



from the office of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

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news:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW ARMENIAN PARISH OF KANSAS CITY HOLDS FIRST SERVICE

With the recommendation of His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, the very Reverend Father Shnork Kasparian, pastor of the Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church of Belleville, Illinois, visited Kansas City, Missouri on April 27, 1987. This was a very special event for Armenians in the area since this was the first visit by an Armenian priest.

While Father Kasparian was in Kansas City, he visited with many Armenians and a new parish council was appointed. Ara Zakarian was elected Chairman, Jennifer Hatutian Secretary, and Zaven Hatutian Treasurer. Asdghig Stella Gulayan, Rose Onbachian, Natalie Hatutian and Michael Frankian were named Advisors. The Primate wrote a letter verifying and congratulating these newly appointed parish council members.

This year, the National Council of Churches meeting was in Kansas City, and to participate in this conference, the Primate, Father Kasparian and the Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, of the St. Mesrob Armenian Church of Racine, Wisconsin, traveled to Kansas City on May 13th. That evening, the Archbishop met with the new parish council members.

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On the evening of May 14th, 1987, the first Armenian Church service took place in Kansas City with His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian celebrant. He was assisted by Father Kasparian and Father Kochakian. Fifty Armenians were present along with representatives of the Greek Orthodox and Serbian churches. The service took place in the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. The Greek Church board voted to open their church for use by the Armenian community.

After Divine Liturgy, dinner was served in the Church Hall. On this occasion, members of the Greek, Serbian and Armenian clergy spoke. Parish council members also spoke expressing their appreciation and joy, promising to keep up the work strengthening their new parish. The Primate congratulated and encouraged the new parish members wishing them future success in their newly established Armenian community.

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