



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

# news!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 13, 1978

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN NAMES RICHARD MANOOGIAN AS  
CHAIRMAN OF NEW ARCHBISHOP'S PACESETTER COMMITTEE

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian has announced the formation of the Archbishop's Pacesetter Committee, a nationwide organization whose purpose is to meet the growing financial needs of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and the mortgage payments of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral. His Eminence said, "With the sudden increase of expenses, such as maintenance costs and utilities, it is no longer feasible to expect the parishes to bear the increased financial burdens of the Diocesan Complex. We are pleased that Richard Manoogian, President of Masco Corporation, has assumed the chairmanship of this group of prominent Armenians. We feel certain that leading members of the Armenian community throughout the country will join the Pacesetter Committee in this effort."

Speaking of the goals of the organization, Richard Manoogian said, "The hope of the steering committee is that a select group of 125 individuals around the country will commit themselves to a pledge of \$1,000 to \$5,000 to meet the rising costs of operating St. Vartan

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Cathedral and Diocesan Headquarters. In the past, these costs have been met solely by the parishes. With skyrocketing costs and continued mortgage obligations, this is no longer possible. For example, Consolidated Edison costs for steam and electricity have increased by nearly 600 per cent, from \$14,000 to \$94,000 in the past ten years. In 1978 alone, \$250,000 is needed above and beyond parish support to keep the Diocese operating."

Mr. Manoogian indicated that the committee hopes to continue the work of the late Haik Kavookjian in taking on the responsibility of meeting the mortgage payments of St. Vartan Cathedral; the Cathedral, having no parish of its own, serves as the spiritual center for all members of the Diocese and relies on their support.

In addition to the chairman, the steering committee members are The Very Reverend Father Houssig Bagdasian, Vicar General of the Diocese, E. George Dabagian, Melik Tokatlian, Zaven Dadekian, Ralph Darian, John Hoplamazian, George Mekenian, Syraun Palvetzian, Louise Simone, Arman Simone, Peter Piranian, and Berj Khachadourian.

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

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# news:

CONTACT: Lynne Kassabian  
DATE: February 28, 1985  
FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FIRST DONORS TO ARCHBISHOP'S FUND ACKNOWLEDGED AT BLESSING SERVICE

On the Feast of Saints Vartanantz, February 11, 1985, a most impressive ceremony took place in the lobby of the Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium at the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America: the official blessing of the Archbishop's Fund Donors' Plaque by His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate. Three of the donors, all survivors, Mrs. Alice Kavookjian, Mrs. Heghine Abajian, and Mrs. Mary Bedrosian, participated, as well as a crowd of over 400 who witnessed this service.

The names of the first nineteen donors, the forerunners of this fund, were etched onto the plaque for posterity, completely filling the first panel. These first generous donors are: Haik & Alice Kavookjian, Robert Buchakian, Haig & Adrienne Tashjian, E. George & Lucy Dabagian, Krekor & Mary Bedrosian, Antranig & Alice Shahinian, Edward G. Bashian & Sons, Richard & Marge Abajian, Kristin, Michelle, Alex Kehyaian, Zaven & Arline Dadekian, Leila Karagheusian, David & Lois Shakarian, Hagop Asadourian Family, George & Alice Saraydarian, Richard & Martha Saraydarian, Jon D. Simonian, Rupen L. Saddler, Nazar & Artemis Nazarian, Krikor Gerekmazian Garevorian.

That this blessing took place on Saints Vartanantz Day symbolizes an understanding of the unyielding spirit of the Armenian people, the spirit of (knowingly) giving when called upon.

For further information concerning the Archbishop's Fund, contact Frank Avakian Slonson, Department of Finance at the Diocese, (212) 686-0710.

### **Photo Caption:**

Several of the initial donors to the Archbishop's Fund campaign participate in the blessing of the Donors' Plaque by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate.



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

# news:

DATE: June 18, 1985  
FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PRIMATE APPOINTS NEW JERSEY CO-CHAIRMEN FOR ARCHBISHOP'S FUND CAMPAIGN

Richard Abajian of Franklin Lakes and E. George (Dabby) Dabagian of Fair Lawn have accepted an invitation by the Primate to share the chairmanship of the New Jersey region in a new campaign for the Archbishop's Fund.

The aim of the Archbishop's Fund is to invest the principal of the campaign funds collected in the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, and allocate the interest to the major Diocesan programs, particularly the Language Lab, the Department of Religious Education and the Armenian Church Youth Organization, both Seniors and Juniors. The New Jersey region goal for the Archbishop's Fund is \$1 million over a period of five years.

The overall plan is to divide the country into five or six regions, with a separate campaign for each. New Jersey will kick off the drive. Frank A. Stoneson, director of Finance for the Diocese, is working on a five-year plan or projection for the major Diocesan programs mentioned, in both the New Jersey region and the other regions to be designated.

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the Primate, was present at a dinner meeting very recently when Dabagian and Abajian were discussing strategy and kick-off plans with Frank Stoneson.

The co-chairmen of the New Jersey region of the Archbishop's Fund campaign, Messrs. Dabagian and Abajian, are hardly strangers to the community. Actually, it happened that I had not met Richard until recently. His mother, Haghine Abajian, a survivor from Sepastia, figured prominently in the recent Genocide commemorative events, giving testimony at the Diocesan symposium and receiving on behalf of the Diocese an April 24 proclamation from the hand of Mayor Koch.

MORE

for further information contact Lynne Kassabian, 630 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016-4885 Telephone (212) 686-0710

The Abajians, I learned, were the donors of Abajian Hall in the St. Leon Church Community Center. Richard and his brother, Vincent, will celebrate this year the 25th anniversary of Electro-Nucleonics, a corporation in Fairfield, N.J. which they founded, and which is prominent in the health care equipment field. Richard is secretary-treasurer and Vincent the board chairman. (He also serves on the board of St. Nersess Seminary.)

Richard, a native Jerseyan, and his wife, Marge, have two daughters: Barrie, a NYU graduate this month with a B.S. in business and finance, and Lori, a student at Gettysburg College also majoring in business.

E. George Dabagian is also a self-made businessman, founder and president of the Jersey Printing Co. in Paterson. A former trustee of the Diocese, "Dabby" is on the Board of the ACEF and of the Seminary. The history of St. Leon Church might have been very different if Dabagian and his wife, Lucy, had not dedicated themselves to the institution since young adulthood.

Dabagian was chairman of the construction of St. Leon's present edifice, and finance chairman of the cultural hall. Those posts came after he had gained years of experience and authority as parish council chairman and in many other jobs at St. Leon. The Dabagian children are Richard (Rick), who is vice-president of Jersey Printing; Donna Philibosian and Linda Galgano.

A writer's aim in furnishing background in this case is to prove that the New Jersey region campaign for the Archbishop's Fund is in good hands. I enjoyed watching the interaction of the men as they animatedly discussed things like team captains and procedures with Frank Stoneson. The Primate listened mostly but when he made a comment, it was incisive, stripping the verbiage away to leave the meaning clear. Information and progress reports will be issued as the Archbishop's Fund campaign in New Jersey gets under way.

ARMINE DIKIJIAN



from the office of the  
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1.28.88

# news:

Contact: John R. McBride  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES LATEST PACESETTERS IN ARCHBISHOP'S FUND; 1988 CAMPAIGN TO BE INITIATED

The Archbishop's Fund of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America will soon initiate its 1988 Pacesetters Pledge campaign, it was announced today. A total of 19 Pacesetters who have contributed \$5,000 or more to the Fund are now listed officially as supporters on the Honorary Plaque at the Diocese.

The objective of the Fund is to raise \$5 million over a five-year period to support the vitally-important religious education, language and cultural programs, and junior and senior youth activities of the Church.

