



ܡܢ ܠܘܚܝܬ ܡܘܨܪ ܘܡܢ ܡܘܨܪ  
ܡܢ ܠܘܚܝܬ ܡܘܨܪ ܘܡܢ ܡܘܨܪ

# LIGHT FROM THE EAST

APRIL - MAY 1953

VOL. 6

Published Bi-monthly by The Patriarchal Council, Inc.  
6346 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago 40

NO. 3

## **PATRIARCHAL CATHEDRAL OPENED BISHOP CONSECRATED FOR IRAN**



Two important forward moves, occurring at almost the same time, have given the Church of the East throughout the world, renewed confidence and great joy. These were the consecration of the new Patriarchal Cathedral of Mar Sargis, in Chicago, and the consecration of a native bishop for Iran, which has been without a bishop of its own for four decades.

The Cathedral consecration took place amid great rejoicing on Palm Sunday, March 29. Three weeks later, Kasha Pilipos, of Diana, Iraq, was made bishop of Rezaieh (Urumia) and all Iran. The consecration took place in Baghdad, Iraq. Full accounts of these glorious events, which mark the Easter season of 1953 as forever memorable in the history of the Church, are given in this issue of the "Light from the East."

## NEW PATRIARCHAL CATHEDRAL OF MAR SARGIS CONSECRATED

On Palm Sunday, March 29, a tremendous forward step was taken by the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East, when the beautiful church of Mar Sargis, in Chicago, was consecrated as the Cathedral of the Patriarchal See by His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, Catholicos Patriarch of the East, CXIX.

For more than six months, members of the church had been busily engaged in reconditioning and remodeling the interior in accordance with the immemorial style of the Church of the East in its homeland of Asia. Formerly the building was the property of a Lutheran congregation.

The ceremony of consecration began at 8 a.m. His Holiness was attended by Rev. Eshaya Sliwoo, Rev. Isaac Rehana, and Rev. Harry J. Sutcliffe. Deacons in attendance were Jacob Serges, Bodakh DeKasha, Pnuel Joseph, and Sayad Jacob. His Holiness consecrated the Holy of Holies according to the order of the Liturgy of Anointed Altars.

After the consecration, the Patriarch celebrated the Qurbana Qaddisha, and preached. His text was: "And the Lord said unto Moses, Take oil of anointing and anoint the Tabernacle and all that is in it, and sanctify it and all the vessels, and they shall be holy. And the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle." The sermon will appear in installments in successive issues in the "Light from the East" in Syriac.

The new Cathedral was packed to capacity. A choir of 20 voices sang liturgical hymns of Palm Sunday. Communicants numbered more than 400. This church, located at Wolcott and Cuyler streets on the north side of Chicago, now becomes the universal center of the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East.

In the evening a banquet was held in the church basement, in honor of His Holiness, the Patriarch on the occasion of the consecration of the new cathedral. A capacity crowd of 350 people was present. Gabriel Sargis, Chairman of the Church committee, welcomed the guests and introduced the Toastmaster, Narsay J. Serges. Guest speakers included Berkeley E. F. Gage, British Consul General of Chicago; the Rt. Rev. Howard L. Kennedy, rector of St. James Episcopal Church, who represented the Rt. Rev. Wallace E. Conkling, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. Bishop Conkling, along with the Rt. Rev. Charles L. Street, Suffragan Bishop of Chicago, was unable to attend because of previous Palm Sunday commitments. His letter of regret follows at the end of this article. Other speakers were Rev. Cuthbert Pratt, rector of St. Chrysostom's Church; Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and former president of the Patriarchal Council, and editor of the Light from the East; John Astley-Cock, assistant to the Religion Editor of the Chicago Tribune; Rev. Harry Sutcliffe, assistant parish priest of Mar Sargis church.

Other guests of honor at the speakers table were Lady Helen d'Beth Mar Shimun, David d'Beth Mar Shimun, the British Vice-Consul of Chicago, Mr. Lawrence P. S. L'Estrange and Mrs. L'Estrange; Rev. Dr. Paul E. Macy, Interim Minister of the First Baptist Church of Evanston; and Mrs. Cuthbert Pratt. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sutcliffe of Brooklyn, parents of

Rev. Harry Sutcliffe, were also present.

