

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

630 Second Ave. New York, NY 10016

**MEMO**

Date: November 10, 1995

To: Frank Stoneson

From: Father Garabed Kochakian *FGK*

---

I am away this entire week of NCCC meeting in Oakland, California.

Things that need attention

1. \* Contact St. Patrick's Cathedral follow up to Primate's letter. He did not personally speak with the Cardinal. Have Father Arten Ashjian call Reverend Father James Lougran - Ecumenical Director and inquire - 371-1000. And ask if His Holiness can meet Cardinal O'Connor on Friday January 12th.
- 2.a. Oriental Orthodox Church leaders reception with Vehapar on Thursday January 11th at 4 - 5:30 p.m.
  - b. NCCC Reception in the evening. Time to be scheduled yet.
  - c. Greek Orthodox Archdiocese - noon hour or so.
3. Vehapar will be accompanied by only one (1) person.

FGK/as



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA  
ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԳՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ԱՐԵՒԻԼԵԱՆ ԹԵՄԻ

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

October 31, 1995

TO: Reverend Clergy, Diocesan Delegates and Parish Council Chairmen

RE: **Pontifical Visit of His Holiness Karekin I to North America.**

The Primate and Diocesan Council of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America are pleased to announce that **His Holiness Karekin I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians**, will soon be gracing our country with his presence, when he makes his first pontifical visit to North America.

His Holiness Karekin I will be arriving in the United States this coming January, for what promises to be a spiritually uplifting occasion for thousands of Armenians in the three Armenain Church dioceses of this continent. The present directive is meant to inform the parishioners in our local communities of what is being planned for this historic visit.

**The Catholicos is scheduled to arrive in this country on Wednesday, January 10, 1996.** He will visit communities within the Eastern Diocese to Tuesday, January 23. After this, he will visit the Canadian and Western dioceses, before departing these shores to return to Holy Etchmiadzin in the Republic of Armenia.

During his stay in America, His Holiness will focus his attention on our younger generation. **The title "A New Era—Church, Youth, Community," has been chosen as the general theme of the pontifical visit.** The Catholicos' message of outreach to young people will be especially timely in 1996, which marks both the Diocese's "Year of the Youth," as well as the 50th anniversary of the founding of the ACYOA.

While in the Eastern Diocese, the Catholicos' itinerary will take him to the following cities: **New York, NY—January 10-14; Washington, DC—January 14-15; Providence, RI—January 16; Boston, MA—January 17-18; Detroit, MI—January 19-20; Chicago, IL—January 21-23.** The Catholicos will then visit communities in the Canadian and Western dioceses. However, he will return to our Diocese for one more visit: **Boca Raton, FL—February 18.**

In keeping with the Catholicos' loving interest in the growth of the Armenian Christian spirit among young Armenian Americans, a number of events will be scheduled involving interaction and dialogue between the

Catholicos and young people. Other activities include meetings with American political and religious leaders, as well as inspirational gatherings with the Catholicos' flock in this country.

Activities being planned for the New York leg of the pontifical visit include: a Pontifical Divine Liturgy; a banquet in the Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium of the Diocesan Complex; a symposium with Armenian youth, wherein the Catholicos will serve as moderator; the official opening of the newly-renovated St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New Rochelle, NY; meetings with officials from the National and World Council of Churches, the United Nations, and Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant churches; and meetings with the local Armenian clergy.

**Local and regional committees are organizing the various events in their respective communities, under the supervision of a Diocesan executive committee,** under the general chairmanship of Mr. Carl Bazarian. Mr. Edward Chapien and Dr. Garo Garibian are serving as the secretary and treasurer, respectively, of the executive committee. Serving in an advisory capacity are Mr. Anthony Barsamian, Ms. Alyssa Keleshian, Mrs. Ani Kasparian, and Mrs. Arda Nazarian-Haratunian.

The chairmen of the various regional committees (who are also part of the executive committee) include: Mr. John Amboian (New England); Karekin Arzoomanian (New York); Myron Erkiletian (Washington, DC); Vahram Fantazian (Detroit); Dr. Raffy Hovanessian and George Stevoff (Midwest); Mitchell Kezirian and Gerald Norigian (Providence).

In addition, a special office has been established at the Diocesan headquarters in New York City to coordinate the arrangements for the Pontifical Visit. Mr. Frank Avakian-Stoneson has been appointed the **Pontifical Visit Coordinator**; his secretary is Yerezgin Natasha Aljalian. Along with the regular Diocesan phone and fax numbers, the following **direct lines to the coordinator's office** have been set up: Tel: (212) 686-0049; Fax: (212) 686-0160.

The visit of His Holiness Karekin I to America—with his message of outreach and love to Armenian Christian youth, and his call for solidarity among our people, both in the homeland and in the diaspora—promises to be a powerful source of inspiration to the faithful of this country. We pray that the spiritual torch of St. Gregory the Enlightener will shine brightly in America during this Pontifical Visit, to illuminate the hearts and souls of our people for many years to come.

With prayers,

*Abp. K. Barsamian*  
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian  
Primate