



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ԱՐԵՒԵԼԵԱՆ ԹԵՄԻ

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

February 1, 2000

The Most Reverend Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian
Chairman
17th Centenary of the Proclamation
of Christianity in Armenia
Holy Etchmiadzin
Vagharshapat
Republic of Armenia

Your Eminence,

On behalf of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, I would like to respond to your letter dated January 13, 2000 addressed to His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian.

According to your correspondence, you state that you sent us 51 sets of coins commemorating the 1700 years of Armenian Christianity. Our records indicate that we received 49 sets. Out of the sets received, we have sold six sets, leaving 43 sets in our inventory.

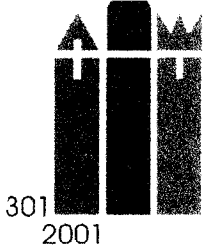
Based on the six sets sold we owe you \$1,200 or \$200 per set, which will be transferred to the account indicated in your letter of January 13, 2000.

As for the 43 sets remaining in inventory, we can return them to you or if you like we can forward them on to someone who might be better equipped to dispose of them.

We await your disposition and correspondence.

Respectfully,

Haig Varjian
Manager,
Armenian Diocese Gift Shop and Bookstore



1700 ԱՄԵԱԿ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՄԷՋ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՆԵՒՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ԿՐՕՆ ՀՈՉԱԿԱՆ

17TH CENTENARY OF THE PROCLAMATION
OF CHRISTIANITY IN ARMENIA

301

2001

N 349

22 Դեկտեմբեր 1999 թ.

Գերաշնորհ
Տ. Խաժակ Արքեպիսկոպոս Պարսամեան
Առաջնորդ Հիսիսային Ամերիկայի Արևելեան թեմի
Նիւ Եորք

Քրիստոնեութեան Հայաստանի Պետական Կրօն հռչակման 1700-ամեակի գրասենեակին և անձնապէս մեր կողմէ հաճոյքն ունինք շնորհատրելու զՁեզ՝ փրկչական 2000 թուականի ամանորի և մեր Տիրոջ Սուրբ Ծննդեան և Աստուածայայտնութեան տօներուն բարեբաստիկ առթիւ:

Մեր մաղթանքն է, որ նոր հազարամեակը բարի, արդար և երջանիկ հորիզոններ բանայ մեր ժողովուրդին դիմաց, և մեր ազգը, հաւատարիմ իր հայրերուն, յոյսով նայի ապագային, և Նոր Դարուն մէջ ապրի և իրագործէ ինքզինք իբրև լաւ մարդ, լաւ հայ և լաւ քրիստոնեայ:

Մենք կը մաղթենք նաև, որ յառաջիկայ տարին, և, առաւել ևս 2001 թուականը մենք վայելենք ձեր գործակցութիւնը՝ որպէսզի լաւագոյն արդիւնատրութեամբ գործենք, և աշխարհի առջև իսկապէս արժևորենք մեր երկրի պաշտօնական Քրիստոնեացման 1700-ամեակը:

Եղբայրական սիրով կ'ողջունենք Ձեզ, Ձեր Տիրախնամ թեմի հոգևորականաց դասը, ժողովականութիւնը և համայն ժողովուրդը:

Սիրոյ ողջունիւ աղոթակից՝

Մեսրոպ Արք. Աշճեան
Վարիչ Քարտուղար 1700-ամեակի

Draft

**1700 Anniversary Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 10, 1999 4:00 pm**

Attendance: Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Fr. Krikor Maksoudian, Mr. Michael Haratunian, Mr. Aram Arkun, Mr. George Kassis, Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Fr. Untzag Nalbandian, Ms. Karen Bedrosian Richardson and Mr. Jon Simonian.

The meeting convened at 4:25 PM with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian offering the opening prayer. The minutes of the meeting of September 14, 1999 were approved. Michael Haratunian reported that the committee has received \$10,000 from the Diocesan Council and a checking account has been opened to cover initial expenses. He asked that all sub-committees present program outlines, dates and venues so that a calendar of events can be prepared for the 1700th anniversary celebration.

In expressing his opinion of what the message of the 1700th anniversary should be, Mr. Haratunian commented that the Church, as an institution, is a legacy that we have received. How well this legacy is maintained in the future will depend on how well the Church is able to reach out to the American Armenian community. In order to do this, Mr. Haratunian continued, the church needs qualified clergy to lead the flock. Therefore, the financial beneficiary of the 1700th anniversary celebration should be the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. The aim of the fundraising campaign will be the education of clergy and lay people to insure the future of the Armenian Church in America.

1. **Exhibits:** In the absence of Professor Bardakjian, Michael Haratunian reported that Prof. Bardakjian and the delegation from the University of Michigan were in Armenia and they met with the officials there. However, Prof. Bardakjian has not as yet presented his report. It was the unanimous decision of the committee that the Diocese will have to reconsider whether to co-sponsor the exhibit if a major donor is not found to underwrite the entire expense of such an exhibit.
2. **Concert:** In the absence of Mr. Arzruni there is no new information to report on the concert.
3. **Teaching Role of the Church:** Since Fr. Daniel is absent, there is no new information to present on this item of the agenda. However, Mr. Haratunian reported that Fr. Daniel and Fr. Vahan have finalized a list of subjects that will be covered in the brochures. They have asked for editorial assistance. They will use the resources of the Diocesan Departments. Fr. Untzag will work with this sub-committee.

4. **Ecumenical Service:** The Primate reported that the National Council of Churches is in favor of an ecumenical service celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Armenian Church. They suggested that this celebration be incorporated into an event to take place in Washington, DC with the Catholic Church and member churches with the attendance of government leaders. A suggestion was made that the committee plan a badarak, possibly in Central Park, to celebrate the Feast of Etchmiadzin in June of 2001. It was agreed that the committee will await the final decision of the National Council of Churches before it continues with plans for a local ecumenical service.
5. **Youth:** Fr. Vasken reported on his ideas for the youth. He said that the theme of the 1700th Anniversary would be incorporated in all youth activities throughout the year. As to the actual celebration, he suggested either a week-end program which could include a dance, a picnic, etc. or a one day major event to take place in a well known site in New York, such as Central Park, with a nationally recognizable figure as MC. It was agreed to ask Fr. Mardiros Chevian for his advice and help in approaching young Armenian professionals to organize a major event in Central Park that would include the youth event as part of its program.
6. **Academic:** Fr. Krikor reported that he had no new developments to add to his proposal that was presented at the last meeting. Mr. Haratunian asked the academic sub-committee to provide a specific outline of subjects, speakers, dates and budget for consideration at the next committee meeting. The symposium, organized by the Zohrab Center, must be announced as soon as possible.
7. **Public Relations:** Jon Simonian reported that the creation of an interactive web page would cost between \$10,000-\$25,000. He felt this endeavor should be left to the Diocesan Council to undertake. However, the design and contents of a web site that would be linked to the existing address of armenianchurch.org would cost \$1500.00. The committee approved the expenditure of \$1500.00. Mr. Simonian suggested the name of Barbara Mouk to work as a freelance PR person for the 1700th Anniversary. The committee agreed that Mr. Simonian approach Ms. Mouk with an offer of \$1000.00 per month plus expenses. George Kassis reported that Armen Garabedian is working on the design of a logo for the 1700th Anniversary, which will be ready for the committee's consideration at its next meeting.
8. **Fund Raising & Budgets:** Michael Haratunian reported that a separate fund raising committee will be established for the 1700th Anniversary, as was done for the centennial celebration of the Diocese.
9. **New Business:** Jon Simonian suggested that more activities be planned at the grass roots level (picnics, dinners, entertainment). Michael Haratunian said a directive from the Primate and a guideline on the 1700th anniversary celebration will be prepared and sent to the parishes. A Parish Activities sub-committee,

under the direction of Fr. Untzag, will be established and it will be an item on all future agendas.

10. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8, 1999 at 4:00 PM at the Diocese.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM with the Primate offering the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Berjouhi Saladin

Museum of Art

525 South State Street
Ann Arbor MI 48109-1354

734 764-0395
734 764-3731 *Fax*

12 October 1999

His Eminence Archbishop Khajak Barsamian
Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Your Eminence Archbishop Khajak Barsamian:

As I believe you know, Professor Kevork Bardakjian's hard work and planning for the Armenian exhibition in 2001 are beginning to bear fruit. Carole McNamara and I have finalized our plans travel to Yerevan this coming weekend. We now have appointments to meet with officials at the Mother See of Etchmiadzin, the Matenadaran, and the State History Museum of Armenia between October 20 and 22. The guest curator of the exhibition, Dr. Alice Taylor, will meet us in Armenia so that she can help prepare the lists of works that we will borrow from each institution for the exhibition. Although there is much work ahead of us as the exhibition begins to take shape, we hope that the outcome of the trip will be the loan of many of the important and remarkable works in Armenian collections that Dr. Taylor would like to include in this exhibition.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Eastern Diocese for agreeing to share the costs of this upcoming trip. As you know, the project is as yet still largely unfunded, and your assistance in this early planning stage of the exhibition is critical to the success of the trip. We will be in touch with you again once we have returned to the United States and Dr. Taylor has had a chance to formulate a working checklist of objects to be included in the exhibition. We are looking forward to working with you as the exhibition develops.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



James Steward
Director

Cc: Michael Haratunian

Diocese of the Armenian Church
Diocesan Council Meeting
October 1, 1999

Update on 1700 Centennial Committee Meetings

The Centennial Committee met on September 13th to discuss ideas and talk about preliminary budgets. Here is a summary of activities planned.

Art Exhibit of Armenian manuscripts, miniatures, vestments, etc. Shown in 3 or 4 major centers. Smaller exhibits elsewhere. 7 to 9 week stay.	Budget: \$500,000
Armenian Concerts. Maybe 5 church locations. Featuring individual artists. Armenian and American-Armenian. Maybe a choir from Armenia. Include instrumental and organ music.	Budget: \$30,000 with all USA talent Budget: \$60,000 for a choir from Armenia.
Academic Symposium. 5 panel discussions with 3 or 4 lecturers on various topics connected with Armenian Christianity and the Armenian Church. Held at St. Necess and university campus. Publications.	Budget: \$50,000
Teaching Brochures: 6 to 8 pamphlets for publication and distribution on significant doctrine and milestones of the Armenian Church. Need an editorial committee to create these works.	Budget: \$10,000
Ecumenical Service: need to assign someone to work on this.	Budget: NA
Youth: will have thoughts for next meeting.	Budget: NA
Public Relations: create a web site so we can control the information the world sees about us. Need to start process of looking for a Public Relations resource to create and distribute copy for 1700 Centennial and other purposes.	Budget: \$1500 for web site Budget: \$12,000 for PR temporary resource or \$35,000 for permanent staff

The next step for the Diocesan Council is to anticipate the request from the Centennial Committee for \$10,000 seed money to begin the work. The longer term financial game plan is to find individual donors to cover each of the activity budgets. Next meeting is Wednesday, November 10, 1999.

Commentary: This is the thought process I see evolving. I'm not convinced that the proposed structure of activities is optimal, but I'm the minority position on the committee.

Jon Simonian
9/29/99

Museum of Art

525 South State Street
Ann Arbor MI 48109-1354

734 764-0395
734 764-3731 *Fax*

15 September, 1999

Ms. Anelka Grigoryan, Director
State History Museum of Armenia
Republic Square
Yerevan, Armenia
Via fax: 374.2.50.60.98

Dear Ms. Grigoryan:

The University of Michigan Museum of Art, along with the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, is planning an exhibition that will celebrate the 1700 year anniversary of Armenian Christianity. This exhibition planned to begin in the fall of 2001 will explore the evolution of the Armenian national character through the Armenian church and its imagery, and will be curated by Dr. Alice Taylor. The exhibition will be broad in scope, supplemented with loans from the United States and other countries, and will include liturgical objects in addition to manuscripts. We anticipate that the exhibition's tour would consist of several venues between eight and ten weeks in length. The exhibition would be shown in New York and Ann Arbor plus two additional venues; the total loan period would be approximately nine months, depending upon the final number of venues. We realize that a chief concern would be for the safe display of the objects and vestments from your collections. We would fabricate mounts for each loan object and would restrict light levels on textiles to a range of five to eight footcandles (50-80 lux).

We understand that with the approaching anniversary you will receive a number of requests from museums and libraries around the world to borrow works from your holdings. We would like to request the loan of approximately thirty works from your collections for inclusion in our exhibition. As we refine the themes of the exhibition, we will be able to submit a specific list of works that we would like to include in our

exhibition. A delegation from Ann Arbor is hoping to make a visit to Yerevan during the month of October to discuss possible loans from the State History Museum of Armenia.

The University of Michigan Museum of Art is an institution accredited by the American Association of Museums and has full climate control and a professional security staff and electronic devices to safeguard all objects in our care. Your loans would be installed in an appropriate manner by our trained professional staff. If you would like a report detailing our facility's security, fire protection, etc. we would be happy to send that to you under separate cover. Any other venues would have similar high standards in matters of professional handling of artwork, security and climate control, and we could also send facilities reports for those institutions as well.

We hope that you will give your favorable consideration to our request. If you have any questions about our request for loans from your collections, please let us know. We will be in touch with you again in the near future with a more specific request list.

Sincerely,



James Steward, Director
University of Michigan Museum of Art
Ann Arbor, MI 48109



Archbishop Khajak Barsamian
Primate
Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of
America
New York, NY



Memorandum

Date: September 15, 1999
To: Archbishop K. Barsamian and Diocesan Council
Fax# (212) 447-6674
From: Michael Haratunian *MH*
Subject: 1700th Anniversary Committee

I am certain the Council is aware of the plans being formulated for the Diocese on the occasion of the 1700th Anniversary of Armenia's acceptance of Christianity.

We anticipate major events during the year 2001 such as symposiums, concerts, exhibits, youth programs, etc. which will be of great benefit to our people and the church.

I have been told that we should not begin any fund-raising for the 1700th Anniversary until early 2000 in order to avoid conflict with other Diocesan events.

In that case, I am requesting that the Council advance \$10,000 to our committee which will provide seed money for some early commitments we must make. Of course, this will be refunded to the Diocese in early 2000 once we begin our fundraising.

I ask your approval at the earliest possible time.



1700 ԱՄՆԿԿ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՄԷՋ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՆԵՌՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ԿՐՈՆ ՀՈՉԱԿԱՆ

17TH CENTENARY OF THE PROCLAMATION
OF CHRISTIANITY IN ARMENIA

N-203

14 Սեպտեմբեր 1999թ.

- CENTRAL COMMITTEE**
His Holiness Karekin I
Catholicos of All Armenians
His Holiness Aram I
Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia
His Beatitude Terlem
Patriarch of Jerusalem
His Beatitude Karekin
Patriarch of Constantinople
- CATHOLICOSATE OF ALL ARMENIANS**
His Grace Archbishop Karapin Norajin
His Grace Archbishop Norvan Zakharian
His Grace Archbishop Mesrob Khabatyan
His Grace Bishop Asghik Arghishtyan
His Grace Archbishop Norvan Dedejian
His Grace Bishop Hovhann Khachatryan
Very Rev. Yeghik Detsian
Very Rev. Michael Bedrossian
Mr. Hovhann
Mr. Hovhann Papayan
Mr. Kirak Khachatryan
Mr. Vladimir Baghdasarian
- CATHOLICOSATE OF GREAT HOUSE OF CILICIA**
His Grace Archbishop Arak Manoukian
His Grace Archbishop Gevorg Bedjan
His Grace Archbishop Zaven Aramyan
His Grace Bishop Ohannes Cholevan
Very Rev. Manouk Bedrossian
Very Rev. Vazgen Margarian
Khasik Babikian, Esq.
Mr. Vazgen Aramyan
- PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM**
His Grace Archbishop Gevorg Sahakyan
His Grace Bishop Suren Ghazarian
- PATRIARCHATE OF ISTANBUL**
His Grace Archbishop Mesrob Mesropyan
Mr. Bagrat Mooradian
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
Archbishop Dr. Mesrob K. Khabatyan
Bishop Ohannes Cholevan
Chairman
Archbishop Norvan Dedejian
Very Rev. Manouk Bedrossian
Secretary
Archbishop Karekin Norajin
Archbishop Mesrob Khachatryan
Bishop Suren Ghazarian
Bishop Asghik Arghishtyan
Prof. Ghigor Khachatryan
Prof. Vladimir Bedrossian
Khasik Babikian, Esq.
Archbishop Mesrob Arshakyan
Executive Secretary

Գերաշնորհ
Տ. Խաժակ Արք. Պարսամեան
Առաջնորդ Հիսիսային Ամերիկայի
Արևելեան թեմի

Նի Եորք

Սիրելի Սրբազան եղբայր,
Այսու գրով և ուրախութեամբ կը յայտնենք որ Հայաստանի Պետական բանկը արդէն իսկ թողարկած է «Քրիստոնէայ Հայաստան» յուշադրամներու շարքին երկրորդը՝ որ նուիրուած է Արթամարի Սուրբ Խաչ եկեղեցիին: Մենք, ըստ առաջնոյն, մեզի համար պիտի ապահովենք 700 օրինակ, և, նախընտրաբար, պիտի տրամադրենք այն անձերուն, որոնք արդէն իսկ գնած են շարքի առաջին «սերը», Մայր Աթոռ Սուրբ Էջմիածնի պատկերով:

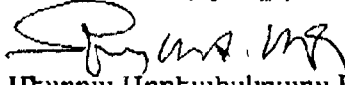
Ընդհանրապէս ենք, որ օգնեցիք մեզի, որ կարենանք նախաձեռնել այս յուշադրամներու տարածման աշխատանքին, ինչ որ, բազ գիտք, մեզի համար ալ եկամտի բանկազին աղբիւր հանդիսացաւ:

Բայց, որպէսզի մեր ծրագիրը շարունակենք, մենք պէտք է որ նախ փակենք «Էջմիածին» հասարակայնի վաճառուած օրինակներու գումարներու իրացումը: Ուստի ջերմապէս կը խնդրենք, որ Սեպտեմբեր ամսուան, անձամբ և կամ այլապէս ջանաք այդ հաշուեփակը կատարել, և նաև ստանձնել «Արթամար» շարքին նոր օրինակները:

Ըստ մեր հաշուարկին, Դուք պարտիք հաշի տեսնել 51 սերին համար, գումար՝ 10200 տոլար: Կրնայ ըլլալ որ որոշ անճշտութիւններ ըլլան մեր և Ձեր հաշուարկներուն միջև: Հաճեցէք ներողամիտ ըլլալ և վստահ ենք որ այդ բոլորը կը ճշդուին:

Կանխապաշտ շնորհակալութեամբ և Սիրոյ ջերմ ողջունի

Աղօթակից


Մեսրոպ Արքեպիսկոպոս Աշճեան
Վարիչ-քարտուղար

Fax Transmission

Date: July 27, 1999

To: H.E. Abp. K. BARSAMIAN

Fax: (1-212) 447-6674
From: Sahan Arzruni

My Phone/Fax: (1-212) 650-0956

No. of pages including cover page: 1

Good afternoon Srpazan:

I was just told by Berjuli about the change of time on Thursday. Unfortunately, I have a previous appointment for that slot, which I cannot break. Although we spoke in general terms about the concert, here is what I suggest. First of all, a budget should be allocated, even if it is a ballpark figure: \$25,000, \$50,000 or \$100,000. Once we know the parameters, then we can determine the kind of program and the place we can afford. If the performance is done in a concert hall, then we need to sell tickets which is not easy (we sold only 450 tickets for the Centennial). In a church hall, it could be done less expensively (the rental of the place would be much less, I would think), but there would be no ticket sales. Right? If we go for the expensive way, we could have a vocal-symphonic concert; for the mid-price range, just a chorus of 25-30 singers (I suggest thinking in terms of the Hovhannes Mirzoyan choir from Armenia, which specializes in church music); and for the lower-range budget, just soloist, both vocal and instrumental. The program should be eclectic—material that is familiar to the audience as well as compositions that would be introduced for the first time. Let me know. Best.

Please call if you experience any transmission problems.

Museum of Art

525 South State Street
Ann Arbor MI 48109-1354

734 764-0395
734 764-3731 *Fax*

June 22, 1999

Academician Sen Arevshatyan
Director
The Matenadaran
Mashtots Prospekt
Yerevan, Armenia
Via fax: 374.2.151087

Dear Mr. Arevshatyan:

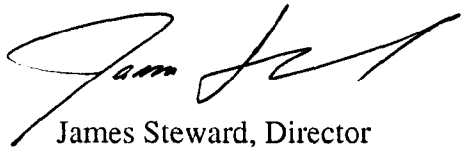
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The University of Michigan Museum of Art is an institution accredited by the American Association of Museums and has full climate control and a professional security staff and electronic devices to safeguard all objects in our care. Your loans would be installed in an appropriate manner by our trained professional staff. If you would like a report detailing our facility's security, fire protection, etc. we would be happy to send that to you under separate cover. Any other venues would have similar high standards in matters of professional handling of artwork, security and climate control.

We hope that you will give your favorable consideration to our request. If you have any questions about our request, please let us know. We will be in touch with you again in the near future with a more specific request list.

Sincerely,



James Steward, Director
University of Michigan Museum of Art
Ann Arbor, MI 48109



Archbishop Khagak Barsamian
Primate
Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of
America
New York, NY

MUSEUM OF ART

525 South State Street
Ann Arbor MI 48109-1354

734 764-0395
734 764-3731 Fax

June 22, 1999

Academician Sen Arevshatyan
Director
The Matenadaran
Mashtots Prospekt
Yerevan, Armenia
Via fax: 374.2.151087

Dear Mr. Arevshatyan:

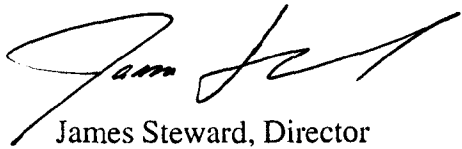
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Sincerely,



James Steward, Director
University of Michigan Museum of Art
Ann Arbor, MI 48109



Archbishop Khagak Barsamian
Primate
Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of
America
New York, NY

1999 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 1700th ANNIVERSARY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

During the year 2001, Armenians throughout the world will be celebrating the 1700th Anniversary of the adoption of Christianity.

The Diocese, for its part, has organized a special committee to plan and implement a series of programs to commemorate this historic event.

After many meetings during the past year the committee has reached certain conclusions.

OBJECTIVES

1. We will make the 1700th Anniversary celebration one of recommitment to the spirit and faith of St Gregory.
2. We will commemorate the central role that Christianity has played in the life of the Armenian people.
3. We will emphasize the major importance of the Armenian Church, especially in the United States.
4. We will prepare suitable programs with the participation of the community at both the diocesan and parish levels.

PROGRAMS

In general, we wish to involve the parishes as much as possible in sponsoring activities for the 1700th Anniversary to be implemented at the local level. The Diocese will provide background material, speakers, publications, etc. for use by local pastors and committees.

1. Teaching Role of the Church

As part of the church's outreach to the faithful, booklets will be published, under the direction of the St. Nersess Seminary faculty, with the overall theme of the Armenian Church's place in the universal church of Jesus Christ. These booklets will address contemporary issues we face as a church in America; they will be pocket size, to be mailed to all those on the Diocesan mailing list or taken home by our parishioners from local churches.

2. Religious Services

It is expected that throughout the year 2001 and beginning on Christmas, January 6th, the 1700th anniversary will be the primary theme for religious services whenever appropriate. A special ecumenical service is being planned in Washington, DC, together with the National

Council of Churches, the Catholic Conference of Bishops and others. Hopefully the Catholicos of All Armenians will also participate.

3. Concerts

A choral group from Armenia will tour the US and visit several major centers in the Diocese over a 2-3 week period. The concerts will be made up of Armenian sacred compositions featuring choral and instrumental music.

4. Symposium and Conference

A major academic symposium will be held by the Zohrab Center dealing with the history of Christianity in Armenia from the 4th century to the present era. Prominent scholars will be invited to participate.

In addition a separate conference will be held to discuss the Armenian Church in the 21st century. The location of this conference is yet to be decided.

5. Youth

It is our wish to involve the youth of the Diocese to a maximum extent possible. A major gathering of several thousand Armenians, led by the youth, will celebrate the 1700th anniversary over a weekend in New York City. A walkathon in Manhattan finishing in Central Park is being considered where a religious-cultural celebration would take place. The presence of the Catholicos of All Armenians is being contemplated for this event, tentatively scheduled for the end of May 2001.

6. Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Gregory the Illuminator

In cooperation with the Patriarchate of Constantinople, a pilgrimage to historic Armenia is being planned for June 2001. We anticipate large numbers of people from the Diocese will be participating in an organized tour, which will begin in Istanbul. The group will then proceed to Kayseri (Geasaria), where St. Gregory was first consecrated as a bishop. The tour will then divide into 3 to 4 sections to travel to various sites in the interior of Turkey and meeting together again in the historic city of Ani. A special religious service will take place in Ani before entering Armenia. The border, which is presently closed, will be opened for the pilgrims by special arrangement with the governments of Armenia and Turkey.

The group will proceed to Holy Etchmiadzin, Khor Virab and other sites in Armenia before returning home. More details on this will be forthcoming.

7. Public Relations

We expect to publicize the various events taking place throughout the country, especially to the non-Armenian public. Press materials will be prepared and utilized by the Diocese and local parishes.

A web page is being developed and special banners, logo, etc. will be disseminated to all parishes.

Christmas, January 6, 2001, will be the official opening of the 1700th yearlong commemoration. It is expected that all parishes within the Diocese will make this a major theme in all their communications to the parishioners.

8. Finances

A fund raising committee has been formed under the co-chairmanship of Shoghag Hovannissian and Richard Soutanian. All funds raised for the 1700th Anniversary will go towards an endowment tentatively called "Armenian Spiritual Leadership Fund". St. Nersess Seminary will be the primary beneficiary of the annual income from this fund, but it will also go towards other educational and training programs of the Diocese.

On-going expenses for the various 1700th Anniversary programs at the diocesan and parish levels are expected to be self-financed. The intent is to reserve the funds that are raised by the committee to go to the endowment in its entirety.

The goal is to raise several million dollars.

The chairman of the 1700th Anniversary Committee is Michael Haratunian.

Choirs
Washington

Artists

Fr. Vahan

Fr. Tamel

J. Simonian

Fr. Krikor

Fr. Untzagh

Carren

Rich. Dabaghian

Shahar Ardzrumi

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St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church

4125 FESSENDEN STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20016

Տ. Վրթանէս Ասագ Բահանայ Գալայճեան
Հոգևոր Հովիտ, Ուաշինգթոն, Տի. Սի.

REV. VERTANES KALAYJIAN, PASTOR

TELEPHONE: (202) 363-1923

RES: (301) 942-2434

FAX: (202) 537-0229

June 2, 1997

His Eminence
Abp. K. Barsamian, Primate
and President of the Diocesan Council
630 Second Ave.
New York, NY 10016

Dear Serpazan Hayr,

As it is recorded in the Minutes of the 1996 Clergy Conference, an attempt was to be made to formulate an overall plan to mark the 1700 Anniversary of Armenia's official Conversion to Christianity.

It should be stated that this attempt is not directly related to the one currently being made on the international level. The point was that we at the Diocese ought to do our own both on the Diocesan level as well as on the parish and/or regional level nationwide.

I hope there is no disagreement in that it is not too soon to start planning, formulating, projecting and budgeting for this most auspicious occasion.

After several conversations with Your Eminence, you asked me to compile a list of individuals who could be asked to get involved on both Diocesan and local level in such planning.

I have tried (very subjectively) to have the names of those regional parish representatives /delegates who contribute both to the planning and to the execution of the "Master Plan".

The attached list has 30 laymen, 20 laywomen, and 15 Clergymen. Almost all of them are/were listed in current and/or past Parish Directories.

I am sure, Your Eminence, you will use your discretion to delete or augment this list. I do believe, however, that such a large representative number will accomplish at least three things;



1. It will underline the importance of the endeavor by mobilizing this many individuals.
2. It will create the forum to bring around as many good ideas as possible.
3. It will hopefully ensure greater participation and financial support which this celebration deserves.

Not counting the remaining months of 1997 we actually have only three years for a targeted date in the year 2001. The countdown has started. I hope we'll be ready for it.

Respectfully Yours,



Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian

VK/jk
enclosure

CLERGY

Rev. Y. Kelegian
Rev. A. Terzian
Rev. T. Abdalian
Very Rev. B. Yeretian
Very Rev. Rev. A. Aivazian
Rev. Z. Arzoumanian
Rev. A. Ashjian
Rev. K. Kasparian
Rev. G. Kochakian
Very Rev. K. Maksoudian
Very Rev. H. Melkonian
Rev. Z. Nalbandian
Very Rev. V. Hovhanessian
Rev. V. Kalayjian
Rev. A. Kasparian

LAYWOMEN

Rose Aznavorian
Louise Yardumian
Lucine Mardirosian-Harvey
Rose Mekenian
Nancy Basmajian
Elise Antreasian
Sylvia Bozoyan
Alice Bozoyan
Yeretzgin R. Papazian
Yeretzgin A. Kalayjian
Julie Tashjian
Anna Marie Norehad
Rose Najarian
Arpi Arslanian
Mary Selvinazian
Lillian Chapien
Sonig Kradjian
Lisa Kouzoujian
Berjoohy Haigazian
Dzovig Devletian
Elizabeth Aprahamian

LAYMEN

Col. Moorad Mooradian
Dean Shahinian, Esq.
C. Ashekian
G. Marifian, Esq.
Dr. R. Hovanessian
R. Shamgochian
Arth. Mardigian
Dr. Tavit Najarian
Dr. Marzbed Margosian
Dr. Berdj Feredjian
Dr. Levon Capan
Nubar Dorian
Missak Boghosian
Krikor Anoushian
Lionel S. Galstaun
Van Krikorian, Esq.
Papken Megerian
David Onanian
Dr. Hagop Nersoyan
Dr. Dennis Papazian
Dr. Kevork Bardakjian
Michael Zeytoonian, Esq.
Kegham Tcholakian
Dr. Garo Garibian
Scott Najarian, Esq.
Dr. Aram Arkun
Dr. Gary Zamanigian
Dr. Garabed Fattal
Nubar Kupelian
Dr. Abraham Terzian
Mr. Papken Vartanian

Post-It Fax Note 7672

No. of Pages 2 Today's Date 6/17/99 Time 3:30
 To His Eminence Archbishop Khayk Barsamian From Carole McNamara
 Company Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America Company Univ. Michigan Museum of Art
 Location NYC Location Ann Arbor, MI Dept. Charge
 Fax # 212.779.3558 Telephone # Fax # 734.764.3731 Telephone # 734.647.0526
 Original Disposition: Destroy Return Call for pickup

Comments: Dear Your Eminence Archbishop Khayk Barsamian, Michael Hovakimian requested that I fax you a copy of a formal request letter from our museum and the Eastern Diocese for the loan of manuscripts from the repository in Yerevan. The original is coming to you tomorrow via Federal Express. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.



Museum of Art

525 South State Street
 Ann Arbor MI 48109-1354

734 764-0395
 734 764-3731 Fax

June 22, 1999

Academician Sen Arevshatyan
 Director
 The Matenadaran
 Mashtots Prospekt
 Yerevan, Armenia
 Via fax: 374.2.151087

Dear Mr. Arevshatyan:

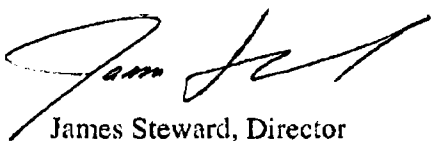
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We hope that you will give your favorable consideration to our request. If you have any questions about our request, please let us know. We will be in touch with you again in the near future with a more specific request list.

Sincerely,



James Steward, Director
University of Michigan Museum of Art
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Archbishop Khajak Barsamian
Primate
Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of
America
New York, NY

Museum of Art

525 South State Street
Ann Arbor MI 48109-1354

June 17, 1999

734 764-0395
734 764-3731 *Fax*

His Eminence Archbishop Khajak Barsamian
Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Your Eminence Archbishop Khajak Barsamian:

Please find enclosed the original request letter addressed to The Matendaran in Yerevan. As you will see, our director James Steward has signed the letter. Once you have signed the letter, would you please return it to us overnight via Federal Express. I have dated the letter for early next week, by which time I hope that the letter will be completed and ready to forward to The Matendaran. We will make certain that the completed letter is faxed to Armenia, and Professor Bardakjian plans to take the original with him when he returns to Armenia at the end of next week.

We believe that this will be a handsome and exciting exhibition, and we are pleased at the possibility of bringing these important manuscripts to the United States. We will look forward to working with the Diocese on the exhibition, and in identifying a suitable venue in New York for the exhibition.

If you would be kind enough to send the letter back to the Museum of Art to the attention of Mrs. Jo Lau, she will make sure that Professor Bardakjian is notified when the letter arrives.

With thanks for your kind assistance,

Sincerely,



Carole C. McNamara
Assistant Director for
Collections and Exhibitions



STV Incorporated
Facsimile Transmission

Date: June 17, 1999

To:	Archbishop Barsamian	From:	Michael Haratunian
Firm Name:	Diocese of the Armenian Church	Proj. Mgr.:	
Dept.:		Dept.:	
FAX No.:	(212) 447-6674	Project:	
No. of Pages: <i>(including cover page):</i>		Proj. No.:	

Recipient: If you have any questions when you receive this, please call me at:

Comment:

Dear Archbishop,

For your review and approval before the original is FedEx to you tonight from Michigan.

Thank you.

Post-it Fax Note 7672

To Michael Haratuman
Company E. Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
Location NYC
Fax # 212.529.2722 Telephone #
Comments

No. of Pages 2 Today's Date 6/17/99 Time 2:00
From Carole G. McNama
Company UMMMA
Location Ann Arbor Dept. Charge
Fax # 734.764.3731 Telephone # 734.647.0526
Original Disposition: Destroy Return Call for pickup

Dear Mr. Haratuman, if these changes look OK to you, please let me know and I'll fed-X the original. Many thanks
Carole McNama



525 South State Street
Ann Arbor MI 48109-1354

734 764-0395
734 764-3731 Fax

June 22, 1999

Academician Sen Arevshatyan
Director
The Matenadaran
Mashtots Prospekt
Yerevan, Armenia
Via fax: 374.2.151087

Dear Mr. Arevshatyan:

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TOTAL P.03
JUN-17-99 THU 2:09 PM

U. OF. M. MUSEUM. OF. ART

FAX NO. 734 764 3751

P. 1

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Sincerely,



James Steward, Director
University of Michigan Museum of Art
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Archbishop Khajak Barsamian
Primate
Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of
America
New York, NY

Diocese of the Armenian Church 630 Second Avenue New York, NY 10016

Date: 6/15/99

To: Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Michael Haratunian, Sahan Arzruni, Kevork Bardakjian, Richard Dabagian, Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Very Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian, Very Rev. Fr. Krikor Maksoudian, Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian, Karen Bedrosian Richardson, Jon Simonian

From: George Kassis

RE: Meeting of July 13, 1999

Attached please find the draft of the minutes of the meeting of June 10, 1999 of the 1700th Anniversary Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13th at 5 p.m. Please advise if this date and time is acceptable to you by calling Berjouhi at 212-686-0710.

Thank you.

Draft

1700 Anniversary Committee Meeting Thursday, June 10, 1999

Attendance: Mr. Michael Haratunian, Mr. Aram Arkun (representing Fr. Krikor), Mr. Richard Dabagian, Ms. Karen Bedrosian Richardson, and George Kassis.

The Committee went through the reports of the various responsibilities each individual had undertaken.

1. **Concert:** Archbishop Khajag Barsamian has spoken to Mr. Sahan Arzruni, who has accepted to act as coordinator of a concert in NYC. Mr. Haratunian had called him to follow up but got the message Sahan is out of town. Mr. Haratunian also reported that he had spoken to Mrs. Artemis Nazerian who had agreed to work with Mr. Arzruni, focussing primarily on the organizational aspects of the concert. Mr. Haratunian will get the two together.
2. **Teaching Role of the Church:** Fr. Daniel Findikyan and Mr. Kassis have discussed and come up with a plan for publications. Unfortunately, the fax with the proposed outline had gone astray after Mr. Kassis received it. It will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting. The meeting asked Mr. Kassis that he and Fr. Daniel Findikyan consider the possibility of a video on the teachings of the Armenian Church (attachment 1, not available at the time of the meeting).
3. **Exhibits:** A memo from Mr. Kevork Bardakjian was circulated (attachment 2), in which he outlined his proposal to organize a joint Diocese of the Armenian Church of America/University of Michigan art exhibition. This concept was endorsed, and Mr. Bardakjian will be asked to prepare a detailed plan and budget to be submitted to the next meeting so major donors can be approached. The Committee brainstormed about the possibility of having this exhibit go to a number of other venues in major cities like NYC, Boston and Chicago once it is done in Detroit, possibly with the cooperation of university Armenian studies programs.

Ms. Richardson reported on her talks with Helen Evans at the Met, and the information she had about the efforts of Fr. Vrej Necessian in London to mount an exhibit that he has proposed to the Met but does not seem to be going anywhere.

Ms. Richardson also advised that the Met had been approached by Fr. Levon Zakarian, an Armenian Catholic priest, about showing the Vatican Armenian exhibit at the Met. Ms. Evans had asked Fr. Zakarian for a copy of the catalogue of the Vatican exhibit and had not received it so far. It was agreed that it would

be a good idea if the Diocese were to pursue this. Mr. Arkun was tasked with forwarding to Ms. Evans the catalogue of the Vatican exhibit the next day.

4. **Ecumenical:** No discussion on this took place, as there was no report on contacts with Fr. Garabed Kocharian in this regard.
5. **Public Relations:** Mr. Dabagian distributed copy of a note he and Mr. Simonian had prepared (attachment 3). Mr. Dabagian further reported that Mr. Simonian had met with a lady in Providence who might be of great help in this area. Mr. Haratunian urged that we try to highlight how the Armenian Church is the largest and most important institution throughout the Armenian American community. It was agreed that the PR group's work is affected by what the rest of us end up doing, and that development of their plans will be affected by what else the 1700 Committee decides.
6. **Youth:** Unfortunately Fr. Vahan was not present to report on this.
7. **Academic/Symposia:** Mr. Arkun reported that the group envisaged 4 main activities (attachment 4):
 - Speakers who would give talks targeting various audiences such as students, youth, academics, possibly in conjunction with Armenian studies programs in various universities.
 - Publications: a history of the Armenian Church, pamphlets on conversion and historical developments, etc.
 - Major symposium: hosting a major symposium for one to two days
 - Seminary program: meetings to discuss practical problems at the St. Nersess seminary level, and other meetings dealing with issues related to ministry in the Armenian Church.Mr. Arkun was asked that the group try to prepare a more concrete budget for the next meeting of the 1700 Committee.
8. **Committee Membership:** the 1700 Committee membership was discussed. It was agreed that in consultation with Serpazan, the following persons would be considered for appointment to the 1700 Committee: Mr. Kevork Bardakjian, Mr. Sahar Arzruni and Fr. Untzag Nalbandian.
9. **Logo:** Mr. Kassis will invite Mr. Armen Garabedian to come half an hour prior to the next meeting of the Committee to dialogue with members on the logo so he can prepare one that reflects the spirit of the 1700 Celebration.
10. **Staffing:** The need for at least a part-time staff person dedicated to the 1700 celebration was reiterated. Mr. Kassis was asked to look for candidates and to include funding of this position on the agenda of the meeting with Serpazan (see next item).

10. **Funding & Fundraising:** Mr. Haratunian asked Mr. Kassis to arrange a meeting with Serpazan, Mr. Haratunian and Mr. Simonian to discuss funding and fundraising issues at Serpazan's earliest possibility.
11. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13th at 5 p.m. Mr. Kassis was asked to canvass participants to make sure the date is fine well in advance so we can be sure of full participation.

George Kassis
Rapporteur

1700th Anniversary of Baptism of Armenia by St. Gregory the Illuminator

Proposal for a Series of Brochures on the Armenian Church

**Fr. Daniel Findikyan
George Kassis**

Proposal: On the 1700th Anniversary of the baptism of Armenia by St. Gregory the Illuminator, it is proposed that a series of 2-3-page brochures be prepared, each dealing with a basic teaching or aspect of the Armenian Church. Depending upon funding, 20-30 such brochures, professionally produced and aesthetically attractive, should be prepared and made available to the parishes.

The text of the brochures should be made available on the Diocese's 1700th-Anniversary website for even wider dissemination. We should consider translating some or all of the brochures into Armenian and Russian.

Brochure topics would fall into the following broad categories:

1. Basic Doctrines of the Armenian Church: The Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, the Church, Salvation and the Kingdom of God, etc.
2. The Bible: the Old Testament, the New Testament, the writings of St. Paul, the Psalms, the Prophets, the Bible in the Armenian Church, individual books of the Bible, etc.
3. Worship in the Armenian Church: the Divine Liturgy, Baptism, Confession, Marriage, Holy Communion, Feasts of the Church, etc.
4. Lives of individual saints and their relevance today.
5. Topics related to the Armenian Church and its distinctiveness: the Christian conversion of Armenia, The Armenian Church in relation to other Christian Churches, the Armenian Church in the Ecumenical Movement, the Holy Translators, Vartanank, Armenian architecture, sacred music, sacred art, etc.
6. Armenian Spirituality: How to Pray, Pain and Suffering, Christian virtues, etc.
7. Contemporary Issues: Sex and Sexuality, Abortion, etc.

Each brochure would contain basic information including references for further reading. Since it will be difficult to find an individual competent in all these areas, it is suggested that a general editor be appointed, who will delegate individual brochures to competent authors within the Diocese, and assure a more or less common writing style for the series.

Rationale: There is a dire need within the Diocese for basic information concerning the teachings of the Armenian Church, especially for adults. Books dealing with these issues are frequently not appropriate for the general reader. The proposed brochures will satisfy the need for basic, concise information in an attractive, readable format. The brochures will be of service to the faithful at large, as well to the youth, and to interested non-Armenians who desire to learn about the Armenian Church. Clergy will find the brochures useful in planning and conducting educational programs in the parishes.

The 1700th Anniversary of the Baptism of Armenia is a most fitting occasion to inaugurate such a series. One of the first original writings in the Armenian language using the alphabet of St. Mesrob was a catechism called "The Teaching of St. Gregory." It is essentially a textbook of Christianity, intended to be used to instruct the Armenians in their new faith. The proposed series of brochures would be a modern version of the same undertaking, adapted to today's times and needs.

1700th ANNIV - Exhibit

Dear Michael

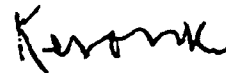
The Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (ASP) will be organizing three major events to mark the 1700th anniversary of Christian Armenia in 2001: an art exhibit; (a) musical evening(s); and an interdisciplinary, comparative conference on "Religion and National Identity."

Abp. Barsamian, the Primate, you and I have had preliminary discussions regarding the art exhibit and have agreed, in principle, to organize it jointly. The idea is to borrow illuminated manuscripts mainly from the Matenadaran and some religious utensils and objects from Ejmiatzin and the Museum of History in Armenia. Long before our preliminary discussions, I had approached the Director of the Matenadaran and had obtained his consent to lend U of M manuscripts for its exhibit. I last spoke to the Director in mid-May. We are now competing with the Dutch and the Germans who want to borrow mss in late summer and fall of '01 into February of '02. We need urgently to write to the Matenadaran to reserve the mss for August-November. Once the letter is written (next week at the latest) I will pursue the matter when I travel to Yerevan in late June. Matters should be formalized in the Fall, when an official delegation representing the U of M and the Diocese sign the papers in Yerevan.

In the mean time there are a number of urgent matters to attend to: the budget and venues if we want to make this a travelling exhibit. We are working on a budget and a general plan which we will submit to you next week for amendments/approval and a joint letter to the Matenadaran and to solicit the funds. I have spoken to H. Evans for assistance but she will be very busy (though she'd be willing to help out with suggestions), and suggested that we approach Alice Taylor. I did have a preliminary discussion with Alice a few months ago but we need to come up with a plan and a budget before we pursued this further. The U of M and Alice have agreed, and so has the Primate, that this would be a "thematic" exhibit, an illustrated "history" of the Church of Armenia and her dogma; we would not shy away from some "controversial" aspects of the Church's dogma. The Museum of Art at Michigan will handle all technical and artistic aspects of the exhibit and the anticipated publication of the catalogue and has no objection to the opening of the exhibit in New York first. All this and similar details will be worked out once we have a commitment from the Matenadaran for lending the mss to us for a specific period of time (July-November, 2001).

As for the other two events, the ASP would be happy to explore the possibility of holding them jointly with the Diocese in the same or a somewhat modified fashion. But there is time to discuss these in the Fall. Meanwhile, please do not hesitate to contact me for any questions you may have for any aspects of this "report" that I may have left out inadvertently. Kind regards to all members of the Committee and yourself.

Yours sincerely,



Kevork B. Bardakjian

6/10/99

6/99

Attachment 3

**1700 Anniversary Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 10, 1999
Public Relations Thoughts**

Here are some thoughts on developing a Public Relations platform for the 1700 celebration:

1. **There must be a theme to develop.** It is the story line we want to disseminate within our Armenian community and in the broad American community. It is the focus of what we want to communicate. It is the central issue that this celebration is all about. It should be a positive focus that we can all be proud of. I think it should be something like:

Armenia: The First Christian Nation

This is what we are all about.

2. **We must put a workable communication system in place.** Public relations releases have to go to reporters who find the story worthwhile to print. The print media and the television media are key. We have to know who the people are who will carry our story. We have to ^{provide} them good copy. We have to help them understand why our releases are newsworthy events. We have to do things to help this community become our friend.

Our committee should develop the following information for each local market we want to enter:

City

Newspaper name

Reporter name/phone/fax who writes about religious news

TV station

Reporter name/fax/phone who broadcasts events of a religious nature

We have to know the same information about the national media we want to contact.

Chris Zakian may have some of this in place. Our committee job is to be sure that it is in place and operable and come up with ideas on how to convert this press/TV community into our friends.

3. **We have to be sure we develop good press copy.** Our product has to be newsworthy. It has to be interesting. It has to be helpful. It has to make the reporters who pick up the story look good. We need some creative talent around to do this. Our committee job is to identify that talent and help them create good product for this project.

6/99

Image/Public Relations/Marketing
1700th Anniversary Committee

The following list are thoughts to consider during this celebration. By no means does it represent a complete list. Perhaps some of these ideas will develop into additional suggestions.

