

"THIS DECADE IS A TIME FOR OPPORTUNITY AND  
CHALLENGE - WE MUST PREPARE NOW TO ASSURE  
THAT OUR 17 CENTURIES OF VALUES AND TRADITIONS  
ARE MAINTAINED AND ENHANCED FOR OUR FAMILIES  
OF THE 21ST CENTURY."

Archbishon Torkom Manoogian

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I.

INTRODUCTION

The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America is the largest diocese of our Church in the world, embracing nearly all of the continental United States. It is a powerful force in the lives of our faithful, linking us to our heritage, our liturgy, to all the parishes across the country, and to our other 22 Dioceses around the world. By virtue of the location of its headquarters in New York City, the Diocese with its Cathedral is a symbol of the conspicuous and distinctive position Armenians have achieved in American society. Moreover, as a national and international entity, the Diocese links the 600,000 of her faithful in a brotherhood with the more than 5,000,000 other Armenians around the world. Through its work, the Diocese is also the source for programs and services that are unique. For instance, the Diocese provides and directs our priests -- who are the heart of the parish. The Diocese also helps to provide Armenians with the strength we need to be a unified ethnic group. Diocesan representatives maintain a constant exchange of ideas with the priests and their parishioners and direct the resources of the Church to their needs. Through its diversity of functions, which are not available from any other source, the Diocese ministers daily to the spiritual needs of the faithful and through its parishes is the focal point for our cultural and religious values.

II.

A PROFILE ON CURRENT DIOCESAN SERVICE AND ITS IMPACT ON  
600,000 FAITHFUL

- Ecumenical Relations

Department participation by Diocesan representatives in events and activities promoting worldwide Christian unity and cooperation is vital if we are to co-exist peacefully with our brethren. The Diocese wholeheartedly supports and encourages the Ecumenical Relations Department and encourages our parishes to take the same view on a regional level, to further pursue the

sponsorship and participation in conferences and seminars with members of other religious faiths, thereby assuring a continuous dialogue.

- Religious Education

The Department of Religious Education exists to enhance the educational offerings in our parishes for youth and adults by incorporating the traditions of the Armenian Church with basic Christian teachings. The Department's work includes assisting the parishes in curriculum development, teacher training courses, providing textbooks for students, teachers and parents, as well as regularly publishing a bulletin of pertinent information and ideas for teachers. Last year, the Diocese's educational programs involved over 5,000 youths and 1,200 adults.

Enhancing the Diocese's educational offerings is the publication and distribution of religious and Armenian language curricular materials as well as a variety of educational materials to Parish schools. During the past several years, a total number of 250,000 texts were distributed by and through the Diocese.

- Language Lab and Resource Center

This activity coordinates publications for children and adults, art exhibitions, dramatic presentations, and other cultural programs. Its most important function is the training of native-speaking Armenians to be teachers of the language in this country. The center is conducting intensive programs for new instructors to work in our parishes. Currently over 100 teachers are in this program. This program assures that the Armenian language will continue among our children well into the 21st century.

- Social Services

Some of the varied services for which this department is responsible include caring for our aged priests, a hospital referral and visitation program, a referral network of Armenian professionals in the legal and medical fields to assist those in need, either free or for a nominal fee, and an information service concerning Social Security, medical care, city agencies, public assistance, etc. In 1980, hundreds of families received help through the Social Services Department.

- Public Relations and Communications

In addition to keeping Pastors and Parish Councils informed of the Primate's activities and Diocesan issues and programs, the Public Relations Department disseminates information of importance to the Armenian and non-Armenian constituency. For example, utilizing extensive media contact, all major television networks and newspapers visited Diocesan Headquarters in the past year and reported on Diocesan activities. Coverage of events such as Vartanantz and Martyr's Day, and of the visits of dignitaries and newsmakers raise the visibility of our Church as an important factor in the national religious life. In addition, the Diocese publishes BEMA, a monthly newspaper reaching 30,000 households and which has an estimated readership of 100,000. Essentially a religious publication, BEMA addresses issues and concerns affecting our 600,000 faithful.

