



Visiting Pastor Fr. Sahak Kaishian
203 North Howell Street
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-603-1940
Email: saintsahag@aol.com
Website: www.saintsahag.com



A Pastoral Journey ~ Bringing Faith Home
Հովուական այցելութիւն՝ հաւատքը տուն բերող

His Holiness Karekin II Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians

St. Sahag Armenian Church
St. Paul, Minnesota
October 25, 2007

www.pontificalvisit.org

Honored Guests

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Eastern

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Diocesan Legate and Ecumenical Director

Bishop Yezras Nersissian
Primate, Diocese of Russia and New Nakhijevan

Very Rev. Fr. Hovnan Hakobyan
Staff Bearer, Catholicosate of All Armenians

Rev. Fr. Ktrij Devejian
Foreign Press Secretary, Catholicosate of All Armenians

Deacon Artur Petrosyan
Assistant to Comm, Stew. & Dev. Director, Eastern Diocese

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A PASTORAL JOURNEY - BRINGING FAITH HOME

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The congregation is requested to silence all electronic devices. The Diocese will be filming the service and reception for inclusion in an ABC television special. Please, no flash photography.

We would appreciate your cooperation in not walking in front of the cameras and refraining from conversations that will be picked up on wide-angle microphones.

After the clergy has recessed, please exit at the back of the sanctuary to Ararat Hall, where you are welcome to receive the pontifical blessing of His Holiness Karekin II.

Thank you for your cooperation during this very special event.

<u>Addressing Clergy</u>	<u>Verbal Address</u>	<u>Armenian Greeting</u>	<u>English Greeting</u>
Catholicos of All Armenians	Vehapar Der	Asdvadz Ognagan Vehapar Der	May God be your helper, Your Holiness
Archbishop (Patriarch)	Srpazan Badriark Hayr	Asdvadz Ognagan Srpazan Badriark Hayr	May God be your helper Your Beatitude
Archbishop & Bishop	Srpazan Hayr	Asdvadz Ognagan Srpazan Hayr	May God by your helper, Your Eminence
Celebrate Priest	Hayr Soorp	Asdvadz Ognagan Hayr Soorp	May God be your helper, Holy Father
Married Priest	Der Hayr	Orhnetzek Der Hayr	Bless me, Father

City of Saint Paul

Proclamation

Whereas, on October 25, 2007, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, will grace our City with his presence during the first Pontifical Visit to Minnesota; and

Whereas, His Holiness Karekin II is the 132nd in a continuous line dating back to St. Gregory the Illuminator in 301 A.D., through whom Armenia became the first nation to adopt Christianity as its sole and official religion; and

Whereas, this year marks the centennial anniversary of the death of Catholicos Mkrtych Khrimian, who established the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America in 1898; and

Whereas, since 1899 the Armenian-American community, enjoying the blessings of democratic government and religious freedom, has made substantial contributions to our City and State; and

Whereas, St. Sahag Armenian Church, consecrated September 7, 2002, has served our City for five years as the first Armenian house of worship in Minnesota; and

Whereas, as chief shepherd of the world's nine million Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Christians, the arrival of His Holiness Karekin II in our City will be a spiritually uplifting occasion for all;

Now, Therefore, I, Chris Coleman, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, do hereby welcome

His Holiness Karekin II

to the City of Saint Paul.

In Witness Whereof I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Saint Paul to be affixed this Twenty-Fifth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand Seven.

Chris Coleman, Mayor



His Holiness Karekin II, spiritual leader of the world's 9 million Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Christians, is the Catholicos of All Armenians to visit Minnesota. (His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, visited St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, in 2006.) "Catholicos," from a Greek word meaning "universal," is the highest ecclesiastical title in the Armenian church, which is an independent member of the Oriental Orthodox communion.

Karekin II is the 132nd in a continuous line dating back to St. Gregory the Illuminator in 301 A.D., through whom Armenia became the first nation to adopt Christianity as its sole and official religion. The historical Armenian homeland, including the biblical Mt. Ararat, stretches from eastern Anatolia into the southern Caucasus region.

The Catholicos of All Armenians is seated at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin near Yerevan, the capital of the Republic of Armenia. A former Soviet state which became independent in 1991, Armenia is located in the southern Caucasus region between the Black and Caspian seas, surrounded by Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran and Georgia. About the size of Maryland, the landlocked republic is home to some 3 million people.



St. Sahag Armenian Church (www.saintsahag.com), the only Armenian house of worship in Minnesota, Iowa, and the Dakotas, was consecrated on September 7, 2002. The former Merriam-Lexington Presbyterian Church, a beautiful 1912 Gothic-Tudor building, is being sensitively restored and modified according to Armenian religious tradition.

Until they acquired a building of their own, Twin Cities Armenians held services at Episcopal and Greek Orthodox churches. In the early 1950s, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, leader of the Armenian Apostolic churches in North America, celebrated a Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis: for some of the local Armenians, many of them refugees from Turkey after World War I, the ceremony marked the first participation in Armenian worship since their arrival.

As a parish of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), St. Sahag comprises several hundred first- through fourth-generation Armenians and friends of the community. Minnesota Armenians, who first settled in St. Paul in 1899, have been served by visiting priests for more than a century. As early as 1917, the "Armenian Rectory of St. Paul" certified the baptism of Woodrow Haig Keljik by visiting bishop Papken Gulesserian. The current visiting priest is Fr. Sahak Kaishian.

The 1150 Minnesotans who claim Armenian ancestry remain concentrated in the Twin Cities metro area. There are an estimated 1 million Americans of Armenian descent.

2007 PONTIFICAL VISIT

Chacké Yeterian Scallen, CO-CHAIR

Dr. Massis Yeterian, CO-CHAIR

George Andeweg	Lou Ann Matossian
Kathie Cafesjian Baradaran	Terry McGibbon
Francis Bulbulian	Peggy Merjanian
Ruth Charchian	Judy Ohannessian Tiffany
Adrienne Hayes	

ST. SAHAG CHOIR

Organist: Beatrice Ohanessian

Astghik Alanakyan,	Lou Ann Matossian
Naïry Digris	Peggy Merjanian
Mariam Khachatryan	Sita Ohanessian
Mariam Kocharian	Caroline Ylitalo
Terry McGibbon	

CANOPY BEARERS

Francis Bulbulian
Vartkes Ehamjian
Sam Mesroubian
Vladimir Poladian



A PASTORAL JOURNEY - BRINGING FAITH HOME

Bread and Salt Bearers

Sako Khatchikian
Elsa Matossian-Hoover

Flowers Presented by:

Maddy Stead
Maddy Hayes

USHERS

Haig Arustamyan
Roman Avetisov
Levon Esaybegyan
Tavit Gharibyan
Octobrini Moellaeva
Amanda Stromquist
Iren Tadevosyan

THE BLESSING OF BREAD AND SALT

In an ancient gesture of hospitality, two children in colorful Armenian costume present a silver tray of bread and salt on the arrival of His Holiness Karekin II to St. Paul. His Holiness will bless the children and dip the bread in the salt, taking a bite as a symbol of thanksgiving for the parish welcoming him.

Hrashapar

A Service of Adoration

7:00 p.m.

HRASHAPAR is a service of welcoming and on the part of the Catholicos, a service of thanksgiving for having reached his destination safely and an acknowledgement of the honor being bestowed upon him.



CONSECRATION OF THE BAPTISMAL FONT

The Baptismal Font is one of the most important parts of the Christian Church. Instituted by the Lord himself, baptism, “the door of the church,” is the first sacrament a Christian receives. Through baptism, we become children of God.

Donated in Memory of Anahid Yeterian by her family

Designed by Francis Bulbulian, AIA



Reception

8:00 p.m.

Ararat Hall

Fr. Sahak Kaishian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian

His Holiness Karekin II

Musical Program

Master of Ceremonies: Aram Charchian

An opportunity to personally greet His Holiness and receive a pontifical blessing.