



JEAN PIERI, PIONEER PRESS

ARMENIAN CHURCH LEADER VISITS ST. PAUL

His Holiness Karekin II, right foreground, the spiritual leader of the world's 9 million Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Christians, blesses Elsa Matossian Hoover, 12, of Minneapolis, after she ceremonially greets him with bread and salt upon his arrival Thursday at St. Paul Downtown Airport. Later Thursday, the cleric, who is visiting more than a dozen U.S. cities this month, led services at St. Sahag Armenian Church in St. Paul. Today, he will give an address and receive an honorary degree at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in downtown Minneapolis. The 10:30 a.m. event at the Schulze Grand Atrium is open to the public. Also pictured greeting Karekin II at the airport are, from left in the background: the Rev. Sahak Kaishian, a visiting priest at St. Sahag; Deacon Manuk Malkhasyan and the Rev. Zaven Yazichyan, both St. Thomas graduate students from Armenia; and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

10B M FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2007
