



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



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIMATE

It is always a great pleasure to preside over the annual assembly of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America. The people who are drawn to this event each year come from different places and have varying backgrounds and interests. But we are all united in our devotion to the music of the Armenian Divine Liturgy, and to service on the altar of God.

As recipients of the holy orders of the Church, our altar servers—acolytes, choir members, deacons, and priests—have been called to a special profession, which reaches back through history, and unites us with the very earliest Christians: people who had a living memory of walking and talking with Jesus Christ. And it is through our Divine Liturgy that this 2000-year-old memory of the meaning of Jesus's life is transmitted to us today.

The unique service each of you renders is to bring this liturgy to life. And in giving life to our sacred poetry and music, one becomes aware of the tremendous life-giving power of the Liturgy itself. Participating in the Divine Liturgy is a special form of ministry to our fellow Armenian Christians. It is part of Christ's command to "feed my lambs." All of you accomplish this spiritual feeding at every worship service, and in doing so, you sustain the life of the Church.

We are fortunate to convene this year in Richmond, Virginia: a relatively young community, but vital, enthusiastic and full of faith. The people of the St. James Church, their pastor, the Very Reverend Father Nareg Berberian, the parish council and the members of the choir deserve our gratitude.

To all those participating in this 48th Choir Association Assembly, I offer my heartfelt thanks and congratulations. I pray that God will keep you all under His protection, and grant you many healthy and productive years.

With prayers,

*Abp. Khajag Barsamian*

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Primate

November 6, 1994