



Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

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Archbishop Sion Manougian, Primate

A MESSAGE OF FELICITATION ON THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Greetings to our beloved people of Detroit. "Rejoice thou Holy Church..."

Truly joyful is the Armenian Church, happy is the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, for almost simultaneously as the cornerstone of the Cathedral of our Diocese is being blessed, there will take place the dedication and consecration of the newly built stately St. John the Baptist, the church of the largest parish of our Diocese.

The construction of the beautiful new church and that of the Cultural Center of Detroit covers a period of two decades. The first Cultural Hall was built exactly twenty years ago with spacious halls on two floors, and we are happy that it was our good fortune to officiate at its dedication. The Cultural Hall proved the beginning of a new era. There were established new Sunday and Armenian language schools, the parish was reorganized along with its religious, educational and cultural organizations, and there began a brilliant new period of national and ecclesiastical renaissance and enthusiastic endeavor.

Today, a score of years later, there begins the most recent period, with the erection of the beautiful and spacious Cultural Center and of magnificent new church, as a reminder of the matchless monumental Zvartnotz Cathedral.

This is why happy is the Armenian Church, happy and proud is the excellent Armenian community of Detroit, and also happy are we for having brought our small share towards its realization.

We deem it a duty to state publicly that a generous share of the credit goes to the project's excellent and liberal directors, Messrs. Alex Manougian and Edward Mardigian, who together with the pastors of the church and their good collaborators assumed every sacrifice so that the new church be a unique edifice in the Armenian style of architecture, a credit to the Armenian people and Armenian Church.

We take great pleasure in congratulating the members of the Church Building Project Committee and the pastors and the devout people of Detroit for this noble achievement. We pray and hope that our beneficent Lord grant you all His reward.

"Rejoice thou Holy Church, for Christ the King of Heaven hath crowned thee with His Cross..."

With paternal warm greetings and blessings,

SION ARCHBISHOP

July 11, 1966
New York