- Church Choirs

The Diocese maintains a comprehensive program to preserve the liturgical tradition of our Church. Through the St. Vartan's Press, the Diocese publishes hymnals and sheet music for church use and provides an exchange of musical publications with the Etchmiadzin Press. In addition, through the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America, the Diocese sponsors a program to train choir directors, organists and deacons.

- The Cathedral Museum

The Museum of our Diocese contains one of the pre-eminent collections in the world dedicated exclusively to the arts and traditions of the Armenian people. Housed at the Cathedral, the Museum's collections and special exhibits include musical instruments, manuscripts, scrolls, printed books, rugs, coins, enamel work, silver and copper work, paintings, needlework and textiles, all of which provide a comprehensive view and appreciation of the unique heritage and rich traditions of Armenian life. This collection, along with the Cathedral Archives, comprises the National Collection of Armenian materials in the United States.

- Armenian Church Youth Organization

The Armenian Church Youth Organization is a Diocesan agency that oversees junior and senior programs designed to prepare our youth for leadership roles in our Church and our communities. Under the guidance of two full-time Field Directors who work with local parish chapters, the organization's activities feature the St. Vartan's Camp which offers boys and girls aged 8-15 the opportunity to come together during the summer months for fun and instruction in an Armenian environment; athletic events such as the Annual Sports Weekend; and publication and distribution of a newsletter. The A.C.Y.O.A. also assists parishes with manpower to help in their program, and sponsors Armenian studies and culture programs which include instruction in language, music and dance, as well as tours throughout the historic homeland. Through its various youth programs, the Diocese reaches a potential audience of more than 10,000 of our young men and women each year.

## III.

A FINANCIAL PROFILEON CURRENT DIOCESAN SERVICE

A/

ANTICIPATED EXPENSES  
(12 months)Programs and Services

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Ecumenical Relations                    | \$ 15,000     |
| Diocesan Legate                         | 32,850        |
| Religious Education                     | 67,000        |
| Language Lab/Cultural Resources         | 50,000        |
| Church Youth Organizations              | 60,000        |
| Social Services                         | 22,000        |
| Public Relations/Communications         | 18,500        |
| Church Music Programs                   | 24,000        |
| St. Vartan's Cathedral Museum & Library | 22,000        |
| Publications                            | <u>80,000</u> |
|   | 391,350       |
| Cathedral & Cultural Center/Maintenance | 54,500        |
| Miscellaneous                           | <u>5,000</u>  |
| Sub Total                               | 450,850       |

|                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| <u>Mortgage Payments on Cathedral</u> |                |
| -anticipated pay-off by end of 1982   | <u>145,000</u> |

Administration

Includes:

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Telephone & Telegraph                | 19,000         |
| Postage                              | 12,000         |
| Stationery & Supplies                | 12,000         |
| Office Equipment & Maintenance       | 12,000         |
| Travel                               | 25,000         |
| Auditing                             | 10,000         |
| Aid to Clergy/Pensions               | 12,500         |
| Salaries/Insurance/Taxes/Consultants | <u>437,650</u> |
| Sub Total                            | 540,150        |

TOTAL \$ 1,136,000

A FINANCIAL PROFILE  
ON CURRENT DIOCESAN SERVICE (continued)

THE CRISIS GAP - PHASE ONE  
(next 6 months)

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Anticipated Current Expenses<br>(next 12 months) | \$ 1,136,000 |
|--|--------------|

M I N U S

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Anticipated Current Income<br>(next 12 months) | <u>713,000</u> |
|--|----------------|

|                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| CRISIS GAP<br>(next 6 months) | <u><u>\$ 423,000</u></u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|

#### IV. PHASE ONE - THE CRISIS

For many years, generous assistance from the parishes and modest Diocesan fund raising activities provided all the required resources to properly support Diocesan special services and programs to our faithful.

However, because of severe inflation and an increased demand by our faithful for enhanced services, traditional resources are no longer sufficient to maintain Diocesan activities at an effective level. For example, even with our programs being implemented by professionals whose remunerations are far below the average in their respective fields, our operating costs will exceed \$1,100,000 during the next 12 months!

