



ORTHODOX OBSERVER

NOVEMBER 2009 • Vol. 74 • No. 1253

www.observer.goarch.org • e-mail: observer@goarch.org

\$1.00

The Visit of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

by Jim Golding

An overview

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's just-completed sixth visit to the United States will be noted for a number of accomplishments.

It raised the public's consciousness about the environmental condition of the Mississippi River through the eighth Religion, Science and the Environment Symposium, held in New Orleans from Oct. 21-25, which featured a diverse group of theologians, scientists, policy makers, environmentalists, representatives of business and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and members of the print and electronic media.

It received wide attention, not only through the local New Orleans press, but also through such major regional and national media including the Washington Times and Washington Post, Religion News Service and the Wall Street Journal, which published an Op-Ed piece from His All Holiness, and the Charlie Rose Show on PBS. The Ecumenical Patriarch's appearance on the program also marked the first time that an Ecumenical Patriarch has been interviewed on American television.

In addition to restating his concern for the environment, His All Holiness fielded numerous questions in the hour-long program. He addressed topics that included the history and function of the institution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its worldwide role, relations with the Roman Catholic Church, issues facing the Church in Turkey and others. (To view the archived program in its entirety, go to: www.charlierose.com).

The Roman Catholic Church honored His All Holiness with the bestowal of an honorary degree from Fordham University,

the premier Jesuit school in the United States. Within the Church, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew made his first appearance at an Archdiocesan Council meeting and inducted the newest group of Archons into the Order of St. Andrew.

He also made first-time visits to St. Demetrios Church in Merrick, N.Y., where he presided at the Vespers of St. Demetrios and to Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Annapolis, Md., where he observed the 18th anniversary of his enthronement as Ecumenical Patriarch.

A major part of His All Holiness' schedule included meetings with several key religious and political leaders in New York, including other Orthodox hierarchs, Jewish leaders, the UN secretary general, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former President Bill Clinton.

In Washington, the high point of his visit was the second private meeting in six months with President Barack Obama, when the two met in the Oval Office on Nov. 3. Vice President Joseph Biden hosted a private dinner for the Ecumenical Patriarch, as did Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

A Capitol Hill luncheon hosted by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid rounded out the Ecumenical Patriarch's high-level encounters with American leaders.

He also raised the awareness of one of the nation's major think tanks, the Brookings Institution, where he spoke on the Ecumenical Patriarchate's efforts on the environment.

The following pages of this 12-page "wrap-around" special cover these and other major aspects of his visit.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and President Obama meet privately in the Oval Office on Nov. 3.



His All Holiness prays over one of the new members of the Order of St. Andrew at the Archons Induction Ceremony at Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral in New York, assisted by Archbishop Demetrios.



An aghiasmo ceremony to bless the waters of the Mississippi.

The visit of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been very well documented and recorded on several websites. For broadcast footage of his visit, complete texts of his address, photo galleries, etc., connect to the following sites www.patriarchate.org • www.usvisit2009.org Photos and additional resources are available at: www.patriarchate.org/news/media; Broadcast Quality Footage in NTSC and PAL available at: www.patriarchate.org/news/media/pressvideo

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEWAPOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

NEW ORLEANS

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Begins Visit with Environmental Symposium



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and other participants in the symposium on board a boat learn first-hand about the environmental problems of the Mississippi.



His All Holiness greets a resident of the Ninth Ward, which was hard-hit during Katrina.



Archbishop Demetrios and the Ecumenical Patriarch with New Orleans Roman Catholic Archbishop Gregory Michael Aymond.



An outdoor session of the Environmental Symposium.

by **Stavros H. Papagermanos**

NEW ORLEANS — Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew began his three-week visit to the United States here on Oct. 20, when he arrived to host the eighth Religion, Science and the Environment Symposium that focused on “Restoring Balance: The Great Mississippi River.”

“We welcome you, Your All Holiness with deep reverence and respect, total dedication and plenty of love,” said Archbishop Demetrios, officially greeting the Ecumenical Patriarch at Louis Armstrong Airport along with Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, members of the local clergy, local officials, a small group of Orthodox faithful from this area and two-dozen children dressed in traditional costume.

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew offered a few words of greeting and blessing to those who had gathered at the airport and said:

“From the Mother Church of Constantinople and the Holy and Great Church of Christ, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we bring you greetings and blessings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

“We give thanks to Almighty God for granting us a safe arrival here in New

Orleans, a place to which we return with much hope and expectation. We return after nearly four years, when we came in the winter of 2006 to share in the loss and pain of the courageous citizens of New Orleans and to witness the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

“We return to the place where the mighty Mississippi River nears its course into the Gulf of Mexico, and where the waves of the sea and the banks of the river overflowed. We return so that we might bear witness to the hope that is in you, the hope you have manifested through the rebuilding of your lives and your community. We return in order to pray with you and to intercede with the Lord of creation, that the ‘flood of many waters shall not come nigh unto you again.’”

The Patriarchal party included Metropolitans *Geron* (elder) Athanasios of Chalcedon, Emmanuel of France, and Ambrosios of Korea, the Grand Archdeacon Maximos the V. Rev. Archimandrite Kyrillos Sikis, Deacon Nifon and Spyridon Pantazis (youth representative), Simeon Frantzelatzioglou (grand chamberlain), Lakis Vingas and Nicholas Manginas.

▶ page A9



Aerial view of the Crescent City.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEWAPOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

Meetings with

National, World Leaders



(Left) Secretary of State Hillary Clinton welcomes the hierarchs. (Right) Vice President Joe Biden and His All Holiness.

During his visit to New York and Washington, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew met with key world and national leaders to raise awareness of the efforts of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to work for peace and for the protection of the environment.

In addition to brief, private meetings with President Obama and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the Ecumenical Patriarch met at length with Vice President Joseph Biden, who hosted a dinner for him at his official residence; with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who hosted a rare joint luncheon at the Capitol and; lastly, a private meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, followed by a dinner at the State Department.

In his remarks at the Vice Presidential dinner, His All Holiness stated, in part, "For those of us who serve ancient and venerable spiritual institutions like the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we are challenged daily to convey spiritual truth in a context of acceptance and understanding of every person, whether they are adherents of our faith or not.

"We have the awesome task of instilling hope for the future in the hearts of the people of the world. Our message is not confined to any grouping, identity or language. For in these challenging times, Mr. Vice President, while you seek solutions in the worlds of finance, diplomacy,

and social welfare, we offer the lasting and existentially meaningful alternatives to the 'opiates of the people.'" We have the sacred duty and trust to offer compassion, mercy, sacrifice, generosity, and ultimately love."

He continued, "Mr. Vice President, you and your colleagues in government and public service face the daily manifold challenges of bringing to bear the social and political life of this blessed country in ways that are healthful and prosperous for all your citizens. In attending to the needs of the common good – defense, security, provision and public welfare, there are complex and complicated difficulties that you encounter. And you are also called to build hope in the hearts of the people. Faith in the transcendent God is essential in forming that hope, for as the Divine Scripture says: "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"

At the Capitol

The Ecumenical Patriarch made his first visit to the U.S. Capitol in 1997, when he received the Congressional Gold Medal.

At the Nov. 4 joint House and Senate Luncheon, he noted, "Standing again in this Capitol – this people's house of democracy and freedom – whose dome rises above every other building in this capital city of the American nation, our mind travels back in time to twelve years



With UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

ago, when both we and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople were honored by this august body with the Congressional Gold Medal. "At that time, we made a commitment and a pledge to you, the elected representatives of the great American people. We promised you that "in the spirit of freedom, we pledge

to redouble our efforts as peacemakers among different peoples and faiths."

"We say to you this day, that in spite of rising tide of intolerance and fanaticism, the Ecumenical Patriarchate continues to fulfill that pledge.

▶ page A9



(Left) Meeting with former President Bill Clinton. (Right) With Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi outside of the Capitol.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEWAPOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

NEW YORK

UN Secretary General, President Clinton, Fordham U. highlight visit

by Stavros H. Papagermanos

NEW YORK – His All Holiness' visit here was a combination of liturgical services, meetings with government officials

and the bestowal of an honorary degree.

The Ecumenical Patriarch met with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the United Nations Headquarters on Oct. 28, where he was warmly received.



Hundreds greet Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew upon his arrival at St. Demetrios in Merrick, Long Island, as Bishop Savas of Troas, a former pastor here, records the moment on his camera phone.



A throng of faithful welcome His All Holiness to St. Demetrios Cathedral in Astoria for the Feast Day of St. Demetrios.



His All Holiness addresses the audience at a program in his honor at St. Demetrios-Astoria.

The meeting that ensued was held in a cordial atmosphere. The discussion revolved around the issues of mutual environmental concerns, climate change and the initiatives for dialogue among people, religions and cultures.

In a comment to the press, following the meeting, His All Holiness said that Mr. Ban Ki-moon is aware of the environmental initiatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its efforts toward the advancement of interfaith dialogue. He also made the point that the work of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is aimed at some of the same goals as those of the United Nations: the betterment of humanity both through interfaith dialogue and through the efforts for the protection of the natural environment.

UN Prayer service

On Oct. 26, His All Holiness presided over the Ninth Annual Orthodox Prayer Service for the United Nations Community, at the Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral, the traditional site when the service is hosted by an Eastern Orthodox Church. The Ecumenical Patriarch was accompanied to the service by *Geron* Metropolitan Athanasios of Chalcedon, Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea, and clergy and lay leaders of the Church of Constantinople.

This service is sponsored annually by the Joint Commission of the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) and the Standing Conference of the Oriental Orthodox Churches of America (SCOCH).

Archbishop Demetrios welcomed His All Holiness and the assembled hierarchs, clergy, ambassadors and dignitaries of the UN diplomatic corps and laity to the Cathedral, which was filled to overflowing. Over 70 clergy of the Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Churches were in attendance. The Choir of St. Vladimir's Seminary provided the processional and recessional hymns, while the Choir of Holy Cross Seminary chanted a traditional Vespers Service in English.

Archbishop Demetrios led the Members of SCOBA, including Bishop Antoun representing the Antiochian Archdiocese, Archbishop Nicolae of the Romanian Archdiocese, Metropolitan Christopher

of the Serbian Archdiocese, Metropolitan Jonah of the OCA, Bishop Ilia of the Albanian Diocese and Archpriest Alexander Abramov of the Representation of the Moscow Patriarchate in the USA and the Metropolitans of the Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, primate of the Armenian Orthodox Church and Chairman of SCOCH led the following hierarchs of the SCOCH delegation: Archbishop Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim of the Syrian Orthodox Church, Archbishop Zecharius of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Bishop David of the Coptic Orthodox Church, and Archbishop Mor Titus Yeldho of the Malankara Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Ambassador to the UN for the Vatican, led a very large showing of the UN diplomatic corps, which included the Ambassadors of Orthodox countries and those countries where the families of the Christian Churches represented by SCOBA and SCOCH exist locally.

Greetings from Secretary General Ban Ki-moon were delivered by Under-Secretary-General Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet, with special words of welcome to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. The address was delivered by the presi-



After the Vespers service at St. Demetrios Church in Merrick, the Ecumenical Patriarch bestows the rank of Ekonomos upon the parish priest, Fr. Nikiforos Fakinos.



Fordham University President Joseph McShane greets His All Holiness at a gathering of Orthodox Christian Fellowship students enrolled at the school.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEWAPOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

NEW YORK

dent of the Brookings Institution, former Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

In his remarks, Mr. Talbott highlighted the pioneering work of His All Holiness for ecological responsibility in the faith community.

He also commented on the recently concluded work of the Eighth Religion, Science and Environment Symposium that His All Holiness convened last week in New Orleans on behalf of the Mississippi River.

In his response, His All Holiness stressed both environmental responsibility and dedication to religious freedom that are integral to the message of the Gospel. He also spoke of service to the world:

Following the Oct. 26 meeting at the UN, His All Holiness visited the Park East Synagogue in Manhattan, where he was received by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and other Jewish religious and lay leaders.

Rabbi Schneier offered a warm welcome to the Ecumenical Patriarch, a few passages from the Book of Psalms

were read and children sung hymns and songs. Rabbi Schneier presented His All Holiness with a silver Menorah as a gift.

Meets with President Clinton

Later in the afternoon at his hotel, the Ecumenical Patriarch met with former U.S. President Bill Clinton. In the evening Archbishop Demetrios of America hosted an Archdiocesan Leadership Dinner in honor of His All Holiness at the Boat-house Restaurant in Central Park.

During the activities of the day His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was accompanied by Archbishop Demetrios of America and Metropolitans Athanasios of Chalcedon, Emmanuel of France, and Ambrosios of Korea and the Metropolitans of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Iakovos of Chicago, Maximos of Pittsburgh, Methodios of Boston, Isaiah of Denver, Alexios of Atlanta, Nicholas of Detroit, Gerasimos of San Francisco and Evangelos of New Jersey.

Fordham honor

The following day, Oct. 27, Ford-



At the ninth annual Orthodox Christian Prayer Service for the United Nations Community sponsored by SCOBA/SCOCH.

ham University conferred an honorary doctorate of laws upon His All Holiness in recognition of his leadership in the fields of environmental responsibility,

and interfaith and intercultural dialogue.

Earlier in the evening, the Ecumenical Patriarch met with a group of students

▶ page A6

American Bible Society Honors the Ecumenical Patriarch



(Left) The American Bible Society hosted a pictorial tribute to the Ecumenical Patriarch at the Museum of Biblical Art (MOBIA) on Broadway at Lincoln Center. The building's glass front displayed these images visible to passers-by. The tribute consists of about 15 icons and historic books and Bibles. (Right) Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew addresses a large gathering attending the MOBIA reception.



(Left) His All Holiness and the Archbishop view a Medieval book about Constantinople. In the background is Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, a board member of the American Bible Society. (Right) His All Holiness, with Archbishop Demetrios and ABS President R. Lamar Vest during the tour of the exhibit honoring Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.



ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEWAPOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

NEW YORK

UN Secretary General, President Clinton, Fordham U. highlight visit



At the "Tribute to Peacemakers" Concert on Oct. 30 in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Archbishop Demetrios' enthronement, the Ecumenical Patriarch offers praise for His Eminence's service to the Church and for the performances of the musicians and the choir.



In addition to the performance of the Manhattan Philharmonic Orchestra, the Metropolitan Youth Choir, directed by Maria Koleva, performed several selections



On a private visit to the Mary and Michael Jaharis Galleries for Byzantine and Medieval Europe Gallery at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Oct. 28.

▶ page A5

at a private event held at the William D. Walsh Family Library. There, student leaders presented him with gifts, including a Fordham sweatshirt and baseball cap, as well as a rose developed in his honor.

"This newly created rose is a special 'green' rose, grown to stay in many harsh climates without the use of any chemical pesticides," said Anne Neuendorf, a sophomore at Fordham College at Rose Hill and president of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship. "The rose bushes surrounding you are the first Bartholomew roses grown in the world and will be planted on Fordham's Rose Hill and Lincoln Center campuses in memory of your visit here today."

Developed by noted horticulturist Robert Neil Rippetoe at the Roses Unlimited lab in Laurens, S.C., the Bartholomew rose will be registered with the American Rose Society.

Student Evangelos Tsevdos, a sopho-

more at Fordham said he was very happy to have met the Patriarch.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and just his presence here was unbelievable," he said. "I liked his sense of humor, putting on the Fordham baseball cap that we gave him, for instance. It's not something you expect to see from someone in such an esteemed position. It was amazing."

Founded in 1841, Fordham is the Jesuit University of New York, offering exceptional education distinguished by the Jesuit tradition to approximately 14,700 students in its four undergraduate colleges and its six graduate and professional schools.

Earlier in the day, His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew gave an Audience to the Orthodox Primates of the USA.

Immediately following the Patriarchal Audience, Archbishop Demetrios hosted a luncheon in honor of His All Holiness for fifty Ecumenical and Interfaith leaders from New York and around America.

Feast Day services

His All Holiness also celebrated the Feast Day services of St. Demetrios during his visit. Following his arrival at Kennedy Airport on Oct. 25, he proceeded to St. Demetrios Church in Merrick where an estimated 2,000 faithful from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut attended the Vespers.

Following the service, he elected the pastor, Fr. Nikiforos Fakinos, to the rank of economist.

His All Holiness celebrated the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy on the 26th at St. Demetrios Cathedral in Astoria, which was filled to overflowing. Following the service, he attended a program in the St. Demetrios Day School that featured performances by area Greek school students.

More information about His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the environmental work of the Church and the Apostolic Visit to the United States may be found at: www.usvisit2009.org and www.patriarchate.org



National Philoptochos Executive Committee members have a private audience with His All Holiness.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEWAPOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

Meetings with

Religious Leaders

On Oct. 27, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew gave an audience to the Orthodox Primates of the USA, most of whom were present the previous evening for the ninth annual Orthodox Prayer Service for the United Nations Community.

Present at the audience were Archbishop Demetrios; Metropolitan Philip (Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese); Metropolitan Christopher (Serbian Orthodox Archdiocese); Metropolitan Nicholas (Carpatho-Russian Diocese); Archbishop Nicolae (Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese); Metropolitan Jonah (Orthodox Church in America), Metropolitan Constantine (Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA); Bishop Ilia (Albanian Orthodox Diocese) and Archpriest Alexander Abramov (Representation of the Moscow Patriarchate in the USA).

His All Holiness said in his remarks, in part: "For nearly 50 years, the Standing Conference has served as a place for the primates of the various jurisdictions that are present in North America to gather and discuss common concerns and issues."

Also, through the many agencies that have been formed under your aegis, you have been able to activate pan-Orthodox ministries that extend beyond the confines of your particular Churches, so that your united effort might be brought to bear in common interests.

"The success of SCOBA has always been based in the true sense of cooperation, of synergy, between the Orthodox ecclesiastical entities here in North America. You have been successful at providing a common witness to all the Orthodox Faithful, even as you have maintained your ties to the Mother Churches and sought to establish yourselves in the countries and culture within which you live."

The Ecumenical Patriarch also discussed the Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference that took place in June at the Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambisy, Switzerland, and its meaning for the Orthodox Churches around the world. (For complete text, go to: us-visit2009.org; click on For the Press, then go to News Releases.

Meets Jewish Leaders

His All Holiness visited the Park East Synagogue in Manhattan, where he was received by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and other Jewish religious

and lay leaders.

Rabbi Schneier welcomed the Ecumenical Patriarch to the synagogue. Also attending was former Mayor Ed Koch who is a member there.

In his address at the synagogue, the Ecumenical Patriarch noted that "Our visit here is more than simply a formality; it transcends a mere courteous visit of a Christian leader to a Jewish leader. Even as the successor of St. Peter, our brother, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, visited here last year, we also come, the successor of Peter's earthly brother, the First-Called Apostle Saint Andrew, inspired by our fervent conviction that the most urgent task that lies before all faith communities is our global cooperation for the promotion of greater tolerance and understanding among the peoples, races and religions of our planet.

"This is why, accompanying us today is His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, who facilitates and chairs the international academic consultations between Orthodox Christianity and Judaism, initiated by the Ecumenical Patriarchate since the mid-1970s. There is no doubt in our mind that interfaith dialogue is a responsibility and obligation for all religious leaders of our time. For not only do we have common ground that unites us – such as the sacred Scriptures that we cherish, as well as the Patriarchs and Prophets that we venerate – but we also have common issues that we face in our world." His All Holiness also met at various times with the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, Timothy Dolan, and with the Roman Catholic Archbishops of New Orleans, Atlanta and Washington.



Archbishop Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim of the Syrian Orthodox Church and Bishop Antoun of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America greet His All Holiness.



Appeal of Conscience President Rabbi Arthur Schneier warmly welcomes Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the Park East Synagogue on Oct. 28.



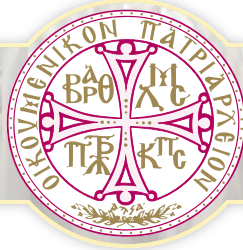
Greetings from Roman Catholic Cardinal Egan of New York.



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, primate of the Armenian Orthodox Church and Chairman of SCOCH, Rabbi Schneier and Archbishop Demetrios share a humorous story.



A luncheon for New York area religious leaders took place at the Archdiocese.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEWAPOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

ATLANTA



Coca-Cola CEO Muhtar Kent escorts his good friend Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on a tour of his company's Atlanta headquarters on Oct. 30.



Metropolitan Alexis welcomes His All Holiness to the Metropolis of Atlanta.



Greetings from Archbishop of Atlanta Emeritus John Donahue.

ANNAPOLIS



Metropolitan Evangelos and other clergy of the Metropolis of New Jersey greet Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on his arrival at the Annapolis church.

Ecumenical Patriarch Marks 18th Anniversary at Annapolis Parish

by Fr. George Nikas

WESTFIELD, N.J. – Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey officially welcomed Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians to the Metropolis of New Jersey on Nov. 2.

His Eminence, together with the Rev. Protopresbyter Kosmas Karavellas, pastor, the clergy and lay leaders of the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey welcomed His All Holiness to Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Annapolis, Md., on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of His All Holiness' Enthronement, which also coincided this year with the 65th anniversary of the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church.

This is the second Patriarchal visit to this Metropolis by His All Holiness.

The Ecumenical Patriarch's 18th anniversary of his enthronement was celebrated with a Patriarchal Chorostasia and Grand Doxology service followed by a grand banquet attended by over 500 guests. Upon his arrival, His All Holiness was greeted by several hundred Orthodox Faithful who came to receive the blessings of this Apostle of love and Peacemaker. His All Holiness was visibly moved to be received as well by over 200 children dressed in traditional Greek costumes who welcomed their Spiritual Father with special love and respect that permeated the atmosphere.

His All Holiness presided over the Patriarchal Grand Doxology service that was held in the capacity-only Church and which was attended by members of the Holy Eparchial Synod, Orthodox hierarchs, ecumenical leaders, diplomats from the United States, Greece and Cyprus as well as pious Orthodox faithful from throughout the Metropolis of New Jersey. Especially moving were the rich sounds of Byzantine chant and music of the Byzantine Choir combined with the historical Ecclesiastical liturgical tradition of the centuries-old Greek Orthodox Church.

In his address to the Ecumenical Patriarch, Metropolitan Evangelos remarked, "We welcome Your All Holiness from the Apostolic and Martyric See of Constantinople, the Center of World Orthodoxy, for 'As First Among Equals' in your person we see THE representative of Orthodox Christianity throughout the Oikoumene and as such are extremely blessed by

your presence here in our midst. Your All Holiness, your tireless labors of love and profound desire to bring unity to all Christendom distinguishes you as a true believer and adherent to our Lord's exhortation in His Prayer to the Father, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." (John 17:20-21) As the Spiritual Leader of the world's more than 300 million Orthodox Christians, you have extended your hand in a symbolic gesture of cooperation and tolerance to all religious leaders, seeking to be a living catalyst through whom the Holy Spirit will allow our Lord's words to become a reality."

His All Holiness addressed all present reassuring the faithful present that the Mother Church, the Great Church of Christ, continues to pray for all of God's creation, for peace and reconciliation in a world decimated by war, and for religious tolerance and justice by all nations of the civilized world. His All Holiness also graciously thanked Metropolitan Evangelos and the community of Sts. Constantine and Helen for their warm reception and expression of respect and love toward his person and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Especially poignant and heartwarming was His All Holiness' account during the Banquet of his election to the Throne of Constantinople, in which his humanity and willingness to be a true servant of the Lord was most evident to all present.

Finally, His Eminence expressed once again his profound gratitude to His All Holiness for honoring the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey and its devoted Faithful for his second and historic Patriarchal visit, beseeching his paternal blessings on behalf of all present. Furthermore, His Eminence extended his gratitude to Fr. Karavellas and the organizing committee for ensuring the great success of the Grand Banquet and the overall visit of His All Holiness to the celebrating Community.

His Eminence prayed that this community will continue to be a beacon of Orthodoxy in Annapolis and a jewel in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey for the next 65 years, witnessing to the Gospel of Christ and His message of salvation.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEWAPOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

NYC – WASHINGTON

Political Leaders

▷ page A3

“Throughout the intervening years, but especially since the tragic events and aftermath of Sept. 11, we have circled the globe preaching peace, reconciliation, and hope. We have intensified our efforts to bring together disparate and divergent parties to a common table where mutual respect and understanding can be fostered in a peaceable atmosphere ... In particular, we have issued a clarion call for environmental responsibility and the ecological stewardship of our common home, planet earth.

