

# national hellenic FREE PRESS

VOL. 39

NO. 388

CHICAGO, IL.

FEBRUARY 2018

TOMELLIS

## The Soul Part II Holy Scriptures and the Apostolic Fathers

Louis A. Palivos



“Let Us make man in *Our image*, after *Our likeness*,” Gen. 1:26.

According to Bishop Kallistos Ware, “the *image* is that which man possesses from the beginning and which enables him to set out in the first place upon the spirited way. The *likeness* is that which he hopes to attain at his journey’s end.”<sup>1</sup>

For Believers the journey’s end is *Salvation* and *Theosis*. St. Peter calls this, “partakers of the divine nature,” II Pet. 1:4. For Unbelievers the journey begins with repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to God who gave it.” Eccl. 12:7.

“The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God and no torment will ever touch them...the righteous live forever and their reward is with the Lord.” Wisdom of Solomon 3:1, 5:15.

“My flesh shall dwell in hope, for thou wilt not abandon my soul in hades, nor will thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption.” Ps. 15:9-10.

“What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matt. 16:26.

“Fear not them which can kill the body, but are able to kill the soul.” Matt. 10:28

“Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Lk. 23:43.

“The Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing and dividing asunder the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Heb. 4:12.

“Your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the Parousia of our Lord Jesus Christ.” I Thes. 5:23.

### The Apostolic Fathers

The Holy Fathers have written much on the body, soul and spirit, though, at times with a slight variance but by in large there is great consensus, as though the Holy Spirit guides them.

Some of the Holy Fathers, St. Justin Martyr (*On the Resurrection*, chap. 7),

(Continued p.2)

## Greece-Turkey, without an arbitrator



One aspect of the latest rift between Greece and Turkey which could prove decisive (if not this time, perhaps next time around) is the absence of a strong mediator with the political, economic and military weight to influence developments. In the existing conjuncture, only the United States can play this role.

The European Union does have capabilities and means of applying diplomatic pressure, but it lacks the impact of American power, particularly when it comes to an authoritarian leader like Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The director of Zaman, Turkey’s biggest newspaper, told this writer a few months before the publication was shut down by authorities, that the Turkish strongman only acknowledges and respects two “powerful world leaders,” namely the American president of the time and Russia’s Vladimir Putin, each for different reasons – and no one else but them.

Any expressions of regret, recommendations or even condemnations from European officials including Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, European Council President Donald Tusk or the bloc’s foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini are of course welcome – and anticipated – but will only achieve so much. As past experience demonstrates, only the US has the power to stop Turkey; from Lyndon B. Johnson’s letter to then Turkish prime minister Ismet Inonu in 1964 which averted the invasion of Cyprus, to the intervention of US envoy Richard Holbrooke in 1996 which prevented military conflict over the Imia islets in the eastern Aegean.

However, what had for decades been considered a given in the diplomatic and military arena is no more. Washington appears to be shunning that responsibility. The statement by the US State Department on Tuesday which said that Greece and Turkey “have long-established diplomatic channels for addressing Aegean issues,” and encouraging all parties to take steps to “de-escalate” the situation, indicates that, at this crucial juncture for Athens, the emperor either has no clothes or is altogether absent from the stage.

Washington is vaguely asking for “de-escalation,” yet it does not appear keen to make a meaningful intervention. Maybe it is not in a position to do so. Whatever the real reason may be, the US stance is not helping to maintain stability and certainly does not signal a positive development for Athens.

Meanwhile, any Turkish officials (like Erdogan’s chief adviser Yigit Bulut, who earlier this week suggested that Athens is like “a fly picking a fight with a giant”) who believe that Greece’s air and naval forces are of negligible strength are making a big mistake. The military balance between Greece and Turkey may not be in the former’s favor, and this is a factor to be taken into account, but Turkey would be certain to pay a high price in case of military conflict – and this is something that the arrogant Turkish president must be aware of. Of course no one wants to see the situation get out of control. Greece by no means wants an escalation of tension. This is something it is trying to avoid. Regrettably, a small minority of politicians occasionally lapse into over-the-top rhetoric or actions which are counterproductive. But they are isolated cases.

Virtually all of Greece’s political parties want good-neighborly relations. Unfortunately, the behavior of the government and the opposition in Turkey indicates that this is not the case across the Aegean. Greek-Turkish relations will continue to play out in a difficult framework. The fact that the US is absent and there is no arbitrator makes this game all the more dangerous.

## NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS

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### THE PLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

1. To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
2. To support the ideas of the Hellenic-Christian tradition
3. To promote the preservation of the Greek language
4. To encourage all worthy Community causes
- 5 To assist all the Greek-American fraternal, cultural patriotic and religious organizations
6. To install Americanism in the Greek-American community
7. To advance the just causes of Hellenism.
8. To promote the ideals Greece has given to humanity.

## MWRD President Spyropoulos celebrates International Greek Language Day



From L to R: Rev. Fr. John Kalomas, Proistamenos, representing Dr. Basil Stevens Greek School of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church; Konstantinos Siozios Co-Principal Solon Greek School of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church; MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos; Rita Petratos, Director of Preschool and Kindergarten, Aristotle Greek Schools of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church; Rev. Fr. Tom De Medeiros, Pastor, representing Koraeas Elementary School of Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills; Koraeas teacher Zoe Koultourides; Koraeas Principal Beth Lind, Koraeas Student Council President Evneki Crenshaw; and Mark Dinos, Parish Council President at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church.

On February 15, 2018, in observance of International Greek Language Day, February 9<sup>th</sup>, MWRD President Spyropoulos honors some of the Greek Schools in the area for their continued effort in the teaching of the Greek language. The day was officially declared last month and this was the first of many celebrations to come.

“The Greek language is the longest documented language and is spoken today by over 13 million people. Its foundation can be found in many of the sciences such as mathematics, astronomy and philosophy, to name a few. We encourage people to celebrate and share the Greek language and culture. We acknowledge and commend these schools for their continued efforts through their educational programs which help spread and preserve our culture”, said MWRD President Spyropoulos.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is an award-winning special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management. MWRD’s mission is to protect the health and safety of the public, the quality of the water supply source (Lake Michigan) and protect businesses and homes from flood damages.

## The Soul Part II Holy Scriptures and the Apostolic Fathers

St. Irenaeus of Lyons (*Against Heresies* 5.6), and St. Epiphanius of Cyprus (*The Medicine Chest* 70.3), state that the “image of God” refers to man’s soul, or, more particularly, to the highest faculty of the soul: the *nous*. Many of them categorically deny that the “image” refers to the body. Thus, for example, Nicetas Stithatos writes: “Only in ignorance would one claim that man is created in the image of God with respect to the organic structure of his body. He is in the image by virtue of the spiritual nature of his *nous*” (*Philokalia*, vol. 4, pp. 139-40). St. Gregory Palamas likewise writes: “To know that we have been created in God’s image prevents us from deifying even the noetic world. “Image” here refers not to the body but to the nature of the *nous*” (*Philokalia*, vol. 4, p. 357). St. John Damascene and St. Gregory Palamas make a further distinction in this teaching, which may point to a deeper unity between those who say the “image” refers to the whole man and those who say it refers to the soul. According to Sts. John and Gregory, while the “image of God” refers to the soul, human beings are more in the image of God than are angels, because the human soul governs and gives life to (animates) the body (St. John Damascene, *On the Two Wills in Christ* 16.5-10, 30.9-11; St. Gregory Palamas, vol. 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. <sup>2</sup>

There appears to be a slight difference of opinion among the Fathers as to whether man is a duality of body and soul or a tripartite of body, soul and spirit.

“the threefold scheme of body, soul and spirit is more precise and more particularly in our own age when the soul and the spirit are often confused, and when most people are not even aware that they possess a spiritual intellect. The culture and educational system of the contemporary West are based almost exclusively upon the training of the reasoning brain and, to a lesser degree, of the aesthetic emotions. Most of us have forgotten that we are not only brain and will, senses and feelings; we are also spirit. Modern man has for the most part lost touch with the truest and highest aspect of himself; and the result of this inward alienation can be seen all too plainly in his restlessness, his lack of identity and his loss of hope.” <sup>3</sup>

St. John Damascenos wrote that the soul is “living, simple, intangible, invisible to the human eyes, logical, intelligent, gives the body life, self-willed, willing and energetic.”<sup>4</sup>

St. Gregory Palamas wrote about “the souls uncreated light, that is, the energy of God not the essence of God. This energy of God is affixed to the souls of humans, animals or plants.”<sup>5</sup>

God Almighty gave man a soul separate and apart made with “material” that is not earthly but heavenly. The soul’s components are the following:

1. The breath of God not the Holy Spirit but spirit;
2. Does proceed from God, “He breathed the breath of life.” Gen.2:7;
3. It is not preexisting and eternal;
4. The soul governs the body;
5. The body is the tool of the soul;
6. May enter into conflict with the body;
7. Not tangible and is ungraspable;
8. Brings body into harmony and unites;
9. Has reason, self-awareness and free-will;
10. Can think of immortality;
11. Has simplicity and immateriality compared to the body;
12. In part, see below, it comes from mother and from father;
13. It is invisible;
14. Once it comes into existence, it is immortal; and
15. It has complete absence of form.<sup>6</sup>

Lastly, when does the soul begin its existence? There are two views that the Holy Fathers promulgated. Certain Fathers, Clement of Alexandria, John Chrysostom, Ephraim the Syrian, Theodoret, believed that each soul is separately created by God. Relying on the verse that God, “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being.” Gen. 2:7. However, other Fathers, Tertullian, Gregory the Theologian, Gregory of Nyssa, Macarius the Great, Athanasius of Sinai, believed that the soul receives its beginnings from the souls of the parents.<sup>7</sup> Relying on the verse, “He hath made of one blood all the nations of men.” Acts 17:26.

### So, what is it worth to lose your soul?

1. Bishop Kallistos Ware, *The Orthodox Way*, St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, Crestwood, N.Y. 1958.
2. St. Nikodemus of the Holy Mountain and St. Makarios of Corinth, *the Philokalia*, Faber and Faber, Inc. N.Y. 1979.
3. Bishop Kallistos Ware, *The Orthodox Way*, Ibid, p. 48-49.
4. Ioannou Damaskinou, *Exacta of the Orthodox Faith*, Pournara Publishing, Thessaloniki, Gr., 1976.
- Gregory Palamas Project, Ltd., Thessaloniki, Gr., 1982, Vol. #2.
6. Protopresbyter Michael Pomazansky, *Orthodox Dogmatic Theology*, St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina, California, 2009, pp. 128-9.
7. Ibid, p.130.

ΓΙΑ ΛΟΓΟΥΣ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΟΥΣ ΠΕΡΙΚΟΨΑΜΕ ΤΑ  
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ΣΤΙΣ 4. ΑΡΧΙΖΟΜΕ ΤΩΡΑ ΣΤΙΣ 7 ΤΟ ΠΡΩΪ ΜΕΧΡΙ ΤΙΣ 11.

## Russia-Trump inquiry: Russians charged over US 2016 election tampering



Media caption Russians recruited 'real Americans' as part of 'information warfare'

Thirteen Russians have been charged with interfering in the US 2016 election, in a major development in the FBI investigation.

Three of those named have also been accused of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and five have been accused of aggravated identity theft.

The announcement was made by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating alleged Russian meddling.

Three Russian companies are also named in the indictment.

One of them is the Internet Research Agency, based in St Petersburg, which the 37-page indictment said "had a strategic goal to sow discord in the US political system, including the 2016 US presidential election".

Speaking at a news conference, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said there was no allegation that any American was "a knowing participant in this illegal activity" nor was it alleged that the meddling altered the election outcome.

### What does the indictment say?

#### It says a group of Russians:

- Posed as Americans, and opened financial accounts in their name
- Spent thousands of dollars a month buying political advertising
- Purchased US server space in an effort to hide their Russian affiliation
- Organised and promoted political rallies within the United States
- Posted political messages on social media accounts that impersonated real US citizens
- Promoted information that disparaged Hillary Clinton
- Received money from clients to post on US social media sites
- Created themed groups on social media on hot-button issues, particularly on Facebook and Instagram
- Operated with a monthly budget of as much as \$1.25m (£890,000)
- Financed the building of a cage large enough to hold an actress portraying Hillary Clinton in a prison uniform

The indictment says those involved systematically measured how well their internet posts were doing and adjusted their strategies to maximise effectiveness. It also says those named in the indictment had visited the US posing as American citizens and had begun discussing how to affect the election as early as 2014. "By 2016, defendants and their co-conspirators used their fictitious online persons to interfere with the 2016 US presidential election," the indictment continues. "They engaged in operations primarily to communicate derogatory information about Hillary Clinton, to denigrate other candidates such as Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, and to support Bernie Sanders and then-candidate Donald Trump."

Mr Trump was briefed on the indictment earlier on Friday, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said. The president later tweeted that his campaign had done nothing wrong.

### Trump Russia - the saga in 200 words

It's the story that has dominated Donald Trump's presidency, but it's complicated. US intelligence agencies believe Russia tried to sway the election in favour of Mr Trump and a special counsel is looking into whether anyone from his campaign colluded in the effort.

**Any evidence?** Senior members of Mr Trump's team met Russian officials. Several of these meetings were not initially disclosed.

**What meetings?** Ex-national security adviser Michael Flynn lied to the FBI about meeting the Russian ambassador to the US before Mr Trump took office. Mr Flynn has entered a plea deal, prompting speculation that he has incriminating evidence.

The president's son, Donald Jr, met a Russian lawyer during the campaign who had "dirt" on Hillary Clinton, and adviser George Papadopoulos has admitted lying to the FBI about meetings with alleged go-betweens for Russia.

**Who else is involved?** The president's son-in-law Jared Kushner is also under scrutiny, and former campaign chairman Paul Manafort has been charged by investigators with money laundering, unrelated to the election.

**And the president?** Since he fired the man leading one of the investigations, ex-FBI Director James Comey, there are questions whether the president has obstructed justice. Legal experts differ on this.

## The Poor Greek Boy Who Became the Youngest Harvard Professor



Born in Ikaria in 1887, Aristides Foutridis was a poor boy whose love for literature brought him to Harvard University where he became the first youngest professor at the age of 28.

His father, captain Evangelos Foutridis, could not make ends meet and he was forced to take his family and emigrate to Egypt to survive.

A brilliant student until then, upon his bidding farewell to his school, his teacher told students to stand up and say goodbye to him personally as, he had said, Aristides would become a very important man.

According to the archives of national broadcaster ERT, while he was a student in Athens, in order to make ends meet, Foutridis was tutoring the two children of then President of the Republic, Konstantinos Tsatsos.

After his studies in Athens, Foutridis moved to the United States where his three brothers had emigrated. Two of his brothers were ordained priests. He attended the Mt. Hermon School, and after that he became the youngest professor at Harvard University, where he taught ancient Greek and Latin. He was 28 years old.

Foutridis was the first to translate Kostis Palamas and many contemporary writers such as Alexandros Papadiamantis, Georgios Drosinis, Grigorios Xenopoulos, and published essays about ancient tragedy and Greek literature. His study on Euripides is a reference to this day. In 1911, he formed Elikon, the first Greek student union in the U.S.A Foutridis died at the age of 36 of a heart attack.

## Illinois governor appoints Greek-American leader Anastasia Palivos



Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner announced the appointment of attorney Anastasia Palivos to a five-year term as a commissioner of the Illinois Commerce Commission on Jan. 23.

In supporting the nomination, the Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission, Brien J. Sheahan, stated that Palivos' legal background and previous experience working at the Illinois

Commerce Commission has prepared her for a new role as commissioner. He also applauded Governor Rauner "for his ongoing commitment to appoint the most diverse regulatory commission in the country."

