



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIMATE

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the 30th anniversary of the consecration of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Cheltenham, Pennsylvania. The construction of a sanctuary for God's Armenian flock in North Philadelphia was a great achievement, which you have upheld with honor for three decades.

From the vantage of this 30th anniversary, you can look back on your accomplishments with pride—and perhaps with a little sadness, as you remember those who are no longer here to share in these joyous occasions, but who worked so hard, served so diligently and sacrificed so selflessly to make this church a reality. Their spirits will reside in this sanctuary—and in your hearts—as long as there are people who carry on the work to which they devoted so much energy and love.

But anniversaries also compel us to look forward, to plan for the challenges that lie ahead. Having come so far already, what should be the priorities and objectives of the Holy Trinity Church in the years to come?

This is an important question for the entire Armenian Church to consider. Above all, our mission as a Church is to do the work of Jesus Christ on earth, and it is truly *our* mission—we *all* must take part in it, because *we* are the Church. We especially need to keep this in mind today, as we embark upon what is surely a new era in our history.

We are honored to share this occasion with a beloved figure for this parish and our entire Diocese: His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem. This is a homecoming of sorts for the Patriarch, who began his ministry to this Diocese as the young pastor of the Holy Trinity parish. His presence here today is not only a reminder of the past, but also living proof that the mission of the Armenian Church is truly global in scope, and firmly rooted in the Holy City where our Lord walked and preached nearly two thousand years ago.

May God bless the Holy Trinity Church, and may He bless all those who come here to worship in His Name.

With prayers,

Abp. Khajag Barsamian

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Primate

November 3, 1996