reflections from the Diaspora
by Fr. Bohdan Hladio

Pastoral Care for the Ukrainian Orthodox
by Fr. Cyril Hovorun

The Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine and the Canonical Prerogatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
by Archbishop Job of Telmessos

The Bulgarian Orthodox Church and Ukrainian Autocephaly
by Dr. Daniela Kalkandjieva

The Role of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Granting Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church in Ukraine: A Canonical Perspective
by Dr. Lewis Patsavos

Reflections on Autocephaly by a Member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
by Dr. Gayle Woloschak

The goal of this eBook is to present information regarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Ukraine Autocephaly that edifies and imparts grace to its readers (cf. Ephesians 4:29). In the words of Editor Evagelos Sotiropoulos, “The articles in this essay will hopefully add a measured quantity of love and hope — and fact — on the issue of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Ukraine Autocephaly.”

We close with a short passage from the eBook’s Foreword written by National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis:

With the goal of making sure these materials reach the broadest possible audience, I have one request of you. Please share these materials with others. Indeed, I would like to ask each of you to email this collection to five other people and ask them to share this collection with five more.

The Order gratefully acknowledges and sincerely thanks all of those individuals, but most especially the esteemed contributors, who made this publication possible, in the service of the Church and to the Glory of God!
Archbishop Elpidophoros attends National Council meeting
On August 2, Archbishop Elpidophoros attended his first National Council meeting of the Order of Saint Andrew.

Visit of the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, to the Ecumenical Patriarchate
The President of Ukraine, Mr. Volodymyr Zelensky, paid a visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, August 8. The Ecumenical Patriarch said, “We from Constantinople, as we gave you baptism 1031 years ago, so now we have given independence, the ability for your Church to carry out its work independently and unaffected by any outside intervention. Constantinople will not interfere with the internal affairs of the Church in Ukraine. She is completely independent and autocephalous.”

Archon presentation at AHEPA conference
On July 3, Regional Commanders Gus M. Pablecas and John G. Manos addressed the 97th AHEPA Supreme Convention in Chicago, IL on “Religious Freedom and Christian Persecution in the 21st Century.”

Atlanta Metropolis Clergy Laity Grand Banquet
Archbishop Elpidophoros was welcomed by Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Regional Commander Dr. Manuel Tissura and Archons during the annual Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy Laity Banquet.
Cameroon: Militants cut off the ears of women in horrific attack on Christian village

About 70% of Cameroon’s population is Christian. Orthodox Christianity is a recent presence there, arriving in the country in 1951. Greek merchants at that time immigrated to Cameroon and established Orthodox churches. In the 1980s, Holy Orthodoxy began spreading to the native population, under the auspices of the Church of Alexandria. The Archdiocese of Cameroon was established in 1959 and is under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Alexandria.

Now the Christians of Cameroon are facing persecution and many Christians have fled their homes. Please pray that Almighty God would restore peace to Cameroon and provide for a flourishing of Orthodoxy there.

The barbarism of Boko Haram, an Islamist militant group, has reached new heights after reports of women having their ears chopped off during an attack on a Christian village.

Local media reports that Boko Haram fighters stormed the Christian village of Kalagari in northern Cameroon on July 29, taking eight women hostage and cutting off their ears before releasing them.

The women are being treated for their injuries but Open Doors UK said it was not clear whether all of the abducted women had been released.

The militant group has terrorised Christian communities in Nigeria for the last decade and has now splintered and spread its violent ideology into Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

It is notorious for abducting women and girls, most famously 276 largely Christian schoolgirls from Chibok in 2014, but there have been others.

Leah Sharibu is the only girl still in captivity from a group of 110 kidnapped from their school in Dapchi, Yobe state, last year by Boko Haram faction the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). She continues to be held because of her refusal to convert to Islam.

Unicef last year estimated that Boko Haram had kidnapped 1,000 children in north-east Nigeria between 2013 and 2018. Many children, especially girls, have tragically been used by the group as suicide bombers.

Open Doors UK said the reports coming from Cameroon reflect a “new type of atrocity” for the group.

Nigeria is number 12 on the Open Doors World Watch List of top 50 countries where persecution against Christians is the greatest.

The Boko Haram insurgency has been going on since 2009, triggering a humanitarian crisis that has left nearly 10 million people in the Lake Chad Basin in need of humanitarian assistance, with high levels of hunger and malnutrition, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Open Doors is supporting those affected by Boko Haram and other factions through emergency aid such as food, medicine, shelter, as well as trauma care and persecution preparedness training.
Offering insights on the issues facing Christians living in the Holy Lands and the Middle East, and wherever they are suffering for their faith.

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**Christians being ‘harassed’ in over 100 countries, major report confirms**

A new report into religious restrictions around the world confirms that Christians are being harassed in dozens of countries worldwide.

US think-tank Pew Research Center corroborated similar reports on persecution, finding that Christians face challenges and threats for their beliefs in 143 nations. The suffering covered by “harassment” ranged from verbal abuse to physical violence and killings.

Release International, which specifically supports persecuted Christians, welcomed the report but added that the current situation is even worse in China and North Korea than indicated by the report....

Considering examples from the previous ten years, it highlighted that in Uganda “Christians were beaten and three were killed for religious reasons in Muslim-majority areas in 2015”.

“The same year, three children were kidnapped because of their father’s conversion from Islam to Christianity. And in 2016, several incidents of violence against converts were reported, including a woman whose husband strangled her to death for leaving Islam.”

Release, which supports Christians around the world, said the breadth of the US report meant it was now “behind the times”.

“From our own findings, we would say that insufficient emphasis is placed on the growing restrictions in China and the severe persecution of Christians in North Korea.”
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Gerry Ranglas • Rancho Santa Fe • 3/10/02
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Dr. Peter Scamagas • Fresno, CA • 10/28/07
Byron Scordelis • Saratoga, CA • 10/16/16
John C. Scurtis • Miami, FL • 10/28/07
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Constantine Sideridis • Salem, MA • 10/18/15
George A. Sifakis • Arlington, VA • 10/22/17
John Sitlides • McLean, VA • 10/22/17
Paul Peter Sogotos • San Francisco, CA • 10/26/08
Dean Spanos • San Diego, CA • 6/6/04
Michael Spanos • Stockton, CA • 6/6/04
James D. Speros • Wellesley, MA • 3/10/02
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George A. Tsougarkas • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/11
Dr. Chris Yiantsou • Bedford, TX • 10/28/18
Sarantos Vallas • Brooklyn, NY • 10/28/18
James Vavas • Brooklyn, NY • 10/28/18
Andrew Veniopoulos • New York, NY • 10/16/16
George Vittas • Bedford, TX • 10/22/17
Peter A. Vlachos • New York, NY • 2/18/01
Dr. Theodore Vlahos • Safety Harbor, FL • 10/22/06
Gus Vratsinas • Little Rock, AR • 3/10/02
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Howard West • Amity, PA • 10/28/18
Leonard Zangas • Manhasset, NY • 10/31/10
Steve Zervoudis • Englewood, NJ • 10/16/16
George P. Zimir, Ph.D. • Briarcliff Manor, NY • 10/23/05

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Peter Allan, Ph.D. • Fort Lee, NJ • 3/19/89
Harold Anagnos • Bonita Springs, FL • 10/28/07
Ernest W. Anast • Yorba Linda, CA • 3/3/96
George J. Anderson • Nashville, TN • 9/27/06
Leon W. Andris • Silver Spring, MD • 3/9/03
Merkourios Angelides • Sands Point, NY • 10/20/13
Arthur C. Anton Jr. • Carlisle, MA • 10/20/13
Arthur C. Ant, Sr. • North Andover, MA • 4/7/76
Andrew P. Arbes • Manasquan, NJ • 6/14/81
Peter T. Arbes • Chatam, NJ • 10/31/10
Dr. James P. Argires • Lancaster, PA • 2/24/91
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Michael Bapis • Manhasset, NY • 10/22/17
Nick Bapis • Salt Lake City, UT • 10/28/07
Anastasios S. Betzelos • Chicago, IL • 3/19/89
Dr. Geraldi Biernacki • Toledo, OH • 10/21/12
Michael Bilirakis • Tarpon Springs, FL • 3/23/86
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Nicholas Carras • Myersville, MD • 10/23/05
Nick T. Catranis • Mobile, AL • 3/5/00
James C. Catrickes • Haverford, PA • 10/18/15
Anthony Chapekis • Northbrook, IL • 3/19/89
Stephen Cherpelis • Douglaston, NY • 2/18/01
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