
'PRAY FOR ME', PATRIARCH-ELECT SAHAK MASHALIAN VOWS GREAT CHANGES FOR ARMENIAN COMMUNITY

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Shortly after being elected 85th Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, Bishop Sahak Mashalian addressed the Armenian community of Istanbul at the Armenian church near the patriarchate headquarters, noting that they will shape a new community with the patriarchates new composition, new programs and initiatives.

We need something new, both in our spirits and minds. Our establishments need to be renovated, and my election must be the first step. We have an example of leadership before us □ Jesus Christ, who washed the feet of his disciples, showed how to be a good shepherd. Today, you did not elect a patriarch, you elected the first servant of God and nation, Mashalian said.

The Bishop said he will make his first pontifical address as 85th Patriarch after the inauguration and enthronement. But now I have to ask you to pray for me.

The fact that we elected a patriarch in peace happened thanks to the prayers of thousands of people, he said. The Bishop thanked the clergy, the delegates, and his opponent in the election, Aram Ateshian.

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