



WESTERN DIOCESE OF  
THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA  
Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցիի Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Երեմարեան Թեմ  
HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN, PRIMATE

## Armenian Pontiff Visits Burbank to Consecrate New Cathedral and Erect Monument for September 11 Victims

***August 15, 2010, Burbank, CA – His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, will join California public figures and thousands of local Armenian-Americans to consecrate a new Cathedral in Burbank and erect monument in honor of September 11 victims.***

In an historic effort, His Holiness Karekin II will arrive from Armenia for the consecration of the first, newly-built Cathedral for the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church. He will dedicate a 7-foot tall traditional Armenian hand-carved tufa stone, or “*Khatchkar*,” for the victims of the September 11 attacks. The monument will be erected on the site in Burbank, California.

The dedication and consecration will take place at the new Cathedral located at 3325 N. Glenoaks Blvd, Burbank, CA 91504, from 3-5pm on Saturday, September 11, 2010.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is confirmed to attend. Confirmed guests also include Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles Sheriff Lee Baca, Los Angeles City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, Mayor of Glendale Ara Najarian, former California Governor George Deukmejian, Assembly members Kevin De Leon, John Perez and Anthony Portantino, ranking local and international religious leaders and thousands of area Armenian-Americans.

“We also feel blessed to have finally completed such a landmark undertaking in the life the Armenian-American community making its home here on the West Coast,” says His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, who spearheaded the construction of the new Cathedral. “We are truly moved to honor those Americans who lost their lives in the horrific attacks on this blessed country, a land that for over a century, so many of our people have called home.”

The Cathedral consecration finalizes a 10-year civic achievement between the Western Diocese Armenian Church and officials from the City of Burbank, the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. It also signifies the fruition of a historic dream for local Armenian-Americans that can be traced back to the first Armenian Apostolic Church founded in California in 1903.

The new Cathedral of the Western Diocese will serve as the spiritual center for over half a million Armenian-Americans living in Southern California as well as the entire western United States, home to the second largest community of Armenians outside of today’s Republic of Armenia.

RSVP AND PRESS CREDENTIALS REQUIRED FOR COVERAGE.

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**Photo Captions** photos can be found on next page or via URL

1. Cathedral of the Western Diocese – The southern facing wall of the soon to be consecrated Cathedral of the Western Diocese in Burbank, CA. (<http://flic.kr/p/8rHWuF>)
2. A Traditional Khatchkar – An example of the traditional “*khatchkar*” or cross-stone which will be dedicated to the victims of September 11. (<http://flic.kr/p/8rHWJv>)

**Cathedral of the Western Diocese**



**A Traditional Khatchkar**

