



# Outreach

Հրատարակուիւն Ամերիկահայոց Արեւելեան Թեմի Ազգային Առաջնորդարանի  
A Publication of the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America

## Editorial

**OUTREACH** — (v) to reach or go beyond; surpass. 2. To extend (something) outward, to reach out. (n) An act of reaching out. 2. The extent of reach. —American Heritage Dictionary

To simply say that communication is important, is to be trite. Yet the importance of communication in modern society transcends importance; it is vital.

The name OUTREACH was chosen for the Prelacy's new monthly publication because it best describes its purpose. Our aim is to "reach out" to all areas, near and far, not only in areas heavily populated by Armenians, but also into areas where there are only a few Armenian families, and hence only a minimum, if at all, of Armenian life.

Our reach, however, is not a blind reach. We are reaching out to you, and we hope you will respond. It is only through a mutual dialogue that relationships can be maintained, nurtured, and enlarged.

In Christian history perhaps the person most involved with an "outreach" program was St. Paul. When we read the letters of Paul in the New Testament we are first struck with the "humaneness" of his words and thoughts. A letter written by a friend to friends. The tone of Paul's writings is completely different because you know he is writing to people—people he is genuinely concerned about, and you are also aware that those people are responding. Indeed, the loss of those responses to Paul's letters, has made his writings the most difficult to analyze for theologians, because they constitute only one part of a two-way dialogue.

Too often modern religion seems to operate in a vacuum. While it is true that the church has a message for the people, we believe that the people also have a message for the church. It is this reciprocal communication that is the ultimate goal of OUTREACH. Mutual communication, however, does not imply a search for a consensus. On the contrary, it is with the airing of opposing opinions that the church can truly grow and keep up with—and ahead of—society.

### Մերելի ընթերցող,

Ուրախ ենք որ Ձեզի հասած է Առաջնորդարանիս նոր հրատարակութեան, «Աուֆ-րիշ»ի անդրանիկ թիւը, որովհետեւ մեր առաջնահերթ նպատակն էր ուղղակի կապ մը ստեղծել Ազգ. Առաջնորդարանի եւ մեր բարեպաշտ ժողովուրդին միջեւ եւ յետոյ կապ մը՝ մեր զանազան համայնքներու միջեւ, եկեղեցիէ եկեղեցի կամարուող ծիածանով: Կապ մը՝ որ մնայուն ըլլայ, ուղղակի ըլլայ, եւ որու շնորհիւ հաղորդութեան մէջ ըլլանք մեր ժողովուրդին հետ:

Բնականաբար գիտենք, որ համեստ է մեր ճիգը, քանի համեստ են մեր պայմանները: Թերթիս ծաւալն ալ արդարութիւն չընէր ո՛չ մեր ապրումներուն, ո՛չ ալ մեր մտահոգութիւններուն: Բայց կը հաւատանք որ մեր Ձայնը լսելի պիտի դառնայ, եւ այն կապը՝ զոր կը փորձենք ստեղծել, պիտի ըլլայ ամուր, անկեղծ, եւ առիթ պիտի ընծայէ որ մեր ազգային-եկեղեցական կեանքը հաստատուի գործօն եւ կենդանի մասնակցութեան ցանկալի մակարակին վրայ:

Թերթիս առաջին թիւի հրատարակութիւնը կը զուգարկի մայիսի մէկին: Ինչ գեղեցիկ եւ յուսալից ժամանակ՝ նոր գործի մը ձեռնարկելու համար: Եթէ ներուէր մենք մեզի մաղթանք մը ընելու, պիտի ուզէինք միշտ թարմ

## Prelacy Commemorates Martyrs Day With Service at St. Patrick's Cathedral



Clergymen from various denominations and honored guests at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Photo by B.A.Z.

New York, N.Y.—Enveloped in the calm spring dusk of Sunday evening, April 23, 1978, the restless memories of many Armenians were quieted amidst a union of strength expressed in their numbers and spirit. Gathering in St. Patrick's Cathedral to commemorate the 63rd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Armenian community reflected on its past legacy of persecution and suffering; yet, turned to look with hope to a future of cultural and national fruition.

Following opening remarks by Dr. Herand Markarian, the program proceeded with a notable representation of leaders in the American and Greek communities who have joined in moral support of the aspirations of the Armenian community. The message from His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, reiterated a strong fellowship between Armenians and Greeks in attaining a common goal of just retribution from the Turkish nation. He reminded us "of our perpetual obligation not only to preserve in our hearts and in the hearts of all people unbounded respect for human life as the most treasured gift of God to man, but to rear in them as well a kind of relation between peoples and nations that recognizes the right of one and all not only to exist but to possess all that we mean by the term human rights." He continued, eluding to the Turkish deed, "Evil is with us, and until even a semblance of the kingdom of God is established on earth, all of us should constantly work to prevent, for all time to come, barbarians from carrying out their evil designs by violating in any form the inborn rights of all people."

A message of concern and empathy from His Eminence Terence Cardinal Cooke and an official proclamation by Mayor Koch were also read. A warm repertoire of Armenian songs was dispersed throughout the evening with performances by guest soloists Vartkes Baboghlian and Dorothy A. Papazian, the Combined Choir conducted by Armen Babamian, and the Arax and Hamazkaine Chorals conducted by Nonou Kricorian. Berj Zamkochian, the world renowned organist, also partook in the ceremonies.

The presence of Ambassador Zenon Rossides of Cyprus, Permanent Representative to the

United Nations, evidenced an active link in reaching the commonly based Armenian and Greek aspirations. He pointedly remarked, "there is hardly a parallel in the United Nations' history of such open display of criminality by one member state against another with astonishing unconcern for effective action by the international community presenting an ominous sign of decline in the exercise of reason and in a spirit of justice directly effecting the future of small nations in our present day stage of civilized world society." He noted that the Armenians, "perished by the most inhuman methods in order to stifle their spirit of freedom and love of virtue"; but, "the spirit of those victims lives and will live forever in the hearts and minds of men everywhere, over and beyond the brief limits of mortal existence."

His Grace Bishop Mesrob Ashjian, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America Eastern Diocese, gave the closing message. He reminded the community and the world of the Armenian people's perseverance to achieve lasting cultural realizations and to earn the high regard of their fellow man despite the avid attempt by the Turkish nation to render them unknown for all time, as clearly expressed in Talaat's words, "For fifty years there will be no mention of the Armenian cause and Armenia. The Armenian people will perish forever." Yet, in testimony against this vicious deed and evidence of the lasting Armenian passion for life and freedom, the Prelate asserted, "Today, Armenia and the Armenian people have been resurrected. Not only do they live but they flourish, create, and bring their contribution to civilization." As successors of the Martyrs, he suggested that we put aside the psychology of a persecuted people, hold our heads high and have faith in the just cause of our people. Realizing the present situation of our fatherland, he said that we must take upon ourselves an active responsibility in perseverance of the Armenian cause. On a final living note, he imparted to the audience the deepest sentiments of the Armenian people as expressed by Aghbalian, the well known Armenian intellectual and poetical figure, "Nothing can restrain Ararat, nothing can bend its firm stature, as no one and nothing can stifle our passion for freedom."

## Armenian National Education Committee Completes Several Projects; Begins Others

մնալ, միշտ կանաչ մնալ, միշտ արթուն, ունկնդիր՝ Աստուծոյ ձայնին, ուշադիր՝ ժողովուրդի ձայնին:

Ամերիկա, ըստած է, անսահման հնարաւորութեանց երկիրն է: Ամերիկահայ գաղութը կրցած է լաւագոյնս օգտուիլ այն պատեհութիւններէն, որ ազատութեան այս հայրենիքը ընծայած է իրեն: Բայց կը հաւատանք, որ անցեալի իր կատարած գործի խորքին վրայ, տակաւին շատ ընելիքներ ունի այս գաղութը, որուն մէջ վերջին տարիներուն, ակնբախ կերպով ի յայտ կուգայ վերարթնութեան շարժում մը: Պէտք է քաջալերել այդ ոգին, եւ նաեւ մտածել, եղածէն աւելի՝ ընելիքին մասին: Եւ, այս երկրի կեանքի պայմաններու տակ՝ հայ արժէքներու իմաստաւոր կարեւորութիւնը շեշտել, վերստին կեանքի կոչել:

Ամերիկան ազատութեան ալ հայրենիքն է: Բայց որքան ալ որ ճշմարտագանցութիւն թուի, այս ազատութիւնն է որ մեծագոյն մարտահրաւիրը կը ներկայացնէ մեզի: Մեր կեանքը պէտք է ըլլայ միշտ արթուն, միշտ զգաստ եւ հետեւողական: Եթէ կ'ուզենք, մանաւանդ, ապրիլ մեր կեանքը: Կեանք մը որ ինքնապատակ չէ, ինքնավախճան չէ: Ինչպէս չէ այս գաղութը, ինք: Մենք միշտ պիտի յիշենք, որ դարերէն եկող եւ դարերուն գացող եկեղեցւոյ մը զաւակն ենք, եւ կը պատկանինք յաւերժական Հայ ժողովուրդին, որուն բնօրանն է եղած Արարատի հովանին վայելող Հայաստան լեռնաշխարհը, եւ որուն պէտք է ուղղուած ըլլան մեր ակնարկները:

«Առւթրիչ» հետաքրքրական եւ բազմաբովանդակ անունով մկրտած ենք մեր թերթը: Եւ, ինչպէս այլուր բացատրուած է, այս բառի ետին կայ մեր կեցուածքը, մեր ուղեգրի մը: Հասնիլ, հասնիլ մեր ժողովուրդին: Հասնիլ անոնց՝ որոնք հայութեան ապրումը ունին իրենց արեան մէջ, եւ հայութեամբ կ'ապրին ու կը շնչեն ալ: Հասնիլ նաեւ անոնց՝ որոնք թէեւ կ'ապրին հայաշատ կեդրոններու մէջ, բայց իրենք զիրենք չեզոքացուցած են, եւ պարագայբար կը զգան իրենց հայ ծագումը: Հասնիլ մանաւանդ անոնց՝ որոնք հեռու, փոքրիկ «կղզիներու» մէջ կ'ապրին, զրկուած Հայ եկեղեցւոյ օրհնութիւնէն, հայկական ջերմութենէն: Հասնիլ անոնց՝ որոնք ունկնդիր են օտար - յաճախ զրաւիչ - սիրեններու ձայնին, եւ հետզհետէ կ'առաջնորդուին դէպի ուժացումի խարակները՝ ուր կայ օտարացում եւ կորուստ միայն: Բայց մենք չենք կրնար թոյլ տալ, որ մէկ Հայ իսկ կորսուի, որովհետեւ, ժառ Ս. Յակոբեանի բառերով՝

«Իսկ օր մը մէկ՝ Հայ ապրուած,  
Կ'արժէ լման կեանք մը օտար»  
(Հայաստոյի, էջ 320)

Մեր սրտի ցանկութիւնն է, որ իւրաքանչիւր Հայրորդի գիտնայ, որ, ուր որ ալ ապրի, «այս լուսնի տակ ուր էլ գնա», «Իր անունը պիտի չկորուցի եւ պիտի չփճանայ» (Ես. 48, 19), որովհետեւ Աստուծոյ կամքն է, որ ոչ ոք կորսուի, եւ իւրաքանչիւր հայու համար դայ կոչը. «մի վախնար, որովհետեւ ես քեզ փրկած եմ, քու անունովը կանչած եմ, դուն իմս ես» (Ես. 43, 1):

«Առւթրիչ»ի առաջին երկու թիւերը կը հրատարակուին Ազգ. Առաջնորդարանի Տիկնանց Յանձնախումբի նիւթական աջակցութեամբ, եւ որոնց կը յայտնենք մեր շնորհակալիքը, իրենց սրտագին եւ անմիջական օժանդակութեան համար: Կը յուսանք, որ մեր ժողովուրդը եւս պիտի քաջալերէ մեզ, եւ պիտի գտնուին անհատ ազգայիններ, որոնք իրենց կամաւոր նուէրներով պիտի ստանձնեն թերթիս հրատարակութեան ամբողջական եւ կամ մասնակի ծախսերը:

Մեսրոպ Եպս. Աշճեան  
Առաջնորդ  
Ամերիկայի Արեւելեան Թեմի Բնիկ

During the past year, the Armenian National Education Committee, ANEC, completed some projects and set the groundwork for others. To build a strong functioning internal organization was its initial concern.

The nature and importance of ANEC's task dictated the need to hire a professional staff, that is, an executive coordinator whose position would entail: keeping close contact with the Saturday and Day schools, helping to meet their needs, coordinating all local level educational efforts, creating interest in and favorable attitudes toward Armenian education through articles in the press, and implementing the committee's decisions. The candidate was to be well-versed in English and Armenian, and familiar with the American educational system and the conditions prevalent in Armenian schools. After a long search, the committee hired Hagop Barsoumian. Assuming his duties on Feb. 20, 1978, to date, he has been in touch with all the school principals, and has initiated a responsive and efficient command of his duties.

The committee functions to meet requirements of past, present, and future in the continual growing process of Armenian education. A successfully completed project inspires a fuller spectrum of potential goals. Through 1977-1978, the committee has credited the following: a second printing of the popular record, "Armenian Songs for Children," the making and release of a motivational movie for youngsters called "Learning the Armenian Language" to be shown throughout the community, the organization of a lecture by Dr. Mesrob Balayan, Dean of the School of Teacher Education and Psychology at the University of Iran, on "Pedagogical problems in the teaching of Armenian," and the subsequent summarization and distribution of the lecture text to Armenian school teachers.

To adopt and provide educational text con-

ducive to the needs of the Armenian child amidst his American environment, the committee has prompted the preparation of the following: a song book for Armenian children, prepared by Mrs. Varsenne Sarkissian, with Armenian words and the English transliteration of the lyrics and music, an Armenian history textbook in English for youngsters aged 10-14, prepared by Robert Bedrosian who plans to follow the familiar methodology and style of American history textbooks, a dictionary/thesaurus based on a translation of the English thesaurus by Mrs. Zevart Balekjian, an annotated bibliography, to serve as a teacher guidebook, of all available Armenian language and history textbooks.

It is readily taken for granted that children are the key to the future; yet, a responsive and learned adult community is the strongest guarantee of that future. With this realization, the committee is planning a lecture series in adult education geared for the general public. To indoctrinate efficient, expansive, and reliable teaching methods, three-regional teacher-training workshops will be conducted in September. The improved Qualification of teachers is a basic solution of our educational problems.

Establishing a close working-relationship with the daily and Sunday Schools is the committee's primary goal. With the constant and immediate interplay of facts, needs, and ideals, the committee will strive to root out and answer each school's distinct problems; educational or curriculum-related.

In its recently acquired office in the New York Prelacy, ANEC is in a pivotal position for active communication. Already having a strong moral and financial support of the Armenian Relief Society, the committee looks to members of the community for much needed support of its vital task and role in the Armenian educational process.

### Point of Information: National Representative Assembly

The structure of the Armenian Apostolic Church Diocese is such that the National Representative Assembly constitutes the policy making body on a diocesan level. The Assembly convenes annually to review activities, and to plan and program, by enacting resolutions, goals for the immediate future.

The Executive Council, an elected body chosen from the National Representative Assembly, is comprised of clergy and lay members. It functions as the central authority in monitoring the daily activities of the Diocese, and implementing the resolutions enacted at the Assembly. Therefore, the goals of the Council are defined goals enunciated by the National Representative Assembly. It is important to state that the Executive Council and the National Representative Assembly do not function in a vacuum, but work with the elected Prelate, who through his training, education, experience, and background, is the beacon on whom attention is focused.

The goals of the Executive Council, first and foremost, are to impart spiritual doctrine as espoused by the Armenian Church to its communicants, to oversee and coordinate educational policies for the Armenian-American Educational Institutions, to create programs to make the Armenian community in America aware of the history and culture of the Armenian nation, to meaningfully participate, through expression and action where possible, on human rights issues, and to broaden the appeal of our Church, so as to involve more parishioners, thus, making the Armenian Church in America relevant to current needs and demands in this country.

The Armenian Church is an international institution which preaches certain beliefs. The Armenian Church in America is a segment of that Church; yet, it has a distinct nature because of its locus, the diverse geographical situations of its communicants, and the specific needs of the Armenian-American community. The National Representative Assembly works to coordinate a strong functioning base for individuals and the community as a whole.

Sarkis Teshoian  
Chairman

### NRA Convenes in Detroit, May 9-12

**The National Representative Assembly met in Detroit, May 9-12, with St. Sarkis Armenian Church acting as host.**

**At the closing banquet on Friday evening at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn, Michigan, the Prelacy honored Roubig Grigorian as the Man-of-the-Year. Full coverage of convention activities will be given in the June issue of OUTREACH.**

—Editor

#### OUTREACH

is a monthly publication of the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, 138 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. Address all correspondence to the above address. Printed in U.S.A. Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at New York, N.Y.

Editor ..... Hasmig Mergian

# REACHING OUT

## NEW YORK

On Monday, April 17, 1978, the Program Agency of the United Presbyterian Church sponsored a luncheon at the Inter-Church center in New York City. As the main speaker, Bishop Ashjian, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, gave a concise and interesting talk on the history of the Armenian Church, its present situation in the world, as well as its situation in the United States. He also spoke of the varied challenges of his role as Prelate of the large and dispersed American Diocese.

On Wednesday morning at 10:00 A.M., April 26, 1978, the Metropolitan (Archbishop) of the Veltrical Diocese of the Indian Malabar Church, Mar Pachomius, visited the Prelacy for a fraternal meeting with Bishop Mesrob Ashjian. They discussed and exchanged ideas of mutual concerns and issues. Also present were Rev. Moushegh Der Kaloustian and Rev. Asoghik Kelejian. The Metropolitan is presently on tour of his affiliated Churches in the United States.

On Saturday, April 30, Mar Gregorius, famous international church leader, Dean of Kottayan Theological Seminary and Metropolitan Bishop of New Delhi and the North visited the Prelacy, en route from Denver University where he just completed a two-month lecture series.

## A.G.B.U. Initiates Special English Classes

The A.G.B.U. Social Services and Job Placement Program is initiating a special English language program for recently arrived Armenians. The classes will meet beginning May 15 until June 28, on Mondays at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9 p.m., at Woodside Jr. High School, 46-01 47th Ave., Woodside, N.Y.

Qualified individuals who can volunteer as teachers are urged to contact Ms. Joyce Avedissian, 212/684-7530.



SEARCH by K. Tazian

*A Missing Link*  
 Armenian-American  
 Who are you?  
 Where is your balancing station?  
 Does hyphen suffice to fill the void between  
 your dual natures?  
 Halfed — How can you work as one  
 to reach completion?  
 Your direction is split.  
 Your steps lead you apart.  
 Armenian — Live out your roots.  
 American — Be a part of society.  
 Join the two;  
 negate yourself.  
 Lost, you seek refuge in the familiar.  
 Lost, you seek solace in the material.  
 Nurturing false pride,  
 you see-saw through life  
 not walking your path.  
 Armenian-American  
 Know your two.  
 Take on self pride.  
 Reach out with strength.

by Hasmig Mergian

## PROVIDENCE

In response to a request from the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Rev. Dr. Mesrob Tashjian presented a lecture on "Symbolism in the Armenian Badarak" to an educational forum sponsored by the New England Regional Educational Council of the A.Y.F. at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. on Saturday, April 15, 1978.

## PROVIDENCE'S STS. VARTANANTZ CHURCH WELCOMES NEW PRELATE

Bishop Mesrob Ashjian, newly elected Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church Eastern Prelacy of the United States, paid his first official visit to the Providence community. On his arrival at the Theodore F. Green airport in Warwick, R.I. on Friday afternoon April 7, 1978, the Prelate was greeted by Fr. Mesrob Tashjian, Board of Trustees members, National Church Delegates and parishioners.

Weekend activities for the Surpazan included a church service Friday evening followed by an informal reception and meeting with the executives of all church affiliated organizations including the ARF, ARS, and A.Y.F. chapters. Father Tashjian, in his introductory remarks, spoke on behalf of the organizations, pledging their support of the aims, ideals, and programs of the Church and community.

A luncheon, utilizing Church facilities on Saturday, preceded a meeting with Trustees and Delegates during which many important local issues pertaining to the life of the Church and Providence community were discussed. Immediately following the lively session, a pilgrimage was made to the Armenian Martyrs' Memorial Monument at the North Burial Ground in Providence. After a brief prayer, Surpazan approached the monument and placed a wreath of flowers in reverent memory of the 1915 Genocide Martyrs. The ceremony concluded with everyone singing the "Hayr Mer."

The Cranston Hilton was the scene of a banquet held on Saturday evening in honor of our guest. Bishop Ashjian gave the invocation and benediction. Father Tashjian, Master of Ceremonies, formally welcomed the Prelate. He proposed a toast in honor of his Holiness Khoren Catholicos, His Holiness Karekin II, Coadjutor Catholicos, and Bishop Ashjian.

Der Mesrob's speech sparkled with humor as he introduced each guest and recalled amusing and interesting anecdotes about them. In conclusion, Bishop Ashjian's speech was a message of continued faith, hope, and love for all.

On Sunday, Bishop Ashjian celebrated the Divine Liturgy, assisted by Der Mesrob Tashjian, at Sts. Vartanantz Church. In his message, given in both Armenian and English, he stressed the importance of preserving our Christian faith and Armenian heritage for future generations. Also present was His Grace Archbishop Hrant Khatchadourian.

The weekend's activities climaxed on Sunday afternoon with an Open House held in the Church Hall. Refreshments for the entire weekend were provided by the Senior and Junior Ladies' Auxiliaries.

Everyone was given the opportunity to meet, greet, and have a dialogue with our new Prelate whose friendliness, warmth, and interest charmed everyone and assured him a future as bright and outstanding as his predecessor's, now His Holiness Karekin II of Antelias, Lebanon.

Angel H. Perethian

## Ladies' Guild News

The Prelacy Ladies' Guild extends its best wishes for the success of the publication OUTREACH. As its inspirer and creator, His Grace Bishop Ashjian, the newly elected Prelate, will direct this newsletter. By sponsoring diverse Prelacy social functions and spreading the good news of our various accomplishments and commitments, OUTREACH will be a milestone for our activities.

Our goals are to keep the Armenian community together, to teach the rich Armenian heritage, and to carry on the original mission to spread Christianity; thus, perpetuating our beautiful Apostolic distinction as pioneers of a great moral reform. Christianity, ethics, and nationality are basic ingredients deeply rooted in all Armenian hearts. Though some hearts beat a little faster than others, OUTREACH will try to make all hearts beat as one.

The education of our children, the rulers of tomorrow, is a dear subject to the Ladies' Guild. We must reach them by various activities in school, church, and community, and make the dream a reality.

We welcome our youngsters and everyone to write to the Ladies' Guild expressing their wishes, hopes, and dreams; thus, using OUTREACH as common ground for communication to bring people together. Not only is it a publication of the Prelacy, but foremost, it is your publication.

Josephine Gulamerian

## Prelacy Announcements

OUTREACH gives special thanks to the Prelacy Ladies' Guild, who financially made possible the printing of our first issue.

Executive Council of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America announces the establishment of a five-year program of theological education for young men with a college education. The program will include study abroad at the Theological Seminary of the Armenian Catholicate at Antelias, Lebanon, followed by an internship in the United States or Canada. It aims to provide parish communities in North America with dedicated clergy. For more details, write or call the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, 138 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016. Telephone, (212) 689-7810. All applications must be submitted no later than July 15, 1978.

A Choir Conference will be held July 12-15 at Asbury Grove, Massachusetts. Details will follow.

The Armenian National Education Committee has released its first educational film titled, "Learning the Armenian Language." It aims to motivate Armenian youngsters to learn the beautiful language of their ancestors. To obtain use of or purchase of the film, contact ANEC headquarters at the Prelacy in New York.

A Restoration work camp project is being organized for interested Armenian students for the summer of 1978. They will work, under the technical supervision of UNESCO, on two ancient monasteries in the northern part of Iran, St. Thaddeus and St. Stephen. Basic knowledge of Armenian or French will be useful. There will be three group departures from Paris to Tabriz on July 3, July 17, and July 31. For further details contact the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Bishop Ashjian, 138 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016, Telephone: (212) 689-7810.

# Faithfulness—Toward the Armenian Holy, Apostolic And Orthodox Traditions

by Rev. Dr. Mesrob Tashjian

When the first Armenians, fleeing Turkish persecution, came to the peaceful shores of the United States of America, they did not bring with them books of theology nor even Bibles. However, they brought with them something more valuable, their faithfulness. A faithfulness to their ancestry encompassing national heritage, culture, legacy, church traditions and history. Inherited from their forefathers and tenderly preserved for centuries, it was to be transmitted to succeeding generations.

At least half a century since the first Armenian immigrants found refuge in the United States, admiral attempts have been made to strengthen the genuine Armenian national character upon the children of the future. Yet, results have not been encouraging. The existing curriculums and various programs, usually borrowed from Protestant publications, do not stress the distinct Armenian national and religious spirit.

The Armenian Christian education holds a unique role in America. We have just begun to develop that role; perhaps, we have also just begun to reach the point of maturity to admit that we are different. Our difference does not come from our superiority but from our national Christian faithfulness. This faithfulness is a program claiming scriptural, traditional, doctrinal and historical spirit, a sentiment and frame of mind reflected in the liturgical life of the individual inside and outside the church.

Various new publications such as, *A Brief Introduction to Armenian Christian Literature* by His Holiness Karekin II, *The Washing of the Feet* and *The Great Week* by Bishop Mesrob Ashjian, and inserted lessons of our Sunday School textbooks, invite the Armenian faithful to keep close contact with their Christian heritage, cherishing the reminiscences of the past and practicing them through their liturgical life. This faithfulness must penetrate all dimensions of our Sunday School life, curriculum materials, seminars, religious programs and all general activities.

Until now, our Sunday School materials have touched upon this faithfulness in very fragmented ways. Our thrilling, exciting, and inspiring traditions are somehow detached from our Church and its life. Our traditions and liturgical practices are taught as though they were written for others. Viewed as different from secular history, Church history has never been part of any educational program, God's people of Armenia and the people of secular Armenian history were known as two different sets of people.

Armenian Orthodox and Apostolic traditions have a tremendous contribution to make on the American scene. It is not going to make any impact if all we do is *talk* about our traditions. They must be practiced and *lived*. This faithfulness can no longer be kept frozen; it must be preached, publicized, and written about. It must be interwoven into the fabric of our curriculum materials; thus, introducing it to our youngsters as way of life rather than a story.

We cannot depend on other Churches to do our job for us. The task and the responsibility is ours and ours alone! The challenge belongs to the Prelacy, to the National Convention, and to each of us; clergy, supervisors, Sunday School teachers, parents, parish leaders and parishioners. We must prepare, present, and nurture the Armenian

## ԿԱՄԱՒՈՐ ԱՂՔԱՏՈՒԹԻՒՆ

Քրիստոնէութիւնը մարդկութեան կողմէ ամէն բանէ առաջ պէտք է ըմբռնուի որպէս կրօնք մը որ, իր հիմնադիր Աստուածորդոյն բացած ճամբով, նպատակ ունի մարդը առաւել մօտեցնելու Աստուծոյ: Կրօնք մըն է անկասկած, բարոյագիտութիւն ըլլալէ առաջ: Մարդկային հոգիին թեւ ու թռիչք տալու խոստումով աստուածային կրօնք մը:

Սակայն պէտք է մոռնալ նաեւ միւս երեսը անոր: Կրօնքը մարդուն համար է: Մարդ-Աստուած յարաբերութիւնէն ետք, ան կը խոնարհի երկրային մակարդակին եւ կը տեսնէ մարդը մարդուն հետ ու երբեմն մարդը ինքն իր հետ: Այս իմաստով քրիստոնէութիւնը բարոյագիտութիւն է: Կրօնքը ապրիլ Աւետարանի սկզբունքներով, Քրիստոսի օրինակով, Աստուծոյ ամենատես աչքին դիմաց:

Առաքինութիւններու կեանք մը պիտի ըլլայ այդ: Սիրոյ եւ եղբայրութեան ուսուցում մը: Անոնց պտուղ՝ զոհողութեան արշաւ մը: Պէտք է նկատել որ այս տեսակի առաքինութիւններ մարդէ մարդ կը սլաքուին, մարդով առաւել կ'ազնուանան: Սակայն կան այլ տեսակի ապրումներ ալ, որոնք մարդը ինքն իր մէջ կը մաքրակերպեն, Աստուծոյ հայելիին մէջ իր հոգիին անդրադարձը տեսնելու համար: Ժուժկալութիւնը մէկն է անոնցմէ: Գոհանալ այնքանով, որքան անհրաժեշտ է կեանքը ապրելու համար: Այս պարագային, նիւթի ձգտումը մեր մէջ կը նուազի եւ տեղ կուտայ նուիրական աւելի արժէքներու, հոգեկան բարի ցանկութիւններու, որոնց մշտական ներկայութիւնը Աւետարանը կը բանայ մեր առջեւ: Այդ Աւետարանը մեր քամրան պէտք է ըլլայ, անոր ուսուցումները յաւիտենական փշմարտութիւնը եւ անոր պատգամներու գործադրութիւնը՝ մեր կեանքը:

Կ'ապրինք երկրի մը մէջ ուր առատութիւնը ամէն տեղ կը տեսնուի: Խօսքի առատութիւն, ազատութեան առատութիւն, նիւթի առատութիւն, եւայլն: Ի՞նչ կարելի է ըսել այս երկրին մէջ: Ի՞նչ կարելի է գտնել ուսելու, հազնելու, կահաւորելու համար: Նիւթի առատութիւն ու հարստութիւն: Շատ մը երկիրներ մեր թափթիւններով կրնան «հարուստ» երեւիլ: Զերթանք հեռուները, մնանք առայժմ հոս, նիւթի հարստութեան շրջափակին մէջ:

Որպէս քրիստոնեայ, ուրիշ բան այնքան գեղեցիկ չի հնչեր այս մթնոլորտին մէջ, եթէ ոչ այն առաքինութիւնը, որուն կ'անդրադառնայի քիչ առաջ - ժուժկալութիւն: Եկէք, փոխենք բառը ու զայն փոխարինենք այլ եզրով - կամաւոր աղքատութիւն: Ըլլալ, ապրիլ հարստութեան մէջ, բայց ապրիլ կամաւոր աղքատութեամբ, փոխանակ երթալու պճնանքին, հազուատ-կապուտին, մխուժին, յուժկալտու յորդումին:

Կամաւոր աղքատ մը չէ՞ր երկնքի եւ երկրի Տէրը Քրիստոս: Իրեն հետեւեցան բազմաթիւ ուրիշներ, որոնք վայելք, ժառանգ ու հարստութիւն ձգած՝ դարձան կամաւոր աղքատներ ու զացին տկարին, իրաւ աղքատին եւ անոնց օգնելով հարստացուցին իրենց հոգիները: Հոս է քրիստոնէութեան ապրող հրաշքը: Կամաւոր աղքատութիւնը ոչ միայն մեզ կ'ազնուացնէ, այլ դէպի իր նմանը զացող հոգիի զաղտնի ճամբայ մը կը գտնէ, զոր ճոխութիւններու մէջ յղիացող աչքը չի կրնար տեսնել:

Պալատներու տեղ՝ մսուրին մէջ ծնող թագաւոր մը կը դարձնէ մեզ:

Օշական Վարդապետ

Ապրիլ 19, 1978  
Բրինսթըն

faithfulness to give life, vitality, identity, and meaning to all of us, especially to our youngsters who grope in darkness searching for enlightenment and enrichment of their existence as the children of the Armenian Holy, Orthodox and Apostolic Church.



## Book Corner

- HOLY WEEK, by Bishop Mesrob Ashjian. Paperback, \$2.00.
- THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA, by Archbishop Torkom Koushagian, paperback, \$2.00.
- ARMENIAN KHATCHKARS by order of His Holiness Vasken I Catholicos of All Armenians, 213 color and black and white photographs of ancient Armenian khatchkars (cross-stones) with a descriptive text in Armenian, English, and French. Hardcover, \$25.
- HASK — a special issue dedicated to the 40th anniversary of His Holiness Khoren I and the election and consecration of His Holiness Karekin II, Coadjutor-Catholicos. It contains articles, documents, and photographs of the memorable events during 1977 at the Antelias Catholicosate. Issue available by writing to the Prelacy. Cost, including postage and handling is \$15.00 per copy.
- ARMENIAN ALPHABET CARDS by Minas Minasian. 70 flash cards with illustration on one side and corresponding lower-case Armenian letter on reverse side. A learning manual is included. Cost, \$2.00.
- Record: "Armenian Songs for Children," second printing, \$5.00.

Items in the Prelacy Book Corner are available for purchase directly at the Prelacy, 138 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016, or can be ordered by mail.

**THE ARMENIAN CHURCH NEEDS YOU**  
JOIN YOUR LOCAL ARMENIAN CHURCH

ՀԱՅՈՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՆ

**ԿԸ ՓՆՏՈՒՆ՝ ՔԵՉ**  
Միացի ի բու շրջանի իայ եկեղեցիին

POSTER:  
**THE ARMENIAN CHURCH NEEDS YOU**  
22x35  
English and Armenian  
Cloth: \$2.00  
Heavy Poster Paper: \$1.00  
Available at the Prelacy



Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America  
138 East 39th Street  
New York, New York 10016