An immediate monetary crisis has forced severe budgetary restraints and threatened staff reductions which drastically affect our ability to provide services at the level our faithful deserve and require. At times, some of our most important programs have had to be suspended temporarily, in order to await new funding. In short, our major means to preserve and communicate the values and traditions that have been passed down to us are in jeopardy of being lost to our children and grandchildren.

Our anticipated costs to continue to provide these vital services for the next 12 months is \$1,136,000. Thanks to the assistance of our parishes (which are undergoing the same economic pressures as the Diocese) and continued cost-conscious controls, we anticipate that approximately \$713,000 can be generated toward our 12-month operating cost.

But a \$423,000 operating gap must be closed during the next 6 months. In addition, a long-range program must be formulated to assure, and even enhance, our services to the 600,000 faithful during this decade.



After careful study and consideration of all factors, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian has launched a major \$3,173,000 five-year effort. which addresses both the Diocese's immediate and long range-needs.

The Archbishop's Fund/Project 80's will assure that the traditions and values of the Armenian Church of America will be maintained and enhanced for the rest of this decade so that our children and grandchildren may be nourished by the spiritual values and traditions of 17 centuries, and most important, that they may be better prepared to serve as leaders in a complex secular society.

The Archbishop's Fund/Project 80's is focused on two phases:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| PHASE ONE CRISIS: | \$423,000 during the next six months to continue vital services. |
|-------------------|--|

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| PHASE TWO LONG RANGE: | \$2,750,000 during the next five years to assure financial stability and the expansion of vital services. |
|-----------------------|---|

V. PHASE TWO - LONG RANGE

A PROFILE OF PLANS NOW UNDERWAY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America must be responsive to the rapidly emerging spiritual and social demands that seriously affect the future of our people.

We must reach out with new programs and services if we are to assure the traditions and heritage of the Armenian people and their faith for the generations to come. Therefore, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian has established a long-range, five year plan for focusing on four specific areas of increased concern:

- Recruitment and Training of new Clergy - \$1,350,000

The Pastor, as the center of the spiritual and cultural life of the parish is our most precious asset in preserving our faith and heritage.

Currently, our Diocese is experiencing a shortage of Priests. It is not uncommon for our Priests to serve as visiting Pastors to several parishes. Therefore, it is vitally important for the Diocese to launch an intensive recruitment and training effort among our young people. It is estimated that it will cost approximately \$50,000 to recruit, educate and prepare a young man for the priesthood in today's complex world. During the next 5 years, we anticipate that a minimum of 25 new priests will be recruited and trained at a cost to the Diocese of approximately \$1,350,000.

- Enrichment of our Education Programs for the young and for adults - \$400,000

Clearly, we must continue to provide viable and effective educational efforts for our young and adult faithful. We must enrich our programs with better teacher preparation and training, particularly in our mid-western, southern and western parishes. Our Sunday School and Language School curricula must continually be updated to include modern teaching aids and techniques. Our Language Lab and Resource Center programs must also be expanded. Providing the necessary resources over the next five years will require additional expenditures of approximately \$400,000.

- Care for Our Elderly Priests - \$550,000

The median age of our clergy is over 50. As time passes, increasing numbers of our aged clergy cannot continue with their duties. Currently, the Diocese maintains a very modest retirement program, but it is seriously insufficient to meet the retirement and contingency needs of all our Priests.

To care for our clergy after their years of devotion and sacrifice to our Church requires that the Diocese initiates a more comprehensive clergy retirement program and contingency fund. Best estimates that this will necessitate an investment of \$550,000 over the next five years.

- Enhancement of Social Services - \$300,000

Expansion of our existing social services is of the utmost importance. The Diocese needs increased funding to support critically needed programs for the elderly, the disadvantaged and the handicapped. In particular, we are seeking additional support to provide increased personal services to our aged parishioners, to retarded children and to assist Armenians who want to use their language and backgrounds in their professions. Conservative estimates indicate that an additional \$300,000 in funding is required over current expenditures.

