



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (EASTERN)  
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The Very Reverend Father Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate

A MESSAGE FROM FR. MESROP PARSAMYAN  
*Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America*

It is a great pleasure for me to send this letter, as Primate of the Eastern Diocese, to the good people of St. John the Baptist Armenian Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as you celebrate 80 years of worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ as a community of faith. I extend my blessing on Fr. Guregh Hambardzumyan, and on all the faithful people of this beautiful parish.

This is a moment of great change in the world – and especially in the Armenian world. We have witnessed it in our homeland; we are feeling it in our own Diocese. What lies ahead for our people – here and abroad – deserves all our courage, faith, and prayers for God’s guidance and inspiration. But as these changes go forward, we can be certain that our foundation is strong, and fully able to support whatever the future brings.

That foundation was laid centuries ago, when the Holy Spirit transformed the history of the Armenian people. The same Holy Spirit animates us today – infusing our frail humanity with the power of God. It opens our eyes to a blessed reality that is invisible to those without faith. It revitalizes us with divine life. It draws us together in love. It replaces our anxieties with Christian hope. It empowers our communities to become beacons of God’s love, through our faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

My friends, the Spirit of God is at work in our homeland, in our Diocese, and – I am quite certain – here at the church named for Sourp Hovhannes Meguerdich. I invite you all to open your eyes, minds, and hearts to the mysterious force of God’s active presence among you. You have accomplished so much here over these eight decades, under many worthy pastors. And I know that in recent years, under the spirited leadership of Der Guregh, this elder parish of our Diocese has seen a new burst of youthful energy and activity among its faithful. I am confident that many more excellent developments are on the horizon.

On this 80th anniversary, I offer prayers for the departed souls who worked and sacrificed to establish a community, witnessed the glorious consecration of this church, and passed on its sacred work to you.

I pray for your devoted shepherd Der Guregh, Yerezgin Sylva and their growing family; for your parish leaders, young people, altar servers, choir singers, teachers and all the wonderful members of this blessed Armenian Church. May our risen Lord bless you all, and grant you many opportunities to celebrate in his Name.

Prayerfully,

The Very Reverend Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan  
*Primate*

December 13, 2022