



THE HOLY CHRISTMASS SERMON OF HIS HOLINESS VASKEN I,  
SUPREME PATRIARCH AND CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS,  
DELIVERED AT ST. ECHMIADZIN CATHEDRAL, 6 JANUARY, 1985.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, amen.

Dear Believers,

Years and centuries go by, generations succeed one another, life, ever agitated, eternally rolls on in the course of time, constantly changing events file past over the horizon of history, man's searching and creative mind endlessly soars towards the summits of courageous achievements, and over all of that there masterfully shines Christ's light as an eternal radiation of love, of a spirit of justice and peace, conveying a spiritual meaning and moral purpose to man's life and history.

Every Holy Christmas tidings is a spiritual rebirth for every believer when he accepts it with yearning for spiritual reform, ridding himself of human weaknesses and imperfections.

So, dear believing people, both in Armenia and the world over, open the gates of your hearts with prayer and carol and tenderly receive the great tidings of Christ's miraculous birth.

You, the beloved faithful, under the light of these evangelical messages make an account of your past life and, as reborn beings, meet the Nativity tidings with a relieved conscience, and as „sons of light“ be always ready to be devoted to the realization of kind and righteous deeds on the path of a new life individually as well as socially.

On the part of our Mother Church and all of the nation's offspring, our sacred prayer is also a kind and righteous act for the spiritual peace of the victims of 1915 Genocide, a national disaster whose seventieth anniversary will especially be solemnly observed this year on the 24th of April with an all-Armenian unity both in our motherland and over the entire expanse of the Armenian Diaspora.



The spiritual invocation of our martyrs' sacred memory is a day of both mourning and prayer and as well as of vow and strengthening of national unity, with shining consciousness that the Armenian people, dealing a mortal blow to death has ushered in a new era of rebirth and prosperity during recent decades on its native land, at the foot of Mount Ararat, inspiring life and hope to its sons and daughters dispersed on the strange roads of foreign lands.

Our church and the entire Armenian people, particularly those residing in Armenia, will observe the seventieth anniversary of the Genocide in conditions of peace and security with a firm national consciousness, with new achievements of national construction, new lights of creative work, new songs and ever new hopes in our bright and just future.

To throw into oblivion the tragedy of the past would mean to weaken and dim the memory of mankind, it would mean to distort history, it would mean to frustrate the truth and choke the voice of justice, it would mean to clear the way for new calamities and genocidal crimes.

The impartial judgment of the tragedies of the past, the exposition of the truth of historical sad events and the loud announcement of the voice of justice constitute the firm foundations for the building of a new world, where the sons and daughters of all nations will, without discrimination, reach salutary consciousness that they are the children of the same God, that they are the citizens of the same human world under the same vault of heaven and all of them have the same fate: the fate of man, the fate of nationality and the fate of the world, especially from now on, constitute one single solidary reality, one single imperative and one single future.

In the great family of fraternal nationalities, let our reborn Armenian people and our vigorous fatherland develop and prosper freely and cheerfully along the road of perpetual construction and flourish with song and sunlight, peace and happiness.

