

**1700, 07:02 PM 6/27/2001 +0400, The 1700th Anniverasary Program**

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From: "1700" <1700@etchmiadzin.am>  
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Attached is the official program for the 1700th Anniversary Celebrations prepared by the Celebrations Ecclesiastical Committee.

1700th Anniversary Office



1700th Anniversary Celebrations Eclessiastical Program1.doc

This publication provides a summary of programs for the celebration of the 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia, organized by the Armenian Church's 1700th Anniversary Committee. These programs were initiated in 1996 and will be implemented until the end of 2001. The programs of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia for the year 2001 are also included in this publication.

## **The Profound Mystery of the Great Conversion of Armenians**

The year 2001 is a festive year for all Armenians. The Armenian nation has just entered the new Millennium with the hope-filled significance of the 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia. This is a magnificent opportunity for Armenians to give a new meaning to the nation's spiritual calling that comes from heaven.

Our predecessors of the blessed memory, Catholicoi Vazken I and Karekin I -- with the dream of pan-Armenian celebrations of this most significant Anniversary for the Armenian Church and State -- undertook the organization of the celebrations of the 1700th anniversary, with joy and vision. Numerous programs have been organized and some have been already implemented, from exhibits of Armenian spiritual culture to conferences, pilgrimages, and scholarly publications; wide-range restorations and building of churches have taken place. But, the highlight and crowning of the Anniversary celebrations will be the consecration of the newly built St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan in September 2001.

As we publish the complete program of celebrations, we extend our appreciation and pontifical blessings to the Secretary General of the 1700th Anniversary Celebrations Committee of the Armenian Apostolic Church, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, and the entire staff of the organizing office at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. We pray to God and hope that these festivities and programs, offered for the edification of the children of our nation, will be realized with success. We express our deep appreciation and give our pontifical blessings also to all those faithful donors who sponsored the Anniversary programs.

We direct our pontifical call and counsel to our people spread around the world to reevaluate our Christian heritage in this new millennium. And renewed by the meaning of the 1700th anniversary, we urge them to participate, with joy, in all Anniversary activities, and to become witnesses that 1,700 years after declaration of Christianity in Armenia, with faith and love in our work, we are the worthy inheritors of our forefathers' sacred heritage.

We believe that with the blessings of the Heavenly Father, the invigorating year 2001 of the Armenians' life-giving Great Conversion, with its deep meaning, will be a milestone in our spiritual and national life. Hence, let us be reborn with the illuminating faith of our holy forefathers, which has always nourished our souls and has given meaning to our deeds, so that this Anniversary year is filled with nation-building and church-building deeds, as assurance for our God-given day tomorrow.

Be alive in the Lord, strengthened with the grace of the Holy Spirit, and always blessed by us.  
Amen

With Blessings,  
Karekin II  
Catholicos of All Armenians

### **The Challenge of 1700th Anniversary**

The celebrations of the 1700th Anniversary present us the best opportunity to express, in practical terms, our belonging to One Church and One Fatherland, in the face of serious issues, immediate concerns, and great challenges. Hence, we should see our priorities correctly at this critical stage of our history. We should always work together.

There are many programs organized for the Anniversary celebrations, but they are worth nothing if our individual and collective lives are not furrowed with a new vitality. In other words, the 1700th anniversary in the life of the Armenian Church should be turned into a process of revitalization and renewal of mission of faith. This is the meaning of the Anniversary.

The 1700th anniversary should be turned into a milestone in the life our Church and people, not only by remembering the achievements and pride of the past, but also, and especially, by opening our Church to the future, and by realizing the Church's mission in the life of our people, with renewed faith and commitment.

The 1700th anniversary should be an exceptional event which leaves its mark on our lives, gives direction to our thoughts and deeds, strengthens our sense of belonging to the Nation, Church and the Fatherland, and which makes our presence valuable among the families of nations and churches. Therefore, it is necessary for our Church, with her four Hierarchical Sees, with her dioceses and her people, to prepare for the 1700th Anniversary, and with such awareness, prepare for the national celebration of this great event.

The 1700th anniversary presents us all a singular opportunity to further strengthen the unshakeable and indestructible unity of our Church. With such awareness and commitment, the Great House of Cilicia, together with the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and the other Hierarchical Sees, will bring its complete and active participation in the activities of the Anniversary celebrations.

At the threshold of the 1700th Anniversary and the Third Millennium, we should ask ourselves: What is the mission of our Church? Today, the world is different, circumstances and concerns have changed, it is essential for our Church to reevaluate herself, her life, and mission.

The 1700th anniversary should not be a mere occasion for pride, to remember and remind the world that we are the first nation in the world to accept Christianity as state religion. The 1700th anniversary should lead both our clergy and the children of our Church to self-critical thinking about what types of responsibilities our Church is facing. First, we, the clergy, how genuinely and responsibly are we realizing our calling toward our Church and people? How faithful are we to the doctrinal and moral principles of our Church? The children of our Church should ask themselves, what kind of responsibility do they have toward their Church. How much do they participate in the

life and mission of the Church? How faithful are they to the teachings and traditions of our Church?

The activities and festivities organized for the 1700th anniversary could turn into mere touristic, ritualistic, and liturgical activities if they do not penetrate and do not generate sweeping spiritual renewal in the life of our people. If we cannot do this as a church, the Anniversary loses its meaning and substance.

Our activities for the 1700th anniversary celebrations should have three objectives:

- a) To revitalize the mission of the Armenian Church in the life of our people, with a renewed faith;
- b) To give a new impetus to the pan-national nation- and homeland-building endeavors and
- c) To reiterate the place and role of our Church within the Christian family of churches.

Aram I  
Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia

### **The Miracle**

At the threshold of the 21st century, with the St. James Brotherhood and the faithful people of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we stand in the Cathedral of Nativity of Christ and in the Holy Manger of Bethlehem, and we sing praises, that indeed, the Savior was born, teaching us to sing praises to God, so that hatred among nations is rejected and peace and harmony and “fellowship among people” are established, with justice and security guaranteed.

The Armenian people, in the current upheaval of the world, and even in the independent Armenia, on one hand with joy, at the same time along the tensions and crises, has decided to remain faithful to the message of Christ's Nativity for the sake of self-determination.