The main address was delivered by His Holiness. The Patriarch addressed the gathering in English and Assyrian. He spoke about his recent visit to Cyprus and England. He expressed his deep appreciation for the kindness shown him by His Grace, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the many English friends. His Holiness also dwelled on the general situation of the Assyrians in the Middle East. He mentioned the progress being made in the establishment of schools, building of churches, and the ordination of priests in Iran, Iraq, and Syria.

At the conclusion of his address, the Patriarch asked the audience to stand in silence in honor of the late dowager Queen Mary whom he had the honor to meet some-years ago. His Holiness asked the British Consul General to convey his deep sympathy to Her Majesty, the Queen, and the Royal Family. A message of gratitude was received from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the Royal Family, the contents of which appear in this issue.



**Letter from Queen Elizabeth II**

British Consulate General  
39 S. LaSalle Street  
Chicago 3, Illinois

April 2, 1953

Your Holiness:

The Queen commands me to express to your Holiness Her Majesty's deep appreciation and that of the royal family for the message of heartfelt sympathy on the death of Queen Mary which you requested me to convey last Sunday, on the occasion of the consecration of the Church of Mar Sargis of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Church of the East.

I have the honour to be  
Your Holiness' obedient servant

Berkeley Gage  
H. M. Consul-General

His Holiness  
Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII  
Church of the East and of the Assyrians

\* \* \* \* \*

**Letter from the Rt. Rev. Wallace E. Conkling,  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago**

Dear Mr. Serges:

We are sincerely sorry that it will not be possible for us to attend the Dinner in honor of His Holiness, the Patriarch of the East. It happens to be Palm Sunday, and we have a very full schedule of appointments from early morning to the evening.

Since I understand Bishop Street is also prevented from attendance by other engagements, we are wondering whether you would like to invite some prominent Priest of the Diocese, in order that we may be represented. If so, we would suggest the Reverend Dr. Howard S. Kennedy, Rector of Saint James Church, or the Reverend Dr. John H. Scambler, Rector of Saint Peters Church. We are enclosing their addresses. If you will call my secretary, Mrs. Bartell, if invitations are sent to them, we will be glad to contact them, assuring them of our great desire to have them represent us.

Please express to His Holiness our regret, and convey to him our affectionate greetings in Christ.

Sincerely yours,  
Wallace E. Conkling,  
The Bishop of Chicago

**Editor's Note:**

(It has been requested that the editor print excerpts of his introductory speech as toastmaster, the night of the consecration banquet.)

“Since His Holiness arrived in this country in October of 1940, to provide the leadership which we urgently needed, we have witnessed tremendous progress in the Church. Some of the highlights have been the consecration of churches in Flint, Michigan, New Britain, Conn., and Turlock, California; the ordination of numerous priests and deacons; the establishment of the pence and general educational funds to provide training for students in village and theological schools in Iran and Iraq; the establishment of the official church publication “Light from the East;” the consecration last year of a Metropolitan for our church in India; and today the consecration of this church. To His Holiness, we the faithful members of his diocese, are sincerely and humbly grateful. His task has been tremendous. We hope that at times we have helped to lighten his work.”

\* \* \* \* \*

“The parishioners have been extremely generous with their building fund contributions, and the men, women, and youth have worked long, arduous hours in remodeling and decorating this church. But we would have never reached this point if the “old timers” had not preserved their faith, and continued the Church of the East in this country in the face of tremendous odds. I believe I speak on behalf of all the youth when I say, “God Bless You, and we thank you for the job you have done.”



## **NEW BISHOP FOR IRAN FULFILLS EAGER HOPE OF FORTY YEARS**

A bishop for Iran, its first in four decades, was consecrated on April 19, Third Sunday of Easter, by His Grace, Mar Yosip Khnanishoo, Metropolitan of Rustaq and Shamisdin, in Baghdad. Kasha Pilipos, of Diana, Iraq, was elevated to this office by His Grace on instructions received from His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, Catholicos Patriarch of the East CXIX.

