Words of Gratitude

Giving thanks is the most authentic expression of gratitude toward a received honor, privilege, or any favor. The Bible teaches us that following the Flood, Noah emerged from the Ark and immediately thanked the Lord by offering a sacrifice. Human history is full of manifold expressions of thanksgiving. As Christians we are thankful to the Almighty Lord for His unconditional love manifested on the Cross. This is the reason that during the Divine Liturgy (Badarak), right after the Kiss of Peace, we ARE ALL invited by the Deacon to thank the Lord wholeheartedly, “yev kohatzarook zDyarneh polorov srdiv.” As Armenians we are ever grateful to the Almighty Lord who has protected us throughout centuries of perils, to the extent that we have engraved our thanks in stone (Khachkars / stone crosses) so that they praise with us His providential care. As Americans, and as one nation, we thank the Lord on our annual national Thanksgiving Day.

We are here today as a Prelacy to thank the Lord for His unconditional love. In addition, we thank all our parishioners who have faithfully supported us over the last six decades, thus helping us to achieve our mission of service for the welfare of the Armenian Community at Home, in the Diaspora and in the Homeland, as well as to Society at large.

The Prelacy has never been an administrative institution alone, but is the beating heart of our communities, by circulating new blood that provides Faith, Hope and Love, of Identity, Vision, and Collaboration. With this understanding we are so grateful that, led by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian of blessed memory, and with the support of our faithful, the Prelacy was able to bring aid and comfort to the suffering of our Armenian compatriots caused by the great earthquake in 1988; and since then to establish the Saint Nerses the Great Charitable and Social Organization, which eventually was equipped with a suitable office in the heart of Yerevan, during the tenure of our former Prelate, Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan.

And today, while we are celebrating the 25+1 Anniversary of this noble mission, we would like to thank all of our sponsors, minor or major, whose donations eliminated the tears of the orphans, relieved the pains from the hearts of widows, and filled with hope the spirits of thousands of families. Indeed, struck by natural disaster, they were renewed by looking forward positively. They knew that their compatriots, living in the four corners of the world, were so close to them, sharing their pain. Special thanks to those who since the inception of this charitable office wholeheartedly trusted us, and for the last twenty-six years, without interruption, fueled our God-pleasing mission.

I am grateful to the Almighty Lord, as the fifth Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy, in guiding me and the Prelacy’s Religious and Executive Councils, to establish this Thanksgiving event. I hope this will turn into a tradition, to annually thank all the components of our Prelacy, who are called to serve the Almighty Lord.

Archbishop Anoushavan
Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the United States