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news:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRIMATE INTRODUCES NEW PASTOR TO DETROIT PARISH

It was a day of rejoicing when on Sunday, October 10, the St. John the Baptist Church of Detroit was formally introduced to its new parish priest, Very Rev. Bared Yeretian. The Primate of the Armenian Church, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian presented him to the parish, the largest in the Diocese, and presided over the special event. He was accompanied by Judge Vincent Gurahian, Chairman of the Diocesan Council.

The day had begun with the celebration of the Holy Badarak by Father Bared, with the Primate giving the sermon. The afternoon banquet, attended by more than 500 people, included honored guests, Mr. Alex Manoogian and Mrs. Helen Mardigian. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Parish Council Chairman Haig Korkoian, with Harry Terzian performing the role of Master of Ceremonies.

Mr. Manoogian expressed appreciation to the Primate who came to Detroit to personally present the new pastor, and Edmund Azadian spoke of behalf of the community. To the delight of all, the children of the Manoogian Day School recited Armenian poems, and danced several charming numbers.

Fr. Bared graduated from St. James Seminary in Jerusalem where he also taught, and is a member of the St. James Brotherhood. In 1973, he came to Detroit to further pursue his education, and served for a time at St. John the Baptist Church as an assistant pastor. After completing his education, he served in Montreal, Canada, and following a six-year stint in Lawrence, MA, he served as pastor of the Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church for eight years.

In his inspiring address, the Primate poignantly spoke about the harsh ordeals endured by a parish 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. 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. Bared Dzayrakooyan Vartabed Yeretzian is already here in your midst, he stated.

The Primate continued by paying tribute to Fr. Bared's humanity, warm personality, youth and energy. "Fr. Bared has always gathered around himself the faithful and created activity wherever he has gone. He is a people-oriented person, and has a wonderful way with young as well as old people. He is eager to work, 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," the Primate said.

During this same weekend, the Primate had dinner with the Parish Council and Diocesan delegates of St. John the Baptist, and discussed the St. Nersess Seminary Building project with Mr. Manoogian. The Primate also met with several of the parish organizations, including the Choir, the Sunday School, ACYOA, Women's Guild, the Men's Club, the Cultural Committee, answered their questions on Armenia, and explained the plans of the Diocese in giving further assistance to Armenia.

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