The consecration took place in the Church of Mar Qardagh, in Giliani, Baghdad. The Metropolitan reported: "The Church was packed, likewise the courtyard, and a long line stood in the street." The new bishop took the name of Mar Yokhanan, which is a family name, since there have been in the past, bishops of the same family by that name.

After his consecration, Mar Yokhanan preached the sermon and celebrated the Qurbana Qaddisha. Many hundreds received the Holy Communion. Mar Yokhanan is a native of Tulaqy, Targawar, Iran. His title is bishop of Rezaieh (Urumia) and his diocese includes all of Iran. He has been a Nazirite since childhood, and has been a priest of the church for approximately forty years. He is a man of wide experience, whose wisdom has grown with his years of service to the church. His consecration fulfills a fervent prayer of the whole church for many years.

His coming will bring new life and vigor to the historic and beloved branch of the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East in Iran, which has been without any episcopal supervision for thirty-six years, and without a bishop of its own since the death of the beloved Mar Aprim, forty years ago.

Under the leadership of Mar Yokhanan great gains are confidently expected. The church in Iran has enjoyed much freedom under the beneficence of the government of Iran. Especially since the Patriarch appointed Samuel de Kelaita as visitor general, considerable progress in rebuilding has been accomplished, with the help of committees in Teheran and Rezaieh, together with the zeal of the faithful priests.

### **A HISTORICAL SKETCH**

The Church of the East had its first historical connection with Christ Himself during his life on earth through the contact made with Jesus by King Ogar of Urhai (Edessa), a city in Northwest Beth Nahrin (Mesopotamia).

Immediately after the feast of Pentecost, the Apostle Adai (Thaddeus) came to Urhai. He was later followed by Mar Tooma (St. Thomas), Mar Shimun Keepa (St. Simon Peter), who wrote his Epistle from Babylon; Mar Bar Tulamay (St. Bartholmew), and Mar Mari of the seventy.

The Assyrian people who constituted the nucleus of this Church, to this day speak Syriac (Aramaic), the language spoken by Christ and his Apostles, in which they received the Scriptures. During the early centuries of the Christian era this Church constituted the major part of Christianity, and was the only Christian Church throughout Asia.

With the Patriarchal see established in Babylon, hence known as the Apostolic See of Babylon and Patriarchate of the East - it sent mis-

sionaries all over Asia. During this period, thirty-five Metropolitan Sees and over two-hundred Episcopal Sees were established. Endless persecutions have greatly reduced it in numbers, but it still claims adherents all the way from the United States to the middle East and India.

Since his arrival in the United States in 1940, His Holiness, Mar Esai Shimun XXIII, Catholicos Patriarch of the East CXIX, encouraged by the zeal and devotion of the Assyrian-American members of the Catholic Church of the East, has been actively engaged in the building of the Church in this country, where he now resides, at the same time administering the affairs of the Church throughout the world.

The consecration by His Holiness of the Church of Mar Sargis, which will be the Cathedral Church of the Patriarchal See, is just another milestone in this humble but resolute effort which the ancient Church is making again to carry out the command of its Master.

Mar Sargis, after whom many Churches have been named throughout the centuries, and whose shrine is in the Church by that name in Urumia (Rezaieh), Iran, is a third century martyr. A relic from the shrine in Urumia has been placed in the altar of Mar Sargis in Chicago.

Mar Sargis of Urumia has been distinguished for miracles of healing throughout the centuries.

This historic accomplishment of the Church in the United States of America has been made possible through generous contributions both in money and labor by the members of the Church in Chicago. Credit must also be given to the Priests, the Deacons, the Church Committee, the daughters of the Church of the East and the Youth organization, all of whom have labored in this holy enterprise. May the Lord bless them all for their labor and sacrifice.



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

By order of His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun, the Saint day of Mar Sargis will be given by the Church of Mar Sargis of Chicago. No other person or organization has the right or authority to celebrate this day by a public function. All other parishes will also hold a day in honor of a Saint in the Church of the East. All receipts from affairs held on these Saint's Days will go into the church treasury of each respective parish.

