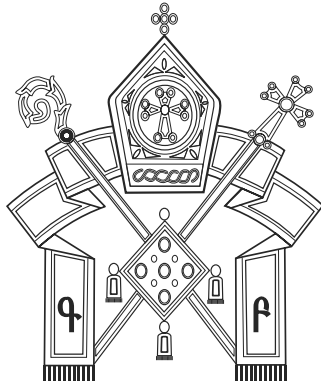


BUILDING TOGETHER

A New Church and
Dilijan's Spiritual
Renaissance

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DILIJAN
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION •





THE MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II, SUPREME PATRIARCH AND CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS ON THE OCCASION OF THE FUNDRAISING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH IN DILIJAN

By the will of God, years ago, we had the opportunity to perform the ground blessing and foundation blessing ceremonies of the Dilijan church. We give glory to the Heavenly Lord that, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our benevolent sons and daughters, the beautiful city of Dilijan will be adorned with a magnificent sacred site.

This important initiative aims to restore the great loss suffered during the Soviet atheistic years when five places of worship were destroyed. The church rising in Dilijan stands as a testament to the spiritual diligence of our people and their steadfast determination to live and create while remaining devoted to their sacred national values. With the construction of this new temple, the spiritual life of Dilijan's residents will be strengthened, preserving with dedication their love and loyalty to our Holy Church, national traditions, and homeland.

On this occasion, we offer our pontifical blessings and appreciation to the founding benefactors of the church — Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend, Mr. and Mrs. Noubar and Anna Afeyan, as well as to all the faithful who have contributed to this God-blessed sacred endeavor.

Now that the next phase of the temple construction is underway, and the need for additional funding has been identified, we are confident that our people will continue to support the realization of this God-pleasing initiative with their pious sentiments, remaining faithful to the vision of the "Together" (Bolorov) project.

In these difficult days, when the military-political leaders of Artsakh and the prisoners of war are still being held as hostages in Baku, the completion of this church-building project, initiated by the captive Ruben Vardanyan, will serve as a source of hope, prayer, and encouragement for our captive sons, the faithful Vardanyan family, and our entire nation.

We pray to Almighty God to keep our homeland in peace and security, to grant immediate freedom and return to the captive sons of the Armenian nation so they may reunite with their families and continue their lives and endeavors with renewed achievements for the love of their nation and homeland.

By the mercy of God, may the newly built church in Dilijan soon open its doors and grant blessings and heavenly graces to our faithful and to the lives of all Armenians.

With blessings,

KAREKIN II
SUPREME PATRIARCH
CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS



Vision

A new church is under construction in Dilijan which will serve as both a spiritual center and a symbol of cultural renewal, becoming a vital part of the town's evolving communal, cultural, and educational landscape.

Significance

- First church construction in Dilijan in over **85 years**
- Currently the only town in Armenia with a population over **1,000 without a church**
- Will serve as a vital spiritual center for the local community of **19,000 residents**
- Represents the **restoration of historical, spiritual and cultural heritage**

Historical Background

- Historically, Dilijan had five churches, all of which were destroyed over time
- Current religious services are held in a temporary facility at the Old Dilijan Hotel thanks to James Tufenkian and Reverend Shavarsh's dedication to serve the community

Architectural Concept

*Designed, pro bono, by distinguished architect **Maxim Atayants***



THE CHURCH FEATURES

Height | 37 meters

Floor space | 375 square meters

Capacity | 300 people

Traditional Armenian church architecture with modern elements

Unique feature | Facades decorated with Armenian alphabet letters and biblical texts

Materials | Travertine stone construction

Location | Central Dilijan, near the River Aghstev

Project Background

- Initiative launched by **Ruben Vardanyan**
- Supported by the **Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin** and **Dilijan Municipality**
- Part of broader Dilijan development program - **the holistic development of the town**
- **Located strategically** near memorial sites and reconstructed town park



Project Implementation

Constructed with philanthropic contributions, the church building, fixtures, and associated assets, shall fall under the ownership and canonical and pastoral jurisdiction of the Armenian Church.

2019–2028

CONSTRUCTION

- Solemn ceremony of the 16 columns blessing by the Catholicos of All Armenians Garegin II with participation of the founding benefactors and the main donors
- Reinforcement and concreting of the foundation slab
- Construction of a monolithic reinforced concrete altar wall
- Implementation of backfilling with compaction
- Reinforcement and concreting of the building walls up to a height of +18.75 meters
- Cladding of the interior and exterior church walls with travertine up to a height of +17.25 meters
- Furnishing
- Landscape

