

Fr. Bared's Installation as Pastor of St. John Church,
Southfield, October, 1993

Dear Parishioners,

One of the worst ordeals for a parish is to be 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, the largest and the most active in our Diocese, will no longer continue to function without a permanent pastor, since Fr.

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Bared Dzayrakooy Vartabed Yeretzian is already here in your midst. Today, we are gathered here to mark his installation as your new pastor.

Fr. Bared is a graduate of the St. James Seminary in Jerusalem and a member of the St. James Brotherhood, which is officially the guardian of the holy dominical sites in the Holy Land. Fr. Bared spent the best years of his life serving the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem and our Diocese. While in Jerusalem he was assigned to a number of important posts and positions which he handled well. He also taught in the Seminary. I distinctly remember him from those days as a very dedicated, inspired and energetic

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young vartabed.

Twenty years ago he came to this city to continue his education and for a while served in this parish as an assistant pastor. Many of you will remember him from then.

After completing the course of his education, he went to Canada, which was then a part of our Diocese, and served in Montreal. From there he went to Lawrence, Massachusetts, where he spent six years. During the past eight years he was the pastor of the Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church, one of our largest parishes. Thanks to his hu-

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manity and warm personality, Fr. Bared has always gathered around himself the faithful and created activity wherever he has gone. He is a people-oriented person, as a pastor should be and he has a wonderful way with young as well as old people. His services to his church did not escape the attention of our former Primate who bestowed on him the rank of Dzayrakooy vartabedootyoon several years ago.

Fr. Bared has many talents and much experience, which qualify him to his new position as the pastor of this wonderful parish. He is young and energetic, eager to work, loyal to his calling and ready to delve into com-

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munity activities, but above all, he is dedicated to the mission of preaching the word of God to his own Armenian people. After all these years, he has kept his identity as a Jerusalemite. One can still detect in him the spirit, mentality, color and sound of ancient Jerusalem. He still preserves the tradition he, as well as many of us, learned in the ancient Monastery of St. James. At this time, 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 effort on his will turn this parish into an even more active church and a living house of God.

I wish Fr. Bared the best in his new post. He is my

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elder 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 reaching a milestone in the pasture of the Lord.

May the good Lord 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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