- 1) During this 12 month celebration, have a ~~sermon~~^{SERMON} once a month about the history and adoption of Christianity.
- 2) Prepare a video on this subject - share it (free?) withour Armenian churches, Armenian organizations, other major non-Armenian religious institutions.
- 3) A logo needs to be developed that stresses the theme from this distant ancient period. All stationary and related items should carry this logo. Commission an Armenian graphic artist to develop this logo. It should reflect this period.
- 4) We need a way to describe what it meant to be able to say, "I'm Christian."
- 5) Do we reach-out beyond the Armenian Church?
- 6) Some say this is the most exciting era in Armenian history. We need to develop a manner in which to share this with the Armenian Community - and beyond.
- 7) Brochures/Pamphlets to be produced on this historic time in Armenian history. Make sure the youth can understand it. Make it available to all Armenian organizations.
- 8) How can we write and get published a series of articles (or just one major article) that newspapers will run. Television and cable coverage. A Website. Acknowledgement by the White House and Other State governments where there is a large Armenian population. Publish a book or a special document outlining this milestone and sell the book (This could be costly)

Have the celebration noted each Sunday in all church bulletins during this celebration year.

The 1700th Diocesan Committee
The Subcommittee for Scholarly/Academic Programs

The Subcommittee met in the Zohrab Information Center of the Diocese on Tuesday, May 11. Present at the meeting were Fr. Krikor Maksoudian, Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian, and Mr. Aram Arkun. The following programs were discussed.

1. College Programs in cooperation with the Armenian Departments, Programs of Study or Student Clubs. The Program will include two or three lectures or presentations, to be offered as a one-day seminar in the host college/university. The speakers will be mainly from the Seminary faculty, the Zohrab Information Center as well as members of the University's Department or Program of Armenian Studies.
Cost: Approx. \$10,000.00
2. Publications:
 - a. Book: "History of the Armenian Church."
 - b. 8-10 page pamphlets focusing on the conversion of the Armenia, and highlights in the 1700 years of Armenian Church history.
 - c. Approx. Cost: \$?,???.??
3. Major Symposium:
 - a. to be held in St. Vartan Cathedral
 - b. Be co-sponsored by important Armenian Study Programs and/or Departments such as Harvard, Columbia, UMICH., Tufts, UCLA, ... etc.
 - c. Major Themes of the symposium will include History of the Armenian Church, Theology, Liturgy, Canon and Administration, and Armenian Christian Literature.
 - d. Approx. cost: \$50,000.00
4. Seminary conference: To be held in St. Nersess Seminary in conjunction with other seminaries in the area, such as St. Vladimir's, St. Joseph, GTS, UTS and others.
Approx. cost: \$20,000.00

1700th Anniversary Committee

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Chairman
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212-949-1995 R
212-573-8362 F

Jon Simonian
1775 York Avenue
Apt. 16G
New York, NY 10128
212-987-7588 R

Ըստ մեր մտքի արձանագրության Ձեզի ուղարկում են

N	նսկի	արժաք	
1.	221	153	Օշական Սրբազանի միջոցառ
2.	243	178	Գրատուն, մալրոտ ամսուն
3.	244	179	Գրատուն, մալրոտ ամսուն
4.	245	180	Գրատուն, մալրոտ ամսուն
5.	457	392	
6.	458	393	
7.	459	394	
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9.	461	396	
10.	462	397	
11.	463	398	
12.	434	399	
13.	465	400	
14.	669	654	Տիկին Ջուլի Աշքեան
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51.	706	931	-----

DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
630 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10016-4806

OFFICE OF THE PRIMATE
FAX: 212-447-6674
TEL: 212-686-0710

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

To: The Most Rev. Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian
Fax: 011-374-2-15-1700
From: Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Date: May 19, 1999
Pages: 1



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ԱՐԵՒԵԼԵԱՆ ԹԵՄԻ

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

Թի 3311
Մայիս 18, 1999

Գերազնորի
Տ. Մեսրոպ Արք. Աջճեան
Հայաստանի մէջ Քրիստոնէութեան
Պետական Կրօն Հոշակման 1700—ամեակի
Վարիչ Բարտուղար
Ս. Էջմիածին

Սիրելի Սրբազան Եղբայր,

Ստացած ենք Ապրիլ 21, 1999 թուակիր ձեր նամակը՝ 1700—ամեակի առթիւ հրապարակ հանուած յուշադրամներու կապակցութեամբ:

Ձեր նամակին մէջ կ'ըսէք թէ 51 «սէթ» յուշադրամ ղրկուած է Առաջնորդարան եւ բոլորն ալ ծախուած են, եւ կը խնդրէք որ փոխարժէքը անմիջապէս ղրկուի ձեր տուած հասցէին:

Կը ցաւիմք ըսելու որ ձեզի հաղորդուած տեղեկութիւնները ճշմարտութեան չեն համապատասխաներ:

Առաջնորդարանիս Ս. Վարդան Գրատան պատասխանատուն հետեւեալ տեղեկութիւնը փոխանցած է մեզի. Առաջին անգամ տեղեկացուած է որ Առաջնորդարան կը ղրկուի 12 «սէթ» յուշադրամ եւ 12 համապատասխան տուփեր (Մարտ 18, 1999): Ի յայտ եկած է որ ղրկուած յուշադրամներու գումարը 11 «սէթ» է, հակառակ անոր որ ղրկուած տուփերը 12 հատ էին: Երկրորդ անգամ՝ Տիկին Ծուլի Աշրքեանի ձեռամբ (Մայիս 5, 1999) ստացուած է 38 «սէթ»: Որեմն, ստացուած յուշադրամներու ընդհանուր գումարը 49 «սէթ» է, որմէ ծախուած է միայն երկու «սէթ» (Մարտ 25—ին եւ Մարտ 30—ին, 1999):

Հաճեցէք ստորեւ գտնել անուններն ու հասցէները անոնց՝ որոնք գնած են այս «սէթ»երը:

Իսկ ծախուած երկու «սէթ» յուշադրամներու փոխարժէքը (400 —չորս հարիւր— տոլար), համաձայն ձեր փափաքինք կը ղրկուի Երեւան՝ Միտլանտ Դրամատունը:

Երբ յաւելեալ վաճառումներ ըլլան՝ կը տեղեկացնենք ձեզի:

Լաւագոյն մաղթանքներով եւ սիրոյ ողջունի՝

Աղօթակից

Խաժակ Արք. Պարսամեան
Առաջնորդ

Mr. Hrayr Aris
271 Burns St.
Forest Hills, NY 11375

St. Thomas Armenian Church
Highway 9 W and E. Clinton Ave.
Tenafly, NJ 07660

Diocese of the Armenian Church 630 Second Avenue New York, NY 10016

Date: 7/23/99

To: Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Michael Haratunian, Sahar Arzruni, Prof. Kevork Bardakjian, Richard Dabagian, Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Very Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian, George Kassis, Very Rev. Fr. Krikor Maksoudian, Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian, Karen Bedrosian Richardson, Jon Simonian

From: Berjouhi Saladin

RE: 1700th Anniversary Committee Meeting

Just a reminder that the next meeting of the 1700th Anniversary Committee will be on Thursday, July 29, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. at the Diocese of the Armenian Church.

Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin
Vagharshapat
Armenia

1700th Anniversary Office

Fax

To: Easten Diocese	From: Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian
Fax: 1-212-7793558	Pages: 2
Phone:	Date: 05/19/99
Re: Biblical Armenia Conference	CC:

Please Reply

● **Comments: Please forward this fax to Dr. Hagop Nersoyan. Thank You!**

274-2-151700

Hagop

Biblical Armenia

International Conference

June 21-24, 1999

Oshagan, Armenia

We are pleased to learn that you are participating in the "Biblical Armenia" conference to be held in Oshagan, Armenia from June 21 to 24, 1999.

We would like you to expedite the synopsis of your presentation no later than May 25, 1999 to the following fax number:
374-2-151700

Also, we appreciate if you send us the following information:

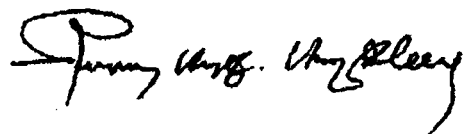
arrival date _____	return date _____
day _____	day _____
time _____	time _____
flight number _____	flight number _____

name _____

date _____

Please fill out and return this form attached to your synopsis.

With thanks,



Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian



1700 ԱՄԵԱԿ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՄԷՋ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՆԵՌՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ԿՐԹԵ ՀՈՉԱԿՄԱՆ

17TH CENTENARY OF THE PROCLAMATION
OF CHRISTIANITY IN ARMENIA

N-102
21.04.99թ.

ԿԵՂԵՆԱԿԱՆ ՅԱՆՉԵՆՈՒՄՔ
 Ե.Ս.Օ.Տ.Տ. Գարեգին Ա. Կաթողիկոս Ամենայն Տայոց
 Ե.Ս.Օ.Տ.Տ. Արամ Ա. Կաթողիկոս Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ
 Ե. Ամեն. Տ. Թորգոս Ա. Արք. Պատրիարք Տայոց Երուսաղէմի
 Ե. Ամեն. Տ. Գարեգին Ա. Արք. Պատրիարք Տայոց Թուրքիոյ
 ՄԱՅՐ ԱԹՈՒ Ս. ԷԶՄԻՍԵՆԻ
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 Գեղջ. Տ. Նորվան Եպս. Չարսրեան
 Գեղջ. Տ. Մեսրոպ Արք. Գրիգորեան
 Գեղջ. Տ. Ասողիկ Եպս. Արիստակէսեան
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 Գեղջ. Տ. Յակոբ Եպս. Գրեթեան
 Գեղջ. Տ. Եղիկ Ե. Վրդ. Պետրոսեան
 Գեղջ. Տ. Միքայէլ Ե. Վրդ. Աջապետեան
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 Գեղջ. Տ. Կորիւն Արք. Պապեան
 Գեղջ. Տ. Չարծի Արք. Ազեարեան
 Գեղջ. Տ. Օջական Եպս. Չորոյեան
 Գեղջ. Տ. Մուշեղ Ե. Վրդ. Մարտիրոսեան
 Գեղջ. Տ. Վարդան Ե. Վրդ. Հեղինակեան
 Մեծի Խաչիկ Պապիկեան
 Պրն. Ոսկերեան Արզումանեան
 ԵՐՈՒՍԱԳԵՒՄ ՊԱՏՐԻԱՐԵՈՒԹԻՒՆ
 Գեղջ. Տ. Դաւիթ Արք. Ստեփանեան
 Գեղջ. Տ. Սեան Եպս. Ղարաբեան
 Կ. ՊԱՍՏՈՒ ՊԱՏՐԻԱՐԵՈՒԹԻՒՆ
 Գեղջ. Տ. Մեսրոպ Արք. Ստեփանեան
 Պրն. Պարոյր Սուրբանեան

Գերաշնորհ
 Տ. Խաժարակ Արք. Պարսամեան
 Առաջնորդ ԱՄՆ Արևելեան թեմի
 Նիւ Եորք

Սիրելի Սրբազան,

Ձեզի արդէն իսկ գրած էինք ՀՀ Պետական Բանկի հետ գործակցաբար և 1700-ամեակի առթիւ հրատարակուած յուշադրամներու մասին: Շնորհակալ ենք, որ ընդառաջեցիք մեր առաջարկին և Ձեզի ուղարկուած թուով 51 մետալներն արդէն իսկ վաճառուած են: Որպէսզի կարենանք մեր հաշուեկալը կատարել Մայր Աթոռ Սբ. Էջմիածնի հետ և ձեռնարկենք յուշադրամի շարքի յաջորդ թողարկմանը, կը խնդրենք, որ անմիջական փութով մեզի փոխանցէք Ձեզի յանձնուած յուշադրամներու համապատասխան գումարը կա՛մ կանխիկ կերպով և կա՛մ հետևյալ բանկային հաշուով՝


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Midland Armenia Bank Yerevan, Armenia Swift Address: MIDLAM22	Marine Midland Bank New York US Swift-MRMDUS33 Chips://CP:108 Beneficiary Bank A/C No.: 000-05145-4	Name: Mesrop Ashtshyan A/C No.: 007-020650-160 With Midland Armenia Bank

Դարձեալ պիտի խնդրէինք, որ առաջին իսկ առիթով մեզի փոխանցէիք գնորդներուն անունը, ազգանունը, հասցէն և իրենց գնած յուշադրամին քիւր:

Ի վերջոյ նոր ապսպրանքներու պարագային կը խնդրենք որ նկատի ունենաք մեր նախորդ նամակի դ կետը, ուր կ'ըստինք.

«Ինչպէս յիշած ենք, յուշադրամներու սէրը կ'արժէ 200 տոլար: Ապրիլ 15-էն յետոյ գինը պիտի ըլլայ 250 տոլար, բայց Դուք կրնաք ատոր 25-ը պահել Ձեր Առաջնորդարանի ծախսերուն համար»:

Կանխայայտ շնորհակալութեամբ և եղբայրական սիրով
 Աղօթակից՝


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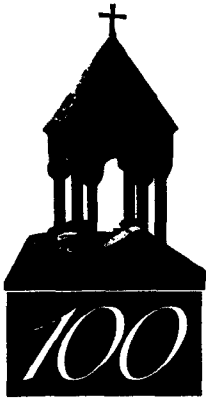
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1998 - 1999

His Holiness Karekin I
Supreme Patriarch and
Catholicos of All Armenians

His Eminence Archbishop
Khajag Barsamian, Primate
Eastern Diocese

April 20, 1999

Ms. Karen Bedrosian Richardson
330 East 46th Street, Apt. 8D
New York, NY 10017

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your fax of April 19 and your agreement to participate in the brainstorming session on the 1700 celebration. I do look forward to meeting you in person.

To address your questions:

1. This session is focussed on how we should celebrate this occasion in the United States in particular. The Diocese is not, to-date, aware of any 1700 celebration activities planned to be carried out in the U.S.
2. Holy Etchmiadzin has formed a global committee that is in the process of planning activities for world-wide implementation, none of which has yet, to our knowledge taken too much shape. The only concrete thing we are aware of is having produced a number of t-shirts and other memorabilia which are being sold through the mailbox of an individual in Douglaston Parkway in Queens.
3. The preliminary thinking is that we would like to use this occasion to not only celebrate as Armenians but more importantly make Americans aware of the Armenian Church and Armenians, and their contributions to Christianity and to America.
4. Whatever activities are planned must include raising funds to cover related costs.

As you can see from the above, we are starting from ground zero with this meeting. This is why we are calling it a brainstorming session. We would like to throw in as many ideas as we can and bounce ideas off one another in an effort to come up with an overall framework and structure.

I realize the above may not answer all the questions on your mind, which are equally shared by the others participating in this session. It is our hope that we would come out from the session with a preliminary road map.

With Appreciation,


George Kassis
Director of Communications & Development

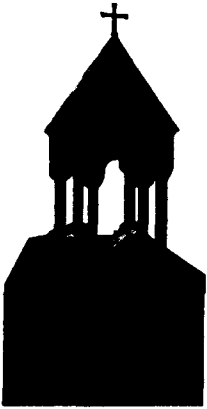
Cc: ✓ Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Mr. Michael Haratunian

Մի Մարմին... Մի Հոգի...
Մի Տէր... Մի Հաւատք...
Եփ. 4:4-5

One Body... One Spirit...
One Lord... One Faith...
Eph. 4:4-5

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His Holiness Karekin I
Supreme Patriarch and
Catholicos of All Armenians

His Eminence Archbishop
Khajag Barsamian, Primate
Eastern Diocese

April 15, 1999

To: Mr. Richard Dabagian
Mr. Michael Haratunian
Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian
Ms. Karen Bedrosian Richardson
Mr. Jon Simonian
Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian
Fr. Krikor Maksoudian
Fr. Daniel Findikyan

From: George Kassis

Subject: 1700 Celebration Brain-Storming Session

This is to confirm the above session to take place at Tahlij in Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, 630 Second Avenue, New York (corner of 34th Street and Second Avenue) at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 6th, 1999. Your participation is most appreciated.

In this session, we will attempt to put together the a preliminary plan for what should be done to honor our 1700 years anniversary as Christians. To this end, it would be desirable if each of you were to provide a list of ideas we might consider which we would circulate before the meeting. If you are able to do so, please forward your thoughts to me by Thursday 29 April. You may fax your thoughts to me at 212-447-4343 or email them to me at endowment@armeniandiocese.org.

With appreciation.

Cc: Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Mr. Simon Y. Balian

Մի Սարմին... Մի Հոգի...
Մի Տէր... Մի Հաւատք...

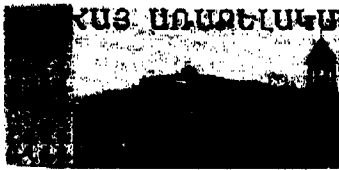
Եփ. 4:4-5

One Body...One Spirit...
One Lord...One Faith...

Eph. 4:4-5

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New York, NY 10016-4806

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АРМЯНСКАЯ АПОСТОЛЬСКАЯ ЦЕРКОВЬ, ДПРАТУМ СВ. МЕСРОП МАШТОЦ

N 39
16. 02. 1999 p.

Հոգեշնորհ
Տ. Դանիել արքեպյ Ֆնտրզեան

Սիրելի Հայր սուրբ,

Յառաջիկայ Յունիսի 21-24 թթ., Ս. Սահակայ և Ս. Մեսրոպայ տօներու առթիւ, և Զրիստոնէութիւնը Հայաստանի Պետական Կրօն հոչակման 1700-ամեակի կապակցութեամբ Օշականի դպրատան մէջ կազմակերպուած է համաշխարհային գիտաժողով՝ «Աստուածաշնչական Հայաստան» թեմայով:

Նախապատրաստական աշխատանքները զոհացուցիչ կերպով յառաջ կ'ընթանան, և յուսով ենք, որ, Աստուծոյ օգնութեամբ, կը յաջողինք կազմակերպել համաժողով մը՝ որ արդարութիւն պիտի ընէ իր նիւթին, ընտրուած վայրին, և նաև պատմական առիթին: Կը սիրենք յուսալ, նաև, որ այս համաժողովը առիթ պիտի ընծայէ մեր ժողովուրդին՝ արտաւել մօտենալու Աստուածաշունչ մատենանին, և իմաստաւորելու Եղիշէ պատմիչի խօսքը՝ թէ «գիայր մեր գաութք Աւետարանն գիտենք և մայր՝ գառաքելական եկեղեցի կաթողիկէ»:

Մենք մեծ սիրով կը փափաքինք որ մասնակցիք այս համագումարին, և հանդէս գաք հետևեալ նիւթով. «Աստուածաշունչը հայ ծեսի մէջ»:

Ուրախ պիտի ըլլանք եթէ փութով Ձեր դրական պատասխանը յայտնէք Ս. Մեսրոպ դպրատան տնօրէն Պրն. Ալֆրէդ Ըահնազարեանին (Օշական) և կամ հեռաձայնէք իրեն հետևեալ թիւահամարներուն

28-45-52
(8-243) 3-61-50
(8-243) 3-40-20

Կազմակերպիչ յանձնախումբը պիտի ստանձնէ Ձեր երթևեկի (կամ ճամբորդութեան) և սնունդի հարցերը և այլ անհրաժեշտ ծախսեր: Համաժողովի ընթացքին նախատեսուած են նկարչական ցուցահանդէս, երաժշտական երեկոյ, և այլ միջոցառումներ: Հինգշաբթի, 24 Յունիսին, ժողովականները կը հրաւիրուին մասնակցելու Ս. Պատարագի և ստոր հետևող հրապարակային հանդիսութեան:

Կը յուսանք որ մեր ժողովականները կը մասնակցին քոյր ձեռնարկներուն և հրապարակային արարողութեանց:

Պարբերաբար Ձեզ տեղեակ կը պահենք աշխատանքներու ընթացքին: Մինչ այդ,

կը մնանք Ձերդ Աղօթարար

Մեսրոպ Արքեպիսկոպոս Աշճեան
Վարիչ-քարտուղար

1700-ԱՄՅԱԿԻՆ ԸՆԴԱՌԱՁ

ՀԱՄԱԺՈՂՈՎ ՄԱՅՐ ԱԹՈՌ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԷԶՄԻԱԾՆՈՒՄ

Քրիստոնեությունը Հայաստանում պետական կրոն հռչակման 1700-ամյակի տոնակատարությունների կենտրոնական մարմնի նախաձեռնությամբ փետրվարի 5-7-ը Մայր Աթոռ Սուրբ Էջմիածնում հրավիրվեց միջքենական համաժողով՝ նախագահությամբ գործադիր մարմնի վարիչ-քարտուղար Գերաշնորհ Ս. Մեսրոպ Արք. Աշճեանի և Կանադայի թեմի առաջնորդի, 1700- ամյակի ուխտագնացությունների կենտրոնական մարմնի ատենապետ Գերաշնորհ Ս. Հովնան Արք. Տերտերյանի, որն էլ վարում էր համաժողովի նիստերը:

Համաժողովին մասնակցում էին Հայ Առաքելական Սուրբ Եկեղեցու Հայաստանի և Սփյուռքի թեմերի (Երուսաղեմ, ԱՄՆ, Կանադա, Գերմանիա, Արգենտինա, Բրազիլիա, Ուրուգվայ, Ֆրանսիա, Իրան, Սիրիա, Իտալիա, Վենեսուելա, Քուվեյթ) առաջնորդներ, հոգևոր և աշխարհական ներկայացուցիչներ, Հայ Եկեղեցու երիտասարդաց և ուսանողական միությունների անդամներ:

Անդրանիկ նիստն սկսվեց աղոթքով, որից հետո հանուն Վեհափառ Հայրապետի և կաթողիկոսական ընդհանուր փոխանորդի բացման խոսքով հանդես եկավ Մայր Աթոռի դիվանապետ Գերաշնորհ Ս. Ներսես Արք. Պոզապալյանը: Մինչ անդրանիկ նիստի աշխատանքերը սկսելը ժողովականները ողջույնի նամակ կազմեցին ուղղված արտասահմանում ապաքինվող Ամենայն Հայոց Գարեգին Առաջին Կաթողիկոսին: Համաժողովի մասնակիցներին ողջույնի խոսքով դիմեց Մեսրոպ Արք. Աշճեանը: Սրբազան Հայրը հակիրճ ներկայացրեց 1700-ամյակի ծրագրով նախատեսված միջոցառումների նախապատրաստության ընթացքը: Դրանց մեջ նա առանձնապես կարևորեց ուխտագնացության դերը, որպես մեր հավատի ակունքներին վերադառնալու իրողություն, ուխտը համարելով մեր սրբազան դաշինքը Աստծու հետ:

«1700-ամյակը, ըստ Վեհափառ Հայրապետի նոր Հոգեգալուստ է: Այդ խոհերով էլ ես արժեվորում եմ Ձեր առաքելությունը», - իր խոսքն այդպես ավարտեց Սրբազանը:

Համաժողովի ընթացքում քննարկվեցին 1700-ամյակի տոնակատարությունների ծրագրի և ուխտագնացությունների կազմակերպման հետ կապված մի շարք կարևոր հարցեր: Այնուհետև ՀՀ հուշարձանների պահպանության վարչության կողմից Հակոբ Միմոնյանը ներկայացրեց 2001 թվականին Հայաստանում և Արցախում չորս երթուղիներով կազմակերպվելիք ուխտագնացությունները ընդգրկող բնակավայրերը տանող ճանապարհների հաղթահարման հետ կապված մի շարք խնդիրներ ու դժվարություններ: Որոշվեց դրանց անդրադառնալ ուխտագնացության կենտրոնական մարմնի հատուկ նիստերում:

Առանձնապես բուռն քննարկում ծավալվեց Հովնան Արք. Տերտերյանի ներկայացրած 2001թ. Երիտասարդական Ուխտագնացության նախագիծը: Ամենայն մանրամասնությամբ քննարկվեցին այդ միջոցառումների հետ կապված բոլոր խնդիրները: Եղան մի շարք հետաքրքիր առաջարկություններ, կատարվեցին լրացումներ, որոնք արձանագրվեցին՝ հետագայում վերանայելու մտադրությամբ:

Կարևորվեց մի շարք հրատարակությունների դերը, որոնք պետք է ոչ միայն ուղեցույց հանդիսանան ուխտավորների համար, այլ նաև օժանդակեն նրանց ուխտագնացության ընթացքում քարոզչական գործունեություն ծավալելուն: Եղան նաև քարոզչական գրականության հրատարակության հետ կապված այլ առաջարկություններ:

Երուսաղեմի Հայոց Պատրիարքության ներկայացուցիչը՝ Հոգեշնորհ Բագրատ Աբեղան հանդես եկավ հատուկ հայտարարությամբ, ներկայացնելով Երուսաղեմի Հայոց Պատրիարքի՝ Թորգոմ Արք. Մանուկյանի պատրաստակամությունը՝ հոգալու 1999թ. ապրիլի 7-14 դեպի Երուսաղեմ կատարվելիք ուխտագնացության հայաստանցի մասնակիցների կեցության ու սնունդի հետ կապված բոլոր ծախսերը: Հայր Բագրատը անդրադարձավ նաև 2000 թվականի ծննդյան տոներին դեպի Երուսաղեմ կատարվելիք ուխտագնացությանը:

Համաժողովում 1700-ամյակի տոնակատարություններին հայ երիտասարդության մասնակցության ծրագրին ներկաների ուշադրությունը հրավիրեց Հայ Եկեղեցու ուսանողական միության ներկայացուցիչ Արեգ Թադևոսյանը: Նա անդրադառնալով իրենց կազմակերպության դերին ու աշխատանքներին, նշեց որ 1700-ամյակը մի հրաշալի առիթ է իրենց գործունեությունն առավել նպատակասլաց ծավալելու համար, որի նպատակը հայ երիտասարդին դեպի եկեղեցի առաջնորդելը պիտի լինի:

Այնուհետև զբոսաշրջիկության հայկական ընկերակցության ներկայացուցիչ Արթուր Ոսկանյանը հանդես եկավ մի ծրագրով, որով առաջարկվեց հովանավորների նյութական աջակցությամբ կազմել երիտասարդական կամավորների խմբեր՝ բարեկարգելու և մաքրելու համար պատմական հուշարձանների հարակից շրջակայքը, որպեսզի 1700-ամյակի առթիվ Հայաստան ժամանած բազմաթիվ հյուրերին կարողանանք դրանք պատշաճորեն ներկայացնել: Այս հարցի առթիվ ևս եղան առաջարկություններ:

Ժողովի եզրափակիչ նիստից առաջ Մեսրոպ Արք. Աշճեանը համաժողովի քննարկմանը ներկայացրեց երկու ծրագրեր: Դրանցից առաջինը վերաբերում էր «Մշո Սուրբ Կարապետ» ընկերակցության ստեղծմանը, որի նպատակն է լինելու 1700-ամյակի առթիվ ուխտագնացության ոգին վերակենդանացնել մեր ժողովրդի կյանքում: Երկրորդը վերաբերում էր 1700-ամյակին առնչվող մի այլ կարևոր և նպատակային միջոցառման՝ Խոր Վիրապի շրջակայքում ծառատունկին և Տրդատ քաղաքի անունով անտառի ստեղծմանը:

Ներկայացվեց նաև ուխտավորի անձնագրի նմուշը, որի շուրջ եղան առաջարկություններ:

Հայ Եկեղեցու Ուսանողական և Երիտասարդաց Սիւնդիկատների միացյալ հայտարարությունից և Գեղարքունյաց թեմի առաջնորդ Անանիա Արք. Արաբաջյանի կողմից 1999 թվականի Սեպտեմբերին թեմի եկեղեցիներ և ուխտավայրեր կատարվելիք ուխտագնացության ծրագիրը ներկայացնելուց հետո ավարտվեցին համաժողովի նիստերը:

Կիրակի օրը /փետրվարի 7-ին/ համաժողովի մասնակիցները ներկա էին Մայր Տաճարում մատուցված Սուրբ Պատարագին: Պատարագիչն էր Գերաշնորհ Տ. Հովնան Արք. Տերտերյանը: Նա իր քարոզում նույնպես անդրադարձավ ուխտագնացությունների սրբազան ավանդույթի վերականգնման անհրաժեշտությանը՝ որպես հայ երիտասարդության հայեցի և հոգևոր դաստիարակության լավագույն միջոց:

Համաժողովի եզրափակիչ հանգրվանը Խոր Վիրապն էր, ուր սրբազան պատարագից հետո ուխտի մեկնեցին մասնակիցները:

7.02.99թ.

Մամլո դիվան
1700-ամյակի

1700th Anniversary of Baptism of Armenia by St. Gregory the Illuminator

Booklets on the Armenian Church

Series Title:

The Church of the Armenians: Carrying the Cross of Jesus Christ for 1700 Years

"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
[Matt. 16:24]

Series Editors:

Faculty of St. Nersess Seminary

Overall Theme of Booklets

The Armenian Church is part of the universal Church of Jesus Christ. Its main mission is to witness to his gospel, and to lead our people in discipleship and praise of God. The Armenian Church enriches the universal church with its own Christian history, tradition, practices; in short, by its distinctive and unique Christian witness.

Titles:

1. **Christianity in Armenia and Among the Armenians - Fr. Simeon**
What is the Armenian Church? Where did it come from? What is its raison d'être and mission?
What is its mission in America today?
2. **The Armenian Church in the Christian World Today - Fr. Garabed**
Christian Denominations and Families, Relationship with Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic Church, Protestant Denominations, Sects, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons. Armenian Church in the WCC, NCC. Prospects for the future.
3. **Teachings of the Armenian Church - Terian**
Basic teachings, distinctive features of Armenian Church doctrine.
4. **The Voice of the Armenian Church Regarding Contemporary Moral Issues - ~~Dr. George~~**
Homosexuality, Abortion, Sexuality, Contraception, Parenting and other
5. **Worship in the Armenian Church- Fr. Daniel**
Origin and development, distinctive features, liturgy.
6. **The Bible in the Armenian Church - Fr. Vahan**
Introduction to the Bible, Translation of the Bible, Use of the Bible in the Armenian Church, The Message of the Bible for Armenians Today.

Physical Description:

Booklets should be pocket-size, approximately 3.5" x 6"
Black and White with one-color cover (each booklet will have a different colored cover).
10-20 pages per booklet .

Timetable:

September 1, 2000: Booklets go to print.
November 1, 2000: Booklets printed and distributed to parishes.

Draft

**1700 Anniversary Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 10, 1999 4:00 pm**

Attendance: Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Fr. Krikor Maksoudian, Mr. Michael Haratunian, Mr. Aram Arkun, Mr. George Kassis, Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Fr. Untzag Nalbandian, Ms. Karen Bedrosian Richardson and Mr. Jon Simonian.

The meeting convened at 4:25 PM with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian offering the opening prayer. The minutes of the meeting of September 14, 1999 were approved. Michael Haratunian reported that the committee has received \$10,000 from the Diocesan Council and a checking account has been opened to cover initial expenses. He asked that all sub-committees present program outlines, dates and venues so that a calendar of events can be prepared for the 1700th anniversary celebration.

In expressing his opinion of what the message of the 1700th anniversary should be, Mr. Haratunian commented that the Church, as an institution, is a legacy that we have received. How well this legacy is maintained in the future will depend on how well the Church is able to reach out to the American Armenian community. In order to do this, Mr. Haratunian continued, the church needs qualified clergy to lead the flock. Therefore, the financial beneficiary of the 1700th anniversary celebration should be the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. The aim of the fundraising campaign will be the education of clergy and lay people to insure the future of the Armenian Church in America.

