

The Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan

Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church of America.

The Archbishop was born in Ayntab, Turkey, August 23, 1904. His baptismal name was Nerses. His father, a graduate of the Seminary of Armash, was a priest. From 1920 to 1924 Archbishop Tiran attended the Seminary of the Armenian Patriarch^{ate} of Jerusalem. In 1926 he was ordained Archdeacon and in 1928 a celibate Priest, by His Beatitude the Patriarch Elisee Tourian. From 1928 to 1930 inclusive, he studied in King's College, London, England.

Returning to Jerusalem, Archbishop Tiran held various offices in the patriarchate. In 1932 he was appointed Dean of the Seminary by the Patriarch Terkem Koushagian. In 1938 he was transferred to Paris and in the fall of 1939 was invited by the executives of the Armenian Church in London to assume the pastorate of the community.

On November 6, 1944 he arrived in the United States as the Primate of the Armenian Church of America, succeeding the Most Rev. Archbishop Karekin Nerselian, who was elected to be the Catholicos of Cilicia. In 1945 the National Ecclesiastical Council convened in Etchmiadzin and elected the Supreme Patriarch of all Armenia. The newly-elected Catholicos, His Holiness Georg VI. ordained ten Bishops. The Primate of the Armenian Church of America was one of the ten. Bishop Tiran returned from Armenia and devoted his time and efforts to the realization of the spiritual mission of the Armenian Church in America. Through his vision and encouragement twenty young people volunteered for the service of God, all of them from the Near East, and ten of them already ordained priests of the Armenian monasteries of Jerusalem and Antioch.

(more)

Archbishop Tiran.....2

More parishes and Youth Organizations were organized in the Diocese. The project of a Cathedral and Community Center in New York City has aroused great enthusiasm in the committees and working groups.

In November 1951, His Holiness the Catholicos, Gevorg VI. honored the Primate of the Armenian Church of America by giving him the right to use as his signature, Archbishop Tiran.

##