POST CONSTRUCTION

- Naming
- Consecration
- First Mass
- First Marriage
- First Christening

2014–2018

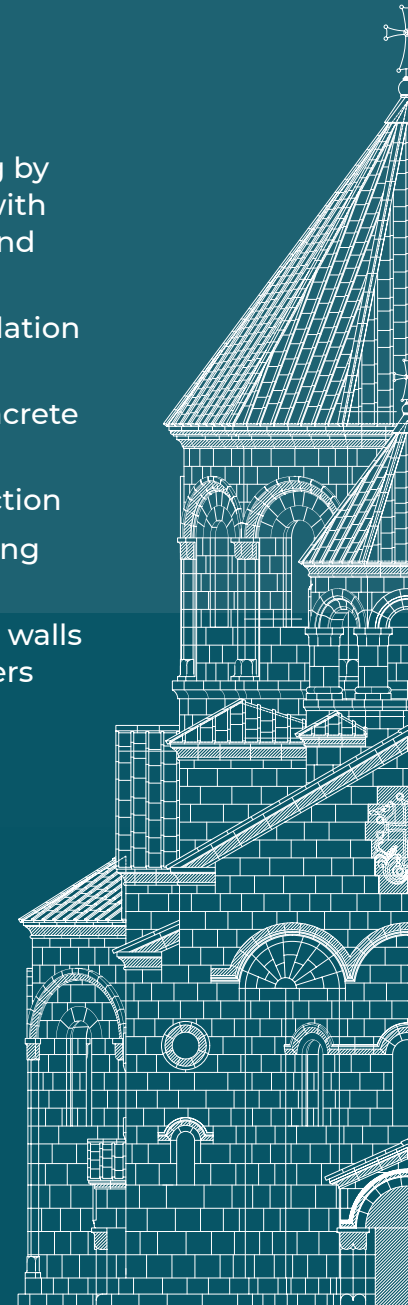
PLANNING

- Development of the church architectural plan
- Getting approvals and permits
- Ground-blessing by the Catholicos of All Armenians Garegin II

2010–2014

PREPARATORY

- Concept development
- Stakeholder engagement



ESTIMATED COST

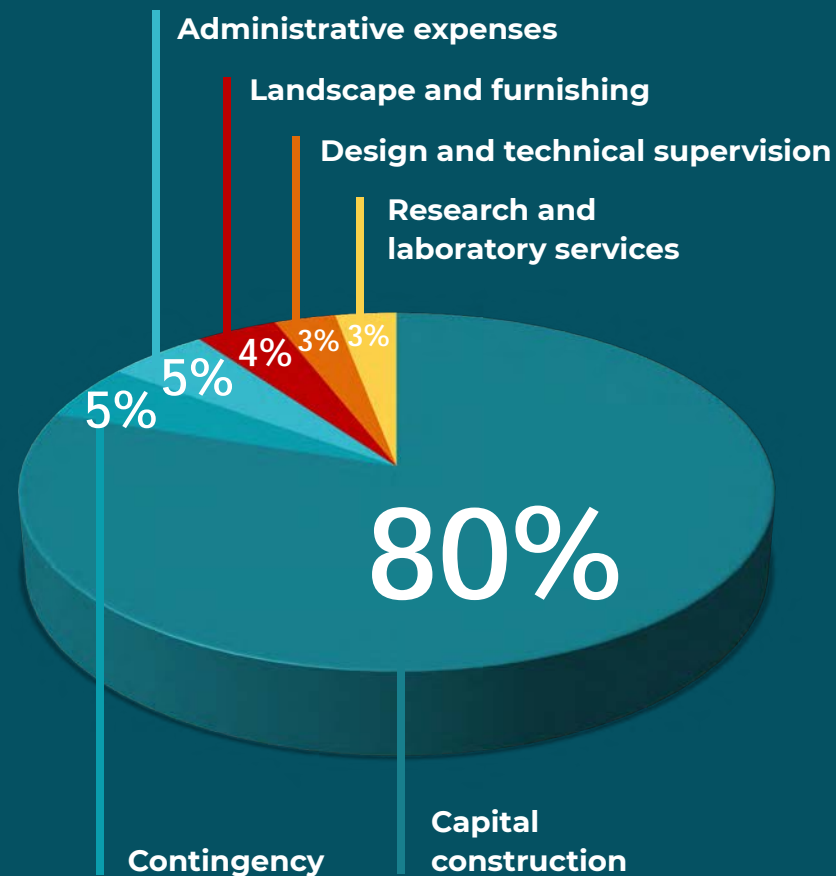
Total Project Cost **\$6 550 000**

FUNDING PLAN

Current donations collected **\$3 045 000**

Amount still needed **\$3 505 000**

Project completion planned for **2028**



PARTNERS

- Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin
- Dilijan Community
- IDeA Foundation
- Tourism and Urbanism Foundation

FOUNDING BENEFACTORS

- Ruben Vardanyan & Veronika Zonabend
- Noubar & Anna Afeyan

INVEST IN THE CHURCH AND DILIJAN'S SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE

Our offering to the potential partners includes but is not limited to the following:

- An opportunity to contribute to the Dilijan community right now deprived of a permanent place of worship
- Interaction with spiritual leaders of the Armenian Church
- A named contribution to a specific part of the church to underscore the partner's interests

Funding opportunities

ITEM	COST
One stone (depending on the size)	\$10 to \$200 each
Bells	\$40 000
Choir gallery	\$45 000
Furniture	\$50 000
Doors & windows	\$60 000
Bell tour (2)	\$153 750 each
Roof	\$200 000
Cornices	\$242 500
Dome	\$787 500







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