And, today, the accentuated marking of one of Armenian history's epic events, initiated through the cooperation of the Armenian Church and the Armenian State, reveals the conscious faithfulness of the present Armenian generation, for the ideals of existence of its people and for the eternal continuation of its history and religious culture.

No other nation has the miracle of the Armenian; the miraculous events of the life and relationship of Gregory the Illuminator and King Trdat. But unfortunately, nations are uninformed about this reality. Perhaps that is the reason that the 2000-year-old chain of the life of the Christian Armenian people, along with the creations of the soul, is eclipsed with events of martyrdom and threats of extinction. And the authors of these inhuman and cruel plans could not grasp the extent of the Armenian Christian spirit, for which **martyrdom is not death**, but the eternalization of creative life.

But, it shall be read, it shall be told, that the many creative miracles erected during each century -- which, astonishingly, despite and in response to destructions, born of hell -- have flourished in the Armenian barrenness and have endowed the will to live on for generations.

To be reborn and to re-flourish is the oath of the children of the Armenian nation. And that is “being born in blood”, which is the crown of martyrdom. Woe to that generation which rejects this oath of regeneration. To the sin of such generation, the condemnation of all re-born and regenerated generations will be added.

1700 years later, we shall lift the undying lamp of the Illuminator from Khor Virap and raise it to the peak of Aragats, so that the shining ray of its light may be seen by the eyes of the soul of the Armenians living in the homeland and around the world.

The light of Christ is undying and eternal, shown forth from the Manger in Bethlehem, to the world of the Armenians where the only Begotten descended and to the entire population of the universe.

Thank God, the embodiment of the Illuminator's vision, Holy Etchmiadzin, is erect. The foundations of the Catholicosate of All Armenians, established by the Illuminator, is strong. And with the inspiration of the 1700th anniversary celebrations, our creative, artistically-gifted children in Armenia and the Diaspora, with their God-given talents in all spheres, and with new creations are building the magnificent history of the new century, “for God is with us”.

But, it should be read and it should be told, so that the History of Nations does not remain uninformed or blind, or deaf. And the flow of the faith of the Armenian people and the pilgrimage of oath to the fountain of the light, Bethlehem, and there, being arched toward the Araratian mission of Thaddeus and Bartholomew, will continue its eternal pilgrimage, by triumphantly singing: “The only Begotten descended from the Father and the Light of glory with him; come let us build the holy altar of light, for through it the light was shown forth to us in the land of Armenia”.

With faith in everlasting rebirth, with hope and love, we join our voice to the Good News of the angels: Christ is born and revealed.

Torkom II  
Patriarch of Jerusalem

### **Sing Praises to the Lord**

“Sing praises to the Lord with a new voice and joy, who bowed down from the bosom of the Father to save His creatures; glory to Him with triumphant songs.” (Sharakan, Third Tone).

“Time shall pass in any case,” say the elders, and invite us to reflect on all natural phenomena, which God has created, each one of which is proof that everything in this world continues to exist according to a magnificent plan.

In 750 BC, the Prophet Isaiah heralded the happening of a supernatural event: a virgin was to conceive and give birth to a son, who was to be named Immanuel (Is. 7:14). Indeed, the Virgin Birth realized more than two thousand years ago became the proof that God, for whom nothing is

impossible, is the Lord of nature, Lord of Life and Lord of the history of the universe; there was simply no power that could change the course of things, which the Almighty had planned for the salvation of humanity. Today, we believe the events that took place 1700 years ago in the history of our people, through the fateful mission of our patron saint, Gregory the Illuminator, was due to such heavenly providence.

On the first Tabernacle Feast of the Third Millennium and on the joyous occasion of the 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia, we warmly congratulate Your Holiness and the Brotherhood of the Mother See of Etchmiadzin. We wish that this milestone event in the history of our Church and people becomes an occasion for self-evaluation, penitence and spiritual renewal for all of us.

### **Mesrob II**

Patriarch of Constantinople

*“The Christian faith of the Armenian nation has also given birth to Armenian culture. The Armenian language and literature, starting especially in the 5th century, Armenian architecture, sculpture, illuminated manuscripts, sacred music, these established values of the Armenian genius, is the spiritual temple built by the Armenian people, which is intermingled with the light of Christ's Gospel. We repeat again, “Know thyself, O Armenian people...”*”

Catholicos Vazken I

*“We need a spiritual conversion. The conversion of Armenia to Christianity is not an accident. It is not an official or formal act. It is a life and life itself is a continuous force. For all Armenians in Armenia and in the Diaspora, the celebration of the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Church must become a kind of new baptism, a conscious and deeply influential reflection of the Christian faith in our lives, penetrating our spiritual lives and the manner in which we should live our lives. It is not possible for those who have only been baptized to say ‘I am a Christian.’ Those of us who live a Christian life can and must say ‘I am a Christian.’”*

Catholicos Karekin I

### **Reflections**

The 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia is an opportunity for Armenians and, indeed, nations around the world to recall and reflect upon the message and mission Christ endowed to the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Armenian people, when He descended into the land of Armenia and designated the sacred location of the Holy See of the Armenian Church, Holy Etchmiadzin.

It is especially a time to reflect upon the work of our Church's patron saint, Gregory the Illuminator, who spread the light of Christianity in Armenia and inspired King Trdat to proclaim Christianity as state religion in AD 301, which had a determinant impact on the Armenian people and their history.

The Armenian Apostolic Church is one of the oldest and continuously serving institutions in the world, whose roots go back to the beginning of the first century, to the evangelical mission of Christ's disciples Thaddeus and Bartholomew in Armenia. The Armenian Church has witnessed numerous Anniversaries in the past, but the 1700th anniversary is particularly meaningful as it coincides with the second millennium of Christianity, when the entire world turned its thoughts to the significance of the Christian faith and Christian institutions in our lives.

The 1700th Anniversary accords us yet another opportunity for renewal and reflection, for better understanding of our faith, our Church, and its role in our lives, in Christendom and in world civilization. In our preparations and planning for the 1700th celebration, we have stressed this general aspect of our faith.

The 1700th Anniversary Celebrations Committee was established by the Catholicosate of All Armenians and the Hierarchical Sees of the Armenian Church: the See of the Great House of Cilicia, the Patriarchal See of Jerusalem and the Patriarchal See of Constantinople.

