

PRIMATE'S MESSAGE

The celebration of a quarter century of life as a church community is indeed an occasion for great joy: joy for 25 years of accomplishment, for 25 years of Christian worship in Armenian tradition and fellowship, for 25 years of not only endurance but growth, despite the many trials that face a community. Indeed, the greatest challenges of an Armenian parish follow long after Holy Muron has sealed the altar on consecration day.

This endurance and growth is especially heartening in the sad aftermath of the earthquake in Armenia and with the impending 75th observance of the Genocide. For grief and pain have forged a path through the Armenian soul and whenever we celebrate a community anniversary, whether a first, or a 25th, or a 1500th, we are marking a moment of life, a moment of grace.

And how miraculous the grace of life in the Armenian Church is! That we should not only gather but gather in ever greater numbers throughout the world to worship, pray, break bread, share our sorrows and triumphs, hear and do the Word of God at the most ancient of altars and with the most enduring of faiths. How blessed we are to have the vivifying presence of the Father, the love of the Son, and the power of the Spirit. What a gift this is and what a challenge it is and always will be to heed God's command "above all, love God and love one another."

On this 25th anniversary of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church, named for the great mystic saint in whose shadow three generations of Clevelanders have passed, and crowned with the Cross of Christ which has inspired and redeemed untold generations of Armenians from the early centuries until today, we extend our prayers for a long life ahead as a parish, fired by vision and touched by grace.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate



January 27, 1989

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Your Grace:

It is with great pleasure that we are writing to you concerning a few items regarding our Booklet for the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Consecration of St. Gregory of Narek, which you have reconfirmed that you will preside over from April 7 -9, 1989:

- We are respectfully requesting a **Gontag** from His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians on the occasion of our 25th Anniversary. We have enclosed a summary of the history of the Cleveland Parish in a concise manner.
- We will need a **photograph** of His Holiness, preferably full size (8½ x 11).
- We are also respectfully requesting a **message** from you as our Primate and a full size (8½ x 11) photograph of yourself.

We are indeed sorry that we have delayed this correspondence, but just as the devastating earthquake in our motherland has consumed all the efforts of the Diocese -- we, too, have been focusing our attentions to fund-raising efforts. However, as we are nearly two months away from this monumental occasion, we **must respectfully request** that the aforementioned items be in our hands **February 21, 1989, the latest.**

Let us assure you that we have an army of volunteers on the 25th Anniversary Committee who are organizing and attending to and necessary details with dedication and commitment.

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ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
678 Richmond Road
Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143
(216) 381-6590

Just as a matter of information Surpazan, we have agreed with the Parish Council that a portion of the proceeds from the 25th Anniversary will benefit the Earthquake Fund and will be emphasized in our publicity.

If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at any time at 216-289-2311.

Wishing you continued good health and looking forward to your upcoming pastoral visitation to Cleveland -- coined by many as the Best Location in the Nation. . .

Respectfully yours,

Mona Karoghlanian

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Chairman
25th Anniversary Committee
St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church