

PRIMATE'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased to see our young people gathered together as ACYOA JUNIORS to enjoy a weekend of sports and fellowship.

These weekends are important because they are more than an athletic or social gathering; they are a celebration - a celebration of the Armenian spirit and the joy and power of being young. Sports is a way of celebrating your youthful energy and your God-given talents and abilities and that is vital to any organization of young people.

The church brings you together to share yourselves, your faith and your heritage and to give you an experience in Christian community and fellowship with your peers.

I send you my blessings for a successful weekend and pray that the church will always be a part of your lives.

With prayers,

Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Primate

September 1990



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Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

PRIMATE'S MESSAGE

It is with ever increasing joy that we greet the young men and women of our Diocese on the occasion of the ACYOA Annual Assembly and Sports Weekend. We are gratified by the growing numbers of young Armenians who now seek each other out under the dome of their beloved church.

The Armenian Church has grown as the Armenian people have grown, through much tragedy, much accomplishment. Every remarkable step forward has been dogged by misfortune. Every night has, in turn, brightened into a glorious day for our people. It would seem that the Armenian faith is a braid of joy and sorrow and no one present this weekend can forget the twin sorrows of the earthquake and Karabagh and the continuing story of its victims.

And yet, we are happy at the sight of a young Armenian generation in America filled with a new sense of faith, a strong desire for fellowship with each other and with their community, and a greater sense of the Armenian world beyond their own. The Cleveland ACYOA is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, a milestone of no small importance as it stands proudly alongside those of other chapters in the United States and of Armenian Church youth throughout the world. Such an anniversary is vivid testimony to the challenge and vision of youth and to the special enthusiasm and challenge they give to the entire community. God bless you, all who have passed through the Cleveland ACYOA these past 25 years.

And God bless all who have gathered this weekend, not only in the name of fun and fellowship, but in the name of God and people. May His Spirit continue to grace you with the unique gifts of youth, gifts that inspire older generations to see the past more clearly, to live the present more vigorously and to believe in the future more deeply.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

February 1990