

DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN
CHURCH OF AMERICA

ԱՐՄԷՆԱՆԻ ԿՐԻՍՏԻԱՆ
ՍՏԵՐԻԿԱՅԷՒ
— 301-2001 —

October 11, 2001

The Reverend James Fitzgerald, *Chaplain*
United Nations Church Center
777 United Nations Plaza, Suite 10A
New York, NY 10017

Tel: 212.661.1762 / Fax: 212.682.5354

Dear Reverend Fitzgerald:

It was a pleasure chatting with you this morning. As per our conversation, I am writing to make a formal request on behalf of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (located on 34th Street and Second Avenue), to reserve the chapel of the UN Church Center for an event in early December.

As I mentioned, this year marks the 1700th anniversary of Armenia's conversion to Christianity, which distinguished Armenia as the world's first Christian nation. We've been holding celebratory events throughout the year (here in New York, in our local U.S. parishes, and in Armenia itself); the proposed event at the UN Church Center would be one of these.

We would like to reserve the space for **Thursday, December 6, 2001**, preferably between one and two o'clock in the afternoon. The event itself is an hour-long program featuring a brief lecture, a few selections of Armenian sacred music, and a short video. We would need a piano or organ, podium, sound and projection equipment (including a screen); I am sure we could supply the latter, if need be.

If there is anything else we need to know or do — sign an agreement, pay a fee, provide security, etc. — please let me know. For your information, our NGO representative, Adrienne Alexanian, will be helping to organize the event, and may contact you or the UN Church Center in the near future.

At your request, I have attached our Tax Exempt form, as well as a flyer advertising the original program (scheduled for November but postponed due to the re-arrangement of the UN schedule). I have also taken the liberty of attaching some brief information on the Armenian Church and our 1700th anniversary observance.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration, Reverend Fitzgerald. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Cordially,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Christopher H. Zakian".

Christopher H. Zakian
Director, Public Relations

630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016-4806
Telephone: 212.686.0710
Facsimile: 212.779.3558
www.armenianchurch.org

Mark:
For Files

ST-119.1 (6/86)

New York State and Local Sales and Use Tax Exempt Organization Certification

New York State
Department of
TAXATION
and **FINANCE**

The vendor must collect the tax on a sale of taxable property or services unless the purchaser gives him a properly completed exemption document within 90 days after delivery of the property sold or service rendered.

THIS FORM MAY NOT BE USED TO MAKE TAX EXEMPT PURCHASES OF MOTOR FUEL.

VENDOR

Name	
Mailing address	
City, village or post office	
State	Zip Code

EXEMPT ORGANIZATION MAKING PURCHASES

Name	
DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, INC.	
Mailing address	
630 Second Avenue	
City, village or post office	
New York	
State	Zip Code
New York	10016-4885

THIS CERTIFICATION IS ACCEPTABLE IF THE PURCHASER HAS ENTERED ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED.

certify that the organization named above holds a valid exempt organization certificate,

EX -107365 _____, and is exempt from state and local sales taxes on its purchases.
(Enter number from Form ST-119)

Signature of officer of organization	Title	Date prepared
--------------------------------------	-------	---------------

Form ST-119.1, *Exempt Organization Certification*, may be used only when an exempt organization is the direct purchaser and payer of record. Any bill, invoice or receipt given by the vendor must show the above organization as the purchaser. Payment must be from the funds of the exempt organization.

The exemption from New York State and local sales and use tax does not extend to officers, members or employees of the organization. Personal purchases made by such individuals are subject to sales tax. An organization's exemption does not extend to its subordinate or affiliated units. When making purchases, subordinate units may not use the exemption number assigned to the parent organization. Such misuse may result in the revocation of the exemption granted.

Substantial civil and/or criminal penalties will result from the misuse of this form. In addition, where a certification is received later than 90 days after the delivery of the property sold or the services rendered, the burden of proof that the sale

was exempt will fall on both the seller and the purchaser.

Form ST-119.1, *Exempt Organization Certification*, must be given to each vendor at the time of the first purchase from that vendor. A separate certification is not necessary for each subsequent purchase provided the exempt organization's name, address, and certificate number appear on the sales slip or billing invoice. The certification is considered part of each order given to the vendor and remains in force unless revoked.

Vendors must retain this *Exempt Organization Certification* for at least three years after the date of the last exempt sale substantiated by the certification.

You can get additional copies of this Form ST-119.1 at any district tax office or by writing to the Taxpayer Assistance Bureau, W. A. Harriman Campus, Albany, New York 12227. This form may be reproduced without prior permission from the Department of Taxation and Finance.

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN
Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP RENATO MARTINO
Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, &

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. MOVSES ABELIAN
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations

cordially invite you to a special program commemorating the

1700th Anniversary of Armenia's Conversion to Christianity

Thursday, November 8, 2001
3 o'clock in the afternoon

→ PROPOSED RE-SCHEDULING:
Thurs. Dec. 6, 1 PM

Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium
The United Nations

→ UN Church Ctr.
777 UN Plaza (44th & 1st)

A ONE-HOUR PROGRAM FEATURING:

- ▶ **Contributions of the World's First Christian Nation**
A brief talk by Dr. Abraham Terian, academic dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary
- ▶ **Armenian Sacred Music in Performance**
By soprano Anoush Barclay accompanied by Florence Avakian on piano
- ▶ **Let There Be Light!**
A short video film on the history of Christianity in Armenia

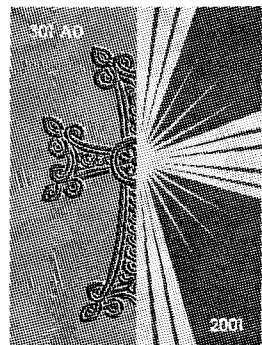
This event is being made possible through the generosity of the
EDWARD & GRACE ALEXANIAN FUND

This event is part of the ongoing 1700th Celebration of the Diocese of the Armenian Church.

For information on the program at the United Nations, call Adrienne Alexanian, NGO Representative, at 212.286.0870, or contact

ARMENIA

FIRST CHRISTIAN NATION



17 CENTURIES OF
**WALKING IN
THE LIGHT OF
OUR LORD**

The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

630 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10016
TEL: 212.686.0710 ♦ www.armenianchurch.org



**From the offices of the
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America**

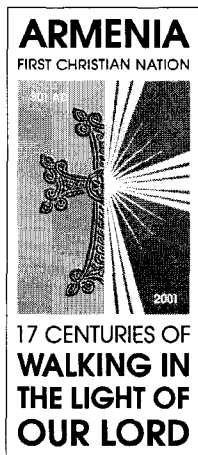
630 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10016; tel: (212) 686-0710; fax: (212) 779-3558

news

For press inquiries, contact:
Christopher Zakian – New York, USA
TEL: (212) 686-0710; FAX: (212) 779-3558
E-MAIL: prl@armeniandiocese.org

THE 1700TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIA'S CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY (AD 301-2001)

Armenians Around the World Mark Emergence of World's First Christian Nation with Yearlong Celebration



EXACTLY 1700 YEARS AGO—in A.D. 301—the remote kingdom of Armenia took a remarkable and historic step. The pagan king of Armenia, Tiridates III, was baptized as a Christian—and proclaimed that henceforth Christianity would be the official religion of his realm. He took this remarkable course out of gratitude to a holy man named St. Gregory the Illuminator, who through the power of God had healed the king of an incurable affliction. St. Gregory went on to become the patron saint of Armenia, and established the line of supreme patriarchs of the Armenian Church—a line which continues unbroken to this day.

Through this sequence of events, Armenia became the *world's first Christian nation*—anticipating the Roman Emperor Constantine's "Edict of Milan" by more than a dozen years. Needless to say, this distinction has been a great source of pride for the world's 7 million Armenian Christians, and an inspiration to them in times of crisis.

This 1700th anniversary year is the occasion for major celebrations in the free Republic of Armenia and in diaspora communities across the globe. Here in the United States, the New York-based Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America is in the midst of a yearlong observance which will reach its highpoint in late May, with events planned for New York City and Washington, D.C.

In the eastern U.S., the highpoint of a yearlong series of festivities will occur in New York City during Memorial Day Weekend, May 26 through 28. His Holiness Karekin II, pontiff of the worldwide Armenian Church, will travel from Armenia to preside over the entire weekend—which is expected to be one of the largest gatherings of Armenian Americans in history. Much of the celebration will take place in New York's Central Park, which will be the scene of an outdoor musical event and a Youth Walkathon to benefit Armenia's orphans (on Saturday, May 26) as well as an outdoor celebration of the Armenia Divine Liturgy by His Holiness (on Sunday, May 27); a banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel will be held on Sunday evening.

* * *

(b) THE ARMENIAN CHURCH: Origins & Present Development



THE ARMENIAN CHURCH IS AN INDEPENDENT Christian church, also known as Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church. Its origins date back to the earliest period of the Christian religion. In the middle of the first century, two of Jesus Christ's original apostles, Saints Thaddeus and Bartholomew, introduced Christianity to Armenia. Repeated persecutions failed to stem the growth of the new faith, and Christianity was declared the state religion of Armenia in A.D. 301. Armenia thus became the first nation to adopt Christianity as a state religion—largely due to the efforts of St. Gregory the Illuminator, who built the Mother Church at Etchmiadzin in A.D. 303, and became the church's first catholicos (supreme patriarch).

Today, Holy Etchmiadzin (pictured above; the name refers to both the cathedral as well as its surrounding city, which lies near Yerevan, the modern capital of the Republic of Armenia) remains the central spiritual authority for 7 million Armenian Christians living in Armenia and in diaspora communities around the globe. Overt expressions of the church's activity in Armenia itself were severely restricted during that country's Soviet period. However, since the demise of the U.S.S.R., the new independent Republic of Armenia has experienced a vigorous revival of religious sentiment, and the Church has resumed its traditional public role as the "national faith" of the Armenian people.

About one million Armenians live in North America. The Armenian Church has two dioceses in the U.S: the Eastern Diocese (est. 1898) has jurisdiction over most of the United States. The Western Diocese, consisting of California, Washington, Nevada and Arizona, was constituted in 1928. A third diocese governs all of Canada.

The Eastern Diocese presently governs over 60 organized and mission parishes. Its chief bishop (or primate) is His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, who presides over New York City's St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral. Major centers of Armenian population in the U.S. include the greater New York area; Boston and Worcester, MA; Detroit, MI; Philadelphia, PA; Los Angeles, CA; and Fresno, CA. Substantial and expanding communities exist in Wisconsin, Texas, and Florida.

#