

Armenian Apostolic Church of Riverside Youth Choir Becomes a Junior Cathedral Godfather

By the invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese, Rev. Dr. Fr. Stépanos Dingilian, Pastor of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Riverside, guided the Riverside Armenian Church Youth Choir to sing the first portion of the Hymns for the Holy Badarak celebrated at the Diocese on Sunday, May 2nd, 2010. The Church Youth Choir trained by Yérétzgeen Mariam Dingilian also recited the entire Havadamk (The Creed), which is generally recited by the Deacons.



The Diocese Choir and their Choir Director were supportive of the efforts of the youth and welcomed their participation. Over 70 members of the Riverside Church community also came to the Diocese to support their Youth Choir and considered this as a Pilgrimage to the Diocese.



The Primate was extremely pleased by the performance of the Church Youth Choir and gave his blessing and special crosses to each member of the Youth Choir.



After the Badarak, the entire congregation moved to the Western Diocese Cathedral that is near completion. The Riverside Church Youth Choir became the first Choir to sing a Badarak Hymn in the new Cathedral. The Youth Choir sang the inspiring *Kreesdos Ee Méch Mér Haydnétzav* Badarak hymn, to symbolize this joyous occasion.



Rev. Dr. Fr. Stépanos informed the Primate that on this momentous occasion the Riverside Armenian Apostolic Church will donate \$1,000 to the Diocesan “Junior Cathedral Godfathers Program” in the name of the Riverside Armenian Church Youth Choir. The intent is to appreciate the accomplishment of the youth, to emphasize the importance of the construction of the Cathedral, and to encourage other Choirs and Youth organizations to also participate and be part of this most important project.