

For almost two decades, the Diocesan complex has been our principal cultural center, just as St. Vartan Cathedral has been the symbol of our religious faith. Our people have come to the complex to commune with the spirit and exult in the substance of our culture, and to honor the artists who have shaped it.

The Diocese has been fervently devoted to this cause, endeavoring to encourage our art and artists in a variety of ways; a recent example was the three-day celebration of Armenian literature, and the publication of two books that derived from it.

In this tradition we are planning an unprecedented event for the spring of 1987, a symposium on Armenian literature both in the diaspora and in Armenia, ~~em~~^{em}bracing their present and future as well as their reciprocal influences. We intend to invite three or four writers and scholars from Yerevan to participate, as well as distinguished men of letters from Europe and ^{other parts of the} Diaspora. We believe that such a gathering will not only develop an accurate picture of our potential, but also prove an inspiration to our people everywhere.

So ambitious an ^aundertaking will entail considerable expense; we estimate that about \$20,000 will be required to cover the costs that will be incurred. It is admittedly a large sum, but not in terms of what it will surely provide of spiritual and cultural renewal.

We need the help of people like you who are deeply involved in the leadership of our community, and aware as well of the value of our literature in our life and survival.

If you, and others like you to whom we will apply, can contribute and make a gift of \$1,000 to the Diocese, it will make it possible to organize the most impressive literary event in the history of the Armenian Diaspora.

We hope that you will share our enthusiasm for this project, and help us bring it about. Its success will be your success; its impact will be felt in our community life for a long time to come.