



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (EASTERN)
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His Grace Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate

May 5, 2022

The Right Reverend Andrew M.L. Dietsche
XVI Bishop of New York
The Episcopal Diocese of New York
1047 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10025

Your Grace:

Please accept my warmest good wishes in this holy season of Eastertide. I greet you in the name of our risen Lord Jesus, with the hope-filled refrain of the Armenian Church: *Krisdos haryav ee merelots!* "Christ is raised from the dead!"

Earlier this month, the Dean of General Theological Seminary, the Very Reverend Michael DeLashmutt, did me the honor of inviting me to the Memorial Eucharist for the Reverend Canon Dr. J. Robert Wright, of blessed memory – a dear friend both to me personally and to the Armenian Church community in general. Regrettably, my duties as Primate will find me in Armenia on the date of service. I have asked the Dean of our St. Nersess Seminary, the Reverend Fr. Mardiros Chevian – also a longtime associate and friend to Canon Wright – to attend in my stead and pay our solemn respects to the memory of our dear friend and colleague.

With this letter, I would like to offer some personal reflections on the occasion. I was blessed to know Canon Wright for many years; I was in my early seminary days when I had occasion to hear him speak for the first time, and thereafter I would eagerly await any opportunity to hear his learned discourses at ecumenical and academic gatherings.

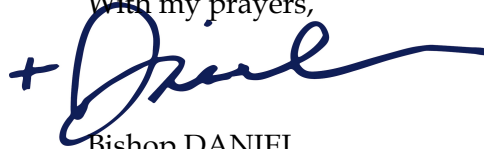
I had first met him personally during my years as Dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, and I recall vividly our many pleasant conversations. Canon Wright's wisdom and deep knowledge of the eastern churches, especially of the Armenian Church, was highly valued by me – and, it must be said, by nearly every Armenian churchman and academic of standing in the English-speaking world. That certainly included my two predecessors as Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, as well as the many clergy who studied with him at G.T.S., and who maintained their friendships over the subsequent years.

Above all, Canon Wright struck me as a true servant of God. His erudition naturally led him onward to great academic achievements, but it was his warmth and humility of character that seemed to be the core of his being, and the light that illuminated those around him: students, colleagues, fellow clergy, and faithful from every walk of life.

His passing last January was obviously a great loss to G.T.S., the Episcopal Church in the United States, and indeed the world. At this moment of such turbulence in our society, voices such as Canon Wright's – wise, humane, and pacific – are in great need.

I pray that the countless people blessed to have known him – who will always be inspired by his example – will spread Canon Wright's divine gifts throughout our world. May our risen Lord remember his gentle, faithful servant on the great day of his Kingdom.

With my prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, starting with a cross symbol and followed by the name 'Daniel' in a cursive script.

Bishop DANIEL
Primate