\* \* \* \* \*

## NEWS FROM CYPRUS

On May 17, the Hon. Captain Sargon d'Mar Shimun, the younger brother of the Patriarch, and Miss Marie G. Jaleel were united in Holy matrimony. Miss Jaleel, originally from Mardian, Turkey, had been residing in Jerusalem, transjordan previous to the marriage. The occasion was a joyful one for the Patriarchal family, as this is the first marriage among the brothers and sisters of the Patriarch. The "Light from the East" extends its congratulations and best wishes to the newlyweds.

\* \* \* \* \*

The "Light from the East" gratefully acknowledges receipt of a twenty-five dollar check for the Mar Sargis church of Chicago, from Mrs. Dom Nizzia of Pittsburgh, Kansas. Mrs. Nizzia has been an ardent supporter of the paper, and a sympathetic friend of the Church of the East. The contents of her letter are published herewith:

Dear Mr. Serges:

Congratulations on your new church, Mar Sargis. Please accept this small check from me, with deep sincere, heartfelt good wishes. May God give you and your church the beauty of his blessings.

Thanking you,  
Sincerely,  
Mrs. Dom Nizzia

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHICAGO NEWS

On April 4, three baptisms were performed by Rev. Isaac Rehana, who was attended by Deacon Pnuel Joseph. The infants were Jeremy John Bacus, son of Robert and June Bacus; Kathleen Ann Serges, daughter of Sargis and Anne Serges, and Marie, daughter of John and Elizabeth Oshana. The Godparents were Narsay and Esther Serges, Andrew and Elsie George and Deacon George and Gladys Priest, respectively.

On May 2, Robert Ganja of Chicago and Miss Jane Joseph of Flint, Michigan were united in holy matrimony. The ceremony took place in the Church of the East of Flint, with the Rev. Baba Tamraz officiating.

Recent visitors to Chicago were Mr. and Mrs. Joel Pera and their son, Robert, of San Francisco. They visited with Mrs. Pera's parents, Alex and Emma Warda. Another California visitor was Miss Virginia Tamey of Turlock, daughter of Odishoo and Martha Tamey.

On June 6, the Church of the East will present a four act drama entitled, "Omar Khayyam."



## GARY, INDIANA NEWS

His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun visited the parish and celebrated Qurbana Qaddisha on April 26. A dinner was held in honor of the Patriarch by the congregation. Several church matters were also rectified at this time by His Holiness

\* \* \* \* \*

## TURLOCK NEWS

Marian Pera, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pera of Keyes, became engaged to Henry Baba of San Francisco. The wedding will take place May 23.

Rev. and Mrs. Elisha Oushana have announced the engagement of their daughter, May, to Walter Khinoo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Khinoo of Turlock. A wedding date has not been set.

On May 2, the Daughters of the Church of the East gave a dinner for Shara Mar Adai. This will be an annual affair, and will be held on the first Saturday of every May.

The shish-ka-bab dinner was very successful and the Church of Mar Adai wishes to thank all the Assyrian people of Turlock who helped to make the affair a great success. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Babilla of Gary, Indiana, who were on vacation at the time, also attended the affair, and presented the church with a \$100.00 donation with which to purchase something for the church. The parish expresses its deep appreciation to the couple for their generous donation.

Dollie DeKelaita has been appointed to take the place of Marian Pera as Sunday School teacher for the first grade. The "Light from the East" wishes to sincerely thank Joe Yonan of Turlock for his kind contribution of \$60 to the paper on the occasion of the baptism of his son.



**LIGHT FROM THE EAST**

Published Bi-Monthly by

**THE PATRIARCHAL COUNCIL,  
INC.**

6346 N. Sheridan Road,  
Chicago

Phone, HOLLYCOURT 5-2037

Subscription rates....\$3.00 per year  
Single copies 50 cents

Rev. Isaac Rehana, Syriac Editor  
Narsay J. Serges, English Editor  
Shirley Bacus, Editorial Assistant





















