Due to recent tragic current events that have a direct bearing on our Orthodox Faith, I thought it appropriate to host in this issue of “Christian Light” the following profound message by Fr. Charalambos (“Livyos”) Papadopoulos on the conversion of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople into a mosque and the concealing of all the icons within this international cultural and religious monument with curtains:

“Erdogan’s Curtains”

What is Erdogan trying to hide behind the curtains he put in Hagia Sophia? The guilt of the conqueror and a mindset that does not believe in the value of the person. But let us take things one by one. With the audacity and impiety of the conqueror the curtains of Erdogan are hiding the face of the Panagia. The Mother of Christ. In other words, those curtains are hiding the face of she who gave material to the immaterial; of she who gave flesh to the fleshless Creator. This is the problem behind the mindset that led to these curtains. It is a monophysite iconoclastic heresy.

Erdogan and those who follow his mentality put a curtain in front of the face of the Panagia because they cannot accept that God became Man so Man could become God. They cannot accept that matter can be divinized by grace; that the created can participate in the uncreated energies of God. For the Orthodox Church, however, this is the quintessential teaching of her faith. The whole meaning of the divine incarnation is revealed precisely in this: that matter, the body, the whole human being as a psychosomatic unity, exist in order to be divinized. In the end everyone and everything will be unified to Christ because he is the archetype for all creation.

However, it must be emphasized that this fundamental teaching of the Orthodox Church is not ignored only by those who follow Erdogan’s mindset but also by many Christians! Because every time a Christian denigrates the needs and
value of the human body he also falls into the heresy of Monophysitism. Every time he sees the soul as superior to the body he manifests the heresy of Manichaeism, and every time he denies this life as a gift of God, he essentially denies God Himself, since God created this world and this life and gave it to us as a paradise of joy and communion.

The Kingdom of God is not the cancelling of the world but its transfiguration into a new heaven and earth. Matter and creation were created by God as a meeting point with Him. My body is the earth upon which God is made manifest. A body without a soul is a corpse but a soul without a body is a ghost and certainly not a human being. According to St. Gregory Palamas only the two of these together make up the human being.

In the end, beyond the theological interpretation of Erdogan’s curtains, we should not forget something else that is equally significant. That those curtains manifest a huge guilt. The guilt of the conqueror. When a conqueror converts a building that was a Church from the year 537 A.D. into a mosque, and then enters that building, who does he enter as? Only as a conqueror. Every time the voice of an imam is heard in Hagia Sophia that which is advertised to the whole world is that Turkey is living on foreign territory as a barbarian conqueror. Perhaps this does not embarrass the cultural sensitivities of Turkey, but maybe at some point this might become an embarrassment for the West once she regains her Christian identity.
Μήνυμα Οκτωβρίου π. Φιλίππου:
«Οι Κουρτίνες του Έρντογάν».

Ἡ πρόσφατη ἐπικαιρότητα ἐπιβάλλει τὸ ἔξης μήνυμα τοῦ π. Χαραλάμπους (Λιβύου) Παπαδοπούλου στὸ τρέχον τεύχος τοῦ «Χριστιανικοῦ Φωτός», ἐφόσον ἡ πρόσφατη μετατροπὴ τῆς Ἁγίας Σοφίας στὴν Κωνταντινούπολη σὲ τζαμὶ καὶ ἡ κάλυψη ὅλων τῶν εἰκόνων τῆς ἐκκλησίας αὐτῆς μὲ κουρτίνες εἶναι μία προσβολὴ στὴν παγκόσμια πολιτισμικὴ κληρονομιὰ καὶ ὅχι μόνον τῶν Ὀρθοδόξων.

Τὶ ἔκρυψε ὁ Ἐρντογάν πίσω ἀπὸ τὶς κουρτίνες ποὺ ἔβαλε στὴν Ἁγιά Σοφιά; Τὴν ἐνοχὴ τοῦ κατακτητῆ καὶ τὸ μῖσος τῶν ὁπαδῶν του στὴν ἀξία του ἀνθρώπου. Αλλὰ ἄς τὰ δοῦμε ένα ένα. Οἱ κουρτίνες τοῦ Έρντογάν κάλυψαν μὲ τὸ θρᾶσος καὶ τὴν ἀσέβεια τοῦ κατακτητῆ τὸ πρόσωπο τῆς Παναγίας. Τῆς Μητέρας τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Δηλαδὴ ἐκείνης ποὺ ἔδωσε ὑλή στὸν άυλο, ἐκείνης ποὺ ἔδωσε σάρκα στὸν ἄσαρκο Δημιουργό. Ἐδῶ εἶναι καὶ τὸ πρόβλημα μὲ αὐτοὺς ποὺ ἀκολουθοῦν αὐτήν τὴν στάση. Εἶναι μία ἀπόλυτα μονοφυσιτικὴ αἱρετικὴ εἰκονοκλαστικῆς κακοδεζίας.