1. **Exhibits:** In the absence of Professor Bardakjian, Michael Haratunian reported that Prof. Bardakjian and the delegation from the University of Michigan were in Armenia and they met with the officials there. However, Prof. Bardakjian has not as yet presented his report. It was the unanimous decision of the committee that the Diocese will have to reconsider whether to co-sponsor the exhibit if a major donor is not found to underwrite the entire expense of such an exhibit.
2. **Concert:** In the absence of Mr. Arzruni there is no new information to report on the concert.
3. **Teaching Role of the Church:** Since Fr. Daniel is absent, there is no new information to present on this item of the agenda. However, Mr. Haratunian reported that Fr. Daniel and Fr. Vahan have finalized a list of subjects that will be covered in the brochures. They have asked for editorial assistance. They will use the resources of the Diocesan Departments. Fr. Untzag will work with this sub-committee.

4. **Ecumenical Service:** The Primate reported that the National Council of Churches is in favor of an ecumenical service celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Armenian Church. They suggested that this celebration be incorporated into an event to take place in Washington, DC with the Catholic Church and member churches with the attendance of government leaders. A suggestion was made that the committee plan a badarak, possibly in Central Park, to celebrate the Feast of Etchmiadzin in June of 2001. It was agreed that the committee will await the final decision of the National Council of Churches before it continues with plans for a local ecumenical service.
5. **Youth:** Fr. Vasken reported on his ideas for the youth. He said that the theme of the 1700th Anniversary would be incorporated in all youth activities throughout the year. As to the actual celebration, he suggested either a week-end program which could include a dance, a picnic, etc. or a one day major event to take place in a well known site in New York, such as Central Park, with a nationally recognizable figure as MC. It was agreed to ask Fr. Mardiros Chevian for his advice and help in approaching young Armenian professionals to organize a major event in Central Park that would include the youth event as part of its program.
6. **Academic:** Fr. Krikor reported that he had no new developments to add to his proposal that was presented at the last meeting. Mr. Haratunian asked the academic sub-committee to provide a specific outline of subjects, speakers, dates and budget for consideration at the next committee meeting. The symposium, organized by the Zohrab Center, must be announced as soon as possible.
7. **Public Relations:** Jon Simonian reported that the creation of an interactive web page would cost between \$10,000-\$25,000. He felt this endeavor should be left to the Diocesan Council to undertake. However, the design and contents of a web site that would be linked to the existing address of armenianchurch.org would cost \$1500.00. The committee approved the expenditure of \$1500.00. Mr. Simonian suggested the name of Barbara Mouk to work as a freelance PR person for the 1700th Anniversary. The committee agreed that Mr. Simonian approach Ms. Mouk with an offer of \$1000.00 per month plus expenses. George Kassis reported that Armen Garabedian is working on the design of a logo for the 1700th Anniversary, which will be ready for the committee's consideration at its next meeting.
8. **Fund Raising & Budgets:** Michael Haratunian reported that a separate fund raising committee will be established for the 1700th Anniversary, as was done for the centennial celebration of the Diocese.
9. **New Business:** Jon Simonian suggested that more activities be planned at the grass roots level (picnics, dinners, entertainment). Michael Haratunian said a directive from the Primate and a guideline on the 1700th anniversary celebration will be prepared and sent to the parishes. A Parish Activities sub-committee,

under the direction of Fr. Untzag, will be established and it will be an item on all future agendas.

10. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8, 1999 at 4:00 PM at the Diocese.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM with the Primate offering the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Berjouhi Saladin

1700th Anniversary Committee – Youth Program Update

December 8, 1999

Focus: Celebration and education.

Target Audience: Children, young adults, and young families of the Armenian Church in America.

Theme: The anniversary theme will be promoted throughout the DYM's 2001 programming. All existing programs sponsored by the DYM e.g. camps, retreats, forums, parish and college visitations, youth pilgrimages, etc., will focus on celebrating and educating the meaning of 1700 years of Christianity in Armenia, both as a milestone and as a stepping stone.

The DYM is currently developing youth programs created specifically for the 1700th anniversary. There is a preference to focus these programs in the vicinity of the Diocesan complex as the center of the Armenian Church in America. Additionally, the presence of a relic from Holy Etchmiadzin, such as the relic of St. Gregory the Illuminator, would make the commemoration(s) more tangible to the youth of the Church.

At this point, several ideas are being discussed, with the understanding that only the most realistic and manageable will be pursued. The ideas are as follows:

1. **A weekend event** held in a location attractive to young adults and families, in which many aspects of the milestone anniversary could be brought out to attendants. Possible locations include the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, Central Park in New York, or a resort appropriate to the season. Such an event could incorporate several activities: an Armenian Picnic, a concert for children by a well known Armenian artist (Raffi?), an Armenian dance, forums or teaching programs by the staff of St. Nersess Seminary, administration of a survey/questionnaire to better understand our young families and youth. This weekend event would need to have the constant presence of a large number of clergy. The presence of the Catholicos would be beneficial to drawing attendants. Consideration should be given to busing attendants to and from parishes, providing hotel accommodations/reserving large blocks of hotel space offering discounted rates, funding (at least partial) bussing to/from parishes, etc. Consideration for a location within New York may also include a large room within a Manhattan hotel (most likely the same hotel).
2. **A one-day event, held in Central Park**, with a modified version of the program planned for the above weekend event. This modified one-day event would be more easily manageable, as well as allow for the participation of many more people who could afford to give one day's time opposed to an entire weekend. A national celebrity figure, a strong draw for attendants, may also be easier to schedule for a one-day event. Consideration should be given to busing attendants to and from parishes.
3. **"Armenian Family Celebration Cruise."** A 4-5 day cruise for young families and young adults with His Holiness Karekin II, the Primate (or perhaps the three Primates of North America), and the clergy of the diocese. It would be viewed as a milestone event that the Catholicos of All Armenians would offer four days of his time to spend with the

young families of the Armenian Church in America on the occasion of the 1700th anniversary. Audiences with the Catholicos could be scheduled throughout the cruise. The opportunity for small groups of 3-4 families/young adults to spend scheduled short periods of time with His Holiness would be important to them for several reasons: they would feel that he wants to hear their voices, that he deems their concerns and issues as important, and that he is willing to begin addressing their needs as the Church enters into the next 1700 years. It is important to young families to meet and learn about the Catholicos and vice-versa.

Since St. Nersess Seminary is the focal point for all funds raised, it would be important for the presence of the Seminary's staff and students to be part of the scheduled programming. Possibilities include offering short evening dialogues and lectures on issues related to the faith; however, it must be kept in mind that all programs would need to be geared to the layman.

Several considerations should be given in planning this event. It would be beneficial to the overall success of the event if the diocese subsidized a portion of the costs per family attending, e.g. diocese pays for one night or subsidizes a small portion of each ticket purchased. This subsidy signals support by the diocese for the youth and the anniversary program.

To date, the following information has been gathered: The cruise ships we would be interested in range in size, with the average size accommodating 1200 people. The 4-5 day cruises out of New York generally travel to the Caribbean and cost approximately \$399-\$499 per person. Most cruise lines allow children under 18 years of age to travel free. A further reduced rate for clergy and their families would help ensure their participation. A baby-sitting service must be included and advertised. Junior ACYOA members could be offered free travel in exchange for their services of baby-sitting.

The Catholicos' presence for a 4-5 day cruise would greatly enhance the appeal of this event. The Catholicos could be housed in a suite with all the conveniences of an office i.e. telephone, fax, email, receiving room etc. to continue with his daily work. At certain intervals throughout the day it would be arranged that he receive small groups of cruise participants for brief dialogues. A translator may be needed. Each participant of the cruise would be told in advance of his/her scheduled audience time. Evening group programs featuring the Catholicos could be considered, as well as dinners and/or banquets. The cruise could culminate with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy aboard ship. The possibilities are many – the experience unforgettable.

Additionally, consideration would have to be given to the fact that all cruise ships feature several bars as well as casinos. This could be seen as inappropriate. Granted that if the diocese were to fill the entire cruise, then it would simply be a matter of dictating to the cruise company our preference.

1700th Anniversary Committee

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Revised 5/17/1999



1700 ԱՄԵԱԿ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՄԷՋ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՆԵՌՈՒԹԵԱՆ
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17TH CENTENARY OF THE PROCLAMATION
OF CHRISTIANITY IN ARMENIA

N- 250
19 Հոկտեմբեր 1999թ.

- CENTRAL COMMITTEE**
His Holiness Kachik I
Catholicos of All Armenians
His Holiness Aram I
Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia
His Beatitude Terlem
Patriarch of Jerusalem
His Beatitude KAMBUK
Patriarch of Constantinople
- CATHOLICATE OF ALL ARMENIANS**
His Grace Archbishop Karzin Noradine
His Grace Archbishop Nerses Zeytoun
His Grace Archbishop Mesrob Kilikian
His Grace Bishop Azghik Aristakyan
His Grace Archbishop Hovhann Oshagan
His Grace Bishop Hovhann Klyan
Very Rev. Yermik Badalyan
Very Rev. Mikheyel Aghabekian
Mr. Bion Hovhann
Mr. Hovhann Papatyan
Mr. Niker Khachaturian
Mr. Vladimir Barthelemyan
- CATHOLICATE OF GREAT HOUSE OF CILICIA**
His Grace Archbishop Aram Manakian
His Grace Archbishop Gurin Eshba
His Grace Archbishop Zakh Amasouni
His Grace Bishop Oshagan Chobyan
Very Rev. Moushegh Mardirosyan
Very Rev. Yervand Hovhann
Khatichy Babilian, Esq.
Mr. Vaghegn Argemanyan
- PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM**
His Grace Archbishop Darik Bekikian
His Grace Bishop Suren Garibian
- PATRIARCHATE OF ISTANBUL**
His Grace Archbishop Mesrob Moushayan
Mr. Barouk Nouradoun
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
Archbishop Dr. Mesrob K. Kirikian
Bishop Oshagan Chobyan
Chairman
Archbishop Hovhann Oshagan
Very Rev. Moushegh Mardirosyan
Secretary
Archbishop Karzin Noradine
Archbishop Mesrob Moushayan
Bishop Suren Garibian
Bishop Azghik Aristakyan
Prof. Grigor Khachaturian
Prof. Vladimir Barthelemyan
Khatichy Babilian, Esq.
Archbishop Mesrob Aghjian
Executive Secretary

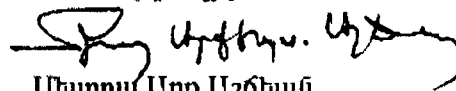
Գերազնորի
Տ. Խաժակ Արք. Պարսամեան
Առաջնորդ Հիսիսային Ամերիկայի
Արևելեան Թեմի

Նիւ Եորք

Մեպտեմբեր 14-ի 203 թվակիր մեր մամակով յայտնած էինք, որ Հայաստանի Պետական բանկը արդեն իսկ թողարկած է «Քրիստոնեայ Հայաստան» յուշադրամներու շարքին երկրորդը, որ նուիրուած է Արթամարի Սուրբ Խաչ եկեղեցիին:

Միաժամանակ խնդրած էինք Ձեզմէ նաև, որ անձամբ կամ այլ ձևով կատարէիք «Էջմիածին» հավաքածոյի վաճառուած օրինակներու վճարումը: Այսու մեր ջերմագին խնդրանքն է, որ ջանաք հաշուեկալը կատարել. ըստ մեր հաշուարկին Դուք պարտիք հաշի տեսնել 51 սեթին համար, գումար՝ 10200 տոլար: Կրնայ ըլլալ որ որոշ անճշտութիւններ ըլլան մեր և Ձեր հաշուարկներուն միջև: Հաճեցէք ներողամիտ ըլլալ և վստահ ենք որ այդ բոլորը կը ճշդուին:

Կանխապայտ շնորհակալութեամբ և սիրոյ ջերմ ողջունի
Աղօթակից՝


Մեսրոպ Արք Աշճեան
Արիչ Զարտուղար



DIOCESE OF THE
A R M E N I A N
C H U R C H O F
A M E R I C A
ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹՅԱՆ
ՀԱՅՈՑ ԱՍԵՐԻԿԱՅԻՆ

His Holiness Karekin I
Supreme Patriarch and
Primate of All Armenians

His Eminence Archbishop
Khajag Barsamian, Primate
Western Diocese

September 22, 1998

Mr. James D. Aljian
Chairman
The Lincy Foundation
4835 Koval Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89109

Dear Mr. Aljian:

We are submitting the enclosed proposal "Celebrating the 1700th Anniversary of Armenian Christianity" for your consideration for funding. The proposal spells out our plans for celebrating this unique Anniversary. I am sure you share our sense of urgency of this matter and its importance.

In addition to the proposal, we are also enclosing the following:

1. 1997 Annual Report
2. 1997 Financial Report
3. The book "The Torch was Passed", which is the history of our Diocese
4. The Centennial Booklet

We hope that you will review the proposal and the materials sent favorably. We would also be happy to meet with you to discuss the proposal and other issues in greater detail.

We wish you, the Lincy Foundation, and its great founder the best of success in all you endeavors. We look forward to your favorable response.

With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

Մի Կողմից Մի Հոգի
Մի Տէր Մի Հաւատք

Եփ. 4:4-5

One Body...One Spirit...
One Lord...One Faith...
Eph. 4:4-5

630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016-4806
Telephone 212.686.0710
Fax 212.779.3558

PROPOSAL

**CELEBRATING THE
1700th ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY**

Submitted by:

**Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Ave.
New York, NY 10016
(212) 686-0710
Fax (212) 252-0681**

**Contact: Simon Y. Balian, Esq.
Executive Director**

**Submitted to
The Lincy Foundation
4835 Koval Lane
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109**

September 22, 1998

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the year 301 A.D. St. Gregory the Illuminator baptized King Dertad II of Armenia. Thereupon, the king declared Christianity to be the official religion of Armenia. This unprecedented act made Armenia the first nation to accept Christianity as an entire nation. The year 2001 AD will mark the 1700th anniversary of this momentous event in the history of the Armenians. This anniversary will be celebrated in Armenia and by the Armenian Church worldwide.

The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America ("Diocese") will commemorate this 1700th anniversary of Christianity in North America. This anniversary provides us the unique opportunity to inform the public of the Christian faith and tradition of Armenia and garner support for both the socio-economic development and the rejuvenation of faith in post-Soviet Armenia. The world will also have the opportunity to understand and appreciate the Armenian faith, culture, and history better. In order to accomplish this important task, the Diocese needs additional staff and financial resources for the extensive planning, preparatory work and implementation of the project.

The Diocese is uniquely positioned and qualified to carry out this mission successfully. It is the largest Diocese outside Armenia; it has the leadership, the experience and the recognition necessary to observe such a major celebration. The requested grant is essential for planning and implementing an appropriate commemoration. Without the grant, the Diocese will plan a much more modest celebration of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

II. INTRODUCTION

In 2001 Armenians all over the world will celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in Armenia as the state religion. This event made Armenia the first nation to accept Christianity, predating the Edict of Milan issued by the Roman Emperor Constantine tolerating Christianity in the Roman Empire by 12 years.

His Holiness Karekin I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians has established a Central Committee to observe the event in Armenia as well as guide the celebration in other parts of the world. Also, there is a joint state-church committee to celebrate the event in Armenia.

It is imperative for us to celebrate this unique milestone in North America as well. This historic event is one of our greatest distinctions as a people. This anniversary provides us with a rare opportunity to introduce our faith, culture and history to the public. The celebration will allow us to perpetuate the legacy of the Armenian Church as the most venerable and ancient Christian and Armenian institution. The Armenian Church has guided the Armenian people through centuries of turmoil and persecution. Today, Armenians in the Diaspora still look at the Church for both spiritual nourishment and as the center of their heritage and ethnic identity. In post-Soviet Armenia, the people are looking at the Church as the symbol of their continuity and stability in times of

uncertainty. The Armenian Church is the single most important bridge uniting the Armenians scattered all over the world with each other and with the Armenians living in the motherland.

III. THE PROJECT

The Diocese has formed an Anniversary Central Committee consisting of distinguished citizens and scholars to oversee the organization of this observance. The Diocese is also coordinating its efforts with the Western and Canadian Dioceses of the Armenian Church to maximize our efforts.

This event will be marked through many events across the continent. Some of the major planned events include:

- a) **Ecumenical activities:** Through the National Council of the Churches of Christ all the member denomination will be asked to mark the event in their churches. The Diocese is an active member of the NCCC and the Primate; Archbishop Khajag Barsamian is the Vice-President of the NCCC Board of Governors. The Diocese will provide these churches with the necessary materials and resources to properly observe the occasion.
- b) **Community events:** All Armenian Churches will intensify their efforts to educate the members in their faith.
- c) **Conferences and Symposia:** These will be held at leading universities in several regions of the country. Prominent scholars will be invited to present lectures and papers.
- d) **Exhibits:** We plan to introduce the rich Armenian cultural heritage in several art institutions. A collection of Manuscripts and religious artifacts from the collections of Holy Echmiadzin, the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Diocese, and other institutions will be exhibited.
- e) **Publications:** This includes books and pamphlets prior to the year 2001 in order to educate and prepare the public. Secondly, we intend to publish all the academic proceedings of the conferences and symposia for distribution to libraries worldwide.
- f) **Pilgrimages:** On this special occasion we will organize pilgrimages to Armenia so that people can visit the Holy Cathedral of Etchmiadzin as well as other sites in Armenia and thereby spiritually connect with their past.

All of the above activities are in the concept or planning stages only. In order to start concretely implementing these events; the Diocese has to establish the necessary administrative offices and staff to properly develop these programs. The new staff will be hired to start in January 1999. The planning and preparations will be made in 1999 and 2000. There will be some commemorative events in the year 2000 both to mark the Christian millennium and to prepare for the major events, which will be celebrated

throughout the year 2001. The project will wind down in the first quarter of the year 2002.

IV. APPLICANT PROFILE

The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America is a religious corporation incorporated under the laws of New York State and has 501(c) (3) charitable status under Internal Revenue Code. The Diocese was established in 1898. It is the largest Diocese outside Armenia with 62 parishes. The Diocesan offices are in New York City adjacent to St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, which was consecrated in 1968 by His Holiness Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians of blessed memory.

The Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, leads the Diocese. There is a Diocesan Council that meets monthly and Diocesan Delegates from all parishes meet once a year in a Diocesan Assembly.

Principal officers:

- a) Archbishop Khajag Barsamian – Archbishop Barsamian has been the Primate of the Diocese since 1990. He has graduate degrees from the General Theological Seminary in New York and the Pontifical Institute for Oriental Studies in Rome. He has also done post-graduate research and studies at Oxford University and St. John's University in Minnesota. He is the author of several books and many articles. He is a member of the Supreme Spiritual Council (the Executive Board of the Armenian Church), he sits on the Boards of Directors of: the National Council of Churches; the American Bible Society; the Appeal of Conscience Foundation; Religion in American Life. He is the President of the St. Nerses Armenian Seminary, the Fund for Armenian Relief, and the Armenian Church Endowment Fund.
- b) Simon Y. Balian, Esq. – Mr. Balian is the Executive Director responsible for the administrative operation of the Diocese. He holds graduate degrees in Religious Studies from the General Theological Seminary in New York and McGill University in Montreal. He received his law degree with honors from St. John's University in New York and is a member of the New York and Federal Bars.
- c) Attached is the full list of the Diocesan Council, which is elected by the Diocesan Assembly and functions as a Board of Directors.

V. BUDGET

We are requesting a total of \$677,310.00 for the project. Attached is the detailed budget and line-by-line explanation of the items. The grant can be awarded in semi-annual installments or on a quarterly reimbursement of actual expenses basis. Some line

items are averaged over the period of the proposed project, others are reasonably estimated considering that many of the projects are in the preliminary planning stages.

VI. REPORTING

The Diocese will submit a Quarterly Progress and Financial Reports to the Foundation unless the latter has other reporting requirements.

VII. CONCLUSION

The 1700th Anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in Armenia is a unique moment for providing the world with an opportunity to be enriched by the heritage of the Armenian Church. We have a rich tradition in religious literature, music, art, architecture, and so on that most of the world is unaware of. The Armenian Church also is a church that has suffered over the centuries. Becoming familiar with this most ancient Christian tradition can enrich the entire world. Moreover, this will be a time for the members of the Armenian Church to learn and appreciate the teachings and values of their Church and renew their commitment to their Christian faith.

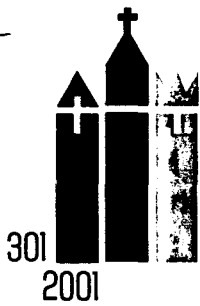
PROPOSED BUDGET
 CELEBRATING THE
 1700TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY

Line	Category	Description	Units/m	Unit Cost	Total
1	Personnel	National Coordinator	39	4,000.00	156,000.00
2	Personnel	Secretary	39	2,500.00	97,500.00
3	Personnel	Benefits	39	1,625.00	63,375.00
4	Office	Telecommunications	39	250.00	9,750.00
5	Office	Supplies	39	75.00	2,925.00
6	Office	Postage and Courier	39	75.00	2,925.00
7	Office	Equipment			5,000.00
8	Office	Travel			25,000.00
9	Office	Miscellaneous	39	50.00	1,950.00
10	Programs	Exhibits			75,000.00
11	Programs	Conferences			50,000.00
12	Programs	Publications			50,000.00
13	Programs	Other			25,000.00
14	General	Sub-Total			564,425.00
15	General	Indirect Costs 20%			112,885.00
16	General	Total			677,310.00

VIII. BUDGET EXPLANATION

1. National Coordinator: This person will be responsible for staffing the Committee, coordinating all the activities, developing and maintaining the necessary contacts for the various programs to be developed. The Coordinator will work under the supervision of the Executive Director and the Primate.
2. Secretary: A full-time person to provide the necessary office support for the Coordinator.
3. Benefits: This line item includes payroll taxes and fringe benefits for both the coordinator and the Secretary.
4. Telecommunications: Telephone, fax, and other electronic means of communication.
5. Supplies: In addition to regular office supplies, special stationary and other supplies will become necessary.
6. Postage and Courier Services: This includes postal expenses for mass mailings, regular mailings, and service providers like Federal Express.
7. Equipment: Two PC-based computers and one high capacity laser printer. Other equipment, e.g., copier and fax machine, are already available.
8. Travel: Both national and international travel by staff for program development and organizational purposes. Travel expenses of particular programs, for example conference participants, are included in the program expense.
- 9-13 Programs: See the program descriptions in the proposal.
15. Indirect Cost: These are expenses relating to providing various administrative, financial, and other support services for the Project. These include accounting, utilities, supervisory administration and so on. The 20% indirect cost rate is on the low-end of the scale. Normally, the ICR is around 30% for such projects.

END



1700 ԱՄԵԿ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՄԷՋ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՆԵՌՈՒԹԵԱՆ
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17TH CENTENARY OF THE PROCLAMATION
OF CHRISTIANITY IN ARMENIA

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

His Holiness Karekin I
Catholicos of All Armenians
His Holiness Aram I
Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia
His Beatitude Torqom
Patriarch of Jerusalem
His Beatitude Karekin
Patriarch of Constantinople

CATHOLICATE OF ALL ARMENIANS

His Grace Archbishop Karekin Nersisyan
His Grace Archbishop Norvan Zakarian
His Grace Archbishop Mesrob Krikorian
His Grace Bishop Asoghik Aristakesian
His Grace Archbishop Hovnan Derderian
His Grace Bishop Hagop Kinjian
Very Rev. Yeznik Bedrossian
Very Rev. Michael Achababian
Mr. Bion Hagopian
Mr. Hagop Papazian
Mr. Krikor Khanjian
Mr. Vladimir Barkhoudarian

CATHOLICATE OF GREAT HOUSE OF CILICIA

His Grace Archbishop Ardag Manookian
His Grace Archbishop Gorun Babian
His Grace Archbishop Zareh Aznavorjian
His Grace Bishop Oshagan Cholyan
Very Rev. Moushegh Mardirossian
Very Rev. Varoujan Hergelian
Khatchig Babikian, Esq.
Mr. Vosgaperan Arzuomanian

PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM

His Grace Archbishop Davik Sahakian
His Grace Bishop Sevan Garibian

PATRIARCHATE OF ISTANBUL

His Grace Archbishop Mesrob Moutafyan
Mr. Barouir Mouradian

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Archbishop Dr. Mesrob K. Krikorian
Bishop Oshagan Cholyan
Chairmen

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian
Very Rev. Moushegh Mardirossian
Secretaries

Archbishop Karekin Nersesian
Archbishop Mesrob Moutafyan
Bishop Sevan Gharibian
Bishop Asoghik Aristakesian
Prof. Grigor Khandjian
Prof. Vladimir Barkhoudarian
Khatchig Babikian, Esq.
Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian
Executive Secretary

Press Release:

1700th Anniversary Pilgrimages 1999

In the 19th century, a venerable clergyman by the name of Bishop Karekin Srvantsdiants was a unique pilgrim who traveled to all of the monasteries of Armenia and left us a treasure trove of writings. "Pilgrimage... in such a great and mighty way, you tie us to our roots," were the words he used to capture the idea of the pilgrimage and the pilgrim.

Keeping the ideas of Bishop Srvantsdiants in mind, the 1700 Anniversary Pilgrimage Committee has organized a series of pilgrimages for 1999 to keep us tied to our roots and to fan the flames of our faith.

The schedule of pilgrimages in 1999 is:

- Jerusalem and Armenia April 6-27
- Armenia April 13-27
- Istanbul, Van, Moush, Erzinga, Cesarea September 10-27
- Istanbul, Cesarea, Erzinga, Armenia September 10-24

The pilgrimage to Jerusalem coincides with Easter (old calendar) on April 11. The pilgrims will have the opportunity to participate in the washing of the feet ceremony at St. James Cathedral on Maundy Thursday and all the other ceremonies taking place on Holy Week such as, Easter Sunday mass and requiem. Pilgrims will also have the chance to visit holy sites such as the Holy Sepulchre Cathedral and Bethlehem. A week later the pilgrims will depart for Armenia for a one-week or two-week stay. Many memorable activities are planned for those weeks in various parts of Armenia. A conference will take place at Noravank on April 14-17. On April 17, "Moush Day" will be observed in

Museum of Art

525 South State Street
Ann Arbor MI 48109-1354

734 764-0395
734 764-3731 Fax

15 September, 1999

His Eminence Archbishop Nerses Pozapalian
Locum tenens
Catholicosate of All Armenians
Mother See of Etchmiadzin
Etchmiadzin, Armenia

Your Eminence Archbishop Nerses Pozapalian:

The University of Michigan Museum of Art, along with the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, is planning an exhibition that will celebrate the 1700 year anniversary of Armenian Christianity. This exhibition planned to begin in the fall of 2001 will explore the evolution of the Armenian national character through the Armenian church and its imagery, and will be curated by Dr. Alice Taylor. The exhibition will be broad in scope, supplemented with loans from the United States and other countries, and will include liturgical objects in addition to manuscripts. We anticipate that the exhibition's tour would consist of several venues between eight and ten weeks in length. The exhibition would be shown in New York and Ann Arbor plus two additional venues; the total loan period would be approximately nine months, depending upon the final number of venues. We realize that a chief concern would be for the safe display of your manuscripts, vestments and other objects. We would fabricate mounts for each object, including manuscripts, and would restrict light levels for both manuscripts and textiles to a range of five to eight footcandles (50-80 lux).

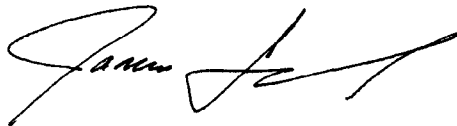
We understand that with the approaching anniversary you will receive a number of requests from museums and libraries around the world to borrow works from your holdings. We are writing to request the loan of up to thirty objects from your collections

for inclusion in our exhibition. We are hoping to send a delegation to Armenia during the month of October to look at objects in Armenian collections. As we refine the themes of the exhibition, we will be able to submit a specific list of works that we would like to include in our exhibition.

The University of Michigan Museum of Art is an institution accredited by the American Association of Museums and has full climate control and a professional security staff and electronic devices to safeguard all objects in our care. Your loans would be installed in an appropriate manner by our trained professional staff. If you would like a report detailing our facility's security, fire protection, etc. we would be happy to send that to you under separate cover. Any other venues would have similar high standards in matters of professional handling of artwork, security and climate control; we would be happy to forward to you the facilities reports of the other venues, if you wish to see them.

We hope that you will give your favorable consideration to our request. If you have any questions about our request, please let us know. We will be in touch with you again in the near future with a more specific request list.

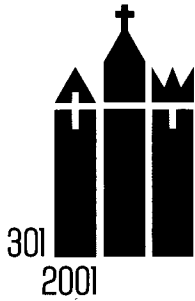
Sincerely,



James Steward, Director
University of Michigan Museum of Art
Ann Arbor, MI 48109



Archbishop Khajak Barsamian
Primate
Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of
America
New York, NY



1700 ԱՄԵՆԱԿ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՄԷՋ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՆԵՌՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ԿՐՈՆ ՀՌ-ՉԱԿՄԱՆ

17TH CENTENARY OF THE PROCLAMATION
OF CHRISTIANITY IN ARMENIA

ԿԵՂԵՆԱԿԱՆ ՅԱՆՉԱՆՆՈՒՄ
 Ե.Ս.Օ.Տ.Տ. Գարեգին Ա.
 Կաթողիկոս Ամենայն հայոց
 Ե.Ս.Օ.Տ.Տ. Արամ Ա.
 Կաթողիկոս Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ
 Ե. Ամեն. Տ. Պողոս Ա. Արք.
 Պատրիարք հայոց Երուսաղէմի
 Ե. Ամեն. Տ. Գարեգին Ա. Արք.
 Պատրիարք հայոց Թուրքիոյ
ՄԱՅՐ ԱՌՈՒ Ա. ԷԶԱԽԻԾԻՆ
 Գերջ. Տ. Գարեգին Արք. Նորստեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Նորվան Եպ. Զաքարեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Մեսրոպ Արք. Գրիգորեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Ասողիկ Եպ. Արիստակէսեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Յովնան Արք. Տէրտրեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Յակոբ Եպ. Գլխնեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Եսկի Ծ. Կրկ. Պետրոսեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Սիրայիկ Ծ. Կրկ. Աջապահեան
 Պրն. Պրն Յակոբեան
 Պրն. Գրիգոր Խանեան
 Պրն. Վարդիմիր Բարսեղյան
ԿԻԼԻԿԻԱՆ ԱՌՈՒ ԱՆՁԻՆԵՐ
 Գերջ. Տ. Արտակ Արք. Մանուկեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Կորնի Արք. Պապեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Զարեհ Արք. Ազատրեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Օջակեան Եպ. Զօրոյեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Մուշեղ Ծ. Կրկ. Մարտիրոսեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Վարդան Ծ. Կրկ. Տեղեկեան
 Մեծր Խաչիկ Պապկեան
 Պրն. Ոսկեբերան Արզումանեան
ԵՐՈՒՍԱԿԱՆ ՊԱՏՐԻԱՐԹՈՒԹԻՆ
 Գերջ. Տ. Գալիթ Արք. Մահակեան
 Գերջ. Տ. Սեւան Եպ. Ղարիպեան
 Կ. ՊՈԼԱՏՅ ՊԱՏՐԻԱՐԹՈՒԹԻՆ
 Գերջ. Տ. Մեսրոպ Արք. Մուրաֆեան
 Պրն. Պարոյր Մուրաֆեան

ԺԹ դարու մեր մեծամուն իռադիտականներէն Գարեգին Եպիսկոպոս Սրուանձտեանց իրօրինակ ուխտատր մըն էր, որ շրջեցաւ Հայաստան աշխարհի վանքերը, և մեզի ժառանգ թողոյց «Սասունցի Դ-աւիթ»ը, «Համով հոտով»ը և «Թորոս Աղբար»ը... Ինք է որ լաւագոյնս սահմանած է ուխտի և ուխտատրութեան գաղափարը, երբ կ'ըսէր. «Ուխտատրութիւն... ինչ հզոր և սրբազան կերպով կը կապես մեր կեանքը մեր արմատներուն»...

