

ARCHIVE COPY

Please return.



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

Volume II - Number 8
December, 1979

Armenian Christmas

by Rev. Gorun Shirikian

The Armenians are the only nation in the Christian world to celebrate Christmas, or rather the Nativity and the Epiphany of Jesus Christ, on January 6. This tradition goes back to the early church, when there were no separations in Christendom, and the Nativity and the Epiphany of Jesus were celebrated together on January 6, until the second half of the fourth century A.D., when the Roman church separated these two events, celebrating the Nativity on December 25, while keeping January 6 as a feast day for Epiphany. Soon the Byzantines, or the Greek church, followed the Romans for practical reasons, since it was difficult to perform the Nativity ceremonies in Bethlehem and the Epiphany ceremonies at the bank of the River Jordan on the same day. Later this tradition continued in the Western churches or within the circles of their jurisdiction and influence.

If the reason for the Greek church to change the Nativity date was derived from a practical consideration, it was the same for the Roman church, although the reasons may seem dissimilar. In Rome the month of December or rather the last part of December was a time for many festivities such as Saturnalia, Sigillaria, Juvenalia and Brumalia, all linked to the winter solstice or the new birth of the sun. Thus, a parallel was drawn between the birthday of the sun and the Son of God who became the light of the world. But the intent was not limited to the above mentioned interpretation. All the Christian churches were concerned that it was difficult to uproot the traditional pagan festivities from the minds of new believers.

To supplant these heathen festivals, the Romans established December 25 as the birthday of Christ, thus Christianizing the pagan festivals. These changes were intended to