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DILIJAN
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION



A New Church and Dilijan's Spiritual Renaissance



DILIJAN CHURCH CONSTRUCTION PROJECT A Letter to Our Supporters and Friends

September 25, 2026

The Story So Far

Ruben Vardanyan initiated the construction of Dilijan's new church, envisioning a spiritual and cultural home for the town after more than 100 years without one of its own. While he remains imprisoned in Baku for standing with the people of Artsakh, his vision continues to move forward thanks to the community that has rallied around it.

Designed pro bono by architect Maxim Atayants, the church stands on the banks of the Aghstev River in the heart of Dilijan and will serve the town's roughly 19,000 residents as both a place of worship and a symbol of cultural renewal. Once complete, it will be owned by the Armenian Church under its canonical and pastoral jurisdiction.

Of the project's total \$6.5 million cost, construction is now 75% complete but \$2.7 million is still needed to finish the building. . The project relies on the support of the wider community to bring the building to completion and open its doors in 2028.



“For nearly a century, the people of Dilijan have prayed without a house of worship. Today, the church rises high, breathing new life and confidence into our town. With its completion coming closer and more tangible each day, every stone laid in its foundation serves as a testament to our faith, faith in what we can accomplish together, and faith in one another.

On behalf of the entire community, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you whose generosity is bringing this house of God to life. I eagerly await the day when I can welcome you beneath the arches of the Dilijan Church. We must build it as a sanctuary of love and a symbol of reconciliation - just as Ruben Vardanyan envisioned it, and undoubtedly still does today.”

Father Shavarsh
Parish Priest of Dilijan



“This church has always been about more than a building. It is about keeping a promise. Ruben believes Dilijan deserves a place where its people could come together in faith, and that belief has carried this project through difficult years. Seeing it rise, stone by stone, because so many of you chose to stand with us, means more than words can say. Thank you for helping carry his vision forward.”

Veronika Zonabend

Ruben Vardanyan's Wife, Founding Benefactor

With Gratitude

We are deeply grateful to the Noah's Children Foundation for its continued generosity in support of this project, and to every friend and supporter who has helped bring the church this far. Your names and organizations are listed with our thanks on the supporters page linked below.



Noah's Children



Supporters Visiting Church Site

This month we were delighted to welcome a visit of our friends and supporters of the church construction in Dilijan. We are looking forward to the day when we will welcome all our supporters on site when the church is completed.

Project Update

Total Project Cost: \$6,550,000

- Capital construction: 80%
- Design and technical supervision: 3%
- Research and laboratory services: 3%
- Administrative expenses: 5%
- Landscape and furnishing: 4%
- Contingency 5%

Project Status

- Projected Completion: 2028
- Construction Stage: 75% completed
- Total Cost: \$6,550,000
- Donations Collected: \$3,850,000
- Remaining Amount Needed: \$2,700,000

Founding Benefactors

- Ruben Vardanyan & Veronika Zonabend
- Noubar & Anna Afeyan

How You Can Help

With \$2.7 million still needed to complete construction, every gift moves us closer to opening the doors of Dilijan's first church in a century. You can support the project and see the full community of supporters here:

Donate: mywayfund.com/event/6a59ada310cbd64fa6060de0

View the list of donors: ddf.am/church-supporters

Learn more about the project: ddf.am/project/church

With deep gratitude for your partnership in this work,

Arthur Amirkhanyan

Construction Project Manager

The Dilijan Church Construction Team

