



St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church

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Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, Pastor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRIMATE FORMS MISSION PARISH IN
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

On Thursday Evening May 14th a historic event took place for the small but spirited Armenian Community of Kansas City, Missouri. His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian with the assistance of The Very Reverend Father Shnork Kasparian of Belleville, Illinois called together the scattered Armenians of greater Kansas City to celebrate the first Divine Liturgy in that city. By special arrangements Fr. Shnork through the local community's efforts was able to acquire the use of the local Greek Orthodox Church for this service and gathering. The pastor Father Milton Gianulis extended his community's hospitality and welcomed the Primate on this joyful occasion.

Srpazan Hayr was assisted during worship by both Fr. Shnork and Father Garabed Kochakian of Racine, Wisconsin. Following the liturgy at which all came forward to receive Holy Communion, the Primate and guest clergy were tendered a reception. His Eminence used this occasion to address the community stressing the need to remain faithful to the



Armenian Church, Faith and Heritage. He welcomed the scattered children of our church in their embracing 'temporary' church affiliations with protestant communions as a witness to their own faith-heritage which as Armenians they embody. He reminded them of their need to remember their roots and origins and to begin in planting the seed of a mission parish and nurturing it to grow.

An entire year's program of activities was planned with the newly established parish council. Following words of congratulations by other Orthodox clergymen present, the Primate granted his blessing and prayerful hope that Kansas City too will one day flourish as a viable and active Armenian Church community within our diocese.

May 28, 1987