



from the office of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

# news!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 9, 1980

## PRIMATE VISITS LONE STAR STATE

On Saturday, March 22nd, 1980, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian arrived in Houston, Texas, where Constable Ed "Tracy" Maxon appointed him Honorary Deputy Constable of the city. The two lawmen drove to the site where the new St. George Armenian Church is to be built, and then headed for the church building kick-off banquet where the Primate was presented a ten-gallon cowboy hat, courtesy of the Houston Oilers. The Baptist preacher Reverend Bigzanio, who built a congregation of 15,000 from a few scattered families, spoke at the banquet. He encouraged the Armenians of Houston to hold to their faith and never to worry about whether their efforts would be crowned with success. Father Terenig Kondralian, Pastor, and Mr. James Boyajian, Chairman of the Parish Council, Dr. G. Egnoian, Treasurer of the New Church Building Committee, and Mr. Peter Basralian, Master of Ceremonies, took part in the banquet program, during which His Eminence presented the Diocesan St. Vartan Award to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Harrison, Godfather of the Church, whose last donation came to \$63,000, a hefty sum even in the state where everything is big.

On Sunday, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian celebrated the

Divine Liturgy with the choir at St. Thomas Episcopal Church Chapel; the service was followed by a luncheon and meeting with parishioners. Mr. and Mrs. Boghos Hekimian and Mr. and Mrs. Zaven Kirksharian received awards from the Primate for their long and devoted service to the Parish.

On Monday, March 24th, the Primate taped a half-hour television program for Houston's Channel which will be shown on April 19th and is entitled 'Armenians Remember'. In the evening, the Primate met with the newly-appointed and approved Parish Council. Tuesday morning, His Eminence viewed the famous Kohar rug, which was woven with an Armenian inscription in 1700. The inscription asks the viewer to say 'Lord Have Mercy' for the weaver, and bears the Armenian date of 1149. The Primate departed from Houston on Tuesday noon in the company of Father Terenig, to San Antonio and the following day to Dallas.

END



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# news

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MARTYRS DAY TO BE OBSERVED  
BY HOUSTON AREA ARMENIANS

Houston- On Sunday, April 27, Armenian-Americans of Houston area will join millions of other Armenians throughout the United States and the world to observe the 60th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Two Million Christian Armenians, massacred by the Turkish Ottoman Government during the First World War.

On April 24, 1915, began the first genocide attempt perpetrated in the 20th century. This is the event which the prominent British Historian Arnold Toynbee, in his book entitled 'The Murder of a Nation' called "The blackest page in the history of civilized world". On that date, the Turkish Government put into effect a plan to uproot three million peace-loving Armenians from their ancestral lands surrounding the Biblical Mount Ararat (on which rested Noah's Ark following the Flood), in order to slaughter them mercilessly, and to drive the remnants into the scorching Arabian Deserts, there

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MARTYRS DAY -2

to die of hunger, thirst and diseases. Their only crime was that they wanted to live and worship in the land of their forefathers as free human beings. April 24 is the symbol of a crime which neither the Armenian people nor the free world can forget, while the Turkish Government still denies responsibility, or make amends, for.

Joining the Armenian community in the observance throughout the United States will be Americans of all walks -senators and congressmen, Federal, State and City officials, statesmen, scientists, educators, community and religious leaders of all denominations, writers, artists and simply Americans interested in justice and the right of people to live in freedom and security of their persons free of oppression.

The first Christian Nation in history, Armenians began to arrive in America very early in our history. In the annals of Virginia Colony mention is made of 'Martin the Armenian' who was made an honorary citizen of the Colony, in recognition of his distinguished service. In the years following the Civil War, as the atrocities of the Turkish Government ruling their country intensified, more Armenians began to migrate to America as the Promised Land. After the First World War, during which Armenians fought alongside the Americans and were called 'The Little Ally', many of those who survived the massacres by the Turks were allowed to come to America. Presently, Americans of Armenian Descent number nearly half a million, concentrated mainly in the New England and Mid-Western States and California.

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MARTYRS DAY -3

The Armenian Martyrs' Day Commemorative Observance will be held at 5:00 P.M, on Sunday, April 27, at the Community Center of the St. George Armenian Church of Houston, at 1111 Bering Drive. Arriving from New York to preside over the Observance will be the Rev. Father Artoon Sempadian, the Executive Director of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, who will also represent the Archbishop of the Armenian Church of America. Mr. Yohannes Hekimian is the President of the Church Council of the Armenian Community of Houston area.

April 20, 1975

Houston, Texas