“We note with great satisfaction that it was the vision of an esteemed member of this body, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson, which established the global celebration of Earth Day.

“Yet this should be of no surprise as he followed in the footsteps of that father of American democracy, Benjamin Franklin. It was Franklin who pioneered a public consciousness that embraced environmental responsibility on behalf of all citizens that presaged the American dedication to ecological preservation. From the founding of Yellowstone as the first national park in 1872, to President Theodore Roosevelt’s first wildlife refuge on Pelican Island, Florida in 1903.

From the establishment of the United States Forest Service in 1905, to the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970.

“The United States of America, a land blessed with tremendous bounty and natural resources, has always been willing to show leadership in the protection of the health and beauty of the lands and waters that lie between your shining seas.

“Madame Speaker and Majority Leader Reid, twelve years ago, we had gathered beneath the magnificent dome of the Capitol, a dome inspired, as we said at that time, by the dome of an Orthodox Christian Church, St. Isaac’s Cathedral in St. Petersburg. But this dome, and indeed every dome, finds its primordial inspiration in the canopy of the heaven that pre-

vails over all our world. Through the ages, the dome has served as a symbol of the all-encompassing reality of divine providence and care for the created world...

“Madame Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, yesterday with President Obama, we raised the very basic and philanthropic issue of health care for the poorest and neediest citizens. I assured him of our prayers for him in this vital effort of fundamental human dignity. At Georgetown University, we invoked the example of the Byzantine Empire, as a model that found, even in a pre-industrial era, the resources to honor every human person. We exhort you today with this same paradigm, and we pray for your success.”

Secretary Clinton’s comments

Secretary Clinton noted in her welcoming address on Nov. 5, “His All Holiness and I have had the pleasure of meeting a number of times since I first visited him as first lady at the Patriarchate in 1995, but one of our most memorable times together came when Archbishop was enthroned in New York 10 years ago. A lot has happened in the intervening decade, but one thing that has not changed is his All Holiness’s commitment not only to his church and to the people of the church, but to the world, and the work that he has done, which is so important to us all...

“We are welcoming His All Holiness not only as the leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians, but as a living embodiment of the positive role that faith can play in healing and humanizing our world. Many people claim faith. Few live it the way that he has. He represents both centuries of tradition, and an agenda that is at the very cutting age of our modern time. The message that he carries around the world is timeless, but you can follow his travels on Twitter and Facebook.

We value his wisdom, his vision, his leadership. And I look forward to continuing our long and productive friendship as we work together for the benefit of all God’s children.”



Atlanta faithful pack Annunciation Cathedral for an Ecumenical Gathering of Peace on Oct. 29.

NEW ORLEANS

Environmental Symposium

▷ page A2

On Oct. 23, His All Holiness made a return visit to the lower 9th Ward to survey the recovery and restoration efforts of wetland area in Bayou Bienvenue.

In January 2006, the Ecumenical Patriarch traveled to New Orleans in order to witness the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and to pray with the people of New Orleans

Prior to the visit, he conducted a memorial service at the St. Louis Cemetery No. 3 for the victims of the catastrophe, and also in memory of Archbishop Iakovos.

Cathedral liturgy

In the Byzantine Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, the oldest Orthodox Christian community in America, established in 1864, Orthodox faithful had gathered early Sunday morning, Oct. 25. The Ecumenical Patriarch presided over the Matins and Divine Liturgy.

His All Holiness, after the reading of the Gospel, in his homily to the hundreds of faithful in attendance, acknowledged the devastation and the suffering caused by hurricane Katrina and commended the people of the community and the city of New Orleans for their resolve for recovery and rebirth.

Focusing attention to the role of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the places where the seven Ecumenical Councils took place, His All Holiness said that “to this day, the Ecumenical Patriarchate continues to safeguard this truth, (the dogmatic truth of Christianity – Orthodoxy) while the Apostolic Throne of Saint Andrew continues to keep these historic Sees alive – even if only with the witness of a few.”

The Ecumenical Patriarch explained the history and the purpose of the Reli-

gion, Science and the Environment (RSE) Symposia and in particular this Eighth one entitled “Restoring Balance: The Great Mississippi River,” which had just concluded.

He said “When we began on the Sacred Island of Patmos, we chose this location for a very specific reason. We recognized, in the apocalyptic vision of St. John the Theologian, a prophetic call to action for our planet and for all who live herein. From the Isle of Patmos, the Evangelist bore witness to coming catastrophe, even to the scorching of a third of the earth, a third of all trees – and the poisoning of a third of the seas, and a third of all rivers and fresh water. (Revelation 8:7-11).

“This vision is a call to arms for all of us, not merely to take action for environmental responsibility and reason, but to take a closer look at the root cause of our declining world – and that is the decline in our human values, our human relationships, and the very understanding of what it means to be a human being.

“Welcome apostle of healing, peace, truth and care for the people and for the environment,” said at the conclusion of the Liturgy Archbishop Demetrios of America welcomed the Ecumenical Patriarch and thanked him for his pastoral care for all Orthodoxy and especially the flock of the Archdiocese of America. His Eminence further characterized the Ecumenical Patriarch “an agent of the healing process and conveyor of the Grace of God.”

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin who was present at the service, also welcomed His All Holiness to the city and expressed his gratitude for the support and the prayers of the Ecumenical Patriarch for the people of New Orleans.



Hundreds at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Annapolis await the arrival of His All Holiness.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEWAPOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew delivers his address to the Brookings Institute on Nov. 4.



Meeting with Brookings Institute President Strobe Talbott.



His All Holiness delivers a major address at Georgetown University's Gaston Hall, sponsored by the University and the Center for American Progress.

Meetings with Highest Gov't
Leadership Conclude Visit

by Stavros H. Papagermanos

WASHINGTON – Highlighting His All Holiness' visit to the nation's capital was his meeting with President Barack Obama, who warmly received him in the Oval Office.

This reciprocal visit to the one paid by President Obama earlier this year (April 7, when he made his first overseas visit to a Muslim country, Turkey) followed up on their conversations at that time on the subjects of the recently concluded environmental symposium on the Mississippi River and the re-opening of the Theological School of Halki.

"The President with his kindness and openness received me and my delegation with love and honor," said His All Holiness to the press as he was exiting the White House.

During the more than half an hour meeting, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew raised the subjects of climate change and commended the President for his initiatives, urging him for an even more intensive campaign on behalf of ecological responsibility. For his part, President Obama thanked the Ecumenical Patriarch for his moral and ethical leadership for all the world's faith communities in responding to environmental concerns. In particular, the President thanked His All Holiness for his recent environmental symposium on the Mississippi River and his opening address. They both shared their experiences in the Lower Ninth Ward and their concern for the redevelopment of this hard-hit neighborhood of New Orleans.

President Obama stressed his appreciation for the unique role of the Ecumenical Patriarch as the leader of the Orthodox Christian world, and the unique character of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as an institution. He expressed to His All Holiness his

commitment to the re-opening of the Theological School of Halki, citing the advantage to Turkey itself that the full operation of Halki would bring.

At the close of their very substantive meeting, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew assured the President of his prayers for his healthcare initiatives for the sake of the poor and needy.

Present at the meeting of the President with His All Holiness were, from the White House: Tom Donilon, Assistant to the President, Deputy National Security Advisor; Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Special Assistant to the President and Se-

"We have the sacred duty and trust to offer compassion, mercy, sacrifice, generosity, and ultimately love."

nior Director of European Affairs; Joshua DuBois, Director of Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships; Bridget Brink, Director for Aegean and South Caucasus; and accompanying the Ecumenical Patriarch were: Archbishop Demetrios of America, Geron Metropolitan Athanasios of Chalcedon, Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea and Protopresbyter Alexander Karloutsos.

Lecture at Georgetown, other events

Immediately after their meeting, His All Holiness, returning to the campus of Georgetown University, gave a major address entitled "A Changeless Faith for a Changing World." The Center for American Progress, together with Georgetown University, sponsored the event. (for the full text see: www.patriarchate.org/documents/georgetown_2009)

Meeting with Vice President

On Nov. 4, Vice-President Joseph Biden and his wife hosted a formal dinner at the Vice Presidential residence to honor Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

His All Holiness and the Vice-President had a long and fruitful meeting immediately prior to the dinner, where several issues were discussed including religious freedom and religious tolerance, the interreligious and intercultural dialogue initiatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the re-opening of the Theological School of Halki and the leadership role of His All Holiness for the preservation of the natural environment.

"We are with you, [and] we support the Ecumenical Patriarch as a leader of global standing," said Vice President Biden, addressing the Ecumenical Patriarch and quoting the ancient Greek fabulist Aesop who said "It is easy to be brave from a safe distance," the Vice President said to His All Holiness: "You have always been brave and never from a safe distance. You have stared down those who seek to erode the authority of the Church tirelessly, professing the Greek

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEWAPOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON

Orthodox way for millions of followers."

"Your Holiness I am truly grateful for your work on environmental awareness across the United States of America... You delivered a moving address in New Orleans and in New York, and you have inspired hundreds of thousands of Americans along the way," continued Mr. Biden and added, "You have been a champion for tolerance and interfaith dialogue reaching out to both the Catholic Church and the Moslem community, both in your native country Turkey and throughout the world."

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in his response to the Vice President thanked him for the love, the hospitality and his "lifetime of public service" for his fellow citizens and in defense of justice and freedom and he underlined current worldwide conditions:

"The current worldwide economic crisis has fast become a crisis of hope for the peoples of the world. The youth of the world are in doubt as to the security of their economic future, the stability and tranquility of the world's many governments and nations, and the health and well-being of the planet that we all call 'home.'"

"For those of us who serve ancient and venerable spiritual institutions like the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we are challenged daily to convey spiritual truth in a context of acceptance and understanding of every person, whether they are adherents of our faith or not. We have the awesome task of instilling hope for the future in the hearts of the people of the world. Our message is not confined to any grouping, identity or language. For in these challenging times, Mr. Vice President, while you seek solutions in the worlds of finance, diplomacy, and social welfare, we offer the lasting and existentially meaningful alternatives to the 'opiates of the people.' We have the sacred duty and trust to offer compassion, mercy, sacrifice, generosity, and ultimately love." (for full text visit www.patriarchate.org/documents/vice-president-2009)

The dinner was attended by Archbishop Demetrios, whom the Vice-President, calling him "a good friend" congratulated on the 10th anniversary of his enthronement, Metropolitans Geron Athanasios of Chalcedon and Amvrosios of Korea, Metropolitans of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, members of the clergy, many friends of the Vice President's family, friends of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, ambassadors, congressmen, senators and other officials.

Earlier in the day Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew had delivered another major address at the Brookings Institution entitled, "Saving the Soul of the Planet," on environmental responsibility. (See www.patriarchate.org/documents/save-the-soul-of-the-planet)

The luncheon that followed in the Rayburn Room of the Capitol, was co-hosted by the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and the Majority Leader Harry Reid. A private meeting with Speaker Pelosi also took place. (See the address: www.patriarchate.org/documents/house-senate-luncheon-2009)

Meeting with Secretary Clinton

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton expressed her unequivocal support to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the issues he has championed over the 18 years of his patriarchy, during an official dinner she hosted in honor of His All Holiness in the Benjamin Franklin Room of the State Department, Nov. 5. Immediately prior to



Luncheon jointly sponsored by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Sen. Harry Reid at the U.S. Capitol.

the dinner His All Holiness met privately with Secretary Clinton. "He is a person of such great warmth and humor and care and concern, and his tireless work for religious tolerance, his award-winning advocacy on behalf of the environment – he's been a champion for dealing with the global challenges of our time," said Secretary Clinton in her welcoming remarks and she reiterated the United States support for her guest and the Ecumenical Patriarchate: "His campaign on behalf of religious freedom and peaceful coexistence has helped to bridge divides among believers. And the United States has been proud to support his calls for religious tolerance, both in Turkey and around the world. It is one of the reasons that President Obama and I have been so vocal about the need to reopen Halki Seminary and protect the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We have raised these issues repeatedly and publicly, and will continue to do so until they are addressed." In his remarks His All Holiness spoke of the long road to peace, understanding and reconciliation: "Through the centuries we have learned that coexistence is only the beginning of the process of engagement. If we are to enjoy peace in place of war, prosperity instead of decline, freedom instead of oppression, we must move the dialogue beyond tolerance and even respect. We must recognize in the face of the 'other' a kindred self, one who shares with us the deepest aspirations and needs of humankind."

Finally, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew reflecting on his trip and concluding his last public event of his visit said:

"We were heartened by the resiliency of the American people. We were touched by their hospitality and generosity. We see in America both a powerful nation and also a powerful capacity for love. As we prepare to leave tomorrow, we take this legacy of compassion and love with us, ever praying that God will continue to bless you, your family, and all who work for peace and reconciliation in the world the abundant blessing of divine compassionate love. May God bless you richly, and may God bless America!"



Ambassador of Greece to the United States Vasilis Kaskarelis sponsored a luncheon for the Ecumenical Patriarch on Nov. 2 at the St. Regis hotel



Turkish Ambassador Nabi Sensoy welcomes His All Holiness and Archbishop Demetrios at a luncheon at the ambassador's residence.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEWAPOSTOLIC VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

Greetings from the

Youngest of His Flock



Greeting the Children was an Important Part of His All Holiness' Visit

Wherever Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew traveled on his sixth journey to the U.S., young Orthodox Christians were there to welcome him and express their love.

He was greeted by bouquet-bearing young girls at all his major venues in New Orleans, New York, Atlanta, Annapolis and Washington.

In addition to the acolytes that participated in the various church services where His All Holiness presided, other young people participated in the official welcome or in special programs.

At St. Demetrios Church in Merrick, N.Y., a dozen girls wearing myrophores dresses normally worn during Holy Friday Lamentations services, stood along the sides of the main aisle and tossed flower petals, but the Ecumenical Patriarch joined in and blessed the girls by picking up some of the petals and sprinkling them on the girls in turn.

At St. Demetrios Cathedral parochial school in Astoria, about 50 students presented a program of dances by kindergarten students, violin solos, and poetry readings by high school students.

A number of parents also presented babies and toddlers for His All Holiness to bless at the various parishes he visited.

The children of Sts. Constantine and Helen parish in Annapolis waved small patriarchal flags and welcomed the Ecumenical Patriarch in Greek for the 18th anniversary of his enthronement.

The leader of worldwide Orthodox Christianity also received numerous bouquets upon his arrival at the various airports where he arrived and at the churches where he celebrated services.



**Patriarchal Visit Photos by
DIMITRIOS PANAGOS,
NIKOLAOS MANGINAS, JOHN MINDALA
& ORTHODOX OBSERVER**





ORTHODOX OBSERVER

NOVEMBER 2009 • Vol. 74 • No. 1253

www.observer.goarch.org • e-mail: observer@goarch.org

\$1.00



Photo: DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW with members of the Holy Eparchial Synod and the Archdiocesan Council at the organization's fall meeting in New York.

In a First, Ecumenical Patriarch Meets with the Archdiocesan Council

by Jim Golding

NEW YORK – The fall meeting of the Archdiocesan Council proved to be a historic one. It marked the first time that Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew met with an Archdiocesan Council, which he did on Oct. 31.

In his address to the body, the Ecumenical Patriarch expressed gratitude “for all that you do as members of this Archdiocesan Council, under the spiritual leadership of your Archbishop and his brother Metropolitans of the Eparchial Synod. Your labor of love reaches your parishes and their faithful from one end of this country to the other, and – as we can bear witness – even beyond this Archdiocese to the ends of the inhabited earth.”

He also said that “although we may appear to be distant from you geographically, the truth is that we are close – indeed, united – with you spiritually. This is the image of the Church and its spiritual leaders that we have received from St. Paul.”

The Ecumenical Patriarch told the members they should “never lose sight of two things: First, of your sacred and historical roots, which lie in the Mother Church of Constantinople, which has known glory and martyrdom alike over the centuries, and to this day maintains the unity, sanctity, catholicity and apostolicity of the Orthodox Christian Church; and, second, of your spiritual and heavenly goal, which lies in the Kingdom of God, to which all of our actions and our ministry should aspire.”

He continued, “We share in your problems and concerns, just as we rejoice in your success and happiness. We are with you – beside you, praying for you and

supporting you – at every moment and in every situation.”

(For the full text of the Ecumenical Patriarch’s address to the Council, connect to the website www.usvisit2009.org, or www.patriarchate.org.)

Archbishop’s remarks

Archbishop Demetrios, in earlier comments to the Council, touched on highlights and success of the Ecumenical Patriarch’s visit, including the private dinner in Atlanta at the home of Muhtar Kent, CEO of Coca-Cola and a longtime friend of the Ecumenical Patriarch. He was born in New York City to Turkish Council

General Necdet Kent, known as the “Turkish Schindler” for his efforts to save Jews during World War II.

His Eminence stated that, in front of his guests, Mr. Kent “bowed and kissed the hand of the Patriarch and the Archbishop.”

The Archbishop noted that the guests consisted of “high-level people” from area corporations and universities.

“All suggested very strongly that people are looking at us (Orthodox Christians) expectantly, with strong hope; we can and we should offer something that people need today desperately. We have a tremendous responsibility to gather people to His home.”

His Eminence also commented on the successful meeting of the Ecumenical Patriarch with a group of Jewish leaders that included some of the leading rabbis in New York. “We can count on establishing cooperation and assistance with the very strong Jewish community,” he said.

In his introduction of the Ecumenical Patriarch, His Eminence noted that, “We are thankful for this projection of Orthodoxy internationally among various cultures and religions.”

Vice President’s remarks

Council Vice President Michael Jaharis, in offering greetings of the lay members, commented to the Ecumenical Patriarch that, “Your presence in this country is extremely important. The world needs the presence of a strong patriarchate.”

He said that, at Fordham University earlier in the week where the Ecumenical Patriarch received an honorary degree, “I’ve never seen such a greater show of respect.” Mr. Jaharis also said that, in a meeting with former President Bill Clinton, they talked about important factors concerning world peace.

Good financial news

During their business meeting Council members received very positive news from Executive Director of Administration Jerry Dimitriou.

He presented data that showed marked improvements in the National Ministries commitments and other sources of revenue, including the Faith Endowment, Leadership 100, unrestricted contri-

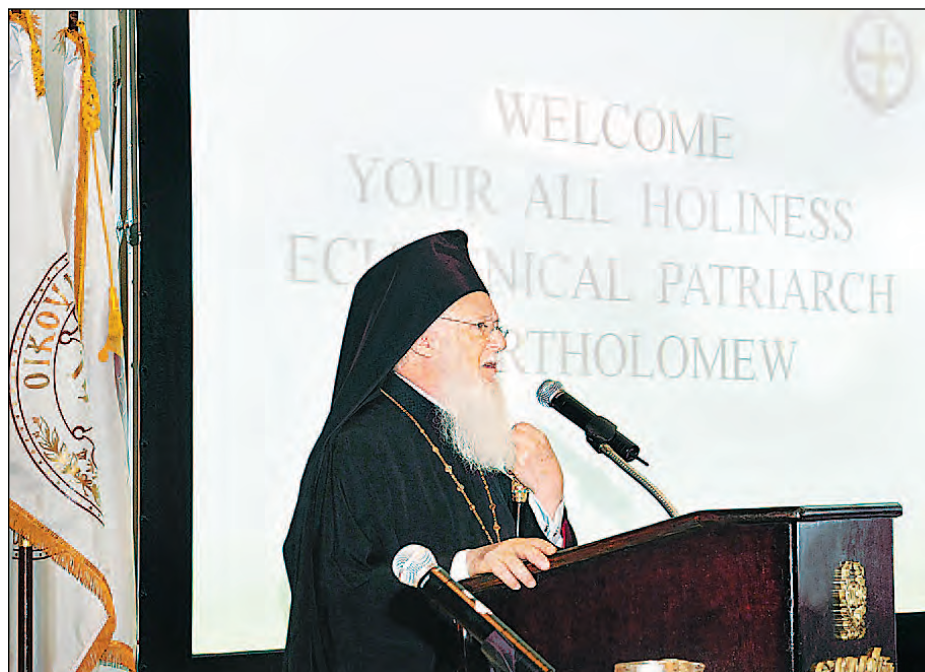




Photo: D. PANAGOS

Members of the Archdiocese staff gather in the lobby for a picture with the Ecumenical Patriarch and Archbishop Demetrios.



CALAMOS INVESTMENTS
HEADQUARTERS
NAPERVILLE, IL

In difficult markets, differentiated solutions.
A 30-year heritage of building wealth for affluent individuals and families.

John P. Calamos, Sr.'s experience managing through the difficult markets of the 1970s became the foundation of Calamos Investments, a global asset manager.

Just as in those earliest days, we believe that managing assets is an honor and a responsibility. For more than 30 years, we've served affluent clients by developing strategies designed to build wealth over the long term. As part of our innovative approach, we pioneered the use of convertible securities to manage risk and pursue returns. Today, we offer a suite of diversified portfolios designed to help our clients reach a wide range of investment goals.

Volatile markets require experience and innovation.

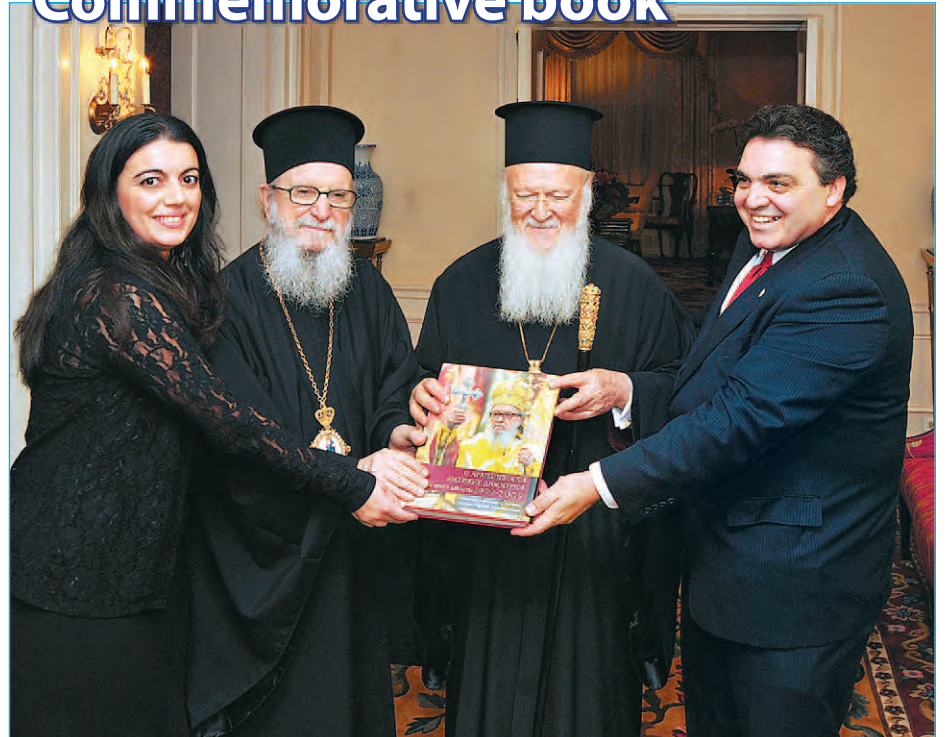
Please call us at 888.857.7604 or visit www.calamos.com/wm for a confidential consultation. Our team is dedicated to helping achieve your long-term goals with customized portfolio and wealth counseling solutions.

CALAMOS®

Calamos Wealth Management, LLC | 2020 Calamos Court | Naperville, IL 60563-2787
888.857.7604 | www.calamos.com/wm | caminfo@calamos.com

© 2009 Calamos Holdings LLC. All Rights Reserved. Calamos® and Calamos Investments® are registered trademarks of Calamos Holdings LLC. 7933 09090 AD

Commemorative book



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew receives the first copy of a commemorative book from photographer Dimitrios Panagos honoring Archbishop Demetrios for his 10th anniversary at the Leadership Dinner, Oct. 28th. The book, "Archbishop Demetrios of America: The First Decade 1999-2009, edited by Revekka Panagos, has 368 pages with 537 color photos. It will be available for purchase through the Archdiocese. Details will be available in the December issue.

To Subscribe Online

To subscribe to the Observer online, in lieu of receiving a hard copy in the mail, send your name, address, and customer number that appears on the mailing label to: **observer@goarch.org**

Participation is voluntary and readers who do not want an online subscription will continue receiving the print version.



USPS 412340

ISSN 0731-2547

In 2009, published bi-monthly
except for March and April
by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Editorial and Business Office:
8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075
TEL.: (212) 570-3555
FAX (212) 774-0239

EDITOR IN CHIEF *Jim Golding (Chrysoulis)*

GREEK SECTION EDITOR
Eleftherios Pissalidis

PRODUCTION & ADVERTISING
Eleftherios Pissalidis

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Abel Montoya

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT *Soula Podaras*

BUSINESS MANAGER
Marissa P. Costidis

CONTRIBUTING CORRESPONDENT & PHOTOGRAPHER:
Nicholas Manginas

Periodicals' postage paid at New York, NY 10001 and at additional mailing offices. The Orthodox Observer is produced entirely in-house. Past issues can be found on the Internet, at: www.observer.goarch.org • E-mail: observer@goarch.org

Articles and advertising do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America which are expressed in official statements so labeled.

Subscription rates are \$12 per year. Canada \$25.00.

Overseas Air Mail, \$55.00 per year. \$1.50 per copy.

Subscriptions for the membership of the Greek Orthodox Church in America are paid through their contribution to the Archdiocese. Of this contribution, \$5.00 is forwarded to the Orthodox Observer.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: **ORTHODOX OBSERVER, 8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075**

Upcoming deadlines

Deadlines for submitting information, articles and photos for the Orthodox Observer for consideration are as follows: *December (Christmas issue): Monday, Nov. 23; January, Monday, Jan. 4.*

Photos should be sent as a large format jpg attachment (1 MB – 300 dpi or greater). E-mail to: **jim@goarch.org**
Regular mail – Editor, Orthodox Observer, 8 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10075.

In a First, Ecumenical Patriarch Meets with the Archdiocesan Council

► page 1

butions, major gifts and others have risen significantly. "Total Revenue has grown by 120 percent over the past 10 years."

Mr. Dimitriou said that, despite the troubled economic times, "Our communities have continued to support the ministries of the Church."

He reported that the National Ministries commitment is about \$926,000 higher than last year through the end of September. He called it "a huge statement of the system that has been put in place, and of its stability."

"The finances have been stabilized," he emphasized.

Mr. Dimitriou cited the "significant part of the growth that the Leadership 100 Endowment Fund" has been part of. "We wouldn't have a lot of the new ministries without their initial start up funding."

He also said that the allocation amounts for each Metropolis would remain "flat, the same as they were for 2009" and that the financial condition of the Church should be in "a very good position next year."

Mr. Dimitriou reported that the budget has a small surplus of about \$790,000.

Looking back over the past 10 years, he said the National Ministries have grown



Photo: D. PANAGOS

Archdiocesan Council members applaud following Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's address to the group.

by about 85 percent. "As the National Ministries grows, so do the Metropolis ministries," he said.

He added that, while there are some legal fees stemming from past lawsuits to be paid, the payments will end by June 2010.

Rising to speak following the presentation, Arthur Anton, an Archdiocesan Council member for 39 years, commented that "The archdiocese has come a long way."

In the last three years, because of the involvement of our beloved metropolitans and quality of the members of the Finance Committee; the amount of the commitment program has never reached these heights. It feels great to know the future

of the Archdiocese is in great hands."

Mr. Jaharis praised the "effective and efficient Finance Committee" for its work in bringing about the improvements to the Archdiocese finances.

Other business

Council members also received a brief update about the upcoming Clergy-Laity Congress slated for the Marriott Marquis hotel in downtown Atlanta, July 4-8.

Reports were presented from the following committees. (Summaries will be reported in the December issue of the Observer): Religious Education, Outreach and Evangelism, Youth, Communications, Administration, Greek Education, Finance/Stewardship and Marriage and Family.



Orthodox Observer photo

Arriving at Archdiocese headquarters on Oct. 27, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew views the October issue of the Orthodox Observer shortly after greeting the staff. He also met with SCOBA hierarchs and with New York religious leaders at a luncheon.

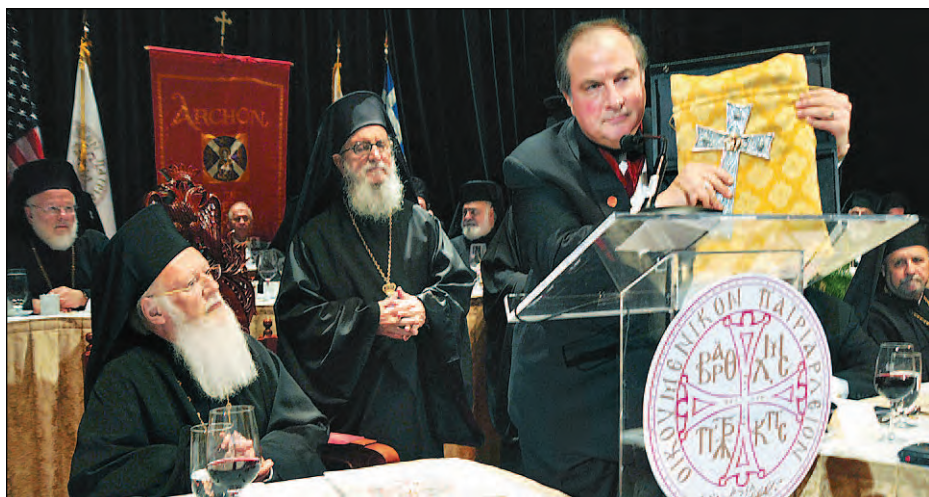


Photo: D. PANAGOS

At the Archons banquet on Oct. 31, National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis presents Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with a cross made by the niece of Vice Commander Nicholas Bouras, Pamela Kariotis based on the cross presented to Archons when they join the Order. (Full coverage of Archons on page 5)

ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this blessed feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels we commemorate the beautiful presence and purpose of the myriads of angels that have been created by God for serving His divine will and plan for salvation. In the observance of this feast, in the pages of Holy Scripture, and through the iconography of our parishes we are reminded that the angels, led by the Holy Archangels, are an essential part of the order and ministry of God's kingdom.

As messengers, protectors, and beings of divine praise, angels direct our attention to the glory and holiness of God, and it is in this way that they aid us in gathering people into God's home.

Over the past year following our 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in Washington, we have emphasized the theme "Gather My People to My Home," exploring the significance of this calling in our lives, our parishes, and our world. We have affirmed that one aspect of the theme is our benevolent response to those in need at any stage in life. Knowing that life is a gift from God, seeing the divine image imprinted upon every person, and having hearts filled with compassion, we give willingly and sacrificially for the well-being of others. This is the mission of the Church, and it is the nature of our life in God's family.

This is why the ministry of St. Michael's Home is necessary and valued. For over 50 years this institution has met physical and spiritual needs as an adult care facility and has done this in a way which is true to its name.

In the example of the Holy Archangels, the staff, directors and donors of St. Michael's have focused on order, quality, and ministry in providing the best environment of care. This has been accomplished by protecting and sustaining life and through nurturing the faith of residents so that their life at Saint Michael's affirms the loving presence of God and their place in His home, the Church.

This wholeness of care and service offers a beautiful witness to all adult care institutions. It also proclaims the truth of life in God's kingdom: Physical abilities are not the measure of a person's value; love and faith are needed throughout life; and we each have a responsibility to care for those who are in need.

Being mindful of this and the ministry of Saint Michael's Home, this feast has been designated each year as a time to offer our gifts for the service and growth of this holy work. Parishes are asked to

CLERGY UPDATE

Ordinations to the Diaconate

Christopher Moody, by Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Holy Trinity Church, Lewiston, Maine 10/11/09
Vasilios Louros, by Archbishop Demetrios of America, St. Demetrios Church, Merrick, NY 10/18/09

Ordinations to the Priesthood

Deacon Nicholas Marcus, by Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Plymouth, Mich., 03/21/09

Assignments

V. Rev. Fr. Ambrosios Bitziadis, Annunciation Cathedral, Norfolk, Va. 11/01/09
V. Rev. Fr. Seraphim Poulos, Sts. Nicholas, Constantine & Helen Church, Orange, NJ. 11/01/09
Fr. Peter Sourtitzidis, St. George Church, Clifton, NJ 11/01/09

Offikia

Fr. Peter Orfanakos, Protopresbyter, bestowed by Archbishop Demetrios 10/04/09
Fr. George Chioros, Protopresbyter, bestowed by Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey 10/11/09
Fr. Teodor Petrutiu, Ekonomos, bestowed by Archbishop Demetrios 10/11/09
Fr. Constantine Simeonidis, Ekonomos, bestowed by Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta 10/11/09

Retired Priests

Fr. James A. Bogdan 09/06/09
Fr. Dimitrios Kanellopoulos 09/22/09

Reception

Fr. Nicholas Dassouras, Sept. 15, (from the Church of Greece, Metropolis of Neas Ionias and Philadelphia)

Medical Leave

Fr. George M. Vaporis 09/01/09

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church • Peoria, Arizona

A New Beginning for St. Haralambos Church in the Desert Southwest

Church Complex will include

- ▶ Fellowship Hall
- ▶ Byzantine-style Church
- ▶ Education Building



Construction begins soon!

Please consider offering your support of Northwest Phoenix's only Greek Orthodox Church.

- September 2009: Groundbreaking
- January 2010: Construction begins
- December 2010: Occupancy and Celebration

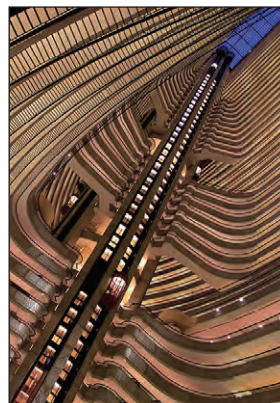
Please send all donations, made payable to St. Haralambos Church, to 10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345. For more information, or to donate on-line, please visit our website at www.stharalambos.org



Save the Date
July 4-8, 2010



40TH BIENNIAL
CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS



Marriott
ATLANTA MARQUIS

265 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

More information to come in future issues of the *Orthodox Observer*!

25 Archons Inducted by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



Photos: JOHN MINDALA

The newly inducted Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with His All Holiness, Archbishop Demetrios and National Commander Anthony Limberakis at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

by Jim Golding

NEW YORK – The newest Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Order of St. Andrew, received a rare honor most members of the Order have not experienced – personal induction by the Ecumenical Patriarch. The induction took place at Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral before a capacity congregation on Nov. 1, while only half a block away thousands of runners raced up 1st Avenue in the annual New York City Marathon.

The Archon weekend proceedings began the day before with meetings and a banquet at the Waldorf Astoria hotel.

More than 1,200 guests attended, including Roman Catholic Cardinal of New York Timothy M. Dolan, many Orthodox hierarchs, and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

After brief remarks by Archbishop Demetrios and His All Holiness' response, the program reached its a-little-out-of-the-ordinary conclusion. Instead of what had been the customary procedure of the Archbishop and Archons National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis bestowing the Patriarch Athenagoras Human Rights Award on some well deserving accomplished

individual, His All Holiness presented Dr. Limberakis with the award. The stunned national commander tearfully accepted the honor and pledged that the Order of St. Andrew will never give up fighting for the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

His All Holiness also presented the Archons with an icon of Christ speaking to the Apostle Andrew, the first-called.

At the Sunday Divine Liturgy, he told the new members, "You are more than simply members in name alone of an esteemed lay Order of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In fact, you are distinguished supporters of the historical, spiritual, theological, and cultural treasures of the Church of Constantinople, which you endorse so eloquently, which you sustain so generously, and which you embrace so warmly. It is precisely for this reason that a distinct and proper title has been personally bestowed upon each of you by us as the Ecumenical Patriarch. It is an honor that you richly deserve. As we receive and invest a new group of Archons, the most recent members of this esteemed Order, we pray for their welfare and for the enrichment of the entire Order for the benefit of the Church and to the glory of God."

The new Archons are as follows:

Apollo Space Program physicist Theodore James Athanasakes, St. Catherine Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.; Congressman Gus Bilirakis, Tarpon Springs, Fla.; computer software analyst Daniel Alex Breno, Holy Resurrection Church, Potomac, Md.; management consultant Patrick Roy Crosson, St. Nicholas Church, Troy, Mich.; retired restaurateur Steven Doulaveris, Transfiguration Church, Florence, S.C.; attorney Constantine Economides, St. Luke Church, Broomall, Pa.;

Fox News national correspondent Michael Savas Emanuel, St. George Church, Bethesda, Md.; Goldman, Sachs & Co. information technology Vice President James Basil Gabriel Jr., Holy Resurrection Church, Brookville, N.Y.; AHEPA immediate past President Ike Gulas, Holy Trinity Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Atlas Resources Chairman Nicholas Kapnison, St. George Church, Albuquerque, N.M.; Supreme President of AHEPA Nicholas A. Karacostas, St. Nicholas Church, Flushing, N.Y.; retired banker and Atlanta Metropolis Treasurer Nick H. Katopodis, Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta; financial services representative Theodore P. Klingos, Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral, New York; Architect Nikolaos P. Koutsomititis,

Holy Trinity Cathedral, New York; attorney Steven M. Laduzinsky, St. Michael Church, Niles, Ill.; restaurateur Evangelos Lazarakis, Holy Apostles/Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Haverhill, Mass.; attorney Nikiforos Mathews, Annunciation Church, Stamford, Conn.; New York Public Library Vice President for Government and Community Affairs George D. Mihaltses, St. Nicholas Church, Flushing; University of California Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Chrysostomos L. Nikias, St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles; dermatologist Dr. Gregory George Papadeas, Assumption Cathedral, Denver; Holy Cross Professor of Canon Law Dr. Lewis J. Patsavos, Annunciation Cathedral, Boston; accountant Harry Steven Poulos, St. Haralambos and Holy Trinity Churches, Canton, Ohio; KCI Enterprises Vice President Steven N. Sellas, St. Spyridon Church, Clarksburg, W.Va.; retired restaurateur Demetrios Seremetis, St. Catherine Church, Braintree, Mass.; BC International Group President and CEO Christos Spyropoulos, Holy Resurrection Church, Brookville, N.Y.; businessman Theodore Vlahos, St. George Church, Rock Island, Ill.; and businessman Constantinos Zografopoulos, St. Andrew Church, Chicago.



(Left) Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew prays over the candidates. (Right) A greatly surprised Dr. Anthony Limberakis accepts the Athenagoras Award from the Ecumenical Patriarch and Archbishop Demetrios.

Commentaries and Opinions

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew: Washington's Perspective

by Andrew Manatos

How is the worldwide spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, viewed in Washington, D.C.? Where does secular Washington place him among the pantheon of very important people?

Orthodox Christians in America -- who enjoy the respect that comes with their rank as second among all of America's faiths in terms of educational attainment and income -- will be pleased with the answer. Their spiritual leader is treated with appropriate preeminent esteem. He is welcomed in ways reserved for very few national and international dignitaries.

For example, the Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate Harry Reid very rarely jointly host a meal for a visiting dignitary, once a year at the most.

Yet, Pelosi and Reid hosted His All Holiness at a Senators and Members only lunch in the Capitol Building during his Washington trip.

As well, amid his religious services and presentations before Washington's most prominent think tanks during this trip, he also met with President Barack Obama.

In addition, Vice President Joe Biden hosted His All Holiness at a dinner at his official residence, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton hosted a formal State Department dinner for the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Some may recall that Secretary Clinton, as first lady, played a major role in arranging the profoundly symbolic act of having the first sitting-President in U.S. history, her husband Bill Clinton, personally visit the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Such Washington treatment is no small matter because nearly every important international person who travels to Washington attempts to meet with our President, Vice President, Secretary of State, Speaker of the House and Majority Leader of the Senate.

These Washington officials are undated by UN officials, EU officials, presidents and prime ministers, foreign ministers, and presidents of parliaments of the world's 192 countries.

As well, associations and organizations representing our 310 million U.S. citizens also place great demands on these policymakers.

As an example of the numerous demands on the time of these officials, even the average member of Congress receives 5,000 written communications a week, many of them requesting a meeting.

In addition to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's theological and spiritual accomplishments and his role as the head of the second largest church in the world, he has reached truly astounding status in the world's view.

His spiritual commitment to the environment, long before it became such a popular subject, moved the UN to effectively designate him as the most important international environmental leader in the world.

He was the first international leader designated by the UN to be a Laureate Champion of the Earth.

Many years ago people began calling him the "Green Patriarch" and, in 2008, Time magazine selected him number 11

out of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Americans and peace-loving people throughout the world also appreciate the fact that an interreligious meeting he convened, under the auspices of the EU, produced the first condemnation by Muslim leaders of the 9/11 attack on America as an "anti-religious" act. He is highly regarded as a man of peace.

This is not the first time our Ecumenical Patriarch has been treated so well. Previously House Speaker Tom Foley and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell arranged for our Ecumenical Patriarch to be only the second living person in American history to have the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol Building, the space under the world famous Capitol dome, reserved for his ceremony.

As well, the U.S. Congress bestowed upon Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew the Congressional Gold Medal. It is the highest award given by the Congress. It was also bestowed on such dignitaries as George Washington and Winston Churchill. The legislation establishing His All Holiness' medal set the record for the highest number of members of Congress requesting to be listed as co-sponsors of the bill.

The level of excellence achieved by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and those of the American Archdiocese is mutually reinforcing.

Given Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's spirituality and extraordinary abilities, such as his mastery of eight languages, and Archbishop Demetrios' gentle Christianity and capabilities reflected in his education and teaching at Harvard, one can ask, what other entity has such eminently qualified leadership as does the Greek Orthodox Church.

Washington's appreciation of our Ecumenical Patriarch and our Church cannot be addressed without mentioning the role, in Washington and across the country, of the Order of St. Andrew under the leadership of Dr. Anthony Limberakis.

As well, without the extraordinary behind-the-scenes abilities of Fr. Alex Karloutsos, the many hours of work that the staff of Manatos & Manatos contributes each week to Orthodoxy in Washington would not be nearly as fruitful.

Our community will be happy to know something else about Orthodox Christianity in Washington.

Orthodox Christians who have served in key positions in Democratic and Republican administrations and in elected and appointed positions in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are among the most highly regarded in Washington.

Washington, a difficult judge to please, recognizes Archbishop Demetrios as one of the top religious leaders in America and the Orthodox community -- hierarchs, priests, lay leaders and parishioners -- in their states and Congressional districts among their finest citizens. This visit by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew raised that esteem even higher.

Andy Manatos is chairman of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's visit to Washington, a member of the Archdiocesan Council, regional commander of the Order of St. Andrew, president of Manatos & Manatos, and a former Assistant Secretary of the Department of Commerce

ARCHIEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICALS

Thanksgiving Day

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we gather together again with family and friends on this day of Thanksgiving, we offer our gratitude to God for His abundant grace and assuring presence which fill our hearts with joy and bring meaning and salvation to our lives.

This holiday, a traditional American day of thanksgiving to God, has been celebrated for generations, through times of peace and security and in times of great crisis and tragedy. Under all circumstances of life and at all times, it has been a day that offers an enduring witness to the power of thankfulness. This day originated with a call to prayer and expressions of gratitude to God in the midst of tremendous challenges. When President Abraham Lincoln inaugurated the national observance of Thanksgiving Day in 1863, this nation was embroiled in a terrible civil war. In the midst of conflict and loss, his proclamation was a call to bear witness to the One who could bring healing and restore peace to the nation.

Further, for over a century this day has been a time for the people of this country to pause from the labors of their hands and minds, to gather with loved ones, and to reflect on the blessings of life, family, relationship, community, and sharing. This gathering and reflection is another witness to the power of thankfulness, as we contemplate the aspects of our lives that are the most significant to our well-being, our nation, and the world. In the moments we share with one another or in service to those in need, we move beyond the thoughts of material things and personal ambitions to ponder the deeper and more enduring qualities of life and relationship.

It is also on this day, that we as Orthodox Christians affirm the power of thankfulness through the association of this holiday with our faith. At the very center of our life of faith is our spiritual and physical participation in a sacrament of thanksgiving. The very name of the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist means "to give thanks;" and in our reception of the Body and Blood of Christ, we are called to give thanks to our Lord for what He has done for us. We give thanks for His gift of life and sustenance. We give thanks for His love and sacrifice for our salvation. We give thanks for His mercy and for the hope and peace engendered in our hearts through His divine presence. Through this communion with Christ and our expression of gratitude to Him, we offer a powerful witness to the world of all that is genuine, true, and eternal. In the greatest act of thanksgiving through the Holy Eucharist, we call all people to a more blessed state of life and relationship that can lead them through and above the challenges of this world and into the kingdom of God.

On this day of Thanksgiving, may our hearts be filled with gratefulness to our Creator and Giver of Life. May we bring honor and glory to God through our words of praise and thanksgiving, and may our lives be beautiful and constant witnesses of the power of thankfulness so that others may find peace and salvation in Christ and in the love that we share as the family of God.

With paternal love in Christ,

Archbishop Demetrios

† Archbishop DEMETRIOS of America

Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels

▷ page 3

have a special collection for this ministry, and the offerings should be designated for St. Michael's Home and sent to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

This act of giving generously should also be accompanied by our care and generosity offered in our communities. In the spirit and witness of St. Michael's, we should strive to help those in need of care to know that they are loved, that they are a part of our spiritual family, and that they have a present and eternal home with God. May we offer our prayers for the residents, staff, and directors of St. Michael's Home, and may we also commit ourselves to offer quality and faithful ministry to all.

With paternal love in Christ,

Archbishop Demetrios

† Archbishop DEMETRIOS of America

LETTERS

► In support of deacons ◀

What a pleasant surprise to come upon the timely article "A Grassroots Movement: Program for Deacons Grows" in the Sept. Orthodox Observer. I am gladdened to see that this has become a priority to the

Archdiocese. I am hoping that in developing this program, the experiences of those, like myself, who have served for some time as permanent deacons, will be considered.

A decade ago in the Metropolis of the West, Metropolitan Anthony of blessed memory, with the assistance of Bishop Anthimos, ordained in a space of two weeks

▷ page 18

The Voice of Philoptochos

National Philoptochos Continues to Promote Literacy Projects

The National Philoptochos Society launched the Philoptochos Literacy Outreach Program in 2005 to promote literacy through a hands-on approach that targets both children and adults.

Two highly successful examples of the program were highlighted at the 2008 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention in Washington:

The establishment of a functioning library for George Washington Elementary School financed by the Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos of Baltimore, and the adoption and subsidy by the St. George Cathedral Philoptochos of Springfield, Mass. of the New North Citizens Council Neighborhood Pre-school with the assistance of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The inability to read has become a growing concern in the United States and throughout the world. Illiteracy has far reaching implications including its af-

fects on children in school and employees in the workplace. More adults seeking employment are unable to complete job applications due to illiteracy or poor reading skills.

The Literacy Outreach program is successful because Philoptochos volunteers work with resources within their communities. There are numerous ways to become involved to help eradicate illiteracy and organizations through which individuals and corporations become involved whether it's one-on-one tutoring, teaching or partnering with community programs.

National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas encouraged chapters and their parishes to join the National Read for the Record Day on Oct. 8, sponsored by Jumpstart, recognized as one of the nation's leading nonprofit organizations in the field of early childhood education.



Joanne Stavarakas, Metropolis Philoptochos president (center), presents a check to Dr. Mary Lou Schmidt, MD and National and Metropolis Philoptochos Board members.

Through this program, since 1993 more than 70,000 preschool children across America have benefited from millions of hours of Jumpstart service.

Additional literacy projects are listed

in the National Philoptochos Society Project Bank Outreach Resource Manual.

For information about these projects or for a copy of the manual, contact the National Office at philosny@aol.com

Children's Medical Fund Helps Chicago Metropolis Pediatric Social Worker

CHICAGO -- Tasha Brown has received support from a lot of people in the five years that her son Christopher, now 14, has been battling non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Tasha's family provides continual support as do the doctors and nurses at the University of Illinois Medical Center who care for Christopher. Tasha's boss at the Moon Sandwich Shop on Chicago's West Side, where Brown has worked as a cook for nine years, offers Tasha support and donated platelets when Christopher needed blood transfusions.

For the last two years, a social worker has appeared on the scene named Lauren Lux who first came to the University of Illinois Medical Center as an intern, Ms. Lux, who now holds an MSW and LSW has

spent the past year working full-time with pediatric oncology patients like Christopher Brown through a \$50,000 grant for her position funded by the Philoptochos Society, the philanthropic arm of the Archdiocese.

Ms. Lux provides counseling for fifteen families she serves at any one time and ensures that patient and family services are available with no disruption. She manages transportation to and from the hospital and helps connect the patients and families with agencies that provide programs and funds for families dealing with pediatric cancer.

Ms. Lux provided that special support to Tasha Brown and her family, which includes Christopher and three other children between the ages of 10 and 16,

and assisted them to find a new home in a safer neighborhood during a particularly difficult time. Ms. Brown, who is a single mom, expressed her gratitude, "After Christopher had his stem-cell transplant, the building we were living in went into foreclosure. Lauren helped me day after day to find a decent place to live."

"We are very grateful to the Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society for providing the funding for Lauren's work," says Mary Lou Schmidt M.D., associate professor of pediatrics and head of the division of pediatric hematology/oncology. The Philoptochos Society is pleased that its grant has positively impacted the lives of economically challenged child cancer patients and their families.

"The main mission of Philoptochos,

which means 'friends of the poor,' is to help the needy and sick," says society spokeswoman Marilyn Tzakis. "We are proud to provide these children and their families with someone to help them through trying times, and we applaud the work that Lauren Lux is doing."

Ms. Lux was inspired to pursue her calling by the social workers who helped her and her brother when her mother was dying of cancer. "I met just the most amazing people," she said. "They were very caring and compassionate. Eventually, I thought to myself, 'I think I could be good at this.'" Ms. Lux says she relishes her time with children who are facing cancer, particularly when she sees one of them successfully complete treatment, as Christopher Brown did in October.

Philoptochos: 'A New Vision – A New Spirit'

by Katherine Magerko

DENVER – The Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos hosted a "Celebration of Philoptochos" on Aug. 29, at Assumption Cathedral in Denver.

Honored guests included Metropolitan Isaiah, National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas, 3rd Vice President Kathy Gabriel, National Board member Diane Tseckares, and North American

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) Executive Director Fr. Kevin Scherer. The event was marked with an extra blessing, the unveiling of a new vision.

For over 75 years, the women of Philoptochos have worked to serve and love the poor, both inside and outside of the Greek Orthodox community and comprise one of the largest Christian women's philanthropic organizations in the United States.



Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas, OCF Director Fr. Kevin Scherer and members of the National and Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos Boards.

Even in these times of economic uncertainty the ladies of Philoptochos continue to achieve success in serving their ministries and commitments. Successful as they are, they are looking forward to helping the organization serve God even more fully.

At the opening of the new National Philoptochos Manhattan offices, Archbishop Demetrios offered a charge to the organization to embrace and lead new initiatives. National President Aphrodite Skeadas unveiled the new theme at the Denver gathering: "A New Vision – A New Spirit". President Skeadas announced the beginning of a new era which extends an invitation to all Orthodox, both men and women, young and old to participate in the calling to serve the poor. She stated that as Orthodox Christians, we are called to serve our brothers and sisters.

Who better to lead us in this calling than an organization whose very name comes from the Greek, meaning "love of the poor."

Philoptochos will continue to organize wonderful events and festivities, hold successful fundraising walks, and much more, but Philoptochos offers a broader scope of activity and will continue to expand its vision and outreach.

As testimony to this widening scope, the National Philoptochos has recently

formed a partnership with Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), and Fr. Kevin Scherer spoke about this collaboration and OCF which is committed to serving our Orthodox college students.

Fr. Scherer stated, "OCF has formed many important partnerships in the past, but partnering college students with our church's mothers, grandmothers and god-mothers just feels right."

The undertaking of this new vision and spirit has already brought forth fruits. Five Denver Philoptochos chapters recently sponsored a fall retreat for local college students from several area universities.

They also plan to help sponsor their second ski retreat for OCF in January. Additionally, the vision of Philoptochos has become a focus of the area OCF groups. The Colorado OCF students are excited to be involved with future joint service projects and have chosen to focus their discussions, retreats, and events for the year on both serving the poor and being aware of the poverty within all of us.

It will be a blessing to see what further fruits continue to be bestowed upon us all as Philoptochos perseveres in its calling as an organization.

Katherine Magerko is the OCF President - University of Colorado.

Η ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΗ ΤΟΥ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΟΥ ΒΑΡΘΟΛΟΜΑΙΟΥ ΣΤΙΣ ΗΠΑ



(Αριστερά) Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος (κ), ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής Δημήτριος (α) και η πατριαρχική συνοδεία, με την Πρόεδρο της Βουλής των Αντιπροσώπων Νάνσι Πελόζι στο Καπιτώλιο. (Δεξιά) Ο Πρόεδρος των ΗΠΑ Μπαράκ Ομπάμα υποδέχεται τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη Βαρθολομαίο και τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής Δημήτριο στο Λευκό Οίκο.

Φωτορεπορτάζ: **Νικόλαου Μαγγίνα**

Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος, μια μόλις ημέρα μετά την επιστροφή του στην Κωνσταντινούπολη από την Αμερική, χοροστάτησε στη Θεία Λειτουργία στον πανηγυρίζοντα Ναό των Ταξιαρχών του Μεγάλου Ρεύματος, παρουσία πολλών ποτών από την Πόλη και προσκυνητών από την Ελλάδα και αλλού.

Ο Πατριάρχης διεμήνυσε προς κάθε κατεύθυνση πως το Πατριαρχείο και η Ομογένεια θα συνεχίσουν τον αγώνα τους με λεβεντιά μέχρι να ανατείλουν καλύτερες ημέρες. Στην δεξίωση που ακολούθησε στην Κοινοτική αίθουσα, παρουσία της Γενικής Προξένου των Η.Π.Α. Sharon A. Wiener και του Γενικού Προξένου της Ελλάδος στην Πόλη Βασίλη Μπαρνοβόβα, ο Πατριάρχης αναφέρθηκε στο πρόσφατο, επιτυχημένο ταξίδι του στην Αμερική: «Είχα την δυνατότητα να διαπιστώσω τις μεγάλες προόδους που επιτελεί η Ομογένεια, την αφοσίωσή της εις την Μητέρα Εκκλησία, εις το Οικουμενικόν μας Πατριαρχείον, αλλά και την μεγάλη εκτίμηση, της οποίας απολαύει από πλευράς των Αμερικανικών Αρχών. Παντού όπου πήγα, στη Νέα Ορλεάνη, για το Οικολογικό μας Συμπόσιο, στην Ατλάντα, στη Νέα Υόρκη, και τελευταία στην πρωτεύουσα της μεγάλης Αμερικανικής Συμπολιτείας, την Ουάσινγκτον, παντού διεπίστωσα και την πρόοδο της Ομογενείας, αλλά και το πόσο μεγάλης εκτιμήσεως χαίρει και από τον Αμερικανικό λαό και από τις επίσημες Αμερικανικές Αρχές. Και αυτή η μεγάλη εκτίμησης εξεφράσθη με την ευκαιρία της παρουσίας του Πατριάρχου. Όσες τιμές απήλυσαν, εδέχθη, από μέρους της ηγεσίας των Η.Π.Α., από μέρους του Ακαδημαϊκού κόσμου, από μέρους μεγάλων Ιδρυμάτων, όπως ήταν το «Brooking Institution» και τόσα άλλα, τόσες άλλες τιμές από διάφορους φορείς και παράγοντες, όλα αυτά τα αναγράφω εις το Οικου-

μενικόν μας Πατριαρχείον και εις την δυναμικήν και ζωντανήν Ομογένειαν, η οποία τελεί υπό την στοργήν και την δικαιοδοσίαν του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου εις τας Η.Π.Α. και φθάνει περίπου τα δύο εκατομμύρια αυτή η Ομογένεια με έναν εμπνευσμένο πνευματικό ηγέτη επί κεφαλής της, τον Αρχιεπίσκοπον Αμερικής Δημήτριο, ο οποίος συνεπλήρωσε μόλις προ δύο μηνών δέκα χρόνια αγλαοκάρπου ποιμαντορίας εις τον λεγόμενον Νέον Κόσμον. Είχαμε, λοιπόν, την χαράν και την ευκαιρίαν μετά τό Οικολογικόν Συμπόσιον εις τον Μισισσιππί να γιορτάσουμε τα δέκα χρόνια της Αρχιεπισκοπείας του αδελφού Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου και να δεχτούμε τον ωραίο αναμνηστικόν τιμητικόν Τόμον που εξεδόθη για τα δεκάχρονα του.

Εις την πρωτεύουσά έγινα δεκτός, όπως ελέχθη, από τον Πρόεδρο Μπαράκ Ομπάμα με μεγάλην ευγένειαν και φιλοφροσύνη, την οποία είχα διαπιστώσει και κατά την συνάντησή μας εδώ τον περασμένο Απρίλιο –είναι πολύ ανθρώπινος, πολύ ευ-

γενής άνθρωπος. Με εδέχθη εις το επίσημον Οβάλ Γραφείον του στον Λευκόν Οίκον, όπου είχα την τιμήν και παλαιότερα να γίνω δεκτός από τους προκατόχους του.

Ο Αντιπρόεδρος κ. Βίδεν στο επίσημο δείπνο που παρέθεσε στην κατοικία του, μεταξύ άλλων φιλοφρονήσεων και καλών λόγων εκτιμήσεως προς το Οικουμενικόν μας Πατριαρχείον, και το έργο, το οποίον αυτό επιτελεί είπε και το εξής σημαντικό: «Το Οικουμενικόν Πατριαρχείον υπήρξε δια μέσου των αιώνων όχι εκ του ασφαλούς. Είναι εύκολο να είναι κανείς γενναίος ή να εμφανίζεται ως γενναίος από θέσεως ισχύος, από θέσεως ασφαλούς. Όμως το Πατριαρχείον υπήρξε γενναίον μέσα από την ανασφάλεια, η οποία το περιβάλλει, και κάτω από δυσμενείς συνθήκες, υπό τας οποίας επιτελεί την οικουμενικήν αποστολήν του και προσφοράν του. Και αυτό είναι το οποίο μας κάνει να το σεβόμεθα και να το εκτιμούμε περισσότερο». Με αυτές λοιπόν τις εμπειρίες και την υπερηφάνειαν για την εν Αμερική Ομογένειά μας και γι'αυτό το οποίον είναι

και το οποίον επιτελεί το Οικουμενικόν μας Πατριαρχείον επέστρεψα ενισχυμένος και θα έλεγα ενθουσιασμένος από όλα αυτά που έζησα και απήλυσαν εκεί και τα οποία καταγράφω και αποδίδω εις τον θεσμόν του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου και την περί αυτό Ομογένειαν».

Στη συνέχεια αναφέρθηκε σε γράμμα που του έστειλε κληρικός από την Αθήνα, το οποίο έλαβε χθες, άμα τη επιστροφή του από την Αμερική και λέγει: «Παναγιώτατε, παρακολουθούμε τον αγώνα του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου. Παρακολουθούμε με εγκαύχηση και με συγκίνηση αυτό, το οποίον επιτελεί η Ομογένεια της Κωνσταντινουπόλεως κάτω από δυσμενείς συνθήκες. Και Σας παρακαλούμε, Παναγιώτατε, να συνεχίσετε να αγωνίζεσθε με λεβεντιά Ανατολίτικη και Ρωμαϊκή». Λοιπόν, αυτό κάνουμε, αγαπητέ Πάτερ, αγαπητοί παρόντες στην εορταστική συγκέντρωσή μας εις το Μέγα Ρεύμα του Βοσπόρου: αγωνιζόμεθα και θα εξακο-

► σελ. 9



Συμπόσιο
Ο Μέγας Ποταμός
Μισισσιπής:
Αποκαθιστώντας
την ισορροπία

(Νέα Ορλεάνη, 21 Οκτωβρίου 2009)

Η ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΗ ΤΟΥ

► σελ. 8

λουθήσουμε να αγωνιζόμεθα όλοι μαζί, κλήρος και λαός, Μπτέρα Εκκλησία, Οικουμενικόν Πατριαρχείον και Ομογένεια, με την συμπαράστασιν της εντίμου Ελληνικής Πολιτείας και της μεγάλης Αφρικανικής Συμπολιτείας, θα αγωνιζόμεθα με λεβεντιά ανατολίτικη και Ρωμαϊκή, έως ότου ανατείλουν καλύτερες ημέρες, τις οποίες και δικαιούμεθα.

ΑΝΑΛΥΤΙΚΑ Η ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΗ

Την Τετάρτη, 21 Οκτωβρίου, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος αφίχθη στη Νέα Ορλεάνη, πρώτο σταθμό της δεκαπενθήμερης επίσκεψής του στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες της Αμερικής. Στο αεροδρόμιο «Λούις Άρμστρονγκ», τον κ. Βαρθολομαίο υποδέχθηκαν ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής Δημήτριος, ο Μητροπολίτης Ατλάντας Αλέξιος, παράγοντες της Ομογένειας, εκπρόσωποι των δημοτικών και πολιτειακών αρχών της περιοχής, ομογενείς και μαθητές με παραδοσιακές στολές.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος καλωσορίζοντας με θερμούς λόγους τον Πατριάρχη είπε μεταξύ άλλων «σας καλωσορίζουμε με βαθύτατο σεβασμό, απόλυτη αφοσίωση και πολλή πολλή αγάπη. Είμεθα ευγνώμονες γιατί μας φέρνετε την ευλογία της Μπτρός Εκκλησίας».

Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης -ο οποίος μίλησε και στην αγγλική γλώσσα- χαιρέτισε τους παρισταμένους στα ελληνικά με «Ένα θερμό ευχαριστώ», και είπε:

«Εκφράζω την ευγνωμοσύνη μου, την αγάπη μου και δίνω την πατρική μου ευλογία. Θυμάστε ότι πριν από τέσσερα περίπου χρόνια ήμουν πάλι κοντά σας, όταν ήλθα για τα Θεοφάνεια στο Τάρπον Σπρινγκς και ήταν τόσο όμορφα, με χιλιάδες κόσμο. Αλλά ήταν και πολύ πληθύρο το θέαμα εδώ στη Νέα Ορλεάνη, όταν ήρθαμε τον χειμώνα του 2006 για να μοιραστούμε την απώλεια και τον πόνο των θαρραλέων πολιτών της Νέας Ορλεάνης και να δούμε τις καταστροφές του τυφώνα Κατρίνα. Ελπίζω να δω τη Ν. Ορλεάνη και την περιοχή της σε καλύτερη κατάσταση, διότι πιστεύετε εις τον Θεόν, διότι έχετε αγωνιστικό φρόνημα, διότι είσθε αποφασισμένοι να συνεχίσετε την ζωή σας και να την ξαναδημιουργήσετε εδώ στον τόπο σας».

Στη συνέχεια, ο κ. Βαρθολομαίος αναφέρθηκε στο Περιβαλλοντικό/Οικολογικό Συμπόσιο «Ο Μεγάλος Ποταμός Μισισσιππί: Αποκατάσταση της ισορροπίας», που διοργανώθηκε από τον οργανισμό «Θρησκεία, Επιστήμη και Περιβάλλον» εν πλώ, στη Ν. Ορλεάνη και στον ποταμό Μισισσιππί, την έναρξη του οποίου κήρυξε το απόγευμα της ίδιας ημέρας. «Το συμπόσιο αυτό από πολλές απόψεις είναι ιστορικό και ξεχωριστό. Ο ποταμός αυτός αποτελεί έναν μικρόκοσμο του πλανήτη μας. Στα ύδατά του, μπορούμε να παρατηρήσουμε πολλά από τα παγκόσμια οικολογικά προβλήματα. Στεκόμαστε ταπεινά ενώπιον του. Ήρθαμε για να ακούσουμε την ιστορία του, να μάθουμε από την ιστορία του», υπογράμμισε ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης στρέφοντας το βλέμμα του στον απέραντο Μισισσιππί.

«Οι αποφάσεις μας, προσωπικές ή συλλογικές, καθορίζουν το μέλλον του πλανήτη» τόνισε ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος υπενθυμίζοντας ότι οι ευθύνες όλων πολλαπλασιάζονται ταυτόχρονα με τα οφέλη μας από την εκμετάλλευση του πλανήτη. «Έχουμε επεκτείνει την Κυριαρχία μας επί της φύσης σε σημείο που αγγίξαμε τα απόλυτα όρια της επιβίωσης», συνέχισε απευθυνόμενος στους περίπου 150 περιβαλλοντολόγους, θρησκευτικούς λειτουργούς,



Πανεπιστημιακούς, ειδικούς επιστήμονες, μέλη οικολογικών κινημάτων, τοπικούς φορείς και δημοσιογράφους. «Έχουμε χάσει τα μισά από τα μεγάλα δάση του κόσμου εξαιτίας των απαιτήσεων για ξυλεία αλλά και για την μετατροπή τους σε καλλιεργήσιμες εκτάσεις. Η ποσότητα του νερού σε κάποιους από τους μεγαλύτερους ποταμούς του κόσμου έχει μειωθεί σημαντικά εξαιτίας της ανθρώπινης δραστηριότητας με αποτέλεσμα να μην φτάνει καν στην θάλασσα. Αλλά και αυτοί που χύνονται στην θάλασσα μεταφέρουν πλέον χημικά και βιομηχανικά κατάλοιπα καθώς και οκουπίδια που “συγκεντρώνουν” στο πέρασμά τους».

«Αντί να ζούμε από το πλεόνασμα των φυσικών πόρων, σπαταλούμε τον περιβαλλοντικό κεφάλαιο και καταστρέφουμε τις φυσικές πηγές της Γης σαν να μην υπάρχει μέλλον.

Τα διλήμματα που αντιμετωπίζουμε είναι τα προβλήματα που δημιουργούν οι άνθρωποι. Θα πρέπει να έχουμε στην σκέψη μας ότι όλοι μας είμαστε επιβάτες στο ίδιο εύθραστο πλοίο της ζωής» τόνισε ο κ. Βαρθολομαίος.

Μήνυμα του Πάπα Βενέδικτου ΙΣΤ' ανέγνωσε ο Ρωμαιοκαθολικός Αρχιεπίσκοπος Νέας Ορλεάνης Γρηγόριος.

Χαιρετισμό κατά την έναρξη του συνεδρίου απεύθυνε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής Δημήτριος.

Μήνυμα, που ανέγνωσε ο πρώην Γερουσιαστής Πωλ Σαρμπάνης, απέστειλε και ο βραβευμένος με Νόμπελ, πρώην αντιπρόεδρος των ΗΠΑ Αλ Γκορ, επισμαίνοντας τη σημασία των περιβαλλοντικών πρωτοβουλιών του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου.

Την επόμενη ημέρα του συνεδρίου ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος τέλεσε Αγιασμό των υδάτων στον ποταμό Μισισσιππί. Η ακολουθία του Αγιασμού πραγματοποιήθηκε εν πλώ, σε ποταμόπλοιο, και ακολούθως ο Πατριάρχης έριξε το αγιασθέν ύδωρ στον Μισισσιππί. Στην ξεχωριστή αυτή τελετή παρέστησαν ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής Δημήτριος, οι Μητροπολίτες Γέραν Χαλκηδόνης Αθανάσιος, Ατλάντας Αλέξιος, Γαλλίας Εμμανουήλ, Κορέας Αμβρόσιος, ο Καρδινάλιος Θεόδωρος Μακ Κάρικ, ο Λόρδος Επίσκοπος του Λονδίνου Δρ. Ρίτσαρντ Τσάρτρες, καθώς επίσης και το σύνολο των συνέδρων που συμμετέχουν στο συμπόσιο του Πατριαρχείου.

Το ποταμόπλοιο που μετέφερε τον Πατριάρχη και τους συνέδρους προσέγγισε τις όχθες, σε διάφορες περιοχές του Μισισσιππί που οι συνέπειες από την περιβαλλοντική καταστροφή είναι ορατές.

Ο Μισισσιππίς ξεκινάει από τον βορρά, στον Καναδά, διατρέχει (μαζί με τους παραποτάμους του) τριάντα μια Πολιτείες των ΗΠΑ και καταλήγει στον κόλπο του Μεξικού. Η κοιλάδα που σχηματίζεται γύρω από τον ποταμό αποτελεί το 41% της έκτασης

των ΗΠΑ και είναι κατά 20% μεγαλύτερη από την αντίστοιχη του Κίρινου ποταμού στην Κίνα, διπλάσια από την Κοιλάδα του Νείλου στην Αφρική, και του Γάγγη στην Ινδία και κατά 15 φορές μεγαλύτερη από αυτή του Ρήνου στην Ευρώπη.

Το ενδιαφέρον των επιστημόνων που συμμετείχαν στο συνέδριο δεν εστιάστηκε μόνο στην ρύπανση του Μισισσιππί - και στις συνέπειες που αυτή έχει στην υγεία των ανθρώπων που ζουν γύρω του- αλλά και στις επιπτώσεις από τις κλιματικές αλλαγές και το λιωσιμο των πάγων. Πολλές παραποτάμιες αστικές περιοχές, κυρίως στο δέλτα του Μισισσιππί -που στις 29 Αυγούστου του 2005 επλήγη από τον τυφώνα Κατρίνα- αναμένεται να χαθούν κάτω από το νερό. Αξίζει να αναφερθεί πως εφημερίδες της Νέας Ορλεάνης υπενθύμιζαν με σχετική αρθρογραφία τους ότι στις 7 Ιανουαρίου 2006, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης επισκέφθηκε τις περιοχές της πόλης που δέχθηκαν το μεγαλύτερο πλήγμα από το καταστροφικό πέρασμα του τυφώνα Κατρίνα.

Η ευθύνη για την προστασία του περιβάλλοντος είναι κοινή, διαμήνυσε προς πάσα κατεύθυνση ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος το Σάββατο, 24 Οκτωβρίου από τη Νέα Ορλεάνη.

Ο Προκαθήμενος της Ορθοδοξίας σημείωσε πως εκτός από την οικονομική κρίση αντιμετωπίζουμε και μια μεγαλύτερη, την οικολογική. Αναφέρθηκε μάλιστα και σε μια εκ των συνεπειών αυτής της κρίσης, τους οικολογικούς μεταναστές οι οποίοι λόγω των κλιματικών αλλαγών -όπως είπε- αναγκάζονται να εγκαταλείψουν τις εστίες τους.

Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης εξέφρασε για άλλη μια φορά την αλληλεγγύη του στους κατοίκους της πόλης οι οποίοι, το 2005, δοκιμάστηκαν σκληρά από τον καταστροφικό τυφώνα Κατρίνα.

Υπενθύμισε την επίσκεψη που πραγματοποίησε στην περιοχή, τον Ιανουάριο του 2006, καθώς και τις εικόνες που αντίκρισε και επισήμανε ότι το Πατριαρχείο διοργάνωσε το περιβαλλοντικό συμπόσιο του στην πόλη προκειμένου να σταλεί σε όλο τον κόσμο το μήνυμα ότι θα πρέπει να αποτραπούν στο μέλλον ανάλογες καταστροφές.

Ο Πατριάρχης αναφέρθηκε μάλιστα και στο παράπονο πολλών κατοίκων της Νέας Ορλεάνης ότι δεν προχωρούν γρήγορα οι εργασίες αποκατάστασης των ζημιών.

Υπενθύμισε, τέλος, ότι το συμπόσιο του Πατριαρχείου πραγματοποιήθηκε λίγες μόλις εβδομάδες πριν τη Διεθνή Διάσκεψη για το Περιβάλλον και το Κλίμα, στην Κοπεγχάγη της Δανίας.

Ευχήθηκε δε τα συμπεράσματα του Συμποσίου, που θα κοινοποιηθούν στη διάσκεψη της Δανίας, να συμβάλουν στην γενικότερη προσπάθεια για την λήψη συγκεκριμένων μέτρων προκειμένου να αποτραπούν οι κλιματικές αλλαγές.

ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ FORDHAM

Συνεχίζοντας την επίσκεψή του στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες της Αμερικής, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος μετέβη στη Νέα Υόρκη όπου ευλόγησε και απύθνην χαιρετισμό στους Χριστιανούς φοιτητές του Πανεπιστημίου Fordham. Σε ειδική τελετή στο Ναό του Πανεπιστημίου ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης ανακηρύχθηκε Επίτιμος Διδάκτορας της Νομικής Σχολής του Ινσουίτικου Πανεπιστημίου σε ένδειξη αναγνώρισης του ηγετικού ρόλου του στους τομείς του περιβάλλοντος και του διαθρησκευτικού και διαπολιτισμικού διαλόγου, και δόθηκε το όνομά του σ' ένα νέο είδος τριαντάφυλλου.

Την Τετάρτη, 28 Οκτωβρίου, ο Γενικός Γραμματέας των Ηνωμένων Εθνών Μλαν Κι Μουν, υποδέχθηκε στο γραφείο του, στην έδρα του διεθνούς οργανισμού, τον ηγέτη της Ορθοδοξίας, τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη Βαρθολομαίο και τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής Δημήτριο, και τη συνοδεία τους, ενώ παρών στην ημίωρη συνάντηση ήταν και ο μόνιμος αντιπρόσωπος της Ελλάδας στον ΟΗΕ, Αναστάσης Μπιτσιάλης.

Σε δηλώσεις του στους δημοσιογράφους μετά τη συνάντηση, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης δήλωσε ότι συζήτησαν περιβαλλοντικά θέματα, ενόψει μάλιστα και της Συνόδου της Κοπεγχάγης. Ο κ. Βαρθολομαίος ανέφερε ότι ενημέρωσε το συνομιλητή του για τις «οικολογικές πρωτοβουλίες» και τις «ταπεινές δραστηριότητες» του Πατριαρχείου όσο αφορά το «διαθρησκευτικό και διαπολιτισμικό διάλογο». Όπως είπε, «ο Γ.Γ. έκανε ιδιαίτερη μνεία στη συνεργασία των πρωθυπουργών της Τουρκίας και της Ισπανίας για τη συνεργασία των διαφόρων πολιτιστικών παραδόσεων».

Στη συνέχεια, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης επεσήμανε ότι αναφέρθηκε στις τρεις επισκέψεις που πραγματοποιήσε στην χώρα καταγωγής του Γ.Γ., την Κορέα, καθώς και στην προηγούμενη επίσκεψή του στην έδρα του ΟΗΕ, όταν Γενικός Γραμματέας ήταν ο Κόφι Ανάν. Επίσης, επεσήμανε ότι ο Μλαν Κι Μουν τον ενημέρωσε ότι την επόμενη εβδομάδα θα μεταβεί στο Λονδίνο για να λάβει μέρος σε συνέδριο για τη συνεργασία μεταξύ θρησκειών και πολιτισμών, το οποίο διοργανώνεται από τον Πρίγκιπα Κάρολο και στη συνέχεια θα μεταβεί στην Αθήνα. Τον Δεκέμβριο, όπως υπογράμμισε, ο Γ.Γ. θα μεταβεί στην Κοπεγχάγη για την παγκόσμια διάσκεψη με θέμα τις κλιματικές αλλαγές.

Τέλος, ο κ. Βαρθολομαίος ανέφερε ότι τόνισε στο συνομιλητή του πως «ο ίδιος (ο γγ) εργάζεται για την ενότητα των εθνών και των πολιτισμών και εμείς από την πλευρά του Πατριαρχείου προσπαθούμε να συμβάλουμε προς αυτή την κατεύθυνση μέσω του διαθρησκευτικού διαλόγου, μέσω των πρωτοβουλιών του Πατριαρχείου μας για την προστασία του φυσικού περιβάλλοντος και έτσι μπορούμε να θεωρηθούμε συνεργάτες προς την ίδια κατεύθυνση για το καλό της ανθρωπότητας».

Απαντώντας στην ερώτηση αν το Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο θα συμμετάσχει στη σύνοδο της Κοπεγχάγης, ο κ. Βαρθολομαίος δήλωσε ότι αν δεν μπορέσει ο ίδιος να λάβει μέρος, θα στείλει αντιπρόσωπο.

Το ίδιο απόγευμα ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος συναντήθηκε με τον τέως Πρόεδρο των ΗΠΑ Μπιλ Κλίντον. Στο επίκεντρο της συζήτησης των δύο ανδρών, παρουσία του Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής Δημητρίου, βρέθηκαν περιβαλλοντικά ζητήματα και οι σχετικές πρωτοβουλίες του Οικουμενικού Θρόνου, η πορεία του διαθρησκευτικού και διαπολιτισμικού διαλόγου καθώς επίσης και ζητήματα που αφορούν τη ζωή της πρωτόθρονης Εκκλησίας της Ορ-

ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΟΥ ΒΑΡΘΟΛΟΜΑΙΟΥ ΣΤΙΣ ΗΠΑ

θοδοξίας. Μάλιστα ο Πρόεδρος Κλίντον θυμήθηκε και την επίσημη επίσκεψη που πραγματοποίησε στην έδρα του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου, το 1999, συνοδευόμενος από την σύζυγό του Χίλαρι (νυν υπουργό Εξωτερικών των ΗΠΑ), και την κόρη τους Τσέλοι.

Ο Πρόεδρος Κλίντον διαβεβαίωσε τον Πατριάρχη ότι σκέπτεται πάντοτε το Πατριαρχείο. Μετά την κατίδιαν συζήτηση που έγινε σε θερμό κλίμα, ακολούθησε συνάντηση και με τους Ιεράρχες που συνόδευαν τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη στις ΗΠΑ, Μητροπολίτες Γέροντα Χαλκιδόνης Αθανάσιο, Γαλλίας Εμμανουήλ και Κορέας Αμβρόσιο.

Την Κυριακή 1 Νοεμβρίου, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος, προεξήρχε της Πατριαρχικής Θείας Λειτουργίας, συλλειτουργούντων τον Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου, των Ιεραρχών της συνοδείας του και των μελών της Ιεράς Επαρχιακής Συνόδου της Ελληνικής Ορθοδόξου Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής, στον Αρχιεπισκοπικό Καθεδρικό ναό της Αγίας Τριάδας στη Νέα Υόρκη. Στο τέλος της Θ. Λειτουργίας ο ίδιος ο Πατριάρχης προέστη της τελετής της χειροθεσίας των νέων αρχόντων του Τάγματος του Αποστόλου Ανδρέα.

ΣΥΝΑΝΤΗΣΗ ΜΕ ΟΜΠΑΜΑ

Την ικανοποίησή του για τη συζήτηση που είχε με τον πρόεδρο Ομπάμα στο Λευκό Οίκο εξέφρασε ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος σε συνέντευξη τύπου, κατά την έξοδό του από την ημίωρη συνάντηση, στη διάρκεια της οποίας ο κ. Ομπάμα τον διαβεβαίωσε πως όταν θα συναντηθεί στις 7 Δεκεμβρίου με τον Ταγίπ Ερντογάν, θα θέσει στον Τούρκο πρωθυπουργό την ανάγκη σεβασμού του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου και θα του ζητήσει να επιτραπεί η επαναλειτουργία της Θεολογικής Σχολής της Χάλκης.

«Έγινε λόγος για τα ανθρώπινα δικαιώματα και για τα δικά μας προβλήματα του Πατριαρχείου. Μάλιστα μας είπε πως περιμένει τον Δεκέμβριο τον κ. Πρωθυπουργό της Τουρκίας. Θα του αναφέρει και όλα αυτά τα θέματα που του είχε αναφέρει και άλλη φορά. Όπως γνωρίζετε κατά την επίσκεψή του στη Τουρκία έθεσε το θέμα της επαναλειτουργίας της Θεολογικής Σχολής της Χάλκης στη Μεγάλη Τουρκική Εθνοσυνέλευση και είπε ότι δεν θα παύσει να ομιλεί γι' αυτά τα θέματα τα οποία γι' αυτόν είναι θέματα θρησκευτικής ελευθερίας και ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων για τα οποία ενδιαφέρεται για όλο τον κόσμο. Αυτό ήταν το μήνυμά του. Μιλήσαμε και για την εδώ Ομογένεια και της ελευθερίας την οποία απολαμβάνει ο Ορθόδοξος κόσμος στην Αμερική. Και ο κ. πρόεδρος είπε ότι αυτό είναι αυτονόμοτιο δίδι προβλέπεται από το Σύνταγμα της Αμερικής».

Ερωτηθείς εάν η επίσκεψη στο Λευκό Οίκο «έοβησε τις κακές εντυπώσεις που άφησε η επίσκεψη Ομπάμα τον περασμένο Απρίλιο, όταν δεν μετέβη στο Φανάρι», ο κ. Βαρθολομαίος απάντησε: «Δεν είχαμε πρόβλημα εμείς διότι δεν ήρθε στο Φανάρι. Μακάρι να ερχόταν όπως είχε έρθει ο Πρόεδρος Κλίντον. Αλλά μάλλον το πρόγραμμά του δεν το επέτρεπε. Ήταν πολύ σύντομος η επίσκεψή του στην Τουρκία. Μόλις είχε γίνει πρόεδρος. Ήταν μία σύντομη επίσκεψη. Αλλά το ότι με εδέχθη κατ' ιδίαν στο κατάλυμά του, στο ξενοδοχείο του, ανεξαρτήτως των άλλων συναδέλφων θρησκευτικών λειτουργών ήταν μία ένδειξη καλής θέλησας και προσοχής προς τον θεσμό του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου. Και το ότι σήμερα μέσα στο βαρύ πρόγραμμά του αφιέρωσε 35 λεπτά για να μας ακούσει, να μας δεχθεί και να συζητήσουμε με κάθε άνεση, είναι και



αυτό ενδεικτικό της καλής θέλησας του και της ευγενείας του και της κατανόησης των προβλημάτων του Πατριαρχείου και της Ομογένειας στην Τουρκία».

Στις δηλώσεις, τις οποίες έκανε έξω από τον Λευκό Οίκο, ο κ. Βαρθολομαίος τόνισε ότι με τον Αμερικανό πρόεδρο συζήτησε επίσης θέματα που αφορούν στην προστασία του περιβάλλοντος: «Με την ευγένεια και την καλοσύνη που τον διακρίνει μας εδέχθη, τον Άγιο Αμερικής και τους άλλους αδελφούς Μητροπολίτες. Με πολλή ευγένεια και καλοσύνη αναφέρθηκε στην πρώτη συνάντησή μας στην Κωνσταντινούπολη. Είπε ότι χαίρεται που ξανασυναντώμεθα. Μιλήσαμε για τα οικολογικά θέματα, για το συμπόσιο που είχαμε, δεν είναι ακόμα βέβαιος εάν θα μεταβεί στο μεγάλο παγκόσμιο συνέδριο της Κοπεγχάγης. Μου είπε ότι συζήτησαν αυτά τα θέματα και με την κα Μέρκελ το πρωί (σ.σ. λίγη ώρα πριν υποδεχθεί τον Οικ. Πατριάρχη ο Αμερικανός πρόεδρος είχε διμερή συνάντηση με τη Γερμανίδα καγκελάρη). Επίσης του ευχηθήκαμε καλή επιτυχία για τα θέματα της υγείας, γι' αυτή τη μεταρρύθμιση που προσπαθεί να κάνει».

Τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη συνόδευαν ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής Δημήτριος και οι τρεις μητροπολίτες που έχουν ταξιδέψει μαζί του στις ΗΠΑ. Μετά τη συνάντηση ο κ. Βαρθολομαίος μετέβη και μίλησε στο Πανεπιστήμιο «Τζορτζτάουν» σε εκδήλωση που διοργανώθηκε σε συνεργασία με το «Κέντρο για την Αμερικανική Πρόοδο».

Αξίζει να αναφερθεί πως χθες ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης χοροστάτησε στον εσπερινό στον Ιερό Ναό των Αγίων Κωνσταντίνου και Ελένης στην Ανάπολη του Μέριλαντ όπου και εόρτασε τη συμπλήρωση 18 ετών από την ενθρόνισή του, στις 2 Νοεμβρίου 1991.

Την επόμενη ημέρα ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος ομιλήσε σε διάλεξη στο ίδρυμα «Μπρούκλινγκς» στην Ουάσινγκτον, αναπτύσσοντας το θέμα: Saving the soul of planet. (Σώζοντας τη ψυχή του Πλανήτη). Ο «πράσινος» Πατριάρχης έδωσε το σύνθημα: «Τώρα είναι καιρός να σωθεί η ψυχή του Πλανήτη. Δεν υπάρχει άλλη μέρα από τη σημερινή, άλλη ώρα, άλλη στιγμή. Ας κάνουμε την αρχή τώρα!»

Το μεσημέρι ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος συναντήθηκε στο Καπιτώλιο με την πρόεδρο της Βουλής των Αντιπροσώπων κυρία Νάνσι Πελόζι και με τον ηγέτη της πλειοψηφίας στην Γερουσία κ. Χάρι Ρέντ, οι οποίοι παρέθεσαν γεύμα προς τιμήν του. Να σημειωθεί ότι ήταν η πρώτη φορά που οι δύο θεσμικοί παράγοντες των ΗΠΑ πραγματοποιούσαν από κοινού εκδήλωση προς τιμήν ξένου ηγέτη.

Στο επίκεντρο της συνάντησης βρέθηκε ο σεβασμός των ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων και των θρησκευτικών ελευθεριών καθώς

και ζητήματα που αφορούν τη ζωή του Οικουμενικού Θρόνου.

Στο τέλος της εκδήλωσης η κυρία Πελόζι, η οποία εξέφρασε τον σεβασμό της στον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη ασπάζόμενη το χέρι του, του προσέφερε την σημαία των ΗΠΑ που κατά τη διάρκεια της επίσκεψής του κυμάτιζε στον «τρούλο» του Καπιτωλίου.

ΣΥΝΑΝΤΗΣΗ ΜΕ ΜΠΑΙΝΤΕΝ

Την σταθερή στήριξη της Αμερικανικής Κυβέρνησης στον θεσμό του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου και στις προσπάθειες που καταβάλει ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος για τον σεβασμό των θρησκευτικών ελευθεριών υπογράμμισε ο Αντιπρόεδρος των ΗΠΑ, Τζο Μπλάντεν.

Σε δέπνιο που παρέθεσε στην επίσημη κατοικία του στην Ουάσινγκτον, προς τιμήν του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχη, ο αντιπρόεδρος των ΗΠΑ εξέφρασε τον βαθύτατο σεβασμό του στο πρόσωπο του προκαθημένου της Ορθοδοξίας επισημαίνοντας την σημασία των πρωτοβουλιών του για την ευαισθητοποίηση της παγκόσμιας κοινής γνώμης για το περιβάλλον, καθώς επίσης και για την ενδυνάμωση της παρουσίας της Ορθοδοξίας στην ανατολική Ευρώπη και τον κόσμο.

«Στηρίζουμε τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη και τις προσπάθειές του για τον σεβασμό των θρησκευτικών ελευθεριών και την επαναλειτουργία της Θεολογικής Σχολής της Χάλκης» τόνισε ο κ. Μπλάντεν, ο οποίος χαρακτήρισε τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη πνευματικό ηγέτη παγκοσμίως κύρους. Αναφέρθηκε μάλιστα με έμφραση στους διαθρησκευτικούς διαλόγους που προωθεί το Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο και ως στόχο έχουν την αλληλοκατανόηση και την ειρηνική συνύπαρξη πιστών διαφορετικών θρησκειών.

Στο δέπνιο, μεταξύ άλλων, παρακάθησαν και οι Πρόεδροι της Ελλάδος, της Τουρκίας και της Κύπρου στην Ουάσινγκτον.



ΣΥΝΑΝΤΗΣΗ ΜΕ ΧΙΛΑΡΙ

Με θερμά λόγια και με νέα πρόσκληση προς την τουρκική κυβέρνηση να προχωρήσει στην επαναλειτουργία της Θεολογικής Σχολής της Χάλκης, η υπουργός Εξωτερικών των ΗΠΑ Χίλαρι Κλίντον, υποδέχθηκε

στο Στέιτ Ντιπάρτμεντ τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη Βαρθολομαίο.

Στο επίσημο δέπνιο το οποίο παρέθεσε προς τιμή του προκαθημένου της Ορθοδοξίας και της συνοδείας του, παρευρέθηκαν μέλη του Κογκρέσου, εξέχοντα μέλη της Ελληνοαμερικανικής Κοινότητας και οι πρόεδροι της Ελλάδας, της Κύπρου και της Τουρκίας.

Στην ομιλία της η Αμερικανίδα υπουργός Εξωτερικών αναφέρθηκε στις δύο επισκέψεις της στο Φανάρι, ως πρώτη κυρία των ΗΠΑ, αλλά και στην παρουσία της στην ενθρόνιση του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου το 1999, όπου αντιπροσώπευσε τον τότε πρόεδρο Μπιλ Κλίντον.

«Από τότε πολλά πράγματα άλλαξαν, εκτός από ένα. Η δέσμευση του Πατριάρχη προς την Εκκλησία του και της Εκκλησίας του ο' ολόκληρο τον κόσμο. Και το έργο που επιτελεί είναι σημαντικό για όλους μας», είπε.

Εξαιρώντας την προσωπικότητα και το έργο του για τη διαθρησκευτική συνεργασία και το περιβάλλον, η κ. Κλίντον τον χαρακτήρισε «πρωταθλητή στον αγώνα για την αντιμετώπιση των προκλήσεων των καιρών μας».

Ιδιαίτερη μνεία έκανε για την πρωτοβουλία του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου, μετά τις τρομοκρατικές επιθέσεις της 11^{ης} Σεπτεμβρίου, για καταδίκη της τρομοκρατίας, συνεργασία των διαφορετικών θρησκειών και ειρηνική συνύπαρξη.

«Οι ΗΠΑ υποστηρίζουν τις πρωτοβουλίες τους για θρησκευτική ανεκτικότητα, τόσο στην Τουρκία, όσο και ο' ολόκληρο τον κόσμο. Είναι γι' αυτούς τους λόγους που τόσο εγώ όσο κι ο πρόεδρος Ομπάμα είμαστε τόσο πικροί στην επαναλειτουργία της Θεολογικής Σχολής της Χάλκης και στην προστασία των δικαιωμάτων του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου.

Εγείραμε τα θέματα αυτά επανειλημμένα και θα συνεχίσουμε να το πράττουμε μέχρις ότου λυθούν», είπε η Αμερικανίδα ΥΠΕΞ.

Σημειώνοντας την παρουσία στην αίθουσα του Τούρκου πρέσβη, η κ. Κλίντον είπε ότι προσβλέπει στην επίσκεψη του Τούρκου πρωθυπουργού στην Ουάσινγκτον για να συνεργαστεί μαζί του για τα θέματα αυτά.

Στην αντιφώνησή του ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης ευχαρίστησε την Αμερικανίδα υπουργό για την φιλοξενία και τις τιμές προς τον Οικουμενικό Θρόνο και αναφέρθηκε στις διάφορες πρωτοβουλίες του Φαναρίου για τον διαθρησκευτικό διάλογο και το περιβάλλον.

«Γι' αυτό η επαναλειτουργία της Θεολογικής Σχολής της Χάλκης συνεχίζει να αποτελεί ζήτημα πιεστικό για την πνευματική μας αποστολή. Και εκτιμούμε βαθύτατα το γεγονός ότι ο πρόεδρος Ομπάμα μνημόνευσε το θέμα αυτό ιδιαίτερα, όταν μίλησε ενώπιον της Τουρκικής Εθνοσυνέλευσης», είπε.

Απευθυνόμενος στην κ. Κλίντον, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης τόνισε ότι η υπουργός Εξωτερικών «πάντοτε στάθηκε σταθερά υπέρ αυτού του θέματος που αφορά στα ανθρώπινα δικαιώματα και τη θρησκευτική ελευθερία και του οποίου η σημασία ξεπερνά τα όρια του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου. Η επαναλειτουργία και η ενεργός συμμετοχή της διεθνούς ακαδημαϊκής κοινότητας στη Χάλκη θα δημιουργήσει ένα πολύ αναγκαίο άνοιγμα για επιπλέον διάλογο και σπουδή. Ενα ίδρυμα με τόσο ιστορική σημασία στη συμβολή των μεγάλων θρησκευτικών παραδόσεων και πολιτισμών του κόσμου, θα καταστεί μαγνήτης τεράστιας δύναμης στη δημιουργία νέων ευκαιριών για το διαθρησκευτικό έργο που πρέπει να γίνει για το καλό της ανθρωπότητας», ανέφερε.

ΕΟΡΤΑΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ 10^{ης} ΕΠΕΤΕΙΟΥ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΕΝΘΡΟΝΙΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ

3ο Μέρος

Συνέχεια από το προηγούμενο φύλλο του χρονοδιαγράμματος των 10 ετών του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου στο θρόνο της Αμερικής.

2005

5 Ιαν. – Ο Δρ. Ιωάννης Ευθυμίουπουλος αναλαμβάνει καθήκοντα εθνικού διευθυντή του Γραφείου Ελληνικής Παιδείας της Αρχιεπισκοπής.

22 Φεβ. - Η Αγία και Ιερά Σύνοδος του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου εκλέγει τον Επίσκοπο Κρατείας κ. Γεράσιμο ως νέο Μητροπολίτη Αγίου Φραγκίσκου.

16 Μαρ. - Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος ηγείται ομάδας θρησκευτικών αρχηγών διαφόρων δογμάτων στην Ουάσιγκτον για να καταθέσουν ενώπιον της Επιτροπής του Ελοίνκι στις ΗΠΑ σχετικά με τις προσπάθειες της Τουρκίας να υπονομεύσει την Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία.

28 Μαρ. - Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος ταξιδεύει στην Ουάσιγκτον για τον εορτασμό με τον Πρόεδρο Μπους της Ελληνικής Ανεξαρτησίας και της Αμερικανικής Δημοκρατίας στο Λευκό Οίκο.

2 Απρ. – Ο Μητροπολίτης Γεράσιμος ενθρονίζεται στον Καθεδρικό Ναό του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου στο Oakland της Καλιφόρνιας.

10 Απρ. - Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ιάκωβος πεθαίνει σε ηλικία 93 ετών. Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος χοροστατεί στην εξόδιο ακολουθία στις 14 Απριλίου. Μεταξύ των πολλών Ιεραρχών και άλλων αξιωματούχων παρευρίσκεται στην κηδεία ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αθηνών και πάσης Ελλάδας Χριστόδουλος. Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ιάκωβος ενταφιάστηκε κοντά στο εκκλησάκι του Ελληνικού Κολλεγίου – Θεολογικής Σχολής του Τιμίου Σταυρού.

13-14 Μαΐου - Το Αρχιεπισκοπικό Συμβούλιο συγκαλεί την εαρινή σύνοδό του στη Νέα Υόρκη. Ανάμεσα στα μείζονα θέματα περιλαμβάνεται η συζήτηση πόρων και το έλλειμμα των 10 εκατομμυρίων δολλαρίων.

15 Μαΐου – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος χοροστατεί στην τελετή Θυρανοιξίων της Εκκλησίας της Ανάστασης στο Brookville, NY, η οποία πριν βρισκόταν στο Glen Cove.

26 Μαΐου – Το Ορθόδοξο Χριστιανικό Ιεραποστολικό Κέντρο τιμά τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο στην εαρινή σύνοδό του στην εκκλησία της Αγίας Αικατερίνης στο Falls Church, Va.

8 Ιουν. - Το Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών αναγορεύει τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο επίτιμο διδάκτορα.

21 Ιουν. – Οι Ιεράρχες της SCOBA συγκαλούν εαρινή σύνοδο. Υπογράφουν δήλωση σχετική με το περιβάλλον.

Ιούλιος – Ο. Αιδ. Αλεξ Καρλούτσος διορίζεται εν ενεργεία εκτελεστικός σύμβουλος του Ταμείου «Πίστη»: Κληροδότημα για την Ορθοδοξία και τον Ελληνισμό.

29 Αυγ. - Ο τυφώνας Κατρίνα πλήττει τη Λουιζιάνα και άλλα μέρη του Κόλπου του Μεξικού, προκαλώντας τεράστιες ζημιές στη Νέα Ορλεάνη και άλλες πόλεις. Ο Καθεδρικός της Αγίας Τριάδας υπέστη εκτεταμένες πλημμύρες. Συνολικά πέντε Ορθόδοξες ενορίες επλήγησαν σοβαρά. Στον απόηχο του καταστροφικού τυφώνα, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος απευθύνει έκκληση για βοήθεια προς τους πληγέντες η οποία

αποφέρει πολλά εκατομμύρια δολάρια. 9 Σεπ. - Ο Σεβασμιώτατος ταξιδεύει στην Λουιζιάνα για να επισκεφθεί τις περιοχές που επλήγησαν από τον τυφώνα.

25 Σεπ. – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος βοηθά στην τοποθέτηση θεμέλιου λίθου για τη νέα Εκκλησία του Αρχάγγελου Μιχαήλ η οποία θα κτισθεί στο Port Washington, NY. Η υπάρχουσα εκκλησία βρίσκεται στο Roslyn.

Οκτώβριος – Η SCOBA δημοσιεύει δήλωση σχετικά με σεξουαλικά παραπτώματα στους κόλπους της Εκκλησίας.

22 Οκτ. – Στον πρώην Πρόεδρο της Ρωσίας Μιχαήλ Γκορμπατόφ απονέμεται ο τίτλος του Αρχοντα του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου στα πλαίσια του συμποσίου των Αρχόντων στη Νέα Υόρκη.

9 Νοεμ. – Το Πανεπιστήμιο Sacred Heart στο Fairfield, Conn, αναγορεύει τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο επίτιμο διδάκτορα Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών.

2006

4-8 Ιαν. – Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος πραγματοποιεί την τέταρτη επίσκεψή του στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες για να προστή της 100ής επέτειου του εορτασμού των Θεοφανών στο Tarron Springs της Φλόριδας, με τη συμμετοχή του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου.

24-30 Ιαν. - Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος κάνει την πρώτη επίσημη επίσκεψή του στην Κύπρο.

15-16 Μαρ. - Η Ιερά Επαρχιακή Σύνοδος της Αρχιεπισκοπής συνεδριάζει στη Νέα Υόρκη.

17-18 Μαρ. - Το Αρχιεπισκοπικό Συμβούλιο συνεδριάζει στη Νέα Υόρκη για να συζητήσει νέες προεργασίες σχετικά με τη συγκέντρωση πόρων.

24 Μαρ. - Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος μεταβαίνει στο Λευκό Οίκο για την ετήσια υπογραφή της διακήρυξης από τον Πρόεδρο Μπους προς ένδειξη τιμής στην Ελληνική Ανεξαρτησία και την Αμερικανική Δημοκρατία.

Μάρτιος – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος διορίζει τον Αιδ. Φραγκίσκο Μαραγκό εκτελεστικό διευθυντή των επικοινωνιών.

28 Απρ. - 1 Μαΐου – Ο Σεβ. ταξιδεύει στο Houston για να γιορτάσει την ασημεία επέτειο της Μητρόπολης του Denver με το Μητροπολίτη Ησαΐα.

13-15 Μαΐου – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος πραγματοποιεί ποιμενική επίσκεψη σε δύο ενορίες στη Charlotte, NC

1 Ιουν. – Ο Παν. Αρχιμανδρίτης Σεβαστιανός Σκορδαλλός, πρώην προϊστάμενος του Καθεδρικού Ναού του Αγίου Νικολάου στο Tarron Springs, Fla, διορίζεται αρχιγραμματέας της Ιεράς Επαρχιακής Συνόδου.

22 Ιουν. – Ο Σεβ. χοροστατεί στο μνημόσυνο για τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Ιάκωβο στη Θεολογική Σχολή του Τιμίου Σταυρού και ευλογεί την πρόσφατα τοποθετημένη ταφόπετρα.

16-21 Ιουλ. - Η 38η Κληρικολαϊκή Συνέλευση πραγματοποιείται στο Nashville, Tenn. Η Συνέλευση προσφέρει περισσότερα πνευματικά εργαστήρια, λατρευτικές τελετές και άλλα προγράμματα από ό, τι στο παρελθόν.

Αύγουστος – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος πραγματοποιεί την πρώτη επίσκεψή του στο Ιονικό χωριό.

Σεπτέμβριος – Ο Καθεδρικός της Αγίας Τριάδας – Τιμίου Σταυρού στο Birmingham, Ala, γιορτάζει την εκατο-

νταετηρίδα του με τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο ο οποίος συμμετέχει στο πανηγυρικό συμπόσιο.

10 Σεπ. - Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος τιμά την πέμπτη επέτειο της 11 Σεπτεμβρίου.

22-24 Σεπ. - Ο Σεβασμιώτατος συλλειτουργεί στον εορτασμό της 100ής επετείου του Καθεδρικού Ναού της Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου στο Denver.

29 Σεπ. - Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος συμμετέχει στον εορτασμό της 75ης επετείου της κοινότητας του Αγίου Νικολάου στο Portsmouth, NH.

30 Σεπ. – 1 Οκτ. – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος πραγματοποιεί την πρώτη επίσκεψή του στην Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Κοινότητα στις Μπαχάμες.

4-6 Οκτ. – Η SCOBA συγκαλεί το φθινοπωρινό συνέδριό της στο Σικάγο.

18-19 Οκτ. – Η Ιερά Επαρχιακή Σύνοδος συγκαλεί το φθινοπωρινό συνέδριό της.

21 Οκτ. - Το Αρχιεπισκοπικό Συμβούλιο πραγματοποιεί την πρώτη συνεδρίαση της θητείας 2006-08.

4 – 5 Νοεμ. – Ο Σεβασμιώτατος συμμετέχει στον εορτασμό της 75ης επετείου του Καθεδρικού Ναού του Αγίου Γεωργίου στο Hartford του Κονέκτικατ.

29-30 Νοεμ. – Ο Πάπας Βενέδικτος ΙΣΤ΄ επισκέπτεται το Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο για την εορτή του Αγίου Ανδρέα. Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος συμμετέχει στις εκδηλώσεις με τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη κ.κ. Βαρθολομαίο.

9 Δεκ. – Ο Αρχιμανδρίτης Δημήτριος Καντζάβελος χειροτονείται Επίσκοπος Μοκνσοού στο Σικάγο.

2007

1 Ιαν. – Ο Δρ. Anton C. Vrame διορίζεται διευθυντής του Αρχιεπισκοπικού Τμήματος Θρησκευτικής Εκπαίδευσης.

14 - 15 Μαρ. – Η Ιερά Επαρχιακή Σύνοδος συγκαλεί την εαρινή σύνοδό της στη Νέα Υόρκη.

22-25 Μαρ. – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος ηγείται ομάδας Ελληνο-Αμερικανών προσωπικοτήτων και κυβερνητικών αξιωματούχων της Ελλάδας στην Ουάσιγκτον σε εκδηλώσεις οι οποίες περιλαμβάνουν επίσκεψη στο Λευκό Οίκο για την ετήσια υπογραφή διακήρυξης από τον Πρόεδρο Μπους σε ένδειξη τιμής για την Ελληνική και Αμερικανική Ανεξαρτησία. Συναντάται, επίσης, και με την Πρόεδρο της Βουλής Nancy Pelosi και καταθέτει στεφάνι στο μνημείο του Αγνώστου Στρατιώτη στο Εθνικό Κοιμητήριο στο Arlington.

26 – 27 Απρ. – Η Ιερά Επαρχιακή Σύνοδος συγκαλεί την εαρινή σύνοδό της στη Νέα Υόρκη.

28 – 29 Απρ. – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος και ο Μητροπολίτης Ησαΐας του Denver συμμετέχουν στον εορτασμό της 90ής επετείου του Καθεδρικού Ναού του Ευαγγελισμού στο Houston.

4 – 6 Μαΐου – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος επισκέπτεται το Portland, Oregon, για να τιμήσει την 100ή επέτειο της Εκκλησίας της Αγίας Τριάδας.

23 Μαΐου – Οι Ιεράρχες της SCOBA υιοθετούν δηλώσεις σχετικά με το θέμα της αυτοκτονίας και του φαινομένου του θερμικού πύου στα πλαίσια της εαρινής συνόδου στη Θεολογική Σχολή του Αγίου Βλαδίμηρου στο Crestwood, NY.

Μάιος – Ο Επίσκοπος Ξάνθου Δημήτριος συνταξιοδοτείται μετά από 40 χρόνια υπηρεσίας στην Αρχιεπισκοπή.

1 Ιουν. – Ο Αιδ. Μάρκος Arey αναλαμβάνει καθήκοντα διευθυντή του Τμήματος Διορθοδόξων, Οικουμενικών και Διαθρησκειακών Σχέσεων.

11 Ιουν. – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος λαμβάνει το Βραβείο Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum για την συμβολή του στην Προώθηση Διαθρησκειακής Κατανόησης σε τελετή στη Νέα Υόρκη.

14 Ιουν. – Το Πανεπιστήμιο Fordham στη Νέα Υόρκη αναγορεύει τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο επίτιμο διδάκτορα στις Ανθρωπιστικές Σπουδές.

20 Ιουν. – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος γιορτάζει την 40ή επέτειο από της χειροτονίας του σε Επίσκοπο.

30 Ιουν. – Το Αμερικανικό Κολλέγιο στην Ελλάδα απονέμει επίτιμο διδακτορικό δίπλωμα Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο σε τελετή έναρξης μαθημάτων στον Πειραιά.

5 Ιουλ. – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος κηρύσσει την έναρξη νέου Σεμιναρίου Επιδόρφωσης Δασκάλων στο Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου στη Λευκωσία.

Ιούλιος – Ο Σεβασμιώτατος επισκέπτεται το Pittsburgh για τον εορτασμό της 100ής επετείου του Καθεδρικού Ναού του Αγίου Νικολάου.

15 Σεπτ. – Η Αρχιεπισκοπή γιορτάζει την 40ή επέτειο επισκοπικής διακονίας του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου στον Αρχιεπισκοπικό Καθεδρικό Ναό της Αγίας Τριάδας, Νέα Υόρκη.

Οκτώβριος – Ο Αιδ. Ρόμπερτ Στεφανόπουλος συνταξιοδοτείται από τη θέση του ως προϊστάμενος του Αρχιεπισκοπικού Καθεδρικού Ναού της Αγίας Τριάδας, NY. Ο Αιδ. Φραγκίσκος Μαραγκός διορίζεται διάδοχός του.

15-19 Οκτ. – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος παρακολουθεί την Κληρικο-Λαϊκή Συνέλευση της Μητρόπολης του Detroit στο Memphis, Tenn.

1 – 2 Νοεμ. – Το Αρχιεπισκοπικό Συμβούλιο συγκαλεί τη φθινοπωρινή συνεδρίασή του στην Ουάσιγκτον. Η επερχόμενη Κληρικολαϊκή αποτελεί κύριο θέμα συζητήσεων.

13 Νοεμ. – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος και άλλοι Ιεράρχες της SCOBA και της SCOCH (Μόνιμο Συνέδριο Ανατολικών Ορθοδόξων Εκκλησιών) πραγματοποιούν ετήσια Λειτουργία Προσευχής στα Ηνωμένα Εθνη.

14 Νοεμ. – Το Πανεπιστήμιο Fairfield στο Κοννέκτικατ απονέμει τιμητικό διδακτορικό Νομικών Επιστημών στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο.

16 Νοεμ. – Το Ελληνικό Κολλέγιο – η Θεολογική Σχολή του Τιμίου Σταυρού απονέμει τιμητικό διδακτορικό Θεολογίας στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο.

Νοέμβριος – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος εκπροσωπεί τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη και ομιλεί ενώπιον του Ευρωπαϊκού Δικαστηρίου Ανθρωπίνων Δικαιωμάτων στο Στρασβούργο της Γαλλίας.

30 Νοεμ. – Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος συμμετέχει σε εορταστικό δείπνο στο Λευκό Οίκο κατόπιν πρόσκλησης του Προέδρου Μπους.

3 Δεκ. – Η American Sephardi Federation και οι Αμερικανοί Φίλοι του Εβραϊκού Μουσείου της Ελλάδας απονέμουν το πρώτο «Δαμασκηνείο Βραβείο» στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο για τη σημαντική συμβολή του στις εποικοδομητικές διαθρησκειακές προσπάθειες.

Η συνέχεια και το τελευταίο μέρος του ειδικού αφιερώματος στο επόμενο τεύχος του ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΥ ΠΑΡΑΤΗΡΗΤΟΥ.

Εκπαιδευτικό Επιμορφωτικό Σεμινάριο Αμέσου Αρχιεπισκοπικής Περιφέρειας



Πραγματοποιήθηκε την Τρίτη 3 Νοεμβρίου, 2009, από τις 8.00 π.μ. - 2.00 μ.μ. στο Λύκειο του Καθεδρικού Ναού του Αγίου Δημητρίου Αστορίας, το Ετήσιο Επιμορφωτικό Σεμινάριο εκπαιδευτικών των κοινοτικών Ελληνοαμερικανικών Σχολείων που διοργάνωσε το Γραφείο Παιδείας της Αμέσου Αρχιεπισκοπικής Περιφέρειας, υπό την αιγίδα του Σεβασμιωτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής Δημητρίου. Κύριοι ομιλητές ήταν οι Δρ. Γεώργιος Παπαναστασίου, επίκουρος καθηγητής Ιστορικής Γλωσσολογίας και Διευθυντής του Ινστιτούτου Νεοελληνικών Σπουδών του Αριστοτελείου Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλονίκης - με θέμα: «Η Ελληνική Γλώσσα και η γραφή της: μια διαχρονική, διαλεκτική σχέση»- και η Δρ. Ελένη Σκούρτου, αναπληρώτρια καθηγήτρια του Παιδαγωγικού Τμήματος Δημοτικής Εκπαίδευσης του Πανεπιστημίου Αιγαίου - με θέμα: «Διγλωσσία και



διδασκαλία της Ελληνικής στην τάξη και στο διαδίκτυο». (Αναλυτικό ρεπορτάζ στο φύλλο του ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΥ ΠΑΡΑΤΗΡΗΤΗ του Δεκεμβρίου '09).

I am an Elementary Education Major.

I hope to someday become a teacher.

*I am learning about the word of God,
while fine-tuning the skills He has provided me.*

I am an Orthodox Christian.

I am Hellenic College.



Hellenic College
STRONGER MIND AND SPIRIT

50 Goddard Avenue
Brookline, MA 02445
866-424-2338
www.hellenic.hchc.edu

Donna

ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ



Εορτή Συνάξεως Αγίων Αρχαγγέλων

Πρός τούς Σεβασμιωτάτους καί Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τούς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καί Διακόνους, τούς Μοναχοὺς καί Μοναχές, τούς Προέδρους καί Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καί Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τίς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τήν Νεολαία, τίς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καί ὁλόκληρο τό Χριστεπώνυμον πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικής.

Ἀγαπητοὶ Ἀδελφοί καί Ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Σέ αὐτή τήν εὐλογημένη εορτή τῆς Συνάξεως τῶν Ἁγίων Ἀρχαγγέλων τιμοῦμε τήν ὡραία παρουσία καί τό σκοπό τῆς υπάρξεως μυριάδων ἀγγέλων οἱ ὁποῖοι δημιουργήθηκαν ἀπό τόν Θεό γιά νά ὑπηρετοῦν τό θεῖο θέλημά Του καί τό ἔργο τῆς σωτηρίας. Ὁ εορτασμός αὐτῆς τῆς ἡμέρας, οἱ σελίδες τῆς Ἁγίας Γραφῆς καί οἱ ἀγιογραφίες τῶν ἐνοριῶν μας μᾶς ὑπενθυμίζουν ὅτι οἱ ἄγγελοι, ὑπό τήν ἡγεσία τῶν Ἁγίων Ἀρχαγγέλων, ἀποτελοῦν οὐσιαστικό τμήμα τῆς τάξεως καί τῆς διακονίας τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς ἀγγελιαφόροι, προστάτες καί ὄντα θείας δοξολογίας, οἱ ἄγγελοι ἐλκύουν τήν προσοχή μας πρὸς τή δόξα καί τήν ἀγιότητα τοῦ Θεοῦ, καί κατ' αὐτό τόν τρόπο μᾶς βοηθοῦν στή συναγωγή ἀνθρώπων στόν οἶκο Του.

Στή διάρκεια τοῦ περασμένου ἔτους, μετὰ ἀπό τήν 39^η Διετή Κληρικολαϊκή Συνέλευσή μας στήν πρωτεύουσα Οὐάσιγκτον, ἐστίασαμε τήν προσοχή μας στό θέμα «Συναγάγετε τό λαό μου στόν οἶκο μου», διερευνώντας τή σημασία αὐτῆς τῆς κλήσεως γιά τίς ζωές μας, τίς ἐνορίες καί τόν κόσμο μας. Ἐπιβεβαιώσαμε ὅτι ἕνα σκέλος τοῦ θέματος αὐτοῦ εἶναι ἡ φιλανθρωπική προσφορά στούς ἀναξιοπαθοῦντες συνανθρώπους μας σέ οποιοδήποτε στάδιο τῆς ζωῆς των. Γνωρίζοντας ὅτι ἡ ζωή εἶναι δῶρο Θεοῦ, ἀναγνωρίζοντας τήν θεϊκή εἰκόνα σέ κάθε πρόσωπο, καί μέ τίς καρδιές πλήρεις εὐσπλαχνίας, προσφέρουμε πρόθυμα καί θυσιαστικά γιά τήν καλυτέρευση τῆς ζωῆς τῶν συνανθρώπων μας. Αὐτή εἶναι ἡ ἀποστολή τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, καί ἡ οὐσία τῆς ζωῆς μας ἐντός τῆς οἰκογενείας τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Αὐτός εἶναι καί ὁ λόγος γιά τόν ὅποιο ἡ διακονία τοῦ Οἴκου Εὐγερίας «Ἅγιος Μιχαήλ» εἶναι ἀπαραίτητη καί πολὺτιμη. Γιά περισσότερα ἀπό πενήντα χρόνια αὐτό τό ἴδρυμα ἔχει καλύψει σωματικές καί πνευματικές ἀνάγκες ὡς ἴδρυμα φροντίδος ἐνηλίκων καί τό ἔχει ἐπιτύχει αὐτό κατὰ τρόπο ὁ ὁποῖος τιμᾷ τό ὄνομά του. Μιμούμενοι τό παράδειγμα τῶν Ἁγίων Ἀρχαγγέλων, τό προσωπικό, οἱ διευθύνοντες καί οἱ δωρητές τοῦ «Ἁγίου Μιχαήλ» ἔδωσαν ἔμφαση στήν τάξη, τήν ποιότητα καί τή διακονία προσφέροντας τό καλύτερο περιβάλλον παροχῆς φροντίδος. Αὐτό ἔχει ἐπιτευχθῇ μέ τήν προστασία καί τή στήριξη τῆς ζωῆς καί μέσῳ τῆς καλλιέργειας τῆς πίστεως τῶν τροφίμων οὕτως ὥστε ἡ διαμονή των στόν «Ἅγιο Μιχαήλ» νά ἐπιβεβαιώνει τήν εὐσπλαχνική παρουσία τοῦ Θεοῦ καί τή θέση των στόν Οἶκο Του, τήν Ἐκκλησία. Αὐτή ἡ ὁλότητα φροντίδος καί διακονίας προσφέρει ὡραία μαρτυρία σέ ὅλα τὰ ἱδρύματα φροντίδος ἐνηλίκων. Διακηρύσσει, ἐπίσης, τήν ἀλήθεια τῆς ζωῆς στή βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὅτι δηλαδή οἱ σωματικές ἱκανότητες δέν ἀποτελοῦν μέτρο ἀξίας ἐνός ἀνθρώπου, ἡ ἀγάπη καί ἡ πίστη χρειάζονται σέ ὅλη τή διάρκεια τῆς ζωῆς, καί ὅτι ὅλοι φέρουμε τήν εὐθύνη φροντίδος γιά αὐτούς οἱ ὁποῖοι τήν ἔχουν ἀνάγκη.

Μέ βάση τὰ ἀνωτέρω καί τήν ἀποστολή τοῦ Οἴκου Εὐγερίας «Ἅγιος Μιχαήλ», ἔχει καθιερωθεῖ αὐτή ἡ Εορτή ὡς χρονική στιγμή κατὰ τήν ὁποία προσφέρουμε τὰ δῶρα μας στήν ὑπηρεσία καί τήν ἀνάπτυξη αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἱεροῦ ἔργου. Τήν ἡμέρα αὐτή καλοῦνται οἱ ἐνορίες νά συγκεντρώσουν χρήματα πρὸς ὄφελος αὐτῆς τῆς διακονίας. Παρακαλοῦμε στείλετε τήν εἰσφορά σας στήν Ἑλληνική Ὀρθόδοξο Ἀρχιεπισκοπή Ἀμερικής μέ τήν εὐκρινῆ ἐνδειξη γιά τόν Οἶκο Εὐγερίας «Ἅγιος Μιχαήλ». Ἡ γενναιοδωρία αὐτή προσφορά πρέπει νά συνοδεύεται ἀπό τή φροντίδα καί τή γενναιοδωρία σας πρὸς τίς κοινότητες σας. Ἀκολουθώντας τό πνεῦμα καί τήν προσφορά μαρτυρίας τοῦ «Ἁγίου Μιχαήλ» πρέπει νά ἀγωνιζόμεθα γιά νά καταστοῦμε ἀρωγοί αὐτῶν οἱ ὁποῖοι ἔχουν ἀνάγκη ὥστε νά νιώσουν τήν ἀγάπη μας, νά αἰσθάνονται ὅτι εἶναι μέλη τῆς πνευματικῆς οἰκογενείας μας καί ὅτι ζοῦν καί θά ζοῦν αἰώνια στόν οἶκο τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἄς προσευχηθοῦμε γιά τούς τροφίμους, τό προσωπικό καί τούς διευθύνοντες τοῦ Οἴκου Εὐγερίας «Ἅγιος Μιχαήλ», καί ἄς δεσμευθοῦμε γιά τήν προσφορά ποιότητος καί διακονίας πίστεως σέ ὅλους.

Μετά πατρικῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης,

for Archbishop Demetrios

† ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικής Δημήτριος

ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Εορτή Αγίων Αναργύρων Κοσμά και Δαμιανού

Πρός τούς Σεβασμιωτάτους καί Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τούς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καί Διακόνους, τούς Μοναχοὺς καί Μοναχές, τούς Προέδρους καί Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καί Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τίς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τήν Νεολαία, τίς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καί ὁλόκληρο τό Χριστεπώνυμον πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

Ἀγαπητοὶ Ἀδελφοί καί Ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Σήμερα, καθώς τιμοῦμε τούς Ἁγίους Ἀναργύρους Κοσμά καί Δαμιανό, ἐνθυμούμεθα διά τῆς ζωῆς καί τοῦ ἔργου αὐτῶν τῶν δύο Ἁγίων τήν ὡραία παραβολή τοῦ Κυρίου μας τοῦ Καλοῦ Σαμαρείτη. Στό κατά Λουκά Εὐαγγέλιο διαβάζουμε γιά τήν εὐσπλαχνία μέ τήν ὁποία ὁ Σαμαρεῖτης περιπονήθηκε τίς πληγές τοῦ τραυματισμένου ταξιδιώτη καί φρόντισε γιά τήν πλήρη ἀποθεραπεία του. Ἐπιπλέον, ὁ Σαμαρεῖτης ἐπέδειξε τήν φροντίδα του γιά τίς ἀνάγκες τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ὁ ὁποῖος εἶχε πέσει θῦμα ληστών λέγοντας στόν πανδοχέα, ἐπιμελήθητι αὐτοῦ, καί ὅ,τι ἂν προσδαπανήσης ἐγώ ἐν τῷ ἐπανέρχεσθαί με ἀποδώσω σοι (Λουκ. 10:35). Αὐτή ἡ αὐθεντική φροντίδα γιά κάποιον χρήζοντα βοήθειας ἀνθρωπο ἐκτείνεται πέραν τῆς ἀρχικῆς προσφορᾶς βοήθειας καί φθάνει ἕως τῆ βεβαιότητα ὅτι θά παρασχεθῇ ὅ,τιδήποτε χρειασθῇ γιά τήν πλήρη θεραπεία.

Ἡ διακονία τῆς θεραπείας ἡ ὁποία ἀποτελεῖ ἀληθινή μαρτυρία τῆς εὐσπλαχνίας καί τῆς χάριτος τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐνέχει τὰ χαρακτηριστικά τῆς ἀφιερώσεως χρόνου καί τῆς προσφορᾶς καλύψεως τῶν πραγματικῶν ἀναγκῶν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, καθώς καί τῆς διαθέσεως ὅλων τῶν ἀπαιτουμένων προκειμένου νά διασφαλισθῇ ἡ πλήρης ἀποθεραπεία τοῦ σώματος καί τῆς ψυχῆς του. Αὐτό εἶναι τό εἶδος τῆς διακονίας τό ὁποῖο προσφέρεται ἀπό τό σεπτό Οἰκουμενικό Πατριαρχεῖο μας καθώς καί τήν Ἐθνική Φιλόπτωχο Ἀδελφότητα Κυριῶν. Τό φιλανθρωπικό ἔργο τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου παρέχει σημαντική φροντίδα καί καλύπτει σημαντικές ἀνάγκες τῆς Ἑλληνορθόδοξου Κοινότητος τῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Κωνσταντινουπόλεως. Μέσω τῆς διακονίας τοῦ Νοσοκομείου καί οἴκου εὐγηρίας Μπαλουκλή, σέ συνδυασμό μέ τίς ὑπηρεσίες ἄλλων ἰδρυμάτων καί ὁργανώσεων, ταγμένων στήν ὑπηρεσία τῶν ὀρφανῶν καί πτωχῶν, τό Οἰκουμενικό Πατριαρχεῖο προσφέρει φροντίδα καί πίστη πού βοηθοῦν στή θεραπεία τῶν σωματικῶν καί ψυχικῶν τραυμάτων τῶν ἐν χρεῖα εὐρισκομένων. Τό φιλανθρωπικό αὐτό ἔργο ἔχει ὡς ὑποστηρικτή του τήν Ἐθνική Φιλόπτωχο Ἀδελφότητα Κυριῶν ἡ ὁποία καταβάλλει προσπάθειες σιά πλαίσια τῆς συνεχοῦς προσφορᾶς διακονίας τῆς. Τά μέλη τῆς Φιλοπτώχου Ἀδελφότητος τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς μας, ἀφιερώνοντας χρόνο καί μέσα γιά τή σωματική καί ψυχική θεραπεία τῶν ἀσθενῶν συντελοῦν εἰς δόξαν Θεοῦ διά τῆς προθυμίας τήν ὁποία ἐπιδεικνύουν προκειμένου νά διασφαλίσουν τήν ἀπρόσκοπτη προσφορά ποιοτικῆς ὑγειονομικῆς περιθάλψεως, ἐκπαιδευτικῶν καί φιλανθρωπικῶν προγραμμάτων. Ἐτσι, ἡγοῦνται τῆς προσπάθειας συγκεντρώσεως χρημάτων τά ὁποία θά προσφερθοῦν γιά τίς φιλανθρωπικές διακονίες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου. Στηρίζοντας αὐτή τήν προσπάθεια, παρακαλῶ ὅλες τίς κοινότητες μας νά περιάγουν εἰδικό δίσκο τήν Κυριακή, 1 Νοεμβρίου, Ἡμέρα τιμῆς καί μνήμεως τῶν Ἁγίων Κοσμά καί Δαμιανοῦ γιά τήν ἐνίσχυση τοῦ Ταμείου τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου τῆς Ἐθνικῆς Φιλοπτώχου Ἀδελφότητος Κυριῶν. Ἡ πράξη αὐτή ἀποτελεῖ εὐκαρία γιά ὅλους ἐμᾶς, μιμούμενοι τό πνεῦμα καί τό παράδειγμα τοῦ Καλοῦ Σαμαρείτη, νά διασφαλίσουμε τήν ποιότητα τῆς προσφερομένης βοήθειας σέ ἀναξιοπαθεῖς συνανθρώπους μας.

Εἴθε νά συνεχίσουμε νά προσευχόμεθα καί νά στηρίζουμε τό ἔργο τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου καθώς καί τῶν πιστῶν τῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Κωνσταντινουπόλεως καί τῶν Μητροπόλεων τῆς Τουρκίας. Εἴθε νά ἀκούσουμε τοίς λόγους τοῦ Κυρίου μας καί νά ἐπιδείξουμε εὐσπλαχνία. Σ' ἓναν κόσμο ὅπου ἐπικρατεῖ ἡ βιασύνη καί ἡ ἀδιαφορία, πρέπει νά προσφέρουμε χρόνο, συμπόνοια καί ἐφόδια τά ὁποία θά ἀποκαλύψουν τήν ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ καί θά ἐπαναφέρουν σώματα καί ψυχές στή ζωή.

Μετά πατρικῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης,

✠ Ἀμφικλῆς Δημήτριος

✠ ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριος

Καλὰ Χριστούγεννα Merry Christmas from Odyssey magazine

✠ Odyssey—the finest quality publication covering global Hellenism Celebrates its 16th with a special Christmas gift offer!

This year, consider giving those you care about the gift of Hellenism—a gift subscription to Odyssey the World of Greece magazine.

For every subscription to Odyssey we will make a donation to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Odyssey is the gift that lasts all year long and a lifetime!

Simply fill-in the information below and send back to us to: ODYSSEY Magazine, PO BOX 3000, DENVER, NJ 07834-9347, or subscribe online at www.odyssey.gr or call us on: 1-800-9-HELLAS (800-943-5527)

Use the Special Discount Code: G08

Please tick one box below

- ☐ Yes, I want to also subscribe/renew and save \$10-off my subscription for only \$38
- ☐ Yes, I want to send gift subscriptions below to the following people:
- ☐ No, I don't want to subscribe or give a gift subscription, but please do send free trial issues to me and/or the following people:

Your Name

Address

City

State-Zip

Country

Telephone

E-mail

FROM OF PAYMENT

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

1st Gift subscription for \$38

Your Name

Address

City

State-Zip

Country

Telephone

E-mail

G08

2nd Gift subscription for \$38

Your Name

Address

City

State-Zip

Country

Telephone

E-mail

G08

YOUR CONNECTION TO SOUTH FLORIDA



Specializing in Country Clubs
& Waterfront Communities from
Boca Raton to Palm Beach



GUS TRATAROS, REALTOR®
561.716.0653 / 954.433.0184
gus@theabrahamteam.com

THE ABRAHAM TEAM
REAL ESTATE
888.388.7356

TICKETS TO GREECE ON SALE

ΑΠΟ ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ – ΑΘΗΝΑ – ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

DELTA (OLYMPIC) - ALITALIA - AIR FRANCE - BRITISH - KLM - LUFTHANSA

ONE WAY ROUND TRIP
From **\$228** From **\$338**

ΙΔΙΟΚΤΗΤΕΣ: ΒΑΣΙΛΗΣ & ΜΙΝΑ ΑΓΓΕΛΗΣ
ΧΑΜΗΛΕΣ ΤΙΜΕΣ ΑΠ'ΟΛΗ ΤΗΝ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗ

STERLING TRAVEL

20 LAUREN LANE, PHILLIPSBURG, N.J. 08865

Toll Free: 1.800.473.3238 - Local: 908. 213.6826 - 908.213.1251

www.hellastickets.com

Move, Buy, Rent, Sell, Invest in ARIZONA
Homes (2,000^{SF}) @ \$80,000

Bank Owned, Foreclosures, REO's Short Sale



IT'S A BUYER'S MARKET

Kostas Zistas (602) 315-9888 • kzistas@msn.com

Eleni
TOURS, INC.

WORLD WIDE TRAVEL

15th
Anniversary

ΘΕΛΕΤΕ
ΦΘΗΝΑ
ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΑ

FARES BEGIN AT...

\$299 PLUS
TAX
ONE WAY

\$480 PLUS
TAX
ROUND TRIP

To Athens or Thessaloniki
from New York

RESTRICTIONS DO APPLY • SPACE IS LIMITED • CALL TODAY

LOWEST HOTEL & CAR FARES AVAILABLE

ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΗΣΤΕ ΜΑΖΙ ΜΑΣ ΣΤΟ INTERNET

Contact: Eleni & Ari Poulos

WEB: www.eleni.com • E-mail: sales@eleni.com

Επίσης αναλαμβάνουμε Διαβατήρια
και Συμβολαιογραφικά
(Πληρεξούσια, Μεταφράσεις,
Πιστοποιητικά, κ.λπ.)

NON STOP FLIGHT **US AIR** FROM
PHILA TO ATHENS
AND CONTINUE TO THESSALONIKI

1-800-989-4733
Call Now and Begin Saving Money with Eleni Tours, Inc.

5 Bayberry Drive, Broomall, PA 19008
610-355-7730 • Fax: 610-355-0821



Rohlf's Byzantine Stained Glass Art

Serving the Orthodox Church for over 80 years
in Achievements of Ecclesiastical Excellence and Beauty

FOR MORE INFORMATION & LITERATURE CALL OUR TOLL-FREE NUMBER

800-969-4106

Rohlf's Stained & Leaded Glass Studio

783 South Third Ave., Mount Vernon, NY 10550

e-mail - rohlff1@aol.com web page - www.rohlffstudio.com



Looking to BUY or SELL a Home in Florida?



Tom Kopatsis
REALTOR®



RE/MAX
Advantage Plus
Independently Owned and Operated

21737 State Road 7

Boca Raton, Florida 33428

Office: 1 888 350-2345 Ext. 318

Office: 1 561 488-1669 Direct

ΟΜΙΛΟΥΜΕ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ



πόλη
city



φόρεμα
dress



άλογο
horse



ήλιος
sun

READ AND SPEAK LANGUAGE LESSONS ON CD-ROM GREEK LANGUAGE LESSONS IN ONE CD-ROM

by George Balanis PhD, MBA and Toulia Balanis AA • Anotek, Inc.
DEMONSTRATIONS and INFORMATION AT: <http://www.anotek.com>

IF YOU WANT TO LEARN GREEK QUICKLY AND EASILY, OUR CD-ROM COURSES ARE FOR YOU.

Read and Speak Greek: Greek language as taught in 6 years of elementary Greek schools. Color pictures, multicolor text, male and female pronunciation, academic games. Audio-Visual dictionary (v4.2 only) and Greek fonts, Reading, Spelling (v4.2 only), Vocabulary, Pronunciation and Phonetics, Grammar and Sentence Generation. For children and adults.

Read and Speak English: Successfully reviewed by the California Learning Resource Network for use in California Public schools (v3.1). Reading, Spelling, Pronunciation, Phonetics and Phonetic Rules, Vocabulary and Plurals. Designed to teach children or adults that know very little English. Covers the material taught in grades K, 1, 2 and parts of 3 and 4.

Greek v3.0 (6 yr. course*) \$95.00 English for Greeks. Step 1 v2.0 (3 yrs.*) .. \$95.00

Greek v4.2 (v3.0 plus more*) \$150.00 Read & Understand Latin v1.0

French v2.0 (6 yr. course*) \$95.00 (about 700 school hours*) \$190.00

English v3.1 (3 yr. course*) \$95.00 *Appropriate Language Fonts Included in every CD-ROM

WRITE TO: Anotek/G. Balanis 2349 Hill Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Tel: (310)450-5027 • Fax: (310)450-0867 • Email: georgeb@anotek.com

ALSO AVAILABLE IN BOOKS ILLUSTRATED WITH FULL COLOR PICTURES.

We accept VISA, M/C, AMEX, DISCOVER, CHECKS & MONEY ORDER ☐ Check Box for free catalog

Card # _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____

Product: _____ X _____ Total \$: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Your E-mail: _____ *P.O. Box orders not deliverable

MARKOS travel service

Καθημερινές αναχωρήσεις
με Delta, KLM, Alitalia, Lufthansa



Απλή μετάβαση από **\$289***

Με επιστροφή από **\$395***

Περιορισμένος αριθμός θέσεων

Πτήσεις χωρίς σταθμό

*Συν φόρους

Κλείστε θέσεις τώρα
και κερδίστε

Nationwide toll free
800-243-7728

Για Connecticut 800-842-8260

E-mail: mmtravel1981@sbcglobal.net

Μάρκος Χατζηκωνσταντής, ιδιοκτήτης

ΑΝΤΑΠΟΚΡΙΣΕΙΣ Σ' ΟΛΗ ΤΗΝ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗ
ΑΠΙΣΤΕΥΤΑ ΧΑΜΗΛΕΣ ΤΙΜΕΣ

MARKOS TRAVEL

48 Silas Dean Hwy., ste 12

Wethersfield, CT 06109

860-296-1722

PEOPLE

► Centenarian honored

Editor's note: As the Observer went to press we received word that Nikolaos Kokonas died a few days after being honored.

Seattle's St. Demetrios parish honored **Nikolaos Kokonas** following the Divine Liturgy on Oct. 25, the 100th anniversary of his birth in Lefkara, Cyprus, in 1909. A game warden in Cyprus, Mr. Kokonas came to the United States in 1952, settling in New York. He mastered Byzantine music and hymnology under Fr. George J. Nassis at Evangelismos Church in Manhattan, and served as a chanter there for 25 years. He then was the chanter for Sts. Constantine and Helen, Jackson Heights; then St. Barbara, Lower Manhattan; and lastly Transfiguration, Mattituck, Long Island. In 1996, he moved to Kirkland, Wash., and lived on his own until earlier this year. Mr. Kokonas attends church as often as possible.

► Author honored

The Academy of Athens recently bestowed upon **Dr. Nicholas D. Kokonis**, a Chicago resident and an immigrant from Arcadia, Greece, a "Special Commendation" for "*Ellada Mou, Patrida Mou*," the Greek edition of his autobiographical novel "Arcadia, My Arcadia." In addition, the Ministry of Education judged Kokonis' book to be most appropriate for students and placed it on the list for the country's school libraries.

► Conducts Chorale Opener

Steven Karidoyanes of Cambridge, Mass. conducted the Masterworks chorus and orchestra, for the Masterworks Chorale's 70th season Nov. 8 that began with *British Legends of Nicholas*, a colorful and dramatic concert featuring music from the 20th and 21st centuries. The program included three Orthodox Christian hymn settings commemorating St. Nicholas: two composed by living British composers, John Tavener and Ivan Moody, and one by Chorale conductor Karidoyanes. Ivan Moody is an Orthodox priest of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and is currently chairman of the International Society for Orthodox Music (www.isocm.com). Tavener came to international prominence when his stark-yet-expressive *Song of Athene*, a choral work combining words from the Orthodox funeral service and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, was included in the worldwide broadcast of Princess Diana's funeral in 1997.

► High scouts honors

Manolis Anagnostiadis, of St. George Church in Bethesda, Md., recently achieved the highest recognition of Eagle Scout. He is a member of Troop 1434 in Potomac, Md. His Eagle Scout Project included identifying, indexing and cross-indexing the icons within the altar and vestry, as well as painting and freshening the vestry proper.

Peter L. Kouretsos, of Scout Troop 715, Holy Cross Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., also attained the rank of Eagle Scout. For his project, he interviewed US WWII veterans in their homes, at American Legion and VFW Posts and aboard the USS Intrepid, collecting and cataloguing their oral histories.

He donated them on their behalf to the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress in Washington. His sister, **Caroline Kouretsos**, of Senior Girl Scout Troop 2-194, Three Hierarchs Church and Holy Cross, received the Girl Scout Gold Award. Her project "Spring into Conservation" at the New York Aquarium educated the public about the importance of protecting the environment.

One of the Oldest Communities in America

PARISH profile

Name: Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Location: Toledo, Ohio
Metropolis of Detroit
Size: about 350 families
Founded: 1915
Clergy: Fr. Aristotle W. Damaskos (Holy Cross '85; Masters in pastoral counseling from Holy Name College, Oakland, Calif.) Fr. Chris Hadgigeorge (pastor emeritus)
E-mail: htgocto@sbcglobal.net
Web: www.holytrinitytoledo.org
Noteworthy: One of three Orthodox cathedrals in the city.

TOLEDO, Ohio – Holy Trinity Cathedral has the advantage of having two priests with a close working relationship. One of them was the parish's longest-serving pastor, now retired.

Fr. Aristotle has served the community for eight years, coming to the parish in 2001 from Assumption Cathedral in Oakland, Calif. "I wondered if I would find parish as loving as the one we were leaving," said the priest. "We came here and they accepted us with open arms. They're always willing to show their philoxenia," Fr. Aristotle said of the community.

He was assigned to the position that Fr. Chris Hadgigeorge had filled for 30 years before he retired as pastor emeritus in 1991, but maintains his presence in the community, helping with various ministries and assisting Fr. Aristotle at Sunday Divine Liturgies.

On Dec. 1, Fr. Hadgigeorge will mark 50 years at the parish.

"We have a good relationship. We live around the corner from each other and pick up each other for church, said Fr. Aristotle. "We work very well together."

Fr. Aris describes a very dynamic, very busy ministry.

"We're an inner city parish and do some social outreach," he said. This includes serving Thanksgiving dinner at Madonna Homes, a public housing facility for low-income residents. At Christmas, the parish provides gifts for all the residents.

Within the community, several ministries serve the faithful.

"We have vibrant youth groups that include GOYA, JOY and HOPE," Fr. Aris said. "And we are in the midst of reactivating the YAL."

The Sunday school has about 80 students; the Greek school, about 25.

Youth activities also include basketball teams and a large Greek dance program and group, the Hellenic Dancers that range from young adults to JOY.

There is a Vacation Bible School during the summer with about 50 children every week and a summer arts program that meets for five Mondays, and includes dinner for the children who participate.

With many converts and about 95 percent of the married couples being interchurch, Fr. Aris offers a marriage preparation class and many of the spouses become Orthodox. His other ministries include a Bible study and Orthodoxy 101 class.



HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

Parish background

The priest said that the parish consists of a large aging population and some young families. While most members live in and around the city of Toledo, some reside in other parts of northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan.

Located only an hour from Detroit, the community receives at least two visits a year from Metropolitan Nicholas.

Many parishioners are of Tenedian (island of Tenedos) or Cypriot background. According to a parish history, provincial federations represented in the community include Pan-Arcadian, Cretan, Samian, Corinthian and Sterea Ellas. All have played important roles in the parish.

The first Greek settlers, mostly single men, arrived in the late 19th century. They came to work in Toledo's many manufacturing companies, including glass, for which the city is noted.

They later established businesses—restaurants, confectionaries and other small stores and brought their wives from Greece or married local women.

By June 1915, the community was large enough to establish a church. Holy Trinity Church was incorporated in 1915. The first worship services took place in the chapel of a local Episcopal church.

Later that year, the parishioners obtained a \$3,000 loan to buy a frame house that stood on the site where the present church, built some 90 years ago, stands today.

Several priests from other communities served the parish for brief periods until 1918, when Fr. Methodios Phiousianes, the first permanent pastor, was assigned.

He immediately worked toward building a Byzantine-style church and traveled as far as Detroit, Canton and Pittsburgh to solicit donations.

In the 1920s, as was the situation among other Greek Orthodox communities, the Venizelist-Royalist upheaval in Greece affected Holy Trinity parish and caused a split, which was healed following

the arrival in 1931 of Archbishop Athenagoras as head of the Archdiocese of North and South America.

In the mid-1920s, the founding of the local AHEPA chapter greatly benefited the community.

For several years, a local chapter of GAPA (Greek American Progressive Association) also existed in the community.

Over the years the parish built its church and community center and educational building; and acquired a section of a local cemetery for Orthodox Christians and property for parking.

In late December 1960, following the departure of Fr. Theotakis N. Pappas, a graduate of Holy Cross Seminary in Pomfret, Conn., who served the parish for 10 years and established its Sunday school, American-born Fr. Chris Hadgigeorge, also a Pomfret graduate, became the pastor.

During his ministry, the church was consecrated in May 1966 and was designated a cathedral by Archbishop Iakovos in the late 1980s "for its outstanding work," Fr. Hadgigeorge told the Observer.

Holy Trinity is one of three cathedrals in Toledo, which has a large Orthodox presence - OCA and Antiochian (two parishes). There also is a large Coptic community.

Stewardship is the main revenue source, along with other fund-raising activities and the Greek festival, the second largest ethnic festival in Toledo (the German American is the largest).

Holy Trinity faces a problem that many other Midwestern communities also experience— young people moving away to go to school and for jobs.

Secularism is another problem, the priest said. "Unfortunately, church is considered an option, not an obligation, by some. We hope people will make it an obligation in their lives," he said.

— Compiled by Jim Golding

OBSERVER'S CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL SERVICES

Handling all your legal affairs in Greece

Managing your property, wills and estates, transfers, sales and purchases, and any other legal issues

Nikitiades & Associates Law Office

5 Lycabettus Street, Athens, Greece 10672

Tel: +30 210 364-2909 • Fax: +30 210 362-5331

e-mail: gnikit@ath.forthnet.gr

Information: **Alexia A. Kotsopoulou, Esq.**
Admitted to Practice in Athens and in New York

TRANSLATION SERVICES

Certified Translations: GREEK-ENGLISH-GREEK

Legal, Medical, Certificates of all kinds • Same day service available • Very reasonable prices
Call (646) 460-0470 • e-mail: leotaurina@yahoo.com

A NEW BOOK!

ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS OF AMERICA



Reports
from the
Developing
Field

Archbishop Demetrios of America, Reports from the Developing Field by Penelope Konstantinidis has been translated into English, and is now available through Holy Cross Bookstore for \$12.95. Originally published in

Greek by Domos Publications of Athens, the book includes a biography of Archbishop Demetrios, a bibliography of his major publications and addresses, and photos highlighting his ministry as the leading hierarchy of the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

In the biography the author combines information on the Archbishop's early years, academic endeavors, and ecclesiastical service with interviews of friends, students, and clergy.

She also includes excerpts from addresses of the Archbishop and direct interviews with him.

A significant amount of the work is dedicated to his ministry in America.



To purchase the book in Greek or in English contact:

HOLY CROSS BOOKSTORE

Phone: 800-245-0599 • Fax: 617-850-1230

www.holycrossbookstore.com

e-mail: hcbks@hchc.edu

*The proceeds of the sale of this book will be donated to Saint Basil Academy for the needs of the children.

REAL ESTATE

FISHER REALTY

CLEARWATER-TARPON SPRINGS-FLORIDA

Call George Steriadis

(727) 242-2750

New Homes & Resales

Condos start at '50s, Homes at '80s

OMIAOYME EAMHNKA

CAPE SOUNION AREA

Rare large hilltop parcel, 11 plus stremata, overlooking sea and valley. Close to Temple of Poseidon, in area of year round and vacation villas. Firm price \$750,000. Last chance before property listed with broker. Serious inquiries only! Call: (207) 282-1197

MAIZONETA for SALE in KISAMOS, CHANIA

Fully furnished, unobstructed full view of Kastelli Bay, living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, LG electrical appliances, washer, dryer, central heating, air conditioner, alarm system, solar panel, paved tiled yard and much more.
(610) 455-1576 • PRICE REDUCED



TOULA XISTRIS, CRB, GRI
(941) 468-0258

www.toula.biz

toula@toula.biz



VENICE and SARASOTA, FL.
New Homes and Resales and Foreclosures
Greek spoken • 20 Years in Real Estate

PAYDAY Solutions

"The answer to your payroll needs"

Linda Kontoulis, President

Tel: (856) 797-7000

Fax: (856) 797-0009

P.O. Box 165

Marlton, NJ 08053

email: paydaysolutions@verizon.net

www.paydaysolutionsonline.com

RENT A CAR SERVICES

TRUST Rent a Car

Special Offers Athens GREECE

from 10.00€

Per day (All inclusive)

Free delivery at

El.Venizelos

airport

www.trustcarrentals.com

Tel: 011-30-6942017583

011-30-2106742197

IF YOU ARE MOVING

Mail this coupon to the Orthodox Observer
8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075

AND

Ask your parish to forward your name and new address to the Observer in order for you to continue receiving the newspaper

IF

you move but your new home is located in the district of the same parish, then list your new address below:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR OLD LABEL

MUSICIANS

GEORGE KENT•GREEK•AMERICAN•INTERNATIONAL ORCHESTRA & ENTERTAINMENT

ATTENTION! EXCELLENT NEWS - SOMETHING NEW!

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO PLEASE EVERYONE OF ALL AGE GROUPS FOR YOUR SOCIAL AFFAIR! A BEAUTIFUL SOLUTION AND MONEY SAVER! IN ADDITION TO OUR GREEK MUSIC, WHICH COVERS ALL THE REGIONS AND COLONIES OF GREECE WITH GREEK KLARINO, BOUZOUKIE & VOCALS AND AMERICAN/INTERNATIONAL MUSIC. WE NOW OFFER A PACKAGE DEAL WITH "LIVE MUSIC" AND A "DJ" WHICH SAVES MONEY - TOGETHER OR SINGULARLY! YOUR CHOICE!



CALL KENT 1-914-476-3020

or write: 118 Bolmer Ave., N.Yonkers, NY 10703-1637

Send for CD albums "Zorba" or "Athena" \$16.99 for one, \$26.99 for both (cassette \$11.00 for one, \$20 for both) to address above.

ALPHA

ORCHESTRA

Steve Vavagiakis
845-398-0723

George Vlesmas
917-921-2298

212-229-1752 • 516-568-0512

www.alphaorchestra.com

Visit AlphaOrchestra on YouTube

The BOUZOUKI NIGHTS



*** GREEK & AMERICAN MUSIC *** CONTINUOUS LIVE & D. J. ENTERTAINMENT
SPIROS (410) 456-5339 / 256-2675 / FAX: (410) 256-5524
www.bouzoukinights@comcast.net -OR- www.bouzoukinights@aol.com
WEBSITE: www.bouzoukinights.com

PHOTO SERVICES-VARIOUS

Dimitrios

Photography & Video

To Purchase Photos from
all events visit

www.panagos.com

You can find us on Facebook

CALL NOW
(516) 931-2333

... ATTENTION ...

Collector wants established and old Greek (American) paintings. Please call Tina at (718) 278-6368 or send photos to tinathegreek@hotmail.com

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PHOTOGRAPHS

1) Conventional photographs:

We accept Color or Black & White photos, printed on photographic paper. Photographs should be sharp and clear. Pictures printed on color printers, either Inkjet or Laser and photocopies or clippings of previously published photos are NOT accepted.

2) Digital photographs:

We accept digital pictures if they conform to the following specifications:

- Minimum resolution 1600 pixels wide x 1200 pixels high (approx. 2 mega pixels, digital cameras should be set to high resolution, high quality. If you scan a standard photograph -usually 4x6"- use a minimum of 300 dpi. We discourage scanning your own photos, send the actual photo.)

- File format JPEG or TIFF (JPEGs are smaller files and easier to e-mail, TIFFs are better quality)

- Color mode RGB, color depth minimum 8-bit.

- Image files placed within any word-processing file or any other application are not accepted.

- Digital pictures can be submitted by e-mail, CD-ROM, Zip, Floppy Disk (Disks can not be returned).

- E-mail to: observer@goarch.org. In the subject line write only the word "photos" VERY IMPORTANT: Attach the image files and do not include them in the body of the e-mail or they will not be usable.

3) Please include information about the photo(s); place, time and event as well as the names of all persons shown, left to right.

by Presbyteria Fotini Stylianopoulos

Five and a half years ago, after retiring from full-time work outside the home, I was privileged to land the best job I've ever had. I am a part-time yiayia-nanny and I love every minute of it. I am constantly thanking God that our five small grandchildren live within a two-mile radius of our home, so that Father Ted and I can see them very often and that I am able to care for them two or three times a week.

And, like grandmothers and grandfathers all over the world, we take them to the park, the library, and a nearby pond. Like grandmothers and grandfathers everywhere we read many books and play lots of games with them, we make cookies and do gardening together.

But what is the spiritual role of grandparents? There are two quotes that help me in this area.

"If your heart overflows with love for God, you will find a thousand ways to communicate and pass on these feelings to your children."

These are the words of St. Irenaeus, the most important theologian of the second century. He was from Asia Minor, probably Smyrna. He studied in Rome and became Bishop of Lyon in present day France, and he understood that what counts is not so much what we do with our children and our grandchildren as who we are in Christ. "Faith," as the saying goes, "is caught rather than taught."

When we stay connected to Christ by receiving the Sacraments and attending as many worship services as we can, when we stay connected to Him through regular prayer and through prayerful reading of Holy Scripture, little by little our heart does indeed begin to overflow with love for God. If we seek God in our lives, if we abide in Christ, if we turn often to the Holy Spirit for guidance, if we opt for a godly book or magazine rather than a silly sitcom, we are bound to feel God's warmth in our hearts—and our grandchildren will feel it too. This isn't something we can necessarily always show our grandchildren, but they will see our faith.

There are some days, of course, when we are legitimately busy enough that we miss the regular quiet time of prayer and reading. But there are also the days when we purposefully putter and aimlessly fritter away our scheduled time with God. And what happens then? Well, not much, and therein lies the problem. When I say, "Well, I'll just go downstairs first,"



or "I'll just have coffee first," or "I'll just have breakfast first," or "This might be a good time to do a Sudoku or a crossword puzzle—I don't want to get Alzheimer's after all," before you know it a lot of time has passed. And these are the days when things don't go as smoothly, don't fall into place as nicely. Speaking from my own experience, I firmly believe there is a connection. God can't bless us when we're not abiding in Him. And the spiritual training has to be as regular as possible, or we run around following our own whims rather than allowing Christ to dwell in us and guide us. Those are the times when the fruit we bear isn't the good stuff, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, but rather it is a fruit of trivia or of nothing at all. Our grandchildren will notice this, too, for just as we can communicate faith in unspoken ways, if we aren't careful we can also convey the opposite.

"Talk more to God about your children, and less to your children about God."

This quote (by an unknown author) reminds me of what I have read about,

and seen with my own eyes, in the now grown and still faithful grandchildren of those who lived under communism in Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Russia. How could their grandparents share their faith? I was told by a grandmother I met in Albania, for instance, of parents who could not even tell their daughters-in-law they were Christian for fear of being turned in to the authorities and facing a six-year prison sentence.

When grandchildren came along, what was the spiritual role of these brave men and women?

Thank God that in our society we can take our grandchildren to church, we can pray with them, read to them from the Bible and the lives of the saints we can teach them church hymns and scripture verses without fear of being punished. Yet although we don't live under communism, we do live in a society that doesn't support our Christian faith and in fact is actively hostile to it at times. Some of us might experience this hostility right in our own families from our own grown children, and at those times we learn to treasure

our faith in our hearts rather than speaking of it openly. Perhaps in such a situation our spiritual role as grandparents is to pray over the sleeping child we have just had the privilege of tucking into bed. And we must never underestimate the power of our humble and heartfelt prayers for our grandchildren when we live far away from them.

It is pure joy for me to take a toddler or older grandchild to church for a service their parents aren't able to attend. As we walk up the steps I might put a dollar in their hand, then once inside help them put it in the tray and take a candle that we light together. I show them the icons, explaining as much as I think they will understand, and when they are restless we walk to the back of the church, looking at the icons along the way. And before or after services Father Ted takes the young ones in his arms or by the hand to point out the many things in God's house that can strengthen them in their faith. On the days their moms have gone into labor with a sibling, we've gone to church to light a candle, then to kneel or sit quietly to pray for a good delivery. And of course it is fun to mark our grandchildren's feast days with little gifts and treats and to teach them about the life of their patron saint, as well as the troparion of the feast.

So let's have fun with our grandchildren and share our faith with them in many ways. But most importantly, our spiritual role as grandparents is to become more spiritual ourselves, to allow Christ to live in us, to follow His commandments and to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

If we seek God in our lives, if we abide in Christ, if we turn to the Holy Spirit, we are bound to feel closer to the living God, to act and speak to our grandchildren with God-confidence, with authority, and in a way that will benefit them spiritually.

Presbyteria Fotini (Faye) grew up in Seattle and is married to Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos who was professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology for many years. They live in Boston and are the parents of four adult children. They are also the proud grandparents of two granddaughters and three grandsons, all under the age of six. Pres. Faye holds degrees in French language and literature and in teaching English to speakers of other languages. She has facilitated women's Bible studies and written articles for Handmaiden Magazine.



Center for Family Care

KAT'ΟΙΚΟΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ
Family as Church

79 Saint Basil Road - Garrison, NY 10524

Telephone: (845) 424-8175

Fax: (845) 424-4172

Email: familycare@goarch.org

www.family.goarch.org



The Center for Family care was established with a major grant from the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, Incorporated.

We are grateful for its support.

Resources for Parents

Keeper of the Light by Bev Cooke—Readers of all ages will be fascinated by the story of St. Macrina the Elder, who had a profound influence on her grandchildren, St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory of Nyssa, and St. Macrina the Younger. She is truly a great confessor of the Orthodox Christian faith. Published by Conciliar Press.

For To Us a Child is Born & Parent Companion—A twenty-page, full color magazine describing feasts of the incarnation of Christ and the Nativity season, wherein the feast is told and the icon is explained. In addition, it contains the stories of Saints Nicholas and Basil, of the Vasilopita and festal hymns.

Although created for adolescents this magazine paired with the Parent Companion can be used with children of all ages. Published by the Department of Religious Education.

The Parent Companion by the Center for Family Care is a guide for parents with activities that your family can do by using it alongside the magazine as a way to bring the lessons of the feast into your home.

You can download the Companion at www.family.goarch.org

A Prayer For The Christmas Advent (Nativity)

Fast Lord Jesus, You have come so many times to us and found no resting place, forgive us for our overcrowded lives, our vain haste and our preoccupation with self. Come again, O Lord, and though our hearts are a jumble of voices, and our minds overlaid with many fears, find a place however humble, where You can begin to work Your wonder as You create peace and joy within us. If in some hidden corner, in some out-of-the-way spot, we can clear away the clutter, and shut out the noise and darkness, come be born again in us, and we shall kneel in perfect peace with the wisest and humblest of men.

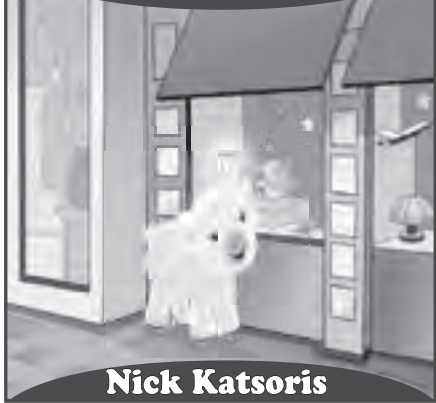
Help us to enter into this Christmas Fast with humility, yet with joy. And finally Lord, give us Christmas from within, that we may share it from without, on all sides, all around us, wherever there is need. God help us, every one, to share the blessing of Jesus, in whose name we keep Christmas holy. Amen.

— Taken from **Daily Meditations and Prayer for the Christmas Advent Fast and Epiphany** by Presbyteria Emily Harakas and Fr. Anthony Coniaris.

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR YOUR LOUKOUMI

Narrated by Jennifer Aniston & John Aniston

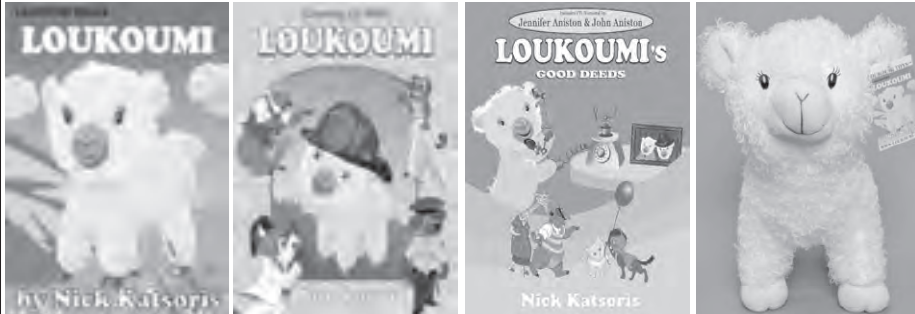
LOUKOUMI's GIFT



Nick Katsoris

NEW Book Narrated By:

Jennifer Aniston • John Aniston
Olympia Dukakis • Gloria Gaynor
Alexis Christoforou
Frank Dicopoulos
Constantine Maroulis
\$2 from the sale of each book
will be donated to:



Book

Book & CD

Book & CD

Loukoumi Plush



Loukoumi Bib

Blanket

Robe

T-Shirt

Books Available At Barnes & Noble & Amazon.com
All Products At www.LOUKOUMI.com • 212-397-2804

LETTERS

▶ page 6

over a half dozen men to the diaconate. Nearly all of us had advanced degrees, knowledge of the Church, and some had served for years as subdeacons. Most were engaged in lay professions focused on human service, especially social work, medical care, and teaching. All were recommended by their parish priests, specifically for service as a deacon, permanently.

Most important of all, Metropolitan Anthony was a great supporter of deacons and respected their critically important place in the Church's hierarchy. He wanted an end to their invisibility.

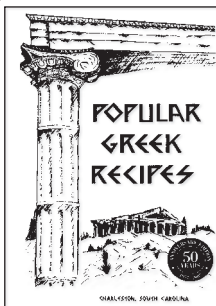
He obviously walked his talk. If deacons are to be restored to their rightful place, the program must have the full support of all the hierarchy.

Restoration, for reasons explained in

the Observer article, clearly has the support of the parish priests and people, especially when they actually have a deacon! To succeed, restoration must have the support and care of the hierarchy.

Finally, I can heartily recommend Fr. John Chrysavgis' book "Remembering and Reclaiming Diaconia: The Diaconate Yesterday and Today." I was lucky to be able to help Fr. John in a small way with proofing and content suggestions. I am so happy it has been published. Every bishop and priest should read it, and all deacons will be thoroughly uplifted by its knowledge and wisdom. Ironically, I only learned of its publication when my prositamenos received a complimentary copy from the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council...and I did not. I, the deacon, am still waiting for my copy!

*Fr. David B. Cole
Holy Trinity Cathedral
Portland, Oregon*



POPULAR GREEK RECIPES

Cook Up a Fundraising Success!

Order POPULAR GREEK RECIPES

\$18.95 Plus \$5.00
Postage per copy

THE PERFECT ADDITION TO EVERY COOKBOOK LIBRARY

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

30 Race Street Charleston, South Carolina 29403

Please send me _____ copies of "Popular Greek Recipes" at \$18.95 plus \$5.00 postage and handling for each copy. (Total \$ 23.95 each)

Enclosed you will find \$ _____ for this order

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

☐ 10% Discount with Personal Orders of 10 or more ☐ 40% Discount to Fundraising Groups & Retail Outlets

250 PEOPLE
ALREADY
RESERVED!

OPA! Let the fun begin.

Join other Americans, Greeks, Friends and Family on our 4th Annual Greek Cultural Cruise

February 20-27, 2010

Aboard the Costa Atlantica

Departs from Ft. Lauderdale, FL to:
Key West, FL; Grand Cayman,
Cayman Islands; Roatan, Honduras;
and Cozumel, Mexico

Costa
Cruising Italian Style...That's Amore!

GREAT VALUE
PRICES START AT ONLY
\$599*
LIMITED CABINS
RESERVE EARLY!

Experience an Authentic Greek Festival at Sea!

This is not your typical cruise...In addition to traditional cruise activities, casinos, shows and fabulous food, you'll enjoy Greek Singers, Comedians, Movies, Greek Food, Lectures & More! Enjoy the music of Nick Trivelas, as well as the "Night in Athens Trio" featuring George Antonopoulos & Joanna. Join us in song, dance and an occasional "OPA" as you sail through the Western Caribbean.

TRAVELGROUP
INTERNATIONAL

For reservations and information contact: TravelGroup International: 1.866.447.0750 or 561.447.0750 ext: 102 or 108 or opacruise@travelgroupint.com Fax: 561.447.0510 125 SE Mizner Blvd., #14, Boca Raton, FL 33432. www.opacruise.com

Please Note! You must call and book with TravelGroup International to be eligible to attend any and all private Greek functions!

Sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Mission of Ocala,
Father George Papadeas, Pastor

CHALLENGE

THE PULSE OF ORTHODOX YOUTH



Orthodoxy and the Environment

What does the Bible say about preserving the earth?

"O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures. Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great." Psalm 104:24-25

"And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Genesis 1:26

"You set him over the works of Your hands; You subjected all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and besides these, also the animals of the field, the birds of heaven and the fish of the sea, and the things passing through the paths of the seas." Psalm 8:7-9

Psalm 24 tells us that even though we **may** have dominion over the earth, it is still the Lord's. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein"

How can you help?

You might have to ask your parents for some help, but you can do it!

Energy conservation! Change out old light bulbs in the house for new

compact fluorescent bulbs, turn off the lights when you leave, turn down your thermostat! Turn off the water when you're brushing your teeth and take quicker showers. Wait until you have lots of laundry so you can do less loads. Think twice before driving all over town. Coordinate with your family so that you're driving less.

Recycle! Recycle at home, start a recycling program at your school or church. Talk to your parish priest about it- maybe you can have recycling bins at your Greek festival and at coffee hour.

Watch what you buy. Buy green! Try to buy green products- they're usually labeled as such. Also, buy those reusable grocery bags so you're not using 20 plastic bags at the grocery store. Buy stuff that's used- check out craigslist for furniture, cars, etc. buy clothes at Goodwill! Sometimes they have really good stuff!

Also, when you want to get rid of stuff, donate it! You're helping others and keeping your stuff out of landfills.

Stop Drinking Bottled Water! We are lucky to have clean drinking water in America- so drink it! Bottled water bottles fill our landfills and create unnecessary waste. If you want, you can buy filters and just fill water bottles that you use over and over again.

The Visit of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

by Elisabeth Lourie

In October we welcomed Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States. The Ecumenical Patriarch is the head of the Orthodox Church. He lives in Istanbul, which used to be known as Constantinople. The Ecumenical Patriarchate is the "honorary and spiritual centre of the Orthodox Church throughout the world."

One of the greatest things about His All Holiness is the fact that he has been an outspoken advocate for environmental awareness. Back in 1997, he became the first church leader to declare harming the environment and God's creatures in it, a sin. He points out that as Christians we were given "dominion" over the earth and all the plants and creatures in it. In other words, we are called to be good stewards over this earth that the Lord created and gave to us to live off of.

The Ecumenical Patriarch feels that the broken relationships we have with each other and our Creator are at the root of our environmental crisis. "Only by restoring justice and mercy to human relationships, and uniting hearts and



minds on God's love for all aspects of His creation, can the brokenness of humanity be healed and the environmental crisis averted."

College Students – Some Openings Still Available for Spring Break to Constantinople

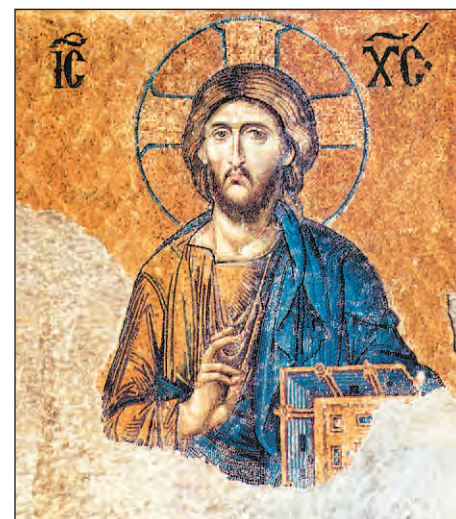
The Archdiocese will participate with OCF in the annual Real Break to Constantinople from March 13-20 and, this year, 20 students will make the choice to spend their "Spring Break" doing something "Real" on Real Break, 2010.

For the past two years, Real Break trips have taken place in Constantinople, responding to the challenge of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the faithful Orthodox Christians at the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Two years ago, the college students renovated a historic church (The Church of the Theotokos, "Our Lady of the Heavens") in the Salmatomburk district of the ancient city. The Church was in a state of significant disrepair with evident signs of vandalism. The interior was covered with decades of dust, soiled carpets, peeling paint and dry weathered wood. The students cleared the Church grounds of clutter and debris, pruned bushes and trees, stained and varnished all woodwork, regilded the Royal Doors and hundreds of pieces of ornate woodwork, painted the apse of the Holy Altar and cleaned and polished the silver-clad icons throughout the Church.

Last March, His All Holiness asked the students to work at a patriarchal cemetery (the Cemetery of the Romans at the Crooked Gate).

This cemetery was destroyed and vandalized during the horrific anti-Christian riots in 1955. The students found graves that were destroyed, buried under weeds



and ivy, marble coverings smashed, crosses that served as grave markers on a memorial defaced and broken. Working with local laborers the students renovated the grounds, repaired the broken headstones, and refurbished the tombstones, working with cement, tools and their hands.

Because of the hard work, sacrifice, dedication and love of these students, the memory of those who are buried there are not forgotten; there place of rest is not in turmoil and chaos....but a true place of rest.

Be a part of this year's life-changing week-long Real Break trip to Constantinople. For more information, contact youthoffice@goarch.org or 646.519.6180 Space is limited!

Wanna get connected online?

Become a "fan" of GOYA on facebook!!

Search for "GOYA Greek Orthodox Youth of America"!! Get sweet updates, videos, links, etc!

Also on facebook, search for "Green Patriarch" and join the group!

For those on Twitter follow: <http://twitter.com/greenpatriarch>

For those on YouTube subscribe to the following channels:

a) www.youtube.com/greenpatriarch

b) www.youtube.com/patriarchate

c) www.youtube.com/greekorthodoxchurch

Wise Gifts

FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



- ◀ **ICON CALENDAR 2010**
From Conciliar Media this calendar for the new year is themed with female Saints.

"HIS GLORY ABOUNDS" ▶
New Nativity card from Image and Likeness Iconography



▼ **NATIVITY ICONS**

Choose from a variety of our best-selling icons and triptychs



FREE*
Ground Shipping
on all orders over
\$30

WWW.ORTHODOXMARKETPLACE.COM

- ◀ **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**
"In the World, Yet Not of the World"
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's most recent book

FROM SVS PRESS FOUNDATIONS SERIES:

"Fellow Workers with God"
Collected essays about 'theosis' - the redemption of the divine image

"Living in God's Creation"
Orthodox writings on ecology and the environment

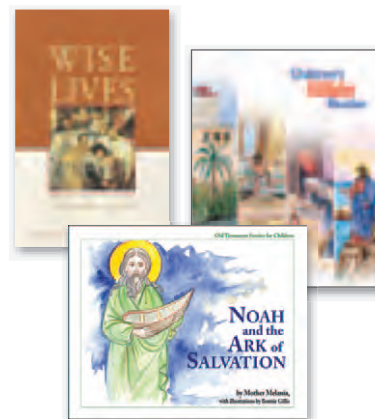


◀ **SCRIPTURE FOR YOUNG & OLD**

"Wise Lives"
Fr. Reardon's most recent study - the wisdom of Sirach

"Children's Bible Reader"
Back in print and available now! Special discounts apply when purchasing 5 or more

"Noah and the Ark of Salvation"
Mother Melania's most recent addition to her Old Testament Bible Stories series

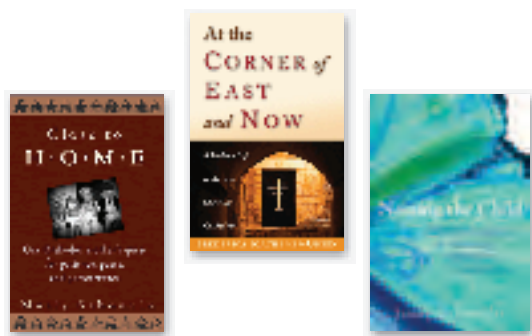


- ◀ **DEVOTION & INSPIRATION**
"At the Corner of East and Now"

Frederica Mathewes-Green's recently published reflection on Orthodox culture in America

"Close to Home"
Molly Sabourin's collection of stories & advice raising children in the modern world with ancient values

"Naming the Child"
Jenny Schroedel's powerful, genuine yet hopeful reflection on the loss of a child and how we heal



Orthodox MARKETPLACE | www.orthodoxmarketplace.com
The official online store of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

* Free Ground Shipping offer applies to orders that are over \$30 and shipped within the United States.