

John Cardinal O'Connor
1920-2000

**PRIMATE TAKES PART IN FUNERAL SERVICE FOR JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR,
CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK**

O'Connor Was Close Friend of Armenian Church and St. Vartan Cathedral

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The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America was deeply saddened by the passing of His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York.

Cardinal O'Connor was a longtime friend of the Armenian Church and the Diocese in particular. Enjoying warm friendships with two successive Diocesan Primate--Their Eminences Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and Archbishop Torkom Manoogian--O'Connor was a frequent visitor to the Diocesan Complex.

His elevation to the College of Cardinals was celebrated with a thanksgiving service at St. Vartan Cathedral in 1985. Over the years, the Cardinal also took part in several functions honoring the Armenian patriarchs of Jerusalem and Constantinople, and was an honored guest during the services welcoming His Holiness Karekin I, the late Catholicos of All Armenians, to America in 1996 and 1998. Cardinal O'Connor offered his hospitality to the Armenian Church on many occasions--most recently during the April 24 memorial service at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

At the height of the atrocities in Sumgait and Baku, the Cardinal organized a memorial service for the victims of the massacres with Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, then-Primate of the Diocese. He continued to write supportively on behalf of the Armenians in Karabagh, and became a leader in the relief effort following the December 1988 earthquake.

In gratitude for his efforts as a staunch ally of the Armenian Church, John Cardinal O'Connor was named the 1991 "Friend of the Armenians," an award conferred during the annual assembly of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

As Diocesan Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian was among the high-ranking clergy taking part in Cardinal O'Connor's funeral service at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Monday, May 8, 2000.

Archbishop Barsamian issued a letter of condolence to the New York Catholic Archdiocese, the text of which appears below.

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