Palivos is the first Greek-American woman appointed to the Illinois Commerce Commission, and at age 28, she becomes the youngest-ever commissioner in the history of Illinois.

"I am honored by this appointment and am grateful to Governor Rauner for his commitment to investing in the next generation of leaders in government," Palivos said. "Public service is important to me, and I am humbled by the opportunity to provide public service to the citizens of our State. I look forward to having an open and transparent dialogue with all interested parties and stakeholders, and I am ready to tackle the challenges ahead as we navigate the future of the industries we regulate."

The Illinois Commerce Commission is a quasi-judicial body that regulates public utilities, including electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer. It also regulates all interstate commerce, commercial motor carriers, and railroad infrastructure in the state of Illinois.

Before her appointment, Palivos worked as a legal and policy advisor at the Illinois Commerce Commission, and also worked as an attorney for a private health services development strategy company. She graduated magna cum laude from DePaul University where she received a bachelor's degree in political science, and from DePaul University College of Law with honors.

Palivos is a founding member of the Hippocratic Cancer Research Foundation, which is involved in cancer research through the Northwestern University Medical Center. She is also involved with the Greek Orthodox Church, Greek Orthodox International Charities, Leadership 100, American Cancer Society and American Diabetes Society.

Anastasia Palivos is committed to continuing her family's history of public service and acknowledges her parents, philanthropist Vicky Palivos and Greek-American national leader attorney Peter Palivos, for her continued success, "I am so grateful for the values my parents instilled in me from a young age. My parents came from humble beginnings and have always taught me that with hard work and perseverance, you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. I would not be where I am today without their love and support."

Palivos goes on to express her love for the Greek community, "I am very proud to be a Greek-American," she said. "Democracy was founded in Greece, and, today, democratic ideals and principles are protected by the United States of America all over the world. One of my goals as a commissioner will be to continue efforts to increase the role and responsibility of Greek-Americans in government."



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## Greece of 2018 must shed habits of 2008

Soon, Greeks will have a chance to show if they have indeed drawn the right conclusions from their recent history.

Greece's bailout program is close to an end. The country's European peers would be reluctant to have their parliaments vote on yet another aid program for the debt-racked nation. The unwillingness is admitted in private conversations, but also in public. Eurozone governments and taxpayers are fed up with the Greek case. The International Monetary Fund would rather stick to an advisory role.



In eight months from now, Greece will enter a new era. With or without a precautionary credit line, with or without monitoring or supervision (some regrettably still prefer to deal in spin rather than economic substance), the country will have to steer through a new environment. We will have to get by with what we produce.

The existential question that we need to answer is whether we – as a country and a people, as well as our politicians – have learned anything from the eight-year crisis. Have we realized that this was our fault and not somebody else's?

Sure, our European partners made some serious mistakes as they were unprepared to contain a major crisis inside an EU member-state, and saving their banks turned out to be their first priority (as officials have recently admitted in public). The International Monetary Fund also acknowledged that it made mistakes with regard to its projections and fiscal multipliers.

But this was, first of all, a Greek problem. We made too many hirings, we granted the salary and pension hikes. We allowed the deficits and debt to spin out of control.

Have we learned from our mistakes? Have we realized how much populism cost the country? Have we acknowledged that it was us who caused the crisis that led to the bailout programs, and not the other way round? Have we realized that the transition to normality will come through cooperation and not through conflict with "those outsiders"?

Soon, the Greek people will have an opportunity – and indeed the responsibility – to show if they have indeed drawn the right conclusions. If they have changed for real. Will they reward those who dare to speak the hard truths, or will they side with those who utter convenient lies? The majority of politicians (with some bright exceptions) have proven to put self-interest before the interest of the country. But we've had enough of short-term partisan gains. As another tough year comes to a close, the Greece of 2018 will have to make an effort to be radically different to the Greece of 2008. This is the only way that the country can get back on its feet and grow in a viable fashion. If this is to happen, we must change. All of us. TOM ELLIS






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## Lighter apple & pear pie

Try a low fat version of this family favourite. Filo pastry is light and crispy, and bulk out the filling with pear

### Nutrition: per serving

- kcal225
- fat5g
- saturates0g
- carbs43g
- sugars25g
- fibre5g
- protein4g
- salt0.3g

### Ingredients

- 6 eating apples
- 4 ripe pears
- zest and juice 1 lemon
- 3 tbsp agave syrup
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tbsp cornflour
- 4 fillo pastry sheets
- 4 tsp rapeseed oil
- 25g flaked almond

### To serve

- custard (made with custard powder and skimmed milk), fat-free Greek yogurt or low-fat frozen vanilla yogurt



### Method

1. Peel, core, and chop the apples and pears into large pieces, and throw into a big saucepan with the lemon juice, agave syrup, mixed spice and 200ml water. Bring to a simmer with the lid on, then take off the lid and cook, stirring, for about 5 mins until the apple is softening. Use a slotted spoon to scoop out three-quarters of the fruit chunks and put into a pie dish.
2. Cover and cook the remaining fruit for another 4-5 mins until soft, then mash with a potato masher. Mix 1 tbsp of this with the cornflour to a smooth paste, then add back to the pan and bring back to a simmer, stirring, to thicken the sauce. Pour over the fruit in the pie dish and stir together. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.
3. Lay out your sheets of fillo and brush all over with oil – 1 tsp should be enough for 1 sheet. Scatter over the almonds and press to stick to the pastry,

## Turkish strategy

The latest Imia crisis simply serves as confirmation of Ankara's longstanding strategy as an expression of nervousness or frustration over ongoing developments at home.

Put simply, Turkey is making it clear, and in a brutal manner, that it will not halt the



process of Finlandization which has been gradually at work in the Aegean. The deal reached on January 31, 1996 after the first Imia crisis said "no ships, no troops, no flags." The deal was respected only in part as both countries have their military ships and coast guard vessels patrolling the area on a

constant basis. Hence Washington's equal-distance policy. The US intervention in 1996 defused the crisis, but it did not solve the problem.

A key turning point in the Finlandization of the Aegean was the crisis of 1987, when Greece decided to halt its unilateral hydrocarbon exploration across the Aegean. After that came the ruling by the Turkish assembly in 1995 that any unilateral expansion of Greek territorial waters would constitute a casus belli, Ankara's claims of "gray zones" in the Aegean in 1996, and the Madrid agreement in 1997 which acknowledged Turkey's legitimate interests in the Aegean. All the above burden Greek-Turkish relations, and are hard for any government in Athens to digest.

Some were surprised to hear the commander of the Turkish armed forces saying that Turkey has the capability to conduct two military operations at the same time. But this has been the case for decades, and it was confirmed with the formation of its Aegean Army. We are rightly worried about the increasing activity of the Turkish Air Force in the Aegean. But the Turkish Air Force was purged after the attempted coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in 2016. The new pilots need to be trained before operating in Syria, and it appears they are acquiring the necessary skills by engaging in mock dogfights against Greek fighter jets.

The problems in the Aegean have, according to Ankara, been placed under control. Turkey's aim now is to neutralize Athens over Kastellorizo. As per Cyprus, it was to be expected that Turkey would react to Nicosia's offshore hydrocarbon exploration, not just as a guarantor force, but as an occupying one. The cooperation pacts signed between Israel, Cyprus and Greece sound great in theory, but they are little more than that without military backing. After 1974, when Greece enjoyed military superiority at sea and in the air (yet did nothing to stop the Turkish invasion of Cyprus), Turkey went on to build a military advantage and seems determined to make use of it. This, unfortunately, is how things stand.

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# GREEK NEWS

## FYROM proceeds with airport, road renaming



The decision taken by Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) Prime Minister Zoran Zaev and his cabinet to rename the country's main airport and a main highway has been made official. The alterations are meant to be a goodwill gesture as talks over the name issue with Greece continue.

The name of the airport in FYROM's capital, Skopje, will be changed from Alexander the Great Airport, which it has been called since 2006, to Skopje International Airport after the Zaev administration's decision was published in the Government Gazette. The road, also named after the legendary conqueror, in 2008, will be called "Friendship Highway." The decision foresees all 19 signs along the road being changed. The renaming opens up the possibility of Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias visiting Skopje soon as part of the first flight from Athens to the neighboring country's capital in roughly 12 years, according to ministry sources.

Direct flights between the two cities were suspended when a previous FYROM government named the airport after Alexander the Great.

Kotzias arrived in Sofia, Bulgaria, on Thursday for the informal meeting of European Union foreign ministers. He may meet his counterpart from FYROM, Nikola Dimitrov, on the sidelines of the gathering. The pair held talks in Vienna, Austria, earlier this week.

## Kammenos receives NATO reassurances with regard to Turkey



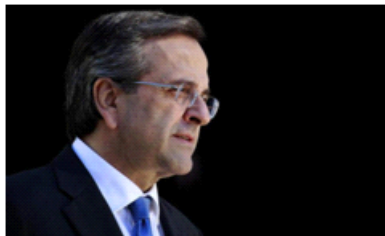
Defense Minister Panos Kammenos says he has received reassurances from NATO that it will do everything it can to make Turkey understand that it cannot provoke its ally Greece and dispute its territorial integrity.

Kammenos made his comments after meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and US Secretary of Defense James Mattis in Brussels on Thursday morning and briefing them about the incident on Monday night when a Turkish vessel rammed a Greek coast guard boat near the Imia islets in the eastern Aegean.

Turkey, which has upped the incendiary rhetoric in recent weeks with regard to Greece and Cyprus, has denied that incident was intentional.

"The US Defense Secretary and the NATO Secretary General now have a complete picture - different from the one depicted by Turkey - that it wasn't an accident," said Kammenos.

## Samaras files suit against Tsipras, claiming plot behind bribery claims



Former conservative prime minister Antonis Samaras has filed a suit against current Greek Premier Alexis Tsipras, accusing him of being behind a plot to tarnish opposition politicians by implicating them in the Novartis bribery claims.

"Today, I am filing a suit against the prime minister," Samaras said in a statement on Thursday. "He is responsible for the horrible conspiracy that is being put together. It has been so badly designed that it is falling apart on its own."

Samaras argued that the government rushed to bring forward allegations that 10 politicians accepted bribes from the Swiss pharmaceutical firm, noting that the case file was sent by anti-corruption prosecutors to Parliament a day after a large protest in Athens over the Macedonia name issue.

"At a time when Greece is facing major challenges and threats, they are trying to defame their opponents with lies and to divide the Greek people," added Samaras, who argued that he is also taking a stand because of the dangerous precedent set by the use of protected witnesses.

