

IN A MESSAGE ON THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

**BE FAITHFUL TO THE PATH
OF THE HOLY TRANSLATORS**

Says Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossaian

On this first day of the school year, my wish is for all of you is to not only be familiar with our rich culture and heritage, but to uphold them and continue to practice them so that you can be the honorable torch bearers of the Holy Translators and our ancestors. Take example from those who serve our ancestral church and who educate themselves with the word of God at the Antelias Seminary, so that you may become the future flag bearers of our historic nation.

This was the message given to the students of the Prelacy Armenian schools on September 7, 2005 by His Eminence Archbishop Moushegh Maridrossian, as the doors of our schools reopened for a new scholar year.

The 2005-2006 academic year began just as any other year, with the traditional prayer and spiritual richness which brings upon new strength and the rejuvenation of our faith. On the first day of the academic year, all reverend fathers of the Prelacy were present to personally carry out the blessing of the first day at their respective schools to where they were assigned.

His Eminence this year graced Ferrahian Armenian School with his presence, alongside the principal, board members, teachers and students in Encino and North Hills, respectively. Present alongside His Eminence was the pastor of Holy Martyrs Arm. Church, Rev. Father Razmig Khachadourian, Very Reverend Father Muron Aznikian, as well as Mr. Vartkes Tovmasian representing the Board of Regents of the Prelacy Schools, Members of the finance committee of the school, the principal, the kindergarten principal and the teacher and student bodies. Present were also members of the church Board of Trustees, ARF "Rosdom" Chapter members and a multitude of parents.

The opening prayer was performed by the pastor of the church, after which a welcoming speech was said by Principal John Kosakian, who spoke of the future plans for the school and welcomed all of the students to the new academic year.

His Eminence Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian spoke thereafter and gave his fatherly blessing and prayer to the students, principal, teachers and all who were present, wishing that the upcoming academic year bring new strength and success to all the students. He especially stressed the importance of being disciplined mentally, physically, morally and spiritually for the students.

His Eminence also pointed out various important events taking place in 2005 for the Western Prelacy. He reminded them all that as a nation, this year marks the 1600th anniversary of the invention of the Armenian alphabet, as well as the 90th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. For the Prelacy, this year is an especially memorable year because we prepare to receive and welcome His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, who will be arriving next month to celebrate with us the 75th Anniversary of the re-establishment of the Cilician Seminary in Antelias, and the 10th Anniversary of the Election and Enthronement of His Holiness.

All of the other reverend fathers who were present at other schools read the following message which was given by His Eminence.-

“Dear Principal, Faculty and Staff and Dearest Students,

Today is the first day of the new academic year. This day is an especially important day for all the students. There are those children amongst you who step foot in school for the first time and yet there are still those amongst you who have returned to further their education toward the road of higher learning. My first wish is that the coming year bring to all of you a chance to grow and mature physically and mentally and give you a chance to grow in your realization that you are all the children of the Armenian Apostolic Church, heirs of the Armenian Nation with all of its culture and heritage and that the road which you are all on will guide you to one where you will impact our nation and enrich the Armenian people.

On this first day of the academic year, I would like to remind all of you of a few important events that are taking place this coming year. This year marks the 1600th anniversary of the discovery of the Armenian alphabet, as well as the 90th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. For the Prelacy, this year is an especially memorable year because we prepare to receive His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, who will be arriving next month to celebrate with us the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the Cilician Seminary and the 10th Anniversary of the Election and Enthronement of His Holiness.

I pray that the Almighty Lord keep all of you in His grace, protect and watch over the students, teachers and faculty of our schools along with all the governing bodies of our school.

May God Bless all of you and grant you a fruitful academic year, full of success and great achievements.”