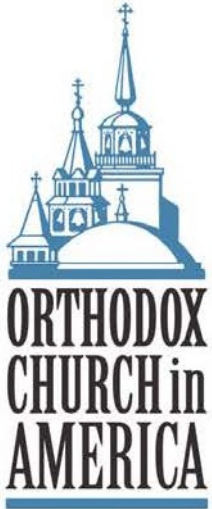


October 5, 2020
Protocol 10/005

The Right Rev. Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016-4806

Your Grace, Dear Brother,



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It is with sadness that I received your letter of October 1, 2020, in which you inform me of the present situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. I read with dismay your account of what transpired on September 27, 2020, the feast of the Holy Cross, the day that the Armenian Church was to celebrate with all splendor the Weapon of Peace, the Tree of Life, the Instrument of Reconciliation between God and man, and men and women with each other. On that Sunday morning the Armenian faithful instead saw the Azerbaijani army deploy and use weapons of violence and enmity, hatred, and death.

The world, Your Grace, is already in travail with the pandemic, economic anxiety, and political uncertainty. The present aggression only threatens to contribute and heighten the instability that we are facing across the world. The ominous signs of foreign intervention by those who should remain neutral give comfort to no one.

Amidst all these difficulties and anxieties that the world knows presently, amidst the pain, hatred, destruction, and death that is being experienced by the people of Armenia and Artsakh, the Orthodox Church in America, like you and the Armenian Church, puts its trust alone in God, the Hope of those seemingly without hope. We beseech our Heavenly Father, in his Son Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit to bring a true and lasting peace into this region. We pray that God speak the words of peace, reconciliation, and life to those whom he has entrusted with authority in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Your Grace, please assure His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Catholicos of All Armenia, of my prayers and the prayers of the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America for him and for the Church that he serves. May our great God grant peace, mercy, and consolation to him and all the faithful of the Armenian Church.

In Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada