



from the office of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

news:

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FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN
VISITS MIAMI

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, N.Y., excluding California, has scheduled a series of visits to the parishes of Florida as of January 18, 1986.

His Eminence will celebrate Divine Liturgy at the St. John The Baptist Armenian Church of Miami on and the Primate's sermon on that day will highlight the significance of Christianity for Armenians, who since the beginning of the fourth century have accepted the Bible to be their spiritual strength.

The Primate's visit coincides with the Regional meeting of all Florida and South Western parishes including Texas. The meeting will convene on January 25 at the St. John The Baptist Armenian Church of Miami, Florida, attended by delegates and representatives of the parishes in the region. Among the important topics that the meeting will address itself will be, youth ministry, women's role in the Church, regional issues, etc.



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Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

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news!

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HISTORICAL "DOCTORAL STAFF" DONATED TO DIOCESAN MUSEUM

A one-hundred year-old "Doctoral Staff" (Vartabedagan Kavazan) has been donated to the Diocesan Museum of the Armenian Church of America by the Pastor and Parish Council of St. John the Divine Armenian Church of Miami in the name of the local Armenian community, it was announced today.

The donation came in response to a request from His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese. In exchange, His Eminence donated a new "Episcopal Staff" to the pastor of the Florida church, The Very Reverend Father Vasken Tatoyan.

The antique staff donated to the Diocesan Museum has the following inscription in Armenian: "To the Very Rev. Khoren Stepaneh, donated by the Armenian Community of St. Petersburg, with grateful sentiments -- 1888 A.D."

The Very Rev. Khoren Stepaneh, a member of Holy Etchmiadzin brotherhood, is well-known for his philological and historical works. He translated Moses Khorenatsi's "The History of Armenia" into the Western Armenian dialect. This was most likely done during his tenure as Pastor of St. Gadarine Armenian Church and the Parish of St. Petersburg (Leningrad, USSR). The local Armenian Community donated the staff to him as a token of appreciation.

It is believed that the Right Rev. Archbishop Mampre Kalfayan, former Primate of the Diocese, received the staff from His Holiness Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, as a gift while in Etchmiadzin. He kept it with him until the last years of his life, which were spent in Miami. In turn, he donated it to St. John the Baptist Church and the "Doctoral Staff" was used there for many years in religious services.

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