

Armenian Identity –

*Foreword: The Providential Armenian Identity by Der Stépanos Dingilian*  
*For a free copy of the book sent in the US, E-mail: derstepanos@gmail.com*

## **FOREWORD**

### **A CONTEMPORARY LOOK WITH A RETROSPECT MESSAGE**

This most recent publication by Rev. Dr. Fr. Stépanos Dingilian fully justifies its title, *The Providential Armenian Identity*, as it offers powerful retrospect messages to the present Armenian generation, deeply religious and authentically Armenian in its content, in a skillful and articulate manner. The tone and the style, the expressions and the subjects clearly defined, make the reading of this volume attractive, interesting, easy, and highly edifying, given the careful and purposeful partition of chapters and subtitles.

The author, in his capacity as an intelligent and educated clergy of the Armenian Church, has transformed his experiences as a grandson of Genocide Martyrs, the son of a Genocide orphan, along with his own contemporary family life, and has extended those values to his own Parish, and ultimately to the Diocese and the Armenian Apostolic Church. He has explored today's Armenian society in its various aspects, building an illustrious bridge between the ancient admirable and proven leaders of the Armenian Church and nation, down to the present. Today's leaders can aspire and strive for the level of commitment, courage, and wisdom that their forerunners demonstrated, and are challenged to uphold the foundations and legacy of their predecessors such as those of our Great Saints, Mésrob and Sahag, Narégatsi and Shnorhali, and genuine leaders Khrimian Hairig, Karékin Hovsepants, and Vaskén I.

This well written book breathes authenticity through the Holy Bible, especially the New Testament. It brings into focus the vitality and wealth of the Armenian Church "giants," and delineates events and situations in the Armenian history for a richer understanding of what it means to be an Armenian. This edition emanates and inspires courage, determination, and commitment in the vast field of Armenian history, Christianity, self-determination, self-defense, and culture, always carrying the central message of less despair, much more hope, to embrace the legacy of the past and transform it into a new even higher standard of living and a preeminent civilization. The

Providential lineage cannot be abandoned, but surely honored and blossomed, no matter how many obstacles from within and without jeopardize our progress.

This is the purpose of this valuable and readable book, from cover to cover. Even the especially selected illustrations on the front cover with rotating pictures, anticipate the content under the shade and protection of the Holy Cross. The genuine Armenian identity is met at the crossroads of God's Providence and our Church leaders' saintly legacy as this book so clearly and accurately illustrates. Now is the time to realize this legacy; it requires faith, courage, and commitment from all of us, individually and collectively, without any exceptions.

Archpriest Rev. Fr. Zavén Arzoumanian, Ph.D.  
Armenian Apostolic Church  
Theologian and Historian