- Enhancement of our Cultural Preservation Programs - \$150,000

- Over the years, the Diocese has become the caretaker of hundreds of priceless Armenian historical artifacts, art works, and archival materials. At present, these are housed in the Cathedral complex or in parish churches. Most of them are uncatalogued and there are no funds available to conserve or exhibit them. Some of them already require professional care. All need the supervision of a professional curator.

The Cathedral complex also houses a 1,500-volume library of literature relating to Armenian history and culture. This collection needs to be expanded to keep pace with recent publications. It also needs better care.

The overall cost for improving these and related cultural projects over the next 5 years is estimated at \$150,000.

VI. A RE-CAP OF THE ARCHBISHOP'S FUND/PROJECT 80's

TOTAL ARCHBISHOP'S FUND/PROJECT 80's NEED  
\$3,173,000 during the next five years.

PHASE ONE: CRISIS

\$423,000 during the next six months to continue with vital services.

PHASE TWO: LONG RANGE

\$2,750,000 during the next five years to assure financial stability and to enhance vital services.

ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL  
IN BEHALF OF  
THE ARCHBISHOP'S FUND/PROJECT 80'S

The Archbishop's Fund/Project 80's is a major five-year \$3,173,000 extraordinary effort addressing both critical (PHASE ONE) and long range (PHASE TWO) needs which will assure that our Church meets the requirements of our faithful during this decade.

His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian and the Diocese must immediately turn to friends of our Church for special assistance.

During the next several months, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian is calling on a select group of friends, such as yourself, for leadership support. Not only will your leadership generosity assist the Church significantly both in the crisis and in our longer-range plans, but your generosity will serve as a great source of encouragement to thousands of participating faithful during the next several years.

His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian and the Diocese respectfully suggest that you consider a leadership gift of \$25,000 a year for the next four years for a total of \$100,000. It is further suggested that the initial payment of \$25,000 be directed to The Archbishop's Fund/Project 80's before the end of 1981 in order to help meet the immediate requirements of PHASE ONE.

Additionally, in order to assist both your local parish and the Diocese in this extraordinary endeavor, a portion of your gift will be directed towards activities within your local parish.

In recognition of your special generosity, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian has devised a select list of memorials in which you and your family name will be perpetuated at St. Vartan's Cathedral.

A select list of Memorials follows.

### A SELECT LIST OF COMMEMORATIVE GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

The Archbishop's Fund/Project 80's offers a select number of commemorative gift opportunities in the St. Vartan Cathedral for donors who wish to designate their gifts in honor of a loved one or to perpetuate a family name. In appreciation for this special generosity and leadership support, the Archbishop will erect an appropriately inscribed plaque in a prominent location within the Cathedral.

#### TO NAME AND TO DEDICATE:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| The Dome of St. Vartan's Cathedral            | \$ 500,000 |
| The Main Doors of St. Vartan's Cathedral      | 250,000    |
| The Primate's Reception Room                  | 100,000    |
| The Museum Library                            | 250,000    |
| Main Entrance Hall of Diocesan Headquarters   | 150,000    |
| The Choir                                     | 50,000     |
| The Primate's Office                          | 50,000     |
| The Vestry                                    | 100,000    |
| The Treasury                                  | 25,000     |
| The Baptistry, Foyer and Stairhall            | 25,000     |
| Staircases leading to the Cathedral Plaza (2) | 25,000     |

In addition, rooms used as offices for Diocesan agencies may be designated  
They include:

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Baptistry Mural  | \$ 25,000     |
| Baptismal Font   | 20,000        |
| Armenian Language Lab and Resource Center                        | 15,000        |
| The Department of Religious Education                            | 15,000        |
| The Office of the Vicar General                                  | 10,000        |
| The Office of the Armenian Church<br>Organization of America (2) | 10,000 (each) |
| The Dome in the Baptistry  | 10,000        |
| The Choir Robing Room  | 7,500         |
| The Baptistry's Robing Room                                      | 6,000         |
| Classrooms in the Cathedral Complex (3)                          | 5,000         |
| To the memory of a Priest  | 5,000         |

Note:

The Subscription for a memorial is not based on the actual cost of an item  
or area; it has been established to effectively assist the Diocese in meeting  
the needs of its faithful.