



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

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# news:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 9, 1975

Edward Mardigian, for decades a prominent leader in Church and community affairs, will serve as the chairman of the Bicentennial Committee of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Diocesan Primate, was very pleased by Mr. Mardigian's acceptance of this responsibility which will involve Diocesan celebration of the Bicentennial through a series of major events, on an average of one a month, throughout the year.

Mr. Mardigian, a Detroit industrialist, is well known in our communities around the world for his benefactions and service to the Church and to the Armenian General Benevolent Union. At the present time he is president of the A.G.B.U. Central Committee of America, and a member of the Central Board of Directors.

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# news:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 8, 1976

## BICENTENNIAL ECUMENICAL SERVICES

In celebration of the 200th anniversary of the United States, the Bicentennial ecumenical services began at 8:00 a.m. on July 4th with the gathering of religious and civic leaders and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Services were opened by His Eminence Terence Cardinal Cooke with "The Bidding." His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian read from the Book Ecclesiasticus and distinguished choirs from New York City sang the National Anthem and various hymns.

The Benediction was given by the Right Reverend Bishop Paul Moore, Jr., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. From the Oriental Orthodox Church Archbishop Athanasius Y. Samuel of the Syrian Orthodox Church was present.

Following the religious services, the internationally-known conductor-composer, Leonard Bernstein, read the Declaration of Independence, while Mayor Abraham D. Beame gave the keynote address. The Primate met with the Mayor and other civic dignitaries, including City Council President Paul O'Dwyer.

The truly magnificent OP Sail '76 - the parade of the tall ships - took place after the civic ceremonies. Joining in the observance were the President of the United States, Gerald Ford, and the Vice-President, Nelson D. Rockefeller.

The Primate then attended the musical program inside the world-renowned Trinity Church with brilliant playing both by pianist Seta Karakashian and by George Mgrdichian on the oud. His Eminence watched the beautiful Armenian float depicting St. Vartan Cathedral and the beloved Mt. Ararat, and visited the truly

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memorable exhibit of rare artifacts, manuscripts and paintings from the extraordinary collection of Haroutune Hazarian. His Eminence was accompanied throughout by the Director of Inter-Church Relations of the Diocese, the Reverend Mampre Kouzouian.

It was estimated that more than six million people attended this memorable event.

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