

PRIMATE'S MESSAGE

It was a personal joy for us that twenty years ago, through the grace of God, we, as Primate of the Armenian Diocese of America, consecrated the Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania. We use the word "personal" because the Holy Trinity parish in North Philadelphia was our first pastorate in the United States in 1946.

The Holy Trinity parish has been a steadfast example of the ever-renewing faith and determination of our people. It was a sad event when the old structure was destroyed by fire. The parish, with vision and purpose, rebuilt the beautiful structure that we have today in Cheltenham.

For twenty years, Holy Trinity has gathered its flock, leading them in spiritual and cultural life. The present pastor, the Very Reverend Father Haigazoun Melkonian, with his youthful vigor has carried out his duties ever mindful of the importance of the Church in the life of every Christian Armenian. The parish council through the years has been the wise steward in directing the Church's welfare and future. Churches are not built for the present.

We congratulate you, the pastor, the parish council and all its auxiliary bodies for the twenty years of loyal service to God and our people.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

August 1986