Ὁ Ἐρντογάν καὶ οἱ τούρκοι ἰσλαμιστὲς βάζουν κουρτίνα στὸ πρόσωπο τῆς Παναγίας γιατὶ δὲ μποροῦν νὰ δεχθοῦν ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς γίνεται ἄνθρωπος μὲ σκοπὸ ὁ ἄνθρωπος νὰ γίνει Θεός. Δὲν μποροῦν νὰ δεχθοῦν ὅτι ἡ ὕλη μπορεῖ κατὰ χάρη νὰ θεωθεῖ. Τὸ κτίστο νὰ κοινονήσει τὸν ἐνεργειακὸν τοῦ Ἀκτίστου. Γιὰ τὴν Ὀρθοδόξα Ἕκκλησια ὁμοὶ αὐτὴ εἶναι ἡ μετατροπὴ τῆς πίστεως τῆς. Όλο τὸ νόημα τῆς θείας ἐνσαρκώσεως, ἀποκαλύπτεται ἀκριβῶς ἐδώ: ὅτι ἡ ὕλη, τὸ σῶμα, ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὡς ψυχοσωματικὴ ἑνότητα...
ὑπάρχουν μὲ σκοπὸ τὴν θέωση. Τὰ πάντα καὶ οἱ πάντες θὰ ἐνοπθοῦν μὲ τὸν Χριστὸ διότι αὐτὸς εἶναι τὸ ἀρχέτυπο ὅλης τῆς δημιουργίας.

Κι ὅμως αὐτὴν τὴν θεμελιώδη διδασκαλία τῆς Ὀρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας, δὲν τὴν ἀγνοοῦν κακοδόξως μονάχα οἱ Ἰσλαμιστὲς ἀλλὰ καὶ πολλοὶ Χριστιανοί. Διότι κάθε φορὰ ποὺ ένας χριστιανός υποτιμᾷ τὶς ἀνάγκες καὶ τὴν ἀξία τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου σώματος πέφτει στὴν αἵρεσι τοῦ μονοφυσιτισμοῦ. Κάθε φορὰ ποὺ θεωρεῖ τὴν ψυχὴ ἀνώτερη ἀπὸ τὸ σώμα, ἐκφράζει τὴν αἵρεσι τοῦ μανιχαϊσμοῦ, καὶ κάθε φορὰ ποὺ ἀρνεῖται τὴν ζωὴ αὐτὴ ὡς δῶρο Θεοῦ, οὐσιαστικά ἀνατρέπει τὸ δίκαιο τῆς ἀρνησίας, διότι ὁ Θεὸς αὐτὸν τὸν κόσμο δημιούργησε καὶ μᾶς ἔδωσε ἐνδεχόμενο να παράδεισο χαρᾶς καὶ κοινωνίας.

Ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ δὲν εἶναι ἐκμηδένιση τοῦ κόσμου ἀλλὰ μεταμόρφωσή του σὲ κατακτῆσις καὶ καινότητα. Ἡ θεότητα καὶ ἡ κατακτητική συνάντηση μαζί Του. Τὸ σώμα μου, εἶναι ἡ γη που φανερώνεται ὁ Θεὸς. Σώμα χωρίς ψυχῆς εἶναι πτώμα ἀλλὰ καὶ ψυχήν δίχως σώμα εἶναι φάντασμα καὶ σαφώς ὑπάρχει ἀνθρώπος. Τὸ συναμφότερο αὐτῶν τῶν δύο εἶναι ὁ ἀνθρώπος κατὰ τὸν Ἅγιο Γρηγόριον Παλαμᾶ.