"In the future, every new government will be able to use coached informants to do away with its political opponents," he said, while accusing Tsipras of trying to adopt the tactics of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

Samaras, who was prime minister between June 2012 and January 2015, argued that his government had fought against corruption in the healthcare sector and managed to reduce spending on medicines. He accused Tsipras and SYRIZA of opposing the efforts of the New Democracy-led coalition.

## FYROM FM claims country doesn't need 2,000 year history to be self-confident



After the decision taken by the government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) to rename the country's main airport and a highway, Foreign Minister Nikola Dimitrov

said on Friday that his country has matured and doesn't need to dip into ancient history to build up its confidence.

"My country has matured and doesn't need roots of more than 2,000 years to feel self-confident," he said during an informal meeting of the foreign ministers of the European Union and Western Balkan countries in Sofia.

"It's better to cooperate on and compete over things that matter today than compete over who had more glorious victories and defeats in our rich history," he said.

"We have the same approach toward the difference we have with Greece," he added.

Dimitrov met earlier with his Greek counterpart Nikos Kotzias on the sidelines of the gathering. The pair held talks in Vienna, Austria, earlier this week.

Meanwhile, the president of Bulgaria, Rumen Radev, weighed into the decades-old name dispute between the two countries, saying the issue also concerns his country.

After meeting with FYROM President Gjorge Ivanov, Radev reportedly said that any name agreed on with Greece should not include "a geographical qualifier that is related to the territory of Bulgaria." But he did not elaborate further.

## Government talks tough on Aegean but divisions remain

Despite the government's position that Greece must avoid a clash and seek an outlet through diplomatic channels, Athens has toughened its rhetoric toward Turkey, with government spokesman Dimitris Tzanakopoulos warning on Friday that Greece will respond to any further acts of aggression.

"If there is another act of Turkish aggression on Greek territory, there will be a response and there is no other way for us," he told Skai TV on Friday morning.

Tensions between the two neighbors escalated this week after a Turkish vessel rammed a Hellenic Coast Guard boat off the Imia islets in the eastern Aegean on Monday night.

Tzanakopoulos's remarks followed similar tough statements on Thursday night by Foreign Minister Nikos

Kotzias, who said that Turkey "touched the red line and in some sense crossed it." He also warned Ankara that the next time it acts aggressively, Greece will not respond in the same peaceful manner.

Meanwhile, Turkey's naval blockade off Cyprus that has prevented Italian company Eni from drilling in Block 3 of the Cypriot exclusive economic zone (EEZ) entered its seventh day yesterday. Eni CEO Claudio Descalzi said that Europe, France, Cyprus and Turkey were discussing the situation. "It's not really under our control," Reuters cited him as saying.

Despite the uncertainty in the region, US oil giant ExxonMobil said yesterday that it will send two surveying vessels to Cyprus's EEZ. Cyprus Energy Minister Giorgos Lakkotrypis said the US firm contacted Nicosia insisting that it will meet its commitments regarding its rights in Block 10 of the Cypriot EEZ through its consortium with Qatar Petroleum.

## Israeli archaeologists unearth 1,800-year-old mosaic, also featuring Greek inscription

A 1,800-year-old mosaic of toga-clad men dating back to the Roman era has been unearthed in Israel, archaeologists said on Thursday.


The mosaic was discovered during the excavation of a building from the Byzantine period - some 300 years younger than the mosaic it was on top of - in the coastal city of Caesarea.

"The surprise was actually that we found two beautiful monuments from the glorious days of Caesarea," Peter Gendelman, co-director of excavation for the Israel Antiquities Authority, told Reuters of the building and mosaic.

Caesarea was a vibrant Roman metropolis built in honour of Emperor Augustus Caesar by King Herod, who ruled Judea from 37 BC until his death in 4 BC.

The excavated portion of the mosaic, which the antiquities authority said was 3.5 metres by 8 metres in size, depicts three toga-clad men, as well as geometric patterns and an inscription in Greek, which is damaged.

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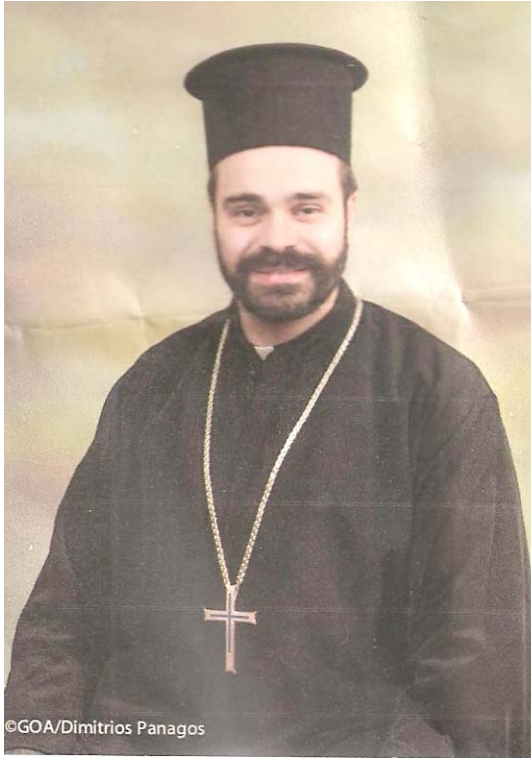
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# Conspiracy Theories Gone Awry



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Many in our community are generally prone to see a conspiracy in everything, especially in those things that are a little complicated or not completely transparent. Now we see another new example of this malady that affects our community.

A new Metropolitan has been elected to lead the Chicago Metropolis; he is Archimandrite Nathanael Symeonides. This election, which will hopefully break the cycle of dysfunction, fulfills one of the goals of the Editors of this website, see <http://gotruthreform.org/>. However, the fight for transparency and for the need to come to grips with the many problems facing the Greek Orthodox Church in America goes on.

A new Shepherd and his administration, along with a fresh start usually means that most people interested in the issue will provide their initial support. They do so with a hope that fresh thinking may address the many problems, well documented by any of the previous articles you will find posted on this website and in the archives. They will support a new leader, at least until they get better sense of his attributes, because they believe this is a move toward a better and more united body of the Church. Even if one had reservations, it is customary to give someone in a new position the benefit of the doubt at least until such time as you had more relevant information from the words and actions of the new leader. If you thought that this would be a generally accepted feeling, you would be wrong.

After a long period (since June of 2017) of active searching and evaluation, the decision was made to find the best candidate for the Chicago Metropolis. This individual will be entrusted to address the many serious problems caused by years of inattention and mismanagement. Without missing a beat, and literally within minutes of the informal announcement of the elevation of Archimandrite Symeonides to the position of Metropolitan, the naysayers and Ephraimite bloggers had already brought out their sharp tongues (if not knives) to lambast the decision taken by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Patriarch Bartholomew. As a case in point, we direct you to the blog site of one of these pro Ephraimite bloggers, who has posted a blog by one "Fay", in which they already and vehemently find the newly named Metropolitan wanting and unworthy. The blog post intimates, without any material evidence to back up the claims, that Archimandrite Symeonides was chosen as a result of a cabal of some influential

people, e.g., the Leadership 100, the Jaharis family, et al.

Instead of striving for united and harmonious relations within the Mother Church as a whole, the blog post of "Fay" takes to task the "competitors," or the "ecumenists." These terms are defined as, we presume, all those people in the Greek Orthodox Church who do not blindly follow the Ephraimite party line. Dividing the faithful into "us" and "them" camp is a favored tactic of the Ephraimites, indeed, of most cult groups. The gist of the blog post is that the enemy camp, the "Ecumenists," have "got" (implied – "stolen") the seat of the Chicago Metropolitan by byzantine machinations of a group of "multi-millionaires" in a conspiracy to thwart the will of the "true believers," that is, the opposite team, Ephraimites.

## ΟΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΣΤΕΣ ΠΗΡΑΝ ΤΟ ΣΙΚΑΓΟ ΝΕΟΣ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ Ο ΝΑΘΑΝΗΛ ΣΥΜΕΩΝΙΔΗΣ

### Της Φαίης

Μήπως τελικά δικαιώνεται αυτός το τίτλος; «Βρώμικος πόλεμος των οικουμενιστών εναντίον του Γέροντα Εφραίμ της Αριζόνας πίσω από την εκλογή του νέου Μητροπολίτου στο Σικάγο;»

Μαθαίνουμε από το Σονζεα.ησ ότι «η Ιερά Σύνοδος του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου εξέλεξε πριν λίγα λεπτά της ώρας τον Αρχιμανδρίτη Ναθαναήλ Συμεωνίδη Μητροπολίτη Σικάγου».

Με τον Αρχιμανδρίτη Ναθαναήλ Συμεωνιδέχω ασχοληθεί και στο παρελθόν. Ομολογώ ότι κάθε φορά που διάβαζα για τις δραστηριότητές του μια φωνούλα μου έλεγε μέσα μου ότι αυτόν τον άνθρωπο τον περιμένει μια «λαμπρή σταδιοδρομία»!! Πού να το έλεγα όμως τότε; Θα με περνούσαν για φαντασιόπληκτη και συνωμοσιολόγα.

Υπενθυμίζω στους αναγνώστες ότι λίγο μετά την ολοκλήρωση της ψευδοσυνόδου στην Κρήτη, ο τότε Αρχιμανδρίτης Ναθαναήλ Συμεωνίδης -τώρα Μητροπολίτης Σικάγου- βρέθηκε μαζί με την Ελισάβετ Προδρόμου στο Συμβούλιο Εξωτερικών Σχέσεων για την αποτίμησή της. Ο τίτλος της συνάντησης εκείνης ήταν: «Σύγκλησις Συνεδρίου Θρησκείας και Εξωτερική Πολιτική: Οι Επιπτώσεις της Αγίας και Μεγάλης Συνόδου της Ορθοδόξου Εκκλησίας του 2016».

Γνωρίζουμε επίσης ότι ο πρώην Αρχιμανδρίτης και τώρα Επίσκοπος Ναθαναήλ Συμεωνίδης, ήταν ένα από τα τρία πρόσωπα που είχε προτείνει ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο προς επισκοποποίηση.

Υπενθυμίζω επίσης ότι ο Ναθαναήλ Συμεωνίδης μέσα από τη θέση του ως διευθυντή του Γραφείου Διορθοδόξων, Οικουμενικών και Διαθρησκειακών Σχέσεων της Ελληνικής Ορθοδόξου Αρχιεπισκοπής της Αμερικής, υλοποίησε ένα πρόγραμμα υποτροφιών στον ΟΗΕ. Τα χρήματα για αυτό το πρόγραμμα αντλήθηκαν από το ποσό των 2.6 εκατομ. δολ. που δώρισε στην Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής ο οργανισμός Μεαδεσθιπ 100.

Υπενθυμίζω επίσης στους αναγνώστες ότι η Εμαιξε Καθασιτ, η οποία έγραψε την γνωστή κατάπτυστη επιστολή εναντίον του Γέροντα Εφραίμ, είναι μέλος αυτής της 'εταιρείας κεφαλαίων' Μεαδεσθιπ 100 (Ηγεσία 100), ενώ ο εκατομμυριούχος αποθανών πεθερός της Νιγθαεμ Καθασιτ [Μάικλ Τζαχάρης] ήταν ιδρυτής της. Και εδώ να μην ξεχάσουμε επίσης μία άλλη πιο πρόσφατη επιστολή εναντίον του Γέροντα Εφραίμ που ζητά να μπει το μικροσκόπιο στην Μητρόπολη του Σικάγο και επικαλείται τα χρήματα και τις απόψεις του Νιγθαεμ Καθασιτ για να γίνει κάτι με αυτόν τον «φονταμενταλισμό» των Μοναστηριών του Γέροντα Εφραίμ που «διώχνει» τους πιστούς από τους ναούς και αιμορραγεί οικονομικά τις ενορίες!! Εδώ βέβαια να σχολιάσουμε αυτό το προφανές που μας βγάζει το μάτι, ότι όλοι αυτοί οι εκατομμυριούχοι που πληρώνουν αβέρτα για να αλύνουν και να εξαγοράζουν Ορθόδοξες συνειδήσεις, είναι οι ίδιοι που αναζητούν 'οικονομικά σκάνδαλα' στα Μοναστήρια του Γέροντα Εφραίμ!!

Αφού λοιπόν τα υπενθύμισα όλα αυτά, υπενθυμίζω το τελευταίο και το πιο σημαντικό: «αλλού τα κακαρίσματα και αλλού γεννάν οι κότες». Οι συριζαίοι και οι οικουμενιστές μας κάνουν καλό. Είναι ένας τρόπος για να μας παιδαγωγήσει ο Θεός. Ο διάβολος γενικώς είναι ο καλύτερος υπηρέτης του Θεού. Είδαμε που κατέληξε ο φασισμός των συριζαίων στα συλλαλητήρια για την Μακεδονία μας. Πλησιάζει αυτή η άγια ώρα και για την Εκκλησία μας.

## THE COMPETITORS GOT CHICAGO THE NEW METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL SYMEONIDIS

### By Fay

Is perhaps this title finally justified? "Dirty War of the Ecumenists Against Elder Efraim of Arizona is Behind the Election of New Metropolitan in Chicago?" »

We learn from Romfea.gr that "the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate elected Archimandrite Nathanael Symeonidis Metropolitan of Chicago a few minutes ago."

I have followed Archimandrite Nathanael Symeonidis also in the past. I admit that every time I read about his activities, a small voice within me told me that a "brilliant career" awaits this man!! But to whom could I have said this then? They would have taken me for a fantasist and engaging in conspiratorial theories.

I remind the readers that shortly after the pseudo-synod in Crete, the then Archimandrite Nathanael Symeonidis - now Metropolitan of Chicago - was found with Elizabeth Prodromou

in the Foreign Relations Council for her assessment. The title of that meeting was: "Congressional Congress Religion and Foreign Policy: Implications of the Holy and Great Synod of the Orthodox Church of 2016". (Editor's note: Here is a picture of the council, showing in the foreground a number of obviously Catholic priests in attendance.)

We also know that the former Archimandrite, and now Bishop Nathanael Symeonidis, was one of the three persons proposed by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Archbishop Demetrios for elevation to bishop.

I also recall that Nathanael Symeonidis, through his post as Director of the Office of the Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, has implemented a scholarship program at the UN. The money for this program came from the \$ 2.6 million donated to the Archdiocese of America by the Leadership 100.

I also remind readers that Elaine Jaharis, who wrote the well-known deplorable letter against Elder Efraim, is a member of this "capital organization" Leadership 100 (Çããóßá 100), while Michael Jaharis, the late multi-millionaire [ἸῩέέε Ὁάά-Ῐñçð] was afounder of this organization. And here we also do not forget, another more recent letter against Elder Efraim asking the Metropolis of Chicago to be examined under a microscope and invoking the money and views of Michael Jaharis so something can be done regarding this "fundamentalism" of the Monasteries of Elder Efraim, which "drives away" the faithful from the local Churches and financially bleeds the parishes!! Here, of course, it is necessary to comment on the point, that is obvious to the eye, that all these millionaires who pay continuously to take over and buy Orthodox consciences, are the same ones who seek "economic scandals" in the Eternal Monasteries of Elder Efraim!!

Having said all these things, I remind all of the last and most significant: "elsewhere do hens cackle and elsewhere do hens lay eggs" (Translator's note: The real intent is to divert attention from the important to the unimportant). The followers of Syriza and ecumenists do us good. It is a way for God to teach us. The devil is generally the best servant of God. We have seen where the fascism of the Syriza led to the rallies for our Macedonia. This holy hour is getting closer and for our Church too.

ΠΗΓΗ: INTERNET