

PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II TO THE CONGRESS

Almighty Lord and God, light to all nations,

Help us walk in your light

To advance the cause of freedom and human dignity in America, where democracy has grown strong over two centuries, and in Armenia, a new republic with strong hopes,

And to make wise decisions of law on behalf of real people and real pain.

Lord, bless the American people and their servants who bear the privilege and burden of leadership. Also bless the Armenian people who are celebrating the 1700th anniversary of their ancestors' conversion to Christianity. Unite the diverse peoples of the world into one sacred family, that we might share our stories and dreams in Your Holy Name,

For to you is glory, power, and honor, always and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II TO THE SENATE

Almighty God and Lord, we come together from different places, cultures and traditions on a unique day that you have created. We rejoice and are glad in it. We want to walk together in your light. Help us to do so.

Thank you for our diversity and the richness this brings when we share our lives with each other. Help us to understand each other better through our differences and to recognize what we have in common.

Thank you for democracy, which gives such dignity to each person and reflects Your sense of human worth. Please nurture our democracies—America, which has grown strong over two centuries, and Armenia, a newer democracy with strong hopes.

In this year, when we recognize the 1700th anniversary of Armenia's conversion to Christianity, may we grow stronger in faith and remember the importance of being true to the vision You give us.

We join the prayer of Saint Nersess the Graceful and ask you to give us wisdom so we may always think, speak, and do what is good in your sight, and to save us from evil thoughts, words and deeds. Please give us wisdom in our decisions and dealings with each other, staff, constituents, and those seeking our help.

Thank you for placing us in positions of influence. Help us make the nation and our world better.

Holy Father, I ask you to bless the Senators, the American Government and people, and to bless the Armenian people and nation. I pray for the unity of the churches and peoples and ask You to bless the clergy of this nation. We know that you alone are God. To You be glory, power and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages.