



Golden Jubilee Celebrations in the U. S. A.

A great event in the glorious history of the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East has just passed. On June 27th, 1970, The Church of The East and the Assyrian people throughout the world celebrated with great pomp the fiftieth anniversary of the consecration of His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII Catholicos Patriarch of the East. These events will long be remembered by the members of the Church throughout the world, and especially, by the nearly onethousand guests who attended the banquet given in honour of the occasion at the Sheraton Hotel, Chicago sponsored by all the parishes in this country, and at which His Holiness was present in person.

Some three hundred of these guests came from the various parishes from all over the country; San Francisco, Turlock, Los Angeles, California, Gary, Indiana, Flint, Michigan, Yonkers, New York, New Britain, Connecticut Etc.

The following is a list of the guests of honour who attended the function.

His Grace, Mar Yosip Khnanishu, Metropolitan and His Holiness' Representative in Iraq.

His Grace, Bishop Timotheus of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America.

The Most Rev. John, Archbishop of Chicago and Minneapolis, Russian Orthodoxy.

The Rt. Reverend Gerald Francis Burill, Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

The Venerable Ralph J. Deppen, Archdeacon of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

The Honorable Djamal Hatam, Consul General of Iran and Mrs. Hatam.

The Honorable Nicholas S. Salamie, Consul General of Lebanon.

Lady Esther D'MarShimun (mother)

The Honorable General (Rab Khaila) David D'Mar Shimun (father)

The Honorable Ralph T. Smith, United States Senator from Illinois and Mrs. Smith.

The Honorable Captain Sargon (brother) and Mrs. Mary D'Mar Shimun.

Lady Rowena D'Mar Shimun (sister)

Lady Plarin D'Mar Shimun (sister)

John and Sargina Yohanan (sister)

Fred and Wardia Kelait (sister)

Mr. Eshaya D'Mar Shimun.

Lady Helen (sister) and Louie Odishoo

Mr. & Mrs. Aprim De Kelaita from
London, England (aunt)

The Honorable Roman Pucinski, United
States Congressman, 11th. District.

Mr. & Mrs. Kalvin Smith.

The Venerable David. H. David. Chaplain
to the Patriarch

Reverend Aprim E. DeBaz, Priest, Mar
Sargis Parish, Church of the East, Chicago,
Illinois.

Reverend Gulyad Y. Isaac, Priest, Mar
Shimun Bar Sabbae Parish, Church of the
East, Flint, Michigan.

Reverend Isaac Rehana, Priest, St.
Thomas Parish, Church of the East,
New Britain, Connecticut.

Reverend Michael J. McCoy, Priest,
St. Bar Tholomew's Parish, Church of the
East, Los Angeles, California.

The presence of the guests, and the
messages from the Heads of States and
the leaders of the various Christian Churches
which they brought with them were deeply
appreciated, not only by His Holiness,
but indeed by all the Assyrians irrespective
of their denominational affiliations, and by
all the members of the Holy Church, who
individually and collectively felt a part of
their unequalled ancient culture and spiritual
Christian heritage personified in His Holiness
the Patriarch.

The Patriarch especially felt the
presence of the members of the Patriarchal
family at this function. including his beloved
parents, all of whom have shared in
the significant events of the tribulant and
tragic history of the Assyrians during the
past nearly sixty years; beginning with the
First World War.

Indeed, God's providence is beyond the
comprehension I

That the historic invitation from the
President of Iraq, should have come to His
Holiness on this fiftieth Anniversary of His
Patriarchate; thus enabling him not only
to visit the historic land of his forefathers,
but the very site where he was consecrated
to this awesome position, at the age of
twelve years. namely the Baquba Camps,
is indeed an act of providence!

As His Holiness stood in the scorching
sun, at this historic and Holy site to every
Assyrian, to say a prayer of thanksgiving
for His mercy and goodness: he no doubt
vividly recalled the nearly hundreds of
thousands of Assyrians who lived and
suffered for over two years as refugees
in these camps. and where several thousand
of them were laid to their eternal rest.

An account of this historic visit has
already been briefly mentioned in the sum-
mary of His Holiness' speech delivered at
the banquet which was made a grand
success, by the Fiftieth anniversary Patriar-
chal committee under the able Presidency of
Mr. Narsai Sergis.

Here it should also be mentioned that
the Honorable Adam Benjamin, Jr., State
Senator from Indiana, who acted as
toastmaster for this historic occasion
performed his duty in a most able manner;
habitual to him in all his undertakings. May
God bless them for this, their labour of love
and devotion to the glorious history of their
forefathers and to His Holiness who is the
symbol of that history.

Space does not permit publishing in
detail the speeches made by the various
dignatories. However, excerpts from the
main speeches are given below.

CONGRESSMAN ROMAN PUCINSKI

"I am really privileged to be here this
evening to add my own greetings to the
fine testimonial symbol of human dignity.
As we meet here this evening, to pay
tribute on the Fiftieth Anniversary; the
Golden Jubilee of the Patriarch, His Holiness

Mar Eshai Shimun, it gives all of us an opportunity to recall the interest of America. This great republic of 200,000,000 people has within its body and coastlines, practically every nationality, every race, every religion, and we have assembled here tonight to pay great tribute to a great spiritual leader, who symbolizes the spirit of the Assyrian people for 3,000 years."

"Your presence here this evening demonstrates again that one can be a good loyal American, yet be proud of your Assyrian ancestry and your religious beliefs. This is the great strength of America and this is the great means of America. Here, within our shores, we can too assemble as Americans respecting each other. I tell you that the depth of your ethnic origin is an inspiration to all."

"We Americans, all of us, Assyrians, as well, and all the others are proud that we could claim him as one of ours in this country.

And we can emulate the great spirit that he has reflected over these fifty years. The world is so much richer today that he has been with us to provide the kind of leadership he has provided. Your Holiness, I congratulate you and add my best wishes for many many more years of successful work and effort in the cause of your rich religion. For indeed, in the final analysis, man must find his soul, his strength, his courage, his comfort in the teachings of his God and so long as we have leaders like His Holiness, the future of the world might be secured."

THE RT. REV. G. F. BURRILL, BISHOP OF
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

"There has been a close personal relationship that has grown through the years. And wherever Anglicans are found, we feel that despite the fact that we came at the end of the line, that we have a great affection for all of you my friends. The Archbishop of Canterbury could not be here tonight. However, he wrote me a letter and

asked me to represent him on this occasion and through my representation, the whole of the Anglican Church throughout the world. He wanted to honor his friend, His Holiness, but he could not do so personally so he wanted to do it in another way. Through the last centuries, the Archbishop has on occasion, honored great leaders of the Christian Churches and has bestowed upon them a particular symbol for accomplishments. He has then asked to present in his name to His Holiness the highest award that can be given by the Anglican Church, the Anglican Cross, and I do so, wishing you joy, happiness and a long life."

SENATOR RALPH SMITH

"I honor you all for participation that you have had in this history and for the reverence that you have and pride in both the history of the church and the Assyrian people. And while I know that our United States of America is somewhat sometimes described as the melting pot, I also know as you do so well, that there are some things that do not melt. One of the things that doesn't is the pride that people bring to these shores from their native lands, the heritage and the faith; the things that you treasure and revere. Not only your Church but your national origins, the background and origin. So, I am so very grateful tonight to have the opportunity to be invited. I add my congratulations to you and to His Holiness for what just has to be a very lovely event for all of you. Thank you so much."

H. E. MOST. REV. BISHOP THIMOTHEUS,
RODOSTALON (Greek Orthodox Church)

"I feel honored and happy to convey to His Holiness the Patriarch of the Church of the East on the occasion of his Fiftieth Anniversary the best wishes of the Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America."

After, speaking of the great Assyrian culture and civilization and of their impact on other countries, Bishop Thimotheus said:

