

FR. VAHAN'S INSTALLATION AS PASTOR OF ST. LEON  
CHURCH OF FAIRLAWN, JUNE, 1993

Dear Parishioners,

One of the worst ordeals for a parish is the possibility of being left without a pastor. The harvest is rich and the tillers are unfortunately very few in number. Without a pastor or a shepherd, the fold runs the risk of becoming scattered. Without the fold, that is the Church, salvation is impossible for humanity. We must all thank God that this parish, one of the active ones in our Diocese, will no longer continue to function without a pastor, since I have

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already made the necessary arrangement and appointed a priest to that position. Today, we are gathered here to mark the installation of the Very Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhannesian as your new pastor.

Fr. Hovhannesian is a graduate of the St. Nersess Seminary and is presently a graduate student at Fordham University, working toward the Doctorate degree. He brings with him excellent academic and ecclesiastical credentials - and some experience in pastoral work, which he acquired as the Acting Grand Sacristan of the St. Vartan Cathedral. It is with some regret that we let go of him from the Diocese, since during the past year he endeared himself

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to all of his colleagues and the Diocesan groups through his willingness to serve and be helpful.

Fr. Vahan will now devote his talents and dedication to this wonderful parish. He is young and energetic, and eager to learn, loyal to his calling and ready to delve into community activities, but above all, he is dedicated to the mission of preaching the word of God to his own Armenian people. I ask that you work with him, and assist him in the difficult task of tending to your spiritual needs. Willingness on your part to help and a display of some diligence on his part will turn this parish into a very active church, a living house of God.

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I wish Fr. Vahan the best in his new post. He is my younger brother and can always count on my help, whenever he needs me. I am sure that he will do his best to help this parish grow in faith. As the parish grows in faith, so will the pastor of the flock receive the spiritual satisfaction of achieving a milestone in the pasture of the Lord.

May God keep this pasture and its new pastor under his protective hand and set his love in your midst so that both, pastor and fold, live and work in harmony.

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