



from the office of the

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NEWS:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DR. RAFFY HOVANESSIAN RECEIVES SOORP NERSESS SHNORHALI AWARD

For his more than 30 years of devoted service to his Church, community and nation, Dr. Raffy Hovanessian was recently honored with the St. Nersess Shnorhali medal and encyclical from His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians.

The official presentation was made at the tenth anniversary banquet of the Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Church in Palos Heights, ILL, by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church. Paying tribute to the devoted service of both Rev. Father Diran Papazian, the Church's Pastor, and Dr. Raffy Hovanessian, the Primate in his address to the parishioners, emphasized that the young people are fortunate to have the wonderful examples set by these two leaders.

Dr. Hovanessian's dedication to his people is well known throughout the Armenian community. Born in Jerusalem 55 years ago, he has been deeply involved in Armenian activities from his earliest days as a student of medicine at the American University of Beirut, founding the Armenian University Students' Association of Beirut which is still active today. Emigrating to the United States in 1965 with his family, he studied at Johns Hopkins Medical School, and served in the U.S. military service.

For the last 23 years, this devoted son of the Armenian people has given dedicated service and been a generous benefactor to the Chicago Armenian community. He has been intimately involved with the Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Church from its inception, donating generous contributions to its construction, including its Hovanessian Hall. A Diocesan delegate for 15 years, he has served as Chairman of the Diocesan Assembly for two years, and as a board member of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund as well as the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