The programs and activities for the Anniversary celebrations have been organized under five broad categories, aimed at the spiritual reawakening of our people:

### **1. Building for the Future on the Past: Restoration of our houses of worship**

It is fitting for the Church to honor the faith of those who in centuries past built the church, physically and spiritually. The churches and monasteries that grace our mountainous homeland are tangible and enduring expressions of that faith. The revitalization of these churches and sites of Christian communal life aims at connecting our people in Armenia and abroad with centuries-old traditions of worship, while meeting the growing need in Armenia for houses of worship. Moreover, a number of new churches are being built, including the Cathedral of St. Gregory the Illuminator in Yerevan, symbolizing the renewed and central role of the Church in the life of our state and people.

### **2. Education and Publication: Spreading the Word of God**

A publications program has been initiated which will contribute to the education of our people, through literature designed for Sunday Schools and Christian Education in Armenia and the Diaspora.

### **3. Exhibitions: Sharing our Christian Legacy through Art and History**

Numerous international exhibitions have been organized around the world to acquaint the international community with our history and creations inspired by our Church and faith. Already a number of exhibitions have been held in Russia, Greece, Finland, France, the US, the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

### **4. Conferences: Contemplating together about our Church**

A number of scholarly conferences have been organized to shed light on the significance of the mission granted to the Church -- a Church whose Holy See was established by Christ's Descent and signified by the proclamation of Christianity as state religion in Armenia. These conferences are intended to assist the Armenian faithful to get acquainted with their church, her history and teachings. International conferences dedicated to the preservation of Armenian religious and cultural monuments, as well as Church-State relations were held last year.

### **5. Pilgrimages: Traveling together to pray at sacred sites in Armenia**

Pilgrimage is one of the essential experiences of religious life; when physical travel is enjoined with a spiritual journey it leads to inner reflection with one's past, wholeness, and reunion with God. In the past few years numerous pilgrimages have been organized to Armenian religious shrines, not only in Armenia, but also to Armenian historical sites in Europe and the Middle East. The highlight of the pilgrimage program will be the Youth Pilgrimage from Khor Virap to Etchmiadzin in July 2001. Thousands of youth are expected to take part in this pilgrimage.

The Armenian Church aims to guide the youth in the footsteps of their ancestors, to provide them an opportunity to commune with the enlightenment that St. Gregory brought to our people, and in the vision of the Church whose leadership will one day rest on their shoulders. By participating in the Youth Pilgrimage, every young person will become the "yeast" that will contribute to Armenian Church's renewal.

As I have witnessed on numerous occasions, those who visit Armenia as pilgrims return to their respective countries as new persons. Pilgrimage is a spiritual journey, which leads us to God.

The official Anniversary celebrations started on December 31, 2000 in the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin, with the special address of the Catholicos of All Armenians to the Armenian nation. The celebrations will continue throughout the year on many levels, nationally and internationally, both within and outside the Armenian Church and community. Special events will take place in Holy Etchmiadzin, in the various dioceses and parishes of the Armenian Church around the world, reaching their climax in September and October 2001.

An Ecumenical Service in Etchmiadzin, the consecration of the newly built Cathedral of St. Gregory the Illuminator in Yerevan and the Blessing of the Holy Muron in the fall of 2001 are among the planned major events. Meanwhile, UNESCO has designated June 17, 2001, the Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin, as an International Day honoring the Armenian Church.

When we reflect on the last 100 years of Armenian history, we see the imprint of Christianity on virtually every aspect of life. We have been put under tribulations and have been often martyred



for our faith. But we continue to live as Christians, and Christ has lived with us for centuries. God is ever present in our lives and we continue to live with God.

The 1700th Anniversary reminds us that it is time to reflect on the traditions and achievements of our forefathers. For two millennia we have been faithful to our Church, which has been built in the place where Christ descended.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian  
Executive Secretary  
1700th Anniversary Celebrations Committee

The program of the Celebrations of Ecclesiastical Committee of the 1700th Anniversary of the proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia

The Committee for the 1700th Anniversary celebrations was established under the auspices of the late Catholicoi Vazken I and Karekin I and subsequently Karekin II of All Armenians. An Executive Committee has been working since 1996 with an office in Holy Etchmiadzin. Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian was the executive secretary of the 1700th office from 1996 to 2000 and Archbishop Hovnan Derderian since early 2000.

Executive Committee

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Executive Secretary  
Archbishop Mesrob Krikorian  
Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan  
Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian  
Archbishop Shahan Svadjian  
Bishop Sebouh Sarkissian  
Bishop Moushegh Mardirossian  
Bishop Sevan Gharibian  
Bishop Abraham Mkrchian  
Very Rev. Father Vazgen Mirzakhanian  
Very Rev. Father Nareg Alemezian  
Vosgeperan Arzoumanian  
Vladimir Barkhoudarian  
Aram Issabekian

### **Sub-committees**

Cultural Committee

Bishop Paren Avedikian  
Hovhannes Takoukian

Andranik Antonian  
Aram Issabekian  
Levon Mkrtchian  
Sen Arevshatian  
Shahen Khachatrian  
Anelka Grigorian  
Karen Aghamian  
Henrik Igitian  
Levon Ivanian

#### Musical-Theatrical Committee

Aram Issabekian  
Armen Smbatian  
Tigran Mansourian  
Arzas Voskanian  
Sos Sargsian  
Berj Zeytuntsyan  
Yervant Ghazanchian  
Levon Ivanian

#### Publications Committee

Archbishop Nerses Bozabalian  
Archbishop Shahe Ajamian  
Bishop Yeznik Petrosian  
Rev. Father Yeghishe Sargsian  
Boghos Khachatrian  
Petros Hovannisian  
Barkev Shahbazian

#### Youth Pilgrimage Committee

Very Rev. Father Bagrat Galstian  
Deacon Levon Panfiorov  
Arek Tadevossian  
Garabet Badalian  
Armineh Tadevossian  
Hrayr Baghramian  
Hagop Nalbandian  
Nune Arakelian  
Lianna Arakelian

## Pilgrimage Tourism Committee

Levon Ivanian  
Romen Kozmoyan  
Artur Voskanian  
Franz Gevorgian  
Felix Simonian  
Ara Rostomian  
Arkady Sahakian

## Liturgical Committee

Very Rev. Father Artak Tigranian  
Very Rev. Father Zareh Kabaghian  
Very Rev. Father Bagrat Galstian  
Very Rev. Father Markos Hovannisian  
Deacon Vartkes Mailian

## Internet Committee

Armen Harutiunian  
Khajag Zeitlian  
Tom Samuelian  
Garen Migirditchian  
Chris Zakian

## **Sub-committees of the September Ceremonies**

### Liturgical committee

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian  
Very Rev. Father Artak Tigranian  
Very Rev. Father Bagrat Galstian

### Ecumenic committee

Bishop Yeznik Petrossian  
Very Rev. Father Haigazoun Nadjarian  
Very Rev. Father Nareg Alemezian  
Very Rev. Father Undsanver Babakhanian  
Rev. Father Abel Oghloulkian

### Protocol committee

Archbishop Aghan Baliozian  
Very Rev. Father Yezraz Nersissian  
Very Rev. Father Oshakan Gyulgyulian  
Very Rev. Father Vazgen Mirzakhanian  
Rev. Father Tirair Keledjian  
Deacon Edgar Soghomoanian  
Nerses Karamanoukian  
Hovhannes Takoukian

Gifts and mementos committee

Bishop Paren Avedikian  
Ara Abrahamian  
Gegham Torosian  
Mkrtich Menzeldjian  
Shahan Artsrouni  
Edward Balasarian  
Hrant Kizian

Press and public relations committee

Archbishop Kissag Mouradian  
Bishop Nathan Hovhannisian  
Nazaret Topalian  
Corrine Heditsian  
Tigran Liloyan  
Raphael Babayan  
Press Office of the Mother See

Fund raising and budget Committee

Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian  
Berj Setrakian

Problems resolution committee

To be appointed by His Holiness Karekin II.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian is chairperson of all the above Sub-committees.

**1700th Office Staff**

Very Rev. Father Ashot Mnatsakanian – Office Manager  
Deacon Artak Titanian – Secretary  
Levon Ivanian – Program Manager  
Flora Kabaghian – Publications and Press Secretary

Khajag Zeitlian – Design and Internet Manager  
Hasmik Gazazian – Secretary  
Areg Tadevossian – Director of the Youth Pilgrimage Office in Yerevan.

## **The 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Ecclesiastical Committee Programs**

### **I. Conferences**

1. “The 1700th Anniversary” Paris, June 1996
2. “Armenia and the Christian East” Yerevan, 1998
3. “Biblical Armenia” Oshakan, June 1999
4. “Armenia 2000” Wittenberg, September 2000
5. “Mashtots Readings” Oshakan, October 1999
6. “Karos Cross” Yerevan, October 1999
7. “Church and State” Yerevan, March 2000
8. “Christian Armenian in Ecumenical Relations” Etchmiadzin, June 2000
9. “The 1700th Anniversary of Conversion of Armenians” Yerevan, September 2001

### **II. Publications**

1. “Armenia,” a guide to pilgrims and visitors
2. “Armenia land of Pilgrimage”
3. “Marmashen”
4. Historical map
5. “Noravank 99”
6. “Christian Armenia”
7. “Guide to the Pilgrim”
8. “Faith and Legacy”
9. “Famous Churches and Monasteries of Armenia” (map)
10. “Pocket Songbook”
11. “Saints and saintly people of the Armenian Church” by Raphael Matevossian
12. “Jerusalem” by Vartan Tevrikian
13. “The Reform of the Armenian Church 19th-20th centuries” by Khachik Lazar
14. “Azkapatum” by Archbishop Malachia Ormanian
15. “The Diocese of the Armenian Church” by Pion Hakopian
16. “Travel Accounts” by Kachberuni
17. “So that we perpetuate” by Varaztad Harutiunian
18. “Karos Cross” Conference papers
19. “Biblical Armenia” Conference papers
20. “The See of Etchmiadzin in early 19th century” by V. Tunian
21. “The Armenian Church in the World War I years” by Stepan Stepanian

22. "Doctrine of the Armenian Church" by Archbishop Mesrob Krikorian
23. "The Nicean Creed"
24. "The Dogma of the Armenian Church"
25. "The Divine Liturgy" (original and translation)
26. "The Seal of Faith"
27. "Works" by Karapet Ter Mkrtchian
28. "Poems: John the Baptist and All Savior by Metaxé
29. "Spiritual songs and hymns" by Daniel Yerazhisht
30. "The Armenians' Image of the Lord" by Hravad Hakobian
31. "The Armenian Apostolic Church" by Bishop Yeznik Petrossian
32. "Datevatsi's Book of Questions" translation by Susanna Grigorian
33. "Church and State: Conference Papers Second Volume" by Khanik Kerobian
34. "Foreign Armenologists" by Asatour Pashayan
35. "The Haïsmavourk of Dzerents"
36. "Vartanants Songs and Hymns" by Mihran Ghazelian

### III. Pilgrimages

1. Western Armenia, June 1997
2. Romania, August 1997
3. Antelias, April 1998
4. Western Armenia, June 1998
5. Jerusalem, April 1999
6. St. Tade Monastery, Iran, July 2000
7. Der Zor (led by His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians and His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia), April 2001
8. Pan-Armenian Youth Pilgrimage, Khor Virap to Etchmiadzin, 7-22 July 2001.

### IV. Musical-Theatrical Programs

1. "Pilgrimage to St. Garabet Monastery of Mush" a theatrical performance at the National Opera House, April 1999.
2. "Pilgrimage to Holy Cross Monastery of Varak" a theatrical performance at the Sndukian Theater, September 1999.
3. Puppet shows performed by Association of Puppet Artists, 2000-2001.
4. "Sheranik" Pantomime Theater presented by State Pantomime Theater of Armenia, 2001.
5. "Conversion of Trdat" at the H. Baronian Theater, 2001.
6. "Hripsime" by S. Lusikian, Chamber Theater, 2001.
7. "Khor Virap" dramatization by S. Zeytuniants 2001.
8. "Christ and the Handicap" by Henrik Hovanissian, V. Ajemian Foundation, 2001.
9. "Drama according to the Gospel of Mark" by Varujan Nalbandian, Youth Theater, 2001.
10. "Vardanank" by Yervant Ghazanchian, 2001.
11. "Narek" male choir, laser show directed by M. Mkrtchian, 2001.

12. "Singing Armenia" youth choirs' competition, directed by Tigran Hekekian, 2001.
13. "Unity through Songs", public singing event 2001.

#### **V. Tree Planting around Khor Virap Monastery and the other monasteries of Armenia**

Thousands of trees were planted around the monastery of Khor Virap through the joint efforts of the 1700th Anniversary Office and the Armenian Tree Project, Armenian Assembly of America, 2000.

#### **VI. Cleaning of monastic and church properties**

Held May 1-2, 1999.

#### **VII. Mass Baptism**

Held in Dzav, Jambarak, Abovian, 1999-2000.

#### **VIII. Exhibitions**

1. "Treasure of the Armenian Church"
  - a. Moscow July-August 1997
  - b. Athens, November 1998
  - c. Helsinki, January 1998
  - d. Rome, July-November 1999
  - e. St. Petersburg, July-October 2000
  - f. Yerevan, National Museum, July-November 2001
  - g. Munich and Vienna, April-September 2002
2. "Contemporary Spirit" contemporary artists' work with religious themes, Holy Etchmiadzin, September 1998
3. Old Printed Bibles, June 1999
4. "Mother and Child" exhibit dedicated to the Virgin Mary, National Portrait Gallery, Yerevan, 1999.
5. "Treasure from the Ark" at the British Library, London, March-May 2001
6. "Pathways" photo exhibit of the Holy Land, April 2000.
7. Contemporary artists on religious themes, Painters Association, June-November 2001
8. "Armenian Christian Art" at St. Catherine Convent Museum Schatje in Utrecht, the Netherlands, November 2001-March 2002.
9. Armenian Illuminated paintings, 50 works by Momik Cultural Association, 2001.

#### **Significant Major Events of the Anniversary**

Among the numerous events to be held during 2001 under the auspices of Holy Etchmiadzin (church ceremonies, conferences, exhibitions, cultural programs) there are several unique and very significant events:

1. Special ceremony at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin on December 31, 2000 welcoming the Anniversary Year of 2001.
2. Pilgrimage to Der Zor on April 24, 2001, the Syrian Desert where hundreds of thousands of Armenians perished during the Genocide.
3. Feast of Etchmiadzin on June 17, 2001, UNESCO's official 1700th Anniversary Day.
4. Youth Pilgrimage from Khor Virap to Etchmiadzin, June 10-20, 2001.
5. Ecumenical Service at Holy Etchmiadzin, September 21, 2001.
6. Blessing of Holy Muron, September 22, 2001
7. Consecration of St. Gregory Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan, September 23, 2001.
8. Consecration of bishops in Etchmiadzin, September 30, 2001.
9. Concluding ceremony of Anniversary celebrations, November 4, 2001.

### **Building and Renovation of Churches**

In addition to the building of the new Cathedral in Yerevan, other churches and monasteries have been renovated and are being renovated, among them: the monastery of Moughni; St. Mashtots Church in Oshakan; St. John Church in Piurakan; Holy Asdvadzadzin Church in Karpi; the monastery of Hovanavank; the monastic complexes of Sanahin, Gecharis, Noravank, Tatev and Harijavank; the church of Azadan; Holy Apostles and St. Karapet churches in Sevan; St. Sargis Church in Nork and the church in Arapgir districts of Yerevan; churches in Martuni and Martakert; St. Nerses Shnorhali Church in Ijevan; St. Trdat Church of Vayk; the church of Charentsavan; St. Hagop Church in Giumri; the interior frescoes and roof of the Etchmiadzin Cathedral and the open-air altar at Holy Etchmiadzin.

### **Souvenirs**

Rugs, t-shirts, commemorative pins, posters, children's' games, caps, bags, calendars, postcards, commemorative coins, etc.

### **Christian Education Program (Catechism)**

This includes curriculum, publication of textbooks, training of teachers of religion, and Christian education throughout the year.

### **Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia**



## **Program of the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia**

The glorification of the 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia is not a mere celebration of a date, but the search and reevaluation of our Armenian Christian identity, which has already mobilized the entire Armenian nation in Armenia and the Diaspora.

With the objective of turning into life and deeds the Christian seeds planted by St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew, which through the efforts of St. Gregory the Illuminator and King Trdat was proclaimed state religion, the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia has embarked on a national, international and ecumenical mission to celebrate the 1700th Anniversary.

Under the auspices of His Holiness Catholicos Aram I, since 1997 the Catholicosate of Cilicia has started to commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia at the Catholicosate and in the dioceses with appropriate solemnity.

1700th Anniversary Committee of the Catholicosate of Cilicia

Archbishop Ardavazt Terterian  
Archbishop Zareh Aznavourian  
Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan  
Bishop Sebouh Sarkissian  
Very Rev. Father Shahan Sarkissian  
Vosgeperan Arzoumanian  
Daron Avedissian  
Garbis Harboyan  
Manoushag Boyajian  
Very Rev. Father Nareg Alemezian, Executive Director  
Very Rev. Father Meghrig Parikian, Assistant for Artistic Programs

### **Special Celebrations in Antelias**

1. Divine Liturgy, reading of Pontifical Encyclical and inauguration of 1700th anniversary celebrations, Sunday, December 31, 2000, St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Antelias.
2. Ecumenical Service, Sunday, June 17, 2001, St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Antelias.

### **Celebrations**

Cyprus, 1-7 May  
Lebanon, 22-29 May  
Greece, 15-22 October  
Kuwait and Gulf states, 5-12 November

## **Concluding Festivities in Antelias**

1. Concert by Shnorhali Choir, May 25, 2001
2. International conference on “The Contribution of the Armenian Church to Christian Witness in the Middle East,” in Antelias, May 25-26, 2001.
3. Blessing of Holy Muron, May 26, 2001.
4. Divine Liturgy and Ecumenical Service at Holy Nishan Church, May 27, 2001.

## **I. International Conferences**

1. “The Contribution of the Armenian Church to Christian Witness in the Middle East,” in Antelias, May 25-26, 2001.
2. “The Spirituality of the Armenian Church,” jointly by the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, and the University of Geneva, Switzerland, June 25-July 1, 2001.
3. “Armenian-Moslem relations, yesterday and today” in Damascus, Syria, 20-22 September 2001.

## **II. International Exhibitions**

1. “The Treasures of the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia,” in Geneva, Switzerland, December 15, 2001-February, 2002.
2. The Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia will also participate in many other exhibitions planned in various countries (Greece, England, France, US, Sweden).

## **III. Publications**

1. A special series of publications are dedicated to the 1700th Anniversary, among them “The Gospel of Bartserbert”; “The Treasures of the ‘Cilicia’ Museum of the Catholicosate”; Archbishop Malachia Ormanian’s “Azgapatum” and “The Armenian Church” (in Arabic, Greek and Persian translations) and others.
2. The Liturgical Books Series dedicated to the 1700th Anniversary.
3. A special issue of *Hask* Armenological journal will be dedicated to the Anniversary.
4. Production of “Armenian Church Encyclopedia” interactive CD-Rom.

## **IV. Public Programs**

1. During Great Lent members of the Brotherhood of the Catholicosate of Cilicia will deliver a series of lectures on the theme “Our Church Fathers Speak” in Antelias.
2. St. Gregory the Illuminator’s Pilgrimage Week. Members of the Brotherhood will deliver a series of lectures on the sacraments, liturgy and traditions of the Armenian Church in Antelias.
3. Series of broadcasts, “Our Church Fathers Speak”, will be aired on “Vana Tsayn” radio in Lebanon on Sundays, 9:00-9:30 AM and Tuesdays 8:00-8:30 PM. (The broadcasts will be recorded and made available through the Catholicosate and the dioceses.)

## **V. Youth and Students Programs**

1. Visits to the Armenian Secondary Schools of Lebanon by the members of the Brotherhood of the Catholicosate of Cilicia and organization of Anniversary related activities.
2. Inter-Diocesan Conference on “The Issue of Reform of the Armenian Church and the Armenian Youth” at the seminary in Bikfaya, August 13-17, 2001.

## **VI. Artistic Programs**

1. Exhibition by artists from Armenia and the Diaspora, “Cilicia” Museum, Antelias, May 17-31, 2001.
2. Performance and recording of the “New Dawn” Oratorio dedicated to the 1700th Anniversary, in Armenia, September 21, 2001.
3. Recording of “Armenian Church Music” CD series.
4. A series of artistic and academic events at ‘Cilicia’ Museum in Antelias.

## **VII. Pilgrimage**

1. Pilgrimage to Armenia with the participation of the faithful from the dioceses of the Catholicosate of Cilicia.
2. Pilgrimage to Antelias during the St. Gregory the Illuminator Pilgrimage Week with the participate of the faithful from the dioceses of the Catholicosate of Cilicia.
3. Blessing of Holy Muron pilgrimage with the participate of the faithful from the dioceses of the Catholicosate of Cilicia, Antelias, May 26.

## **Patriarchate of Jerusalem**

1. Torch-lighting ceremony initiating the festivities of the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Armenia on December 31, 2000.
2. Sacred music concert in Bethlehem, January 18, 2000.
3. Solemn Divine Liturgy on the occasion of the twin feasts of St. Gregory the Illuminator, June 16 and feast of Holy Etchmiadzin, June 17, 2001.
4. Youth Pilgrimage to Armenia, 2001.
5. Pilgrimage to Armenia, September 21-23, 2001.

## **Patriarchate of Constantinople**

1. Divine Liturgy and inauguration of 1700th Anniversary celebrations, January 2001, at the Patriarchal Cathedral in Istanbul.
2. Pilgrimage to the Holy See of Etchmiadzin and other holy sites.
3. Pilgrimage to Caesarea, Cappadocia, where St. Gregory the Illuminator was consecrated the first Catholicos of the Armenian Church, March 2001.
4. Second pilgrimage to Caesarea, Cappadocia, June 6-7, 2001.
5. Pilgrimage to Iskenderun, Antioch and Vakifli village in Musa Dag, 8-10 June 2001.
6. Pilgrimage to Ani, Akhtamar, Aradzani, September 14-15, 2001.
7. Pilgrimage to Hromkla, once the site of the Armenian Catholicosate, 12-14 October 2001.

## **Programs of the Dioceses of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin**

A number of Pontifical Pastoral visits are scheduled on the occasion of the Anniversary to the dioceses in Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora, as well as visits to Armenia by pilgrims from the dioceses during 2001 and the Youth Pilgrimage in July.

In addition, all the dioceses of the Armenian Church have their own programs, which are being implemented in their respective communities.

### **Pontifical Diocese of Ararat**

1. Inauguration of the 1700th Anniversary celebration by His Holiness Catholicos of All Armenians, December 31, 2000.
2. Sacred music concerts, exhibitions and lectures throughout the year.
3. Religious and public ceremonies celebrating tabernacle feasts in the Armenian Church.
4. Youth pilgrimage, July 2001.
5. The inauguration of the class on “Conversion of the Armenians” in public schools in Yerevan on September 1, 2001, to be taught by clergymen and religious education teachers.
6. “For the nation and for Faith” three-part essay competition for youth. The winners will receive awards from the Catholicos in Etchmiadzin on the feast day of Vartanants.
7. Sacred music concert at the St. Sarkis Church diocesan cathedral in Yerevan with the participation of national minorities in Armenia.
8. Establishment of Christian education programs at the ten churches of the diocese.
9. Weekly broadcasts on national and Artsagank radios on the history, doctrine, feasts and traditions of the Armenian Church.
10. Opening of educational center at St. Hovhannes Church, 2001.
11. Consecration of Holy Asdvadzadzin Church in Vedi, 2001.
12. Consecration of St. Hagop Church in Kanaker.
13. Consecration of Holy Asdvadzadzin Church in Malatya, 2001.
14. Consecration of St. Sargis Church in Argavant, 2001.
15. The publication of “The Relic of the Right Hand of St. Gregory the Illuminator”, 2001.
16. Publication of book dedicated to the Hripsimian Virgins.
17. Production of the film “Expecting the Coming of the King,” 2001.

### **Diocese of Shirak**

1. Building of the St. Hagop Church in Giumri.
2. Renovation of the Harijavank monastic complex.

### **Diocese of Gegharkounik**

1. Youth Pilgrimage, July 2001.
2. Launching of Diocesan newspaper, January 2001.
3. Renovation of Hairavank monastery, May 2000.

### **Diocese of Aragatsotn**

1. Launching of the Diocese's "Aragatsotn" newspaper, January 2001.
2. Conference and exhibit entitled "Christian Armenia 1700" by Momik Cultural Association, May 2001
3. Pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Mesrop Mashtots, July 5, 2001.
4. Reopening of the Karmavor Church in Ashtarak, July 2001.
5. Reopening of the Holy Cross Church in Aparan, September 2001.
6. Conference, exhibit and concert on the Feast of Translators, October 2001.
7. Reopening of the monastic complex of Saghmosavank, November 2001.
8. Essay competition on "Christian Armenia is 1700 years old," October-November 2001.
9. Publication of three volumes of books on the Armenian Church.

### **Diocese of Gougark**

1. Nativity of Christ, national holiday, January 6, 2001.
2. Pilgrimage to local church on Feast of Vardanank, February 22, 2001.
3. Pilgrimage to the tomb of John of Otsun, May 24, 2001.
4. Festival on the Feast of Ascension, May 24, 2001.
5. Pilgrimage to Etchmiadzin on the Feast of Pentecost, June 3, 2001.
6. Pilgrimage to Etchmiadzin on the Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin, June 17, 2001.
7. Pilgrimage to local church on the Feast of Assumption, August 12, 2001.
8. Exhibition of Gevork Tovmassian's paintings, February 22, 2001.
9. Documentary film on "Holy sites of Gougark," March 1, 2001.
10. Artists competition, May 25, 2001.
11. Architects competition for a 1700th anniversary monument, June 3, 2001.
12. Publication of books.
13. Sacred music concert, August 12, 2001.

### **Diocese of Kotayk**

1. Launching of Diocesan newspaper "Gecharis," January 2001.
2. Pilgrimage to Holy Etchmiadzin, June 17, 2001.
3. Consecration of Holly Savior Church in Charentsavan, June 21, 2001.
4. Celebration of Anniversary in Holy Asdvadzadzin Church in Yeghvard and theatrical performance, song and dance, August 26, 2001.
5. Consecration of St. Dukh Manuk Church in Hrazdan, September 9, 2001.

### **Diocese of New Nakhichevan and Russia**

1. On the Feast of Christ's Resurrection (Easter) concerts, exhibits, meetings and fundraising events will take place throughout Russia, April 15, 2001.
2. Concert, consecration of church, exhibit dedicated to the 1700th anniversary, April 2001.
3. Conference at the Armenian Studies Department of St. Petersburg University on "Armenia and the Middle East", June 17, 2001. Exhibit at Rostov on Don, August 2001.

## **Diocese of Egypt**

1. Pilgrimage to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Khor Virap and other holy sites, 2001.
2. Lectures presented by scholars invited from Armenia and the United States.
3. Publication of Ignatios Vardapet's "Commentary of the Gospel of Luke", 2001.
4. Ecumenical Service at the St. Gregory Illuminator Church in Cairo, 2001.

## **Lyon**

1. Publication of survey dedicated to the 1700th anniversary (with 70 questions).
2. "Christ the first pilgrim to Armenia", September 2001.
3. Ordination of deacons, February 18, 2001.
4. Pilgrimage on the Feast of Ascension, May 24, 2001.
5. Pilgrimage to St. Garabet Church on the Feast of Pentecost, June 23, 2001.
6. Solemn ecumenical Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin, June 6, 2001.
7. Pastoral visit of His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II. Opening of exhibition on "Armenian Church Treasures," September 1-14, 2001.

## **Diocese of Eastern United States**

1. Inauguration of 1700th Anniversary celebrations throughout the diocese, January 7, 2001.
2. Conference at the diocesan headquarters in New York, March 31, 2001.
3. Pastoral visit of His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II to the diocese. A number of events and programs are organized on this occasion.
4. Pilgrimage from Caesarea to Etchmiadzin "In the footsteps of St. Gregory the Illuminator," July 2001.
5. Symposium at the diocesan headquarters on the 1700th anniversary.
6. Sacred music concert, October-November 2001.
7. Conclusion of celebrations, December 2001.

## **Diocese of Western United States**

1. The Illuminator's Light Arrives, Los Angeles, January 6, 2001
2. Distribution of the Illuminator's Light, January 7 2001
3. ACYO Fund Raiser for Armenia Pilgrimage, Long Beach, January 27 and February 20, 2001
4. Community Briefing in the Central Valley, Fresno, January 30, 2001
5. Community Briefing in Bay Area, San Francisco, January 31, 2001
6. Poon Paregantan Carnival & Banquet, February 25, 2001
7. Our Christian-Faith Adult Retreat, Fowler, March 31, 2001
8. Cross Ornamentation Project, Fresno, March 24, 2001
9. Armenian Hymns *Sharagans* – the Key to the Armenian Church, Pasadena, March 30, 2001
10. Today's Christian – Youth Conference, Fowler, March 31, 2001
11. Central Valley Pilgrimage – Delivering the Light, April 14, 2001
12. Public Musical Concert and Celebration, Pasadena, May 11, 2001
13. Pontifical Divine Liturgy with His Holiness Karekin II, Los Angeles, May 13, 2001

14. 17 Centuries of Liturgical Music, Fresno, May 13, 2001
15. Sacred Armenian Music – An Organ Concert by Berj Zamkochian, Fresno, June 16, 2001
16. Divine Liturgy – Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin, Fresno, June 17, 2001
17. ACYO - WD Pilgrimage, June 23-July 5, 2001
18. Quiz Bowl – 1700 years of knowledge, Fresno, August 18, 2001
19. Pilgrimages to Armenia, Yerevan, September 2001
20. The Armenian Church – Past, present and future, Dunlap, September 27-29, 2001
21. Symposium – A New Look at an Ancient Institution, Los Angeles, October 20, 2001
22. Ecumenical Service, Los Angeles, November 11, 2001

### **Diocese of Brazil**

1. Ecumenical prayer service at St. Gevorg Church, December 2000.
2. Pilgrimage to Armenia, July-September 2001.
3. Publication of M. Ormanian's "Armenian Church" and "A Conversations with Giovanni Guaita," 2001.
4. Pontifical visit, 2001.

### **Diocese of Uruguay**

1. Radio broadcasts on Armenian Church history, doctrine and traditions, 2000-2001.
2. Ecumenical prayer service at St. Nerses Shnorhali Church, July 22, 2001.
3. Pontifical visit, 2001.

### **Diocese of Canada**

1. Exhibit of Momik Cultural Association in Montreal and Toronto, May 2000.
2. Fundraising events for the Mother Church throughout the parishes in the Diocese, November 2000.
3. Inauguration Divine Liturgy by the Primate, January 2001.
4. Ecumenical Service, January 2001.
5. Concert and lecture by the Vazkenian Seminary students of Sevan, March-April 2001.
6. Symphonic concert of Petros Shushanian, May 2001.
7. Pontifical visit, May 2001.
8. Youth Pilgrimage, July 5-20, 2001.
9. Conference on "The Armenian Church at the threshold of the 21st Century," at the Montreal and Toronto universities, November 2001.
10. Publication of Malachia Ormanian's "Church of Armenia."

### **Diocese of Iraq**

1. Opening of the Holy Asdvadzadzin Church complex in Baghdad, April 7, 2001.
2. Foundation of new church in Mosul, May 2001.
3. Consecration of church in the Armenian village of Abrug in northern Iraq.
4. Opening of cultural center at the diocesan headquarters, November 2001.
5. Literary-musical evening dedicated to the 1700th anniversary, December 2001.

6. Publication of a book on Armenians and the Diocese in Iraq.

### **Diocese of Australia and New Zealand**

1. Exhibition of church artifacts and vestments, October 14-15, 2001.
2. Ecumenical Service, exhibit and lecture in Sydney and Melbourne during 2001.
3. Church and public festivities, June 17, 2001.

### **Diocese of Greece**

1. Lecture on the “Establishment of Christianity in Armenia”, May 9, 2001.
2. Sacred music concert, October 25, 2001.
3. Exhibition on “Christianity in Armenia”, November 21, 2001.

### **Diocese of Romania**

1. Concerts, exhibits and lectures throughout the year.
2. Dedication of paintings of St. Gregory the Illuminator in the Mother Cathedral, Budapest.
3. Completion of renovations at the Zamku monastery in Suchava (built in 1895), sponsored by the Romanian state.
4. Issuing of commemorative stamps dedicated to the Armenian Churches and monasteries.
5. 600th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese in Romania, August 12.

### **Pontifical Legate to Central Europe**

1. Publication of book on the Armenian Church in German, February 2000.
2. Photo exhibit on “Hromkla” at the Austrian National Library, March 2001.
3. The Genocide and the 1700th Anniversary, April 24, 2001.
4. Ecumenical worship service, major concert of Armenian sacred and popular songs, May 2001.
5. Program presented by Hovhannes Shiraz School, June 2001.
6. Celebrations dedicated to Armenia's independence and the 1700th Anniversary, September 2001.
7. Two groups of pilgrims visit to Armenia.
8. Photo exhibit of Armenian history; exhibit of Armenian manuscripts, October 2001.

### **Diocese of Germany**

1. “Hospitality”, gathering of Armenian community of Koln, November 10-12, 2000.
2. Conference on “Biblical Travels,” Munich, December 15-17, 2000.
3. Armenian Divine Liturgy and ecumenical service at the Catholic Church in Delitsche, December 12, 2000.
4. Conference, Hamburg, February 2-4, 2001.
5. “Hospitality,” gathering of Armenian community at Nutschau monastery, February 16-17, 2001
6. Exhibition at Hamburg Museum, August 31, 2001.
7. Meeting of German Evangelical Church and Oriental Orthodox Churches, May 16-17, 2001.
8. Conference of clergy from abroad, May 23-25, 2001.
9. Meeting of Oriental Orthodox Churches, November 16, 2001.



10. Sacred music concert by “Serenade” band of Yerevan at the diocesan Church in Koln, March 11, 2001.

### **Diocese of Damascus**

1. Sacred music concert at St. Sarkis Church, 2001.
2. Ordination of deacons, 2001.
3. Pilgrimage to most ancient Armenian holy sites, 2001.
4. Exhibition of Armenian illuminations, Damascus, 2001.
5. Pilgrimage to Der Zor's Martyrs Monument, 2001.

### **Hierarchical Sees and Dioceses of the Armenian Apostolic Church**

Catholicosate of All Armenians  
Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia  
Patriarchate of Jerusalem  
Patriarchate of Constantinople  
Pontifical Diocese of Ararat  
Diocese of Shirak  
Diocese of Armavir  
Diocese of Gegharkounik  
Diocese of Siunik  
Diocese of Aragatsotn  
Diocese of Gougark  
Diocese of Kotayk  
Diocese of Georgia  
Diocese of Artsakh  
Diocese of Russia and New Nakhichevan  
Diocese of Southern Russia  
Diocese of Ukraine  
Diocese of Aterpatakan  
Diocese of Tehran  
Diocese of Isfahan  
Diocese of Egypt  
Pontifical Legate to Western Europe  
Diocese of Eastern United States  
Diocese of Western United States  
Diocese of Argentine  
Diocese of Brazil  
Diocese of Uruguay  
Diocese of Canada  
Diocese of Iraq  
Diocese of Australia and New Zealand  
Diocese of England  
Diocese of Greece

Diocese of Romania  
Diocese of Bulgaria  
Pontifical Legate to Central Europe  
Diocese of Germany  
Diocese of Switzerland  
Pontifical Legate to India and the Far East

Booklet:

Editor – Flora Kabaghian

English translation – Hratch Tchilingirian

Design – Mkrtych Matevossian

*“The Armenian knows from the lesson of history that it is possible to live by dying, but not by death; from the dreadful wound, instead of blood, sprout seeds of life; in a blood-drained body carry a noble and unbreakable spirit, so that the Armenian spirit lives forever. Whoever has ear, the earlobe of faith of Armenian history, can state with undoubtful mind that the Church has been that undying spirit of the Armenian nation. And who can deny that she has been a good mother, the holy of holies of each Armenian, an undefeatable fortress. Yes, she has been and will remain forever the mother of consciousness, which adorns the path of life of her children with unsurpassed glory of immortality.”*

Catholicos Karekin II