

TO BE RETURNED TO THE

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Diocese of the Armenian Church

630 Second Avenue, N. Y. C. 10016

File: Armenian Clergy
HIS BEATITUDE PATRIARCH SHNORK KALOUSTIAN

His Beatitude Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian was born in 1913 in Bdeli, Turkey. He lost his family during the deportations and massacres in Turkey in 1915. Only he and his mother were saved but soon, somehow, he was separated from her also and was never able to see her again. In 1920, he was placed as an orphan in the Near East Orphanage in Talas, Turkey. In 1927, he was admitted to the Jarankavoradz School of the Armenian Seminary at the St. James Monastery in Jerusalem and was graduated in 1932 and was ordained a deacon by the late Patriarch Torkom.

In 1935, completing the theological school of the Seminary, he was ordained a celibate priest again by Patriarch Torkom and his christian name, Arshag, was changed to Shnork (Apegha). He was soon named the Patriarch's staff-bearer. From 1936 to 1940, he served as Director of the Printing Press of the St. James Convent. From 1940 to 1941, he served as the pastor of the Armenian parish in Haifa. From 1941-1944, he was named the Dean of the Antelias Seminary and taught the Armenian language, church history as well as commentary of the Bible and Grabar (ancient Armenian).

From 1945 to 1948, he served as the pastor of the St. Sarkis parish in London, England at the same time continuing his theological studies. In 1948, he was invited by the then Primate of the Armenian Diocese of America to assume the pastorate of the St. Mary's Church in Newark, N. J. At the same time, he edited the official monthly of the Diocese, "Hayastanyaitz Yegehetzy".

In 1953, he was elected Primate of the Diocese of California and in 1955, took part in the National-Ecclesiastical Assembly which was held at Holy Etchmiadzin, and on October 6, of the same year, was ordained a bishop by His Holiness Catholicos Vasken I. After his ordination, he returned to Jerusalem and was elected chief sacristan and continued in that capacity until 1959, when, owing to the unfortunate developments in the See of Jerusalem, he was obliged to leave the Patriarchate and went to Constantinople as the guest of the late Patriarch Karekin. He was elected Patriarch of the Armenian See of Constantinople on October 11, 1961.



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FRIENDSHIP PICTURE — This picture was taken following a friendship Greek and Armenian service in the Greek Eastern Orthodox Church in Istanbul, Turkey. Both the Greek and Armenian patriarchs, above foreground, were present. Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian, left front, is the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Turkey and the former primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of the California Diocese with his headquarters in Fresno. At right is Patriarch Athenagoras, the head of the Greek Eastern Orthodox Church. *March 17-62*



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