

January 20, 1989

Mrs. Jerry Chakerian  
Corresponding Secretary  
Armenian Cultural Association  
of New Mexico  
111 Pennsylvania, SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Dear Mrs. Chakerian:

We received your letter of December 27, and your very gracious donation of \$6,000 to the Armenian Diocese Earthquake Fund. The earthquake has indeed been a great shock to us all and yet our anguish cannot compare to that of our dear brothers and sisters in Armenia who sift through the rubble of what was once their homes and cities. Our only comfort is to work tirelessly along with Armenians and non-Armenians over the world to provide relief for the victims and to aid in reconstruction.

Perhaps the most appropriate memorial observance for your community would be a requiem service (hokehankisd) followed by a simple memorial meal (madagh). Such an observance would allow your community to remember together the souls of those lost in the disaster and would encourage ongoing support for the survivors.

God bless you and your community and may He gift us all, in this season of hope, with peace, courage, and unshakable faith.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate