

ՍՈՒՐԲ ԾՆՆԴԵԱՆ ՈՒՂԵՐԶՆԵՐ ԲՈՅՐ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՆԵՐՈՒ ՀՈԳԵՒՈՐ ՊԵՏԵՐՈՒ ԿՈՂՄԷ

2015-ի Ս. Ծննդեան հրաշափառ Տօնին առթիւ, ըստ ընկալեալ աւանդութեան, քոյր եկեղիներու պատկանող շքախումբեր իրարու կ'այցեղեն անձամբ փոխանցելու համար իրենց շնորհատրանքները:

Այս տարուայ Ս. Ծնունդը զուգադիպելով Յեղասպանութեան 100-ամեակին, Երուսաղէմի հոգեւոր պետերը իրենց ուղերձներուն մէջ յատուկ ակնարկութիւններ ըրին այդ առթիւ:

Ստորեւ կը ներկայացնենք զանոնք:



*His Beatitude Theophilos III
Patriarch of Jerusalem*

January 2015

Your Beatitude,
Your Eminences,
Your Graces,
Beloved Members of our Brotherhoods.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

We greet you, Your Beatitude of Saint James, and your entire community in the Holy Land as you celebrate the Feast of Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this holy season, Christians everywhere are united in the mystery of the Word made flesh, the Incarnate Logos of God, whose birth in cave of Bethlehem ushers in the new age in which humanity has been reconciled to God.

As we greet you, Your Beatitude, on this happy feast, we are keenly aware that this new year brings in its train a tragic anniversary for the Armenian people. The Genocide that the Armenian people suffered a century ago remains a terrible stain on human history, and we remember especially all those who fled the terror and made their way to the Armenian community in the Holy Land, where they found refuge, safety and a new life. We assure you and your people that we shall be keeping you in our prayers as the centenary unfolds, and especially in April when the commemorations around the world will be focused on who suffered and lost their homes, families, and lives



in this act of man's inhumanity to man.

We live in world in which, even now many different ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and communities continue to suffer persecution, violence, and even annihilation. The centenary of the Armenian Genocide, as well as the plight of many in our region today, are stark reminders that we ever be vigilant in opposing in the strongest possible terms and at every opportunity acts of terrorism, violence, and degradation.

Our mission as those to whom the guardianship and the *diaconia* of the Holy Places has been entrusted is to ensure that all people without distinction are welcomed and cared for when they come for refreshment. The dialogue between our communities must always be of the highest calibre and commitment so that the world the world may see the fruits of mission clearly. Our relation with those who seek to help and support us both in this region and around the world are also of the deepest importance.

As we rejoice together in this holy season, may God bless you. Your Beatitude, in your primatial ministry, and may God bless the Brotherhood of Saint James and the people of the Armenian Community of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. We wish you all very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Thank you.





*His Beatitude Fouad Twal
Patriarch of Jerusalem*

Your Beatitude, Archbishop Manoogian
You Excellencies,
Dear Fathers,
Beloved Members of our respective communities,

It is our special joy to be here with you in this upper room, and close to you, on the great occasion of our celebration of the Birth of Jesus. We extend to you our benevolent and most cordial greetings. In the words of the Armenian tradition: "Christ is born and revealed!" "Good News for you and for us."

The Prophet Isaiah recounts the Seraphim crying to one another: "The whole earth is full of his glory!" Where do we see this glory that fills the earth? Looking around, we see much "un-glory" in our environment. We see a world where violence, self-worship, greed, egoism, and immorality dominate. Many souls are plunged into darkness.

In the face of present-day circumstances of chaos and danger, and especially remembering the horrible situations of the people in Syria, Iraq and Gaza, let us implore the Mother of God, who is Mother of us all, to suppress violence and wars, to crush the power of evil, and to establish her Son's kingdom in hearts, so that we will see the whole earth full of his glory.

For Armenians, this year possesses a depth of meaning with a message for each of its citizens. April 24th,

marks 100 years of the Armenian Genocide, when, during World War I, the Turkish forces murdered 1.5 million Armenians living within the Ottoman Empire. They uprooted your ancestors from their historic lands, leaving their churches in ruin. Those who survived the Genocide were exiled, and scattered across the earth. To the present day, your people have a giant to defeat; one that comes in the form of denial. Turkey sees the Armenian genocide as a mere fantasy. Some nations have had the courage and conviction, to recognize and condemn the Genocide. However, the giant of denial has lived far too long. It must be defeated with the truth. We pray for this victory!

This week, we started a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme: "Jesus said to the Samaritan woman: Give me to drink". This is the call of Jesus to each one of us. It is a call to satisfy Him. We should be pouring out ourselves now, spending to the last limit to satisfy His thirst, rather than simply drawing on Him, to satisfy our thirst. Our Christian responsibility is to be a satisfaction to Him.

We can be that satisfaction, if we fulfill His thirst for Unity in His Body. Therefore, let us be zealous to work and pray in a spirit of co-operation, and commitment to the Unity of the Christian Church. When we satisfy His thirst, there is no room for division. Consequently, may this week of prayer be a full and visible communion between us. Together we are jointly responsible for what is our common mission, which is to teach the apostolic faith and to witness to the love of Christ for all human beings, especially those living in difficult circumstances.

May God bless you, Your Beatitude, in your ministry, and may God bless our respective communities, as well as all the peoples of Armenia, Syria, Iraq and our beloved Holy Land, Amen.