Τέλος πέραν τῆς θεολογικῆς ἐρμηνείας τῶν κουρτίνων τοῦ Ἔρντογάν, δὲν πρέπει νὰ ἔχεται μὲ κατάλληλη ἀνάγκη καὶ κατὰ ἀλλο ἐξίσου σημαντικό. Ὅτι οἱ κουρτίνες φανερώνουν μία τεράστια ἐνοχή. Τὴν ἐνοχή τοῦ κατακτητή. Ὅταν ὁ Ισλαμιστής μετατρέπει μία ἐκκλησία τοῦ 537 μ.Χ. σὲ τζαμί, ἐνσώστηκε καὶ τὸ σοφιάτικο συναντήσεις μαζί Του. Τὸ σώμα μου, εἶναι ἡ γη που φανερώνεται ὁ Θεὸς. Σώμα χωρίς ψυχῆς εἶναι πτώμα ἀλλὰ καὶ ψυχήν δίχως σώμα εἶναι φάντασμα καὶ σαφώς ὑπάρχει ἀνθρώπος. Τὸ συναμφότερο αὐτῶν τῶν δύο εἶναι ὁ ἀνθρώπος κατὰ τὸν Ἅγιο Γρηγόριον Παλαμᾶ.

Visit the homepage of our Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church website: https://www.assumptionri.org/

You will find the following options on our website homepage:

1. To watch live stream of church services, click button that says: "WATCH NOW"
2. To light a red glass candle, click button that says: "VIRTUAL CANDLE"
3. To make an offering, click button that says: "VIRTUAL TRAY"

Contributions are crucial to the survival of our church. Despite the pandemic, these kinds of contributions can still take place thanks to options made readily available on our website. On the home page of our website, there are buttons that make such donations very easy. Please avail yourselves of this opportunity while following the services online or any time you wish so that this year can be just like any other year despite the pandemic. Thank you to our Parishioners for your continued support.

π. Χαράλαμπος Λίβυος Παπαδόπουλος
October 2020

Live Stream of all Church Services continues. A limited number of parishioners will be allowed to attend church in person. To attend SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES, you must first make a reservation and receive a confirmation email in return. Email the Church Office to request a reservation at secretary@assumptionri.org. Reservations are not required to attend weekday services.

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PLATO'S MASTERPIECE
THE "REPUBLIC"

ADULT CLASS SEMINAR

Currently being offered every Monday
from 7 PM to 8:30 PM
until Monday November 16th

Due to pandemic restrictions, classes will be conducted online via Zoom. This semester we will read and discuss Plato's masterpiece, the "Republic" with particular emphasis on Plato's perennial relevance and influence upon Western civilization.

For More Information
John Lyssikatos 401-728-4452
It is time to Sign up for Assumption GOYA 2020/2021

If you are 12-18 years old and in 6th through 12th grade, you are encouraged to complete the form, get a parent to sign it and then mail it to Sharon Turk as soon as possible. For the address, please call 508-261-1221 or email Sharon at apos_main@outlook.com. Assumption GOYA is planning our first get together social, outdoors, in the next couple of weeks and we would love to have you join us for fun, faith and fellowship!

---

**Greek Orthodox Youth of America**

Registration for Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church

Pawtucket RI

Name: ________________________________

(First, Middle, Last)

Birth Month & Year ____________________ (do not list day)

Address: ______________________________

Grade you will enter Fall 2020: __________

Home Phone#: __________________________

GOYAn Cell Phone#: ______________________

GOYAn email: ____________________________

Father’s Name: ________________________ & cell ___________________

Mother’s Name: _________________________ & cell ___________________

Parents’ emails: __________________________

I authorize the staff of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary to call an ambulance for my teen in case of an accident or acute illness and to allow for possible emergency medical and surgical care in case his/her doctor or parent is not immediately available.

______________________________

Signature of parent or guardian

Any allergies or health issues the advisors should be aware of?

____________________________________

____________________________________

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____________________________________
Clothes and Supplies from Assumption (CASA)!

Support our CASA effort! Donate your used clothing for men, women, and children! Donate any personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, band aids, diapers for kids, deodorants etc. Help people in need this winter. Bring in your used clothes to the Community Center every Sunday right after Liturgy. All sizes, men, women and children. All ages. All colors. Place in AHEPA marked box at Community Center. We will donate to homeless shelter! Donations accepted until end of October.

Ρούχα και είδη υγιεινής για τους άστεγους (CASA)!

Παρακαλούμε βοηθήστε μας να μαζέψουμε μεταχειρισμένα ρούχα για άνδρες, γυναίκες και παιδιά για αυτούς που έχουν ανάγκη αυτό τον χειμώνα. Δωρεάστε επίσης είδη προσωπικής υγιεινής όπως οδοντόβουρτσες, οδοντόκρεμες, σαπουνία, πάνες για μωρά κλπ. Φέρτε τα μεταχειρισμένα ρούχα που δεν χρειάζεστε για να ζεστάνουμε και να ενισχύσουμε τους συνανθρώπους μας που τα χρειάζονται, κάθε Κυριακή αμέσως μετά την λειτουργία στο κοινοτικό μας κέντρο. Όσο έχουμε ειδικό κουτί στο κέντρο μας με το έμβλημα της ΑΗΕΠΑ. Δεχόμαστε δωρεές μέχρι το τέλος του Οκτωβρίου.
AHEPA, A121 Pawtucket Chapter Honors our High School Seniors!
Συγχαρητήρια και καλή δύναμη!

Athanasios Dafulas, Ellie Lambrakis, Eleni Dafulas, Charlie Lehourites, Nick Zervas, Sophia Belliveau

This has been an incredibly challenging year for all of us. During a pandemic, our High School Seniors are taking their path to expand their horizons and to shape their future. Our AHEPA Pawtucket Chapter honors them with a personal letter, where we encourage them to remember their heritage and to join many other young people in making a difference and Defending Hellenism!

We also presented them with the book *The Greeks: An Illustrated History*, a book that traces the beginnings of our heritage and history. We hope that this book based on our historical past, will also help our graduates to shape the future of Hellenism in the United States of America and in the world. In doing so, they will understand that Hellenism, like our Orthodox Faith, is not confined just in our parish and our community but rather it crosses state lines, country borders and oceans. As they are expanding their horizons, we urged them to also remember that they are among many Greeks and Greek Americans in this country as well as Philhellenes. We asked them to learn from their successes so that they can appreciate what they have achieved. We also asked them to learn also from their failures so that they understand what to do different.

A121 Pawtucket Chapter Participates in AHEPA District 7 Convention

Our Pawtucket Chapter participated in the AHEPA District 7 Convention at Mystic, Connecticut. The District 7 Convention invited delegates from the AHEPA Chapters in the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island. It is a great opportunity to participate in shaping the future of our District 7 for the next year and to also engage in important decision making. This year, due to the restrictions by the pandemic, the overall participation was limited to about 30 participants.

Our Pawtucket Chapter was represented by Yiannis Apostolakis who during the convention provided a short report on the activities of our Pawtucket Chapter 2019-2020. In addition, as Hellenic Affairs Co-Chair in District 7, Yiannis presented a comprehensive plan for Hellenic Affairs re-organization in District 7 which will be reviewed by all the Chapters in District 7.

Finally, we held our District 7 Lodge elections and our new District 7 Governor is Demetrius Tasulas, who has visited quite a few times our local Chapter at Pawtucket. We congratulate him and our Chapter at Pawtucket is ready to work with the District 7 Lodge and to contribute to the growth of AHEPA in New England.
AHEPA Celebrates

100 Years of Greek Independence Day

in Athens, Greece 2021!

AHEPA will celebrate 100 years of Greek Independence next year, 2021, in Athens, Greece. We will hold our yearly AHEPA National convention downtown in Athens, Greece!

AHEPA calls for the continuation of boycott of Turkey and Turkish products and the call for Sanctions. Let’s work together to “hit them where it hurts”

BOYCOTT TURKISH AIRLINES!

CHECK for the "MADE IN TURKEY" sticker on all products and DON’T BUY THEM!

We Must Preserve the Legacy We Inherited!

We need you to join our AHEPA A121 (Pawtucket) Chapter!

We ask all of you to join and support your AHEPA Pawtucket chapter. You can get as much involved as you have time or desire. Please keep in mind that just by becoming a member and through your yearly membership fee you help us to . . .

- Support AHEPA activities and publications
- Support our Chapter’s activities and representation
- Give strength to our Pawtucket chapter though membership counts
- Provide academic and athletic scholarships
- Make our voice heard for things that matter
- Make a difference in every community and in the country as well

This is an invitation to everyone – we need all of you! Your opinion will always count, whether you are attending our meetings in person, or you are submitting your ideas via email, phone, text or personal conversation. For membership information and/or applications, please see Yianni Apostolakis, Tom Andrikopoulos or Nick Bitsakis.
Throughout the pandemic, IOCC staff have remained on the front lines: fighting disease, helping to build businesses that support communities, and providing food and medical treatment for families fleeing conflict. But COVID-19 has added a new complication — our workers continue to run these vital programs, while also taking precautions for themselves and those they serve. Your gift can help provide the protective equipment and resources they need to continue their lifesaving work.

Please share what you can today to help support IOCC’s projects and staff on the front lines, even if you’re thousands of miles away.

Your Compassion Reaches More People in Need

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, IOCC moved quickly to help survivors of the August 4th explosion in Beirut. Emergency response started with:

- Deploying nurses for home visits and wellness checks
- Offering hygiene basics like soap and toothpaste

Going door to door in Beirut's hardest-hit neighborhoods, IOCC Lebanon staff has determined the most effective ways to help as the people of Lebanon work toward recovery. As we expand our response, we’re now working in these additional areas:

- Weekly hot meals for hundreds of families
- Repairs to make damaged homes safe again
- Working closely with St. George University Hospital to support the work toward resuming service

Through IOCC, you are showing up for the people of Lebanon. Thank you.

“In grace we grow, in service we transcend, and in love the structure is strengthened.”

*His Beatitude John X, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, from His Pastoral Letter*
IOCC Awareness Events
Chicago, IL

On August 16, the IOCC Chicago Metropolitan Committee organized a virtual Zoom event in lieu of their annual in-person banquet. Chicago-area participants joined IOCC supporters from across the country for the evening program, which included a keynote address from Mariam Saoma, IOCC’s Regional Programs Officer for the Middle East, a video showcasing IOCC’s work in Uganda, special video messages from six local hierarchs, and a short Q&A with IOCC Executive Director and CEO, Dean Triantafilou. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicolae and His Eminence Archbishop Paul both offered prayers and inspiring words. Several IOCC Chicago Committee members also joined to offer prayers and greetings, including Fr. Malek Rihani, Bill Vranas, Maria Loukaki, and Omar Rihani. In addition, a very generous grant from the Renaissance Fund that matched gifts helped reach our fundraising goal for the event. Special thanks to all the hierarchs who shared their time with us, to the IOCC Chicago Committee and volunteers who enthusiastically embarked on organizing this event, and to the Renaissance Fund for their generous grant.

Here is How YOU Can Help More!

- Become a monthly donor to IOCC
- Send a donation to IOCC for a cause that touches your heart!
- Give a donation to Yiannis Apostolakis, payable to IOCC, for any occasion you would like to make a difference!

Help Us Provide for Those in Need!

And remember, 92 cents of every dollar you give goes to our humanitarian work. The other 8 cents is for administration and fundraising costs. Charity Navigator gives IOCC a 4-star rating (highest possible) for financial health, accountability, and transparency. Plus, every dollar you give helps us secure $7 more in support from governments, foundations, and other sources.

Yiannis Apostolakis
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<tr>
<th>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Frank Aguiar</th>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. George Fackos</td>
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Assumption Church is in the process of having work performed by landscapers on our grounds at Walnut Hill Cemetery on Armistice Boulevard in Pawtucket. It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider making a donation to help with the upkeep and beautification of the grounds where so many of our deceased loved ones are buried. If you have not already done so, please contribute to the Cemetery Fund so that completion of the work can take place. Special thanks are expressed to the following parishioners for their generous donations:

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Mrs. Marion Pollock
Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Roditakis
Ms. Joanne Roditakis
Mr. Paul Roditakis
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rogler
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Saxionis
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Seely
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Mrs. Marion Manickas
Mr. & Mrs. George Foussekis

Ms. Elaine Sioras and Mrs. Irene Sioras
in memory of father and husband, Harry Sioras

Mr. George Sioras
in memory of his father, Harry Sioras

Mr. & Mrs. George Dafulas
in memory of Aristidis Triantafilou

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You can help to beautify our church grounds. Donations towards our church grounds are always very much appreciated so that our property can remain beautiful year round. Appreciation and many thanks to Roula Vellopoulou, Nick Vellopoulos, Anastasia Vellopoulou, Ioanna Wright and Charoula Xoulei Campos who are our church gardeners spending endless hours cutting the grass, planting, watering, and trimming the beautiful flowers and shrubs surrounding our premises.
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George T. Panichas, Jr.
Chairman/Chief Executive Officer

Lincoln Abstract

George K. Demopulos, MRICS, RA, SRA
President/Chief Valuations Officer