



**Archons**  
OF THE Ecumenical  
Patriarchate

*Protecting the Future of Faith™*

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February 1, 2025

Dear Parish President and Philoptochos President,

We are writing to humbly request financial support for an important program for Orthodox Christian young adults called the Pilgrimage of Discovery.

The Pilgrimage of Discovery is a transformational annual program of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate dedicated to sending Orthodox Christian young adults to Constantinople to learn about Orthodoxy, our Ecumenical Patriarchate, the history of the Church, and the challenges facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In addition, these young adults aged 23-30 have the amazing opportunity to meet and engage with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew!

In 2024, we completed the second pilgrimage by bringing 16 young adults representing each of the Metropolises across our great Archdiocese to the Mother Church of Constantinople. We introduced them to the Greek Orthodox community in Constantinople descended from the Roman Empire who remain the steadfast keepers of our ancient churches and monasteries. The young adults witnessed firsthand the conversion of Agia Sophia and Chora Church and felt the void as they were escorted away during the Islamic call to prayer. They were awed by the dignity of the Halki Seminary and joined in the excitement at the possibility of the reopening. And they were humbled by their interaction with His All Holiness and changed forever by his profound and insightful words. To quote one of our young adults, **“I leave with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to supporting the future of our Church.”** It was a very successful pilgrimage, indeed.

This program is an annual program, and preparations for the 2025 pilgrimage are underway! This year, we are opening the program to young adult applicants from all Orthodox jurisdictions in communion with the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Young adults from the Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America, American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, Vicariate for Palestinian-Jordanian Communities in the USA and the Vicariate for the Communities of Slavic Tradition in the USA will be eligible for the first time to apply to participate in this program.

**We need financial support to make this program happen in 2025 and beyond. We are focused on creating a strong financial foundation that will allow us to fulfill our ultimate vision of providing this life-changing opportunity annually to Orthodox Christian young adults.** Creating a tradition of sponsorship is critical to continuing the legacy of this program and we are reaching out to you to ask for your support. In 2025, we will offer sponsorships for our program to individuals and organizations at the following levels:

**Grand Benefactor \$25,000+**  
**Benefactor \$10,000**  
**Pilgrim Sponsor \$6500**  
**Patron \$5000**  
**Supporter \$2500**  
**Friend \$1000 and below**

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**PILGRIMAGE OF DISCOVERY**



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**Please fill out the attached form and return to The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, 8 East 79<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10075, Attn: Leah Kats.** Checks should be made payable to the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and **“Pilgrimage of Discovery” or “POD” must be written in the memo line.**

If you donated to the Pilgrimage of Discovery in the past, we thank you very much! We humbly ask that you become a sponsor again this year, and, if possible, become a recurring annual sponsor.

If you have not previously donated, please consider becoming a sponsor this year, and, if possible, a recurring annual sponsor. Your support will have a lasting impact on our ability to reach more young adults each year in the fulfillment of our mission. We remain committed to providing young adults this life-changing experience in order to strengthen their Orthodox Christian identity and return as lifelong ambassadors for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the future leaders of the Orthodox Christian faith.

Your gift to the Pilgrimage of Discovery will serve as a beacon of inspiration and encouragement to others in the Archon community and beyond to donate to this program.

**For more information, please visit [www.pilgrimageofdiscovery.org](http://www.pilgrimageofdiscovery.org). To see a video capturing the transformation of the journey, visit <https://www.pilgrimageofdiscovery.org/journey-experience>.**

**“From Sprouts to Pilgrims, educating our children ecumenically to honor the Patriarchate and His All Holiness.”**

Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and leadership.

In His service,

Archon Nick Tranto  
POD Development Chair  
Archon YPA Chairman  
Regional Commander,  
Metropolis of Pittsburgh  
(304)670-5259

Archon Hon. Jeffery & Hellena Chrones  
POD Chairs  
Archon YPA POD Committee Chair

Archon Perry Siatas  
POD Co-Chair  
Archon YPA POD Committee Chair  
Regional Commander,  
Metropolis of Chicago

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**PILGRIMAGE OF DISCOVERY**