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# news:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN TO VISIT PHILADELPHIA AREA**

The new Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, His Eminence Bishop Khajag Barsamian, will be in Cheltenham on Saturday and Sunday, November 24 and 25, 1990. He will be visiting the Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 101 Ashmead Road, in Cheltenham. The event marks Bishop Khajag Barsamian's first official visit to the Philadelphia vicinity as Primate.

On Saturday evening, beginning at 7:30 p.m., the Very Reverend Father Haigazoun Melkonian and the parishioners of the Holy Trinity Church will welcome their new Primate in a traditional Armenian processional ceremony. A reception will follow.

On Sunday morning, beginning at 10:30 a.m., Bishop Barsamian will celebrate the Divine Liturgy, the ancient and sacred mass of the Armenian Church.

At 1:00 p.m. the Bishop will preside over a special banquet in his honor, during which two local parishioners—Mrs. Hyarpi Garibian, and Mr. Edward Terzian, both of Northeast Philadelphia—will be recognized as "Elders of the Church."

His Eminence Bishop Khajag Barsamian was elevated to the episcopal rank on October 7, 1990, by His Holiness Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, at the ancient Cathedral of Etchmiadzin in Armenia. At 39, Bishop Barsamian is the youngest man ever to hold the post of Diocesan Primate, the highest office in the Armenian Church of America.

Of special interest is Bishop Barsamian's recent trip to Soviet Armenia, where he visited the town of Stepanavan, site of the tragic earthquake of December 7, 1988. The Primate brings fresh insights into the political and social developments in this tumultuous region, as well as news of the rebuilding efforts which have been spearheaded by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

Bishop Barsamian will be available for interviews on the afternoon of Saturday, November 24, from 12:00 noon onward; and on the afternoon of Sunday, November 25, following church services, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

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