



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIMATE

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate my brother in Christ, the Very Reverend Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of his ordination into the holy priesthood of the Armenian Church.

The vocation of the priesthood was established by Jesus Christ Himself, when He laid His hands upon His apostles, and sent them forth to evangelize and minister to all mankind. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the original apostles selected and ordained others to carry on this work, and this apostolic succession has been preserved and handed down, from one generation to the next, through the holy tradition of the Church. The priesthood is an unbroken chain which links all of us back to Christ.

Twenty years ago, Fr. Haigazoun took on the duties of Christ's priesthood. He has carried the pastoral staff with grace and dignity, and has become beloved in the hearts of his parishioners as a man of spiritual integrity, deep learning, and a gentle sense of humor. He has a special insight into the joys and sorrows of the human condition, and is always available to listen to a problem, answer a question, lend a sympathetic ear or a helping hand to the members of his flock.

During his ministry, Fr. Haigazoun has paid special attention to the vocation of teaching. It is the hallmark of the finest teachers that they can express the deepest sentiments and most profound ideas through a few carefully chosen words, thus clarifying us in our confusion, illuminating us in our ignorance, and consoling us in our sorrow. This is one of the highest callings for a pastor—a calling which Fr. Haigazoun truly exemplifies. The Armenian Church is fortunate to have such a shepherd leading its flock, and the Holy Trinity parish is fortunate to have him as its pastor.

We offer our congratulations to Fr. Haigazoun as he passes this milestone in his ministry, and pray that he will continue to preach, serve, and labor in the vineyard of our Lord for many years to come.

With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

May 19, 1996