Այդ ոգիով ալ, 1700-ամեակի ուխտագնացութեանց յանձնախումբը 1999 տարուան համար ծրագրած է շարք մը ուխտագնացութիւններ, և՛ մեզ կապելու համար մեր արմատներուն, և՛ մեր մէջ արծարծելու համար հաւատքի բոցը:

1999 թ. գլխատր ուխտագնացութիւններն են.

- Երուսաղէմ և Հայաստան 6-27 Ապրիլ 1999 թ.
- Հայաստան 13-27 Ապրիլ 1999 թ.
- Պոլիս, Վան, Մուշ, Երզնկա, Կեսարիա 10-27 Սեպտեմբեր 1999 թ.
- Պոլիս, Կեսարիա, Երզնկա, Հայաստան 10-24 Սեպտեմբեր 1999 թ.

Երուսաղէմի ուխտագնացութիւնը կը զուգադիպի հին տոմարի զատկին (Ապրիլ 11), և ուխտատրները պիտի կարենան մասնակցիլ Աւագ Հինգշաբթի Սուրբ Յակոբի ոտնւղային, և Աւագ Ծաբթուան միւս արարողութեանց՝ Զատկի ճրագալոյցին և լուսահանութեան, Զատկի և մեռելոցի պատարագներուն, այցելել Սուրբ Յարութեան տաճարը, Բեթղեհեմ, այլ սրբատեղիներ: Ծաբաթ մը յետոյ ուխտատրները պիտի մեկնին Հայաստան, և ըստ իրենց ցանկութեան այնտեղ պիտի մնան մէկ կամ երկու շաբաթ: Այդ օրերուն տեղի պիտի ունենան յիշատակելի ձեռնարկներ Հայաստանի տարբեր շրջաններուն մէջ: Այսպէս, 14-17 Ապրիլին Նորավանքի մէջ տեղի պիտի ունենայ գիտաժողով, Ապրիլ 17-ին ՄՇՈՅ օրը պիտի նշուի Երևանի մէջ, և հիանալի յայտագիր մը պիտի հրամցուի ուխտատրներուն՝ ուր և պիտի ներկայացուի աւանդական ուխտագնացութիւն մը դէպի Մշոյ Սուլթան Սուրբ Կարապետ: Կիրակի, 18 Ապրիլին, Ն. Ս. Օ. Տ. Տ. Գարեգին Ա Կաթողիկոսի հովանաւորութեամբ պիտի

վերընծայուի Ամաղու Նորավանքի Բուրթելաշէն Սուրբ Աստուածածին տաճարը, որ հնարաւոր եղաւ մոնրէալարբնակ Տէր և տիկին Տիգրան և Տիանա Հաճէթեաններու նուիրատուութեան շնորհիւ:

Յաջորդող օրերուն ուխտատուները պիտի այցելէն Սուրբ Էջմիածին, Խոր Վիրապ, այլ ուխտավայրեր, և, Ապրիլ 24-ի շաբաթ օրը պիտի միանան հարիւր հազարաւոր երևանցիներու, բարձրանան Ծիծեռնակաբերդ և ծաղիկ մը դնեն Եղեռնի յուշարձանին վրայ, անշէջ կրակին դիմաց... այդ օր՝ Երուսաղէմի լոյսը տեսած հայորդին Երևանի բարձունքներուն պիտի տեսնէ յաւերժական լոյսը հայու հաւատքին և յոյսին:

25 Ապրիլին, Կարմիր Կիրակիին, դարձեալ Ամենայն Հայոց Հայրապետի նախագահութեամբ, Աշտարակի մօտիկ Կարբի գիւղի մէջ տեղի պիտի ունենան բացառիկ հանդիսութիւններ: Այդ առաւօտ պիտի կատարուի վերընծայումը Կարբիի Սուրբ Աստուածածին եկեղեցոյ, գիւղի հովիտի երիցատան և հանրային պարտէզին, ուր գետեղուած պիտի ըլլան գիւղի համբաւաւոր զաւակներէն Մեսրոպ Թաղիադեանի կիսանդրին, և արժանօրէնարբնակ հանգուցեալ Պօղոս Արզումանեանի և իր ազնուագարմ քրոջ՝ Սիրանոյշ Մեծատուրեանի յուշաքարը՝ որ կը ներկայացնէ որբութենէն ճողոպրած քոյրուերայրները, աղքատիկ, թերևս, բայց հաւատքով լեցուն դէպի ապագան: Եւ արդարև՝ Սիրանոյշ Մեծատուրեան-Արզումանեան և իր ամուսինը՝ Արմենակ Մեծատուրեան, որոնք ծանօթ են իրենց բազմաթիւ բարերարութիւններով, սիրայօժար կերպով ստանձնած են Կարբի գիւղի վերոյիշեալ կառուցումները:

Թէ՛ Նորավանքի, թէ՛ Կարբիի բացման հանդիսութեանց կը սպասուի որ մասնակցին բազմաթիւ ուխտատուներ՝ յատկապէս Արժանօրէն, Միացեալ Նահանգներէն, Գանատայէն, Ֆրանսայէն և այլ երկիրներէ:

1700-ամեակի գրասենեակը պարբերաբար մեր հաւատացեալները տեղեակ պիտի պահէ այս բոլոր ուխտագնացութեան և այլ ձեռնարկներու մասին:

Ուխտագնացութեանց Կեդրոնական Յանձնախումբի վարիչը՝ Տ. Յովնան Արքեպիսկոպոս Տէրտէրեան Յունուար 17-ին պիտի ըլլայ Երուսաղէմ և այսու կազմակերպչական աշխատանքներով պիտի այցելէ Լոնտոն, Բարիզ, Լիոն, Մարսէյլ և Գերմանիա, հանդիպումներ ունենայ եկեղեցական և աշխարհական ղեկավարներու հետ, և ապա Սուրբ Էջմիածնայ մէջ մասնակցի 1700-ամեակի ուխտագնացութեանց կեդրոնական Յանձնախումբի և թեմական Յանձնախումբերու ժողովներու:

Վստահ ենք, որ 1700-ամեակի սեմին, հարիւրաւոր հայեր ուխտի ճամբաներուն վրայ պիտի գտնեն իրենց արմատները, իրենց հայրենի երկիրը, իրենց հայրերու հաւատքը:

Բոլոր անոնք որոնք կը հետաքրքրուին ուխտագնացութիւններով, կրնան դիմել իրենց հովուին,
Առաջնորդարանին, և կամ ուղղակի Յովնան Սրբազանին՝ հետևեալ հասցեով.

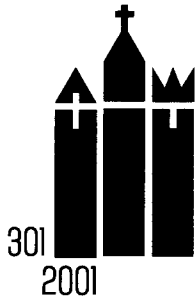
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Երթաս բարով հայ ուխտատու
Երանի քեզ, հայ ուխտատու

Սուրբ Էջմիածին

1700-ամեակի գրասենեակ



1700 ԱՄԵԼԿ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՄԷՋ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՆԵՌՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ԿՐՈՆ ՀՈՉԱԿԱՆ

17TH CENTENARY OF THE PROCLAMATION
OF CHRISTIANITY IN ARMENIA

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His Holiness Karekin I
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His Holiness Aram I
Catholics of the Great House of Cilicia
His Beatitude Terkom
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His Beatitude Karekin
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CATHOLICosate OF ALL ARMENIANS

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His Grace Archbishop Mesrob Krikorian
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His Grace Archbishop Hovnan Derderian
His Grace Bishop Hagop Kilijian
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Press Release:

1700th Anniversary Pilgrimages 1999

In the 19th century, a venerable clergyman by the name of Bishop Karekin Srvantsdians was a unique pilgrim who traveled to all of the monasteries of Armenia and left us a treasure trove of writings. "Pilgrimage... in such a great and mighty way, you tie us to our roots," were the words he used to capture the idea of the pilgrimage and the pilgrim.

Keeping the ideas of Bishop Srvantsdians in mind, the 1700 Anniversary Pilgrimage Committee has organized a series of pilgrimages for 1999 to keep us tied to our roots and to fan the flames of our faith.

The schedule of pilgrimages in 1999 is:

- Jerusalem and Armenia April 6-27
- Armenia April 13-27
- Istanbul, Van, Moush, Erzinga, Cesarea September 10-27
- Istanbul, Cesarea, Erzinga, Armenia September 10-24

The pilgrimage to Jerusalem coincides with Easter (old calendar) on April 11. The pilgrims will have the opportunity to participate in the washing of the feet ceremony at St. James Cathedral on Maundy Thursday and all the other ceremonies taking place on Holy Week such as, Easter Sunday mass and requiem. Pilgrims will also have the chance to visit holy sites such as the Holy Sepulchre Cathedral and Bethlehem. A week later the pilgrims will depart for Armenia for a one-week or two-week stay. Many memorable activities are planned for those weeks in various parts of Armenia. A conference will take place at Noravank on April 14-17. On April 17, "Moush Day" will be observed in

Yerevan and the pilgrims will be invited to witness an unforgettable program that will host a traditional pilgrimage to Msho Sultan Sourp Garabed. On Sunday, April 18th, His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians, will reconsecrate the Holy Mother of God Cathedral at Amaghov Noravank, which has just finished being restored through the generous donation of Mr. and Mrs. Dikran and Diana Hadjetian of Montreal.

In the days following, the pilgrims will visit Holy Etchmiadzin, Khor Virab and other holy sites. On April 24, the pilgrims will have the great opportunity to visit Dzidzernagapert and lay flowers around the eternal flame of the monument, along with hundreds of thousands of Armenians. On that day, those pilgrims who saw the light of Jerusalem will be able to witness the eternal light of Armenian faith and hope on the hilltops of Yerevan.

On April 25, Red Sunday, His Holiness Karekin I will again be presiding over a few special events that will be taking place in the village of Garpi, near the town of Ashdarag. On that morning, the Holy Mother of God Church of Garpi will be reconsecrated and the dedication of the parish house and the public park will take place. In the public park, a bust of one of Garpi's famous sons, Mesrob Taghiatian and the memorial and stele for Argentine-Armenians, Boghos Arzoumanian and his sister, Siranoush Arzoumanian-Medzadourian will be unveiled. Both together symbolize the poor orphans that struggled to reach the future always holding on to their faith. It was through the efforts of Mrs. Siranoush Arzoumanian-Medzadourian and her husband, Armenag Medzadourian, who are well known for their philanthropy, that constructions took place in Garpi.

A great number of pilgrims, especially from Argentina, the United States, Canada, France are expected to participate in the reconsecration ceremonies at both Noravank and Garpi.

The 1700th Anniversary Office will periodically keep our faithful informed about all the pilgrimages and other events that will be taking place.

The chairman of the Pilgrimage Central Committee, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian will be visiting Jerusalem on January 17 and will be travelling to London, Paris, Lyon, Marseille and Germany to organize the pilgrimages and to meet with church and lay leaders. He will also be participating in the 1700th Anniversary Pilgrimage Committee meeting and the diocesan committee meetings to be held in Holy Etchmiadzin.

We are certain that, as we near the 1700th Anniversary, hundreds of Armenians will be finding their roots, their motherland and the faith of their ancestors on the roads of their pilgrimages.

All those who are interested in the pilgrimages can contact their parish priest, their Diocese or Prelacy or Archbishop Hovnan Derderian directly at:

615 Stuart Ave.
Outremont, Quebec
Canada H2V 3H2
Tel: (514) 276-9479
Fax: (514) 276-9960
E-mail: adiocese@aol.com

Also, visit the Official 1700th Anniversary Website at:
www.etchmiadzin.am/1700

Bon voyage, pilgrims!
Have a safe trip Armenian pilgrim.
How very lucky of you, Armenian pilgrim!

1700th Anniversary Office
Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin
January 5, 1999

The 1700 Anniversary Sacred Music Concert

As part of the celebrations marking the 1700th anniversary of the establishment of Christianity as state religion in Armenia, it is planned to organize a concert of Armenian sacred music in the fall of 2001 to tour various cities in North America.

Program

The concert is to be exclusively made up of Armenian sacred compositions, broadly understood, featuring choral and instrumental music. The program will include familiar works—such as portions of the Divine Liturgy and other well-known liturgical chants—as well as eclectic ones, so to capture and challenge the listener's imagination.

A variety of valuable music of this genre has been created since the turn of the twentieth century, both in the Diaspora and in the homeland, which should be presented to the public for its historic and artistic value. There is a wealth of material which remains practically unknown: settings by Komitas; portions of the liturgy by Tchouhadjian; a setting of the *Badarak* by Amy Apcar of India, which Komitas considered to be the most unadulterated of all liturgical settings; and numerous compositions by Hovhanness, on texts in Armenian, English and Latin. Even the Italian composer Pietro Bianchini has composed a setting of the Armenian Mass.

Among the representatives of the younger generation, Petros Shoujounian, Eve Beglarian, Jeff Manookian and Michelle Ekizian have contributed to this category. In the field of instrumental music, Richard Yardumian and Alicia Terzian have been inspired by biblical themes. Additionally, since the independence of the country in 1991, there has been a flurry of activities in the field of sacred music in Armenia itself.

Artists

Since a large portion of the program will be vocal, the performers' grasp of the Armenian language is an imperative. It seems that the most practical solution is to bring from Armenia a medium sized, established chorus of about 25 singers, with their conductor and a tour manager, and present them in various cities of North America. Should there be any need for soloists, such artists may be culled from the American-Armenian community, who can travel with the chorus in the cities where the events will be presented.

Venues

In New York, the concert should take place in St. Vartan Cathedral. In different cities, Armenian churches should be utilized, conditions permitting. Alternatively, suitable sanctuaries of various denominations may also be used. When possible, concert halls should be avoided so to retain the ambiance of the occasion and to reduce the expenses.

Cost

It is estimated that if only a single concert is presented in New York City, the cost would be around \$50,000 to \$60,000. This includes travel expenses, hotel expenses, per

diem, honoraria, printing, mailing, advertising and other ancillary expenditures. However, the cost of each subsequent event would be substantially reduced if a number of concerts are organized in various parts of the continent or even within the Diocesan jurisdiction. In this case, in addition to guaranteeing a specified sum to the Diocese, each parish should be responsible for surface transportation (but not per diem and accommodations for the chorus members) and other concert related expenses. If a chorus is brought from Armenia, it is possible to organize up to four concerts a week.

Procedure

It is first necessary to audition a number of choral groups already active in Armenia in order to choose an ensemble suitable for our purposes. Then to design a program, in consultation with the director of the choir, that would reflect our musical ends. Finally, the project should be presented to various parishes for their reaction so to schedule a well executed tour. The date for such a tour would be October-November 2001.

Şahan Arzruni