Rev. Fr. Houssig Bagdasian, Chairman of the Archbishop's Fund Committee, said additional contributors' names will soon be listed on the Honorary Plaque in the lobby outside the Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium at the St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral complex. Plans are also underway, he said, to embellish the area with lighting and other measures to heighten public awareness of the plaque and the significance of the Pacesetter contributions. Very importantly, a special kick-off program this Spring will be undertaken to initiate the 1988 Pacesetters Pledge campaign.

The pledges, paid at one time or over a five-year period, may be made in the name of an individual, one's family, friends or loved ones.

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The following names already appear on the plaque: Richard and Marge Abajian; Hagop Asadurian Family; Edward G. Bashian and Sons; Krekor and Mary Bedrosian; Robert Buchakian; E. George and Lucy Dabagian; Zaven and Arline Dadekian; Krikor Gerekmazian Garevorian; Leila Karagheusian; Haik and Alice Kavookjian; Kristin, Michelle and Alex Kehyaian; Nazar and Artemis Nazarian; Rupen L. Saddler; George and Alice Saraydarian; Richard and Martha Saraydarian; Antranig and Alice Shahinian; David and Lois Shakarian; Jon D. Simonian; and Haig and Adrinne Tashjian.

The names of the following, who have completed their \$5,000 pledges, will be added in the near future: Tacouhie Ayvazian; Arax Chirkinian; Samuel Gabrielian; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Halebian; and Aram and Alice Kavligian.

Father Bagdasian asks the entire Armenian community to join in supporting this important program, which is vital to the youth and future generations of Armenians as well as to the continued strength and stability of the Armenian language, culture and heritage in America.

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# news:

Contact: John R. McBride  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ARMENIAN YOUNG EXECUTIVES LAUD ARCHBISHOP'S FUND AS "VITAL TO DIOCESAN OPERATIONS"**

At a recent meeting at the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, two of the Armenian community's outstanding young executives -- Jon Simonian and Richard Papelian -- lauded the Archbishop's Fund as "vital to Diocesan operations."

Both are Pacesetter contributors to the Fund, whose objective is to raise \$5 million over a five-year period to support the religious education, language and cultural programs, and youth activities of the Church. Messrs. Simonian and Papelian are among the 24 Pacesetters who have each contributed \$5,000 or over to the Fund. Richard's father, George Papelian, was one of the original contributors when the campaign was initiated a few years ago.

"I am proud to be a Pacesetter," Jon Simonian said. "The Archbishop's Fund is without doubt an essential force in the Church's operations. Without it, many of the fine programs and activities we have come to depend on would not exist. My own commitment, and that of my wife, Charlene, is to assure that our children will be able to partake of and enjoy these many fine programs, as toddlers and later as young adults."

Simonian, an institutional securities salesman for Morgan Stanley Company Inc. in Manhattan, and Charlene have two children, Jon David, 3, and Jennifer, 1.

Richard Papelian joined in the approbation. He is president of "The Promotion Agency, Inc.," the highly-successful Manhattan firm which he founded. Richard and his wife, Dawn, make their home in Greenwich, Conn.

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"Perpetuation of our Armenian religion, our language and cultural traditions is more essential than ever," he says. "I believe all Armenians should contribute to the Church on a regular basis. This is something my father firmly believes in, and he passed on this sense of commitment to all of us in the family."

Recently, the Very Rev. Father Houssig Bagdasian, Chairman of the Archbishop's Fund Committee, indicated that additional contributors' names will be listed on the Honorary Plaque in the lobby outside the Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium at the St. Vartan Cathedral complex. In preparation for the Fund kickoff campaign, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese, said, "The names on the Honorary Plaque are those of benefactors who have demonstrated their sincere commitment to the Armenian Church and its many programs . . . they are the guardians of our future."

Father Bagdasian asks the entire Armenian community to join in supporting this important program, which, as Messrs. Simonian and Papelian point out, is so essential to the youth and future generations of Armenian-Americans.

Contributions may be sent to: Archbishop's Fund, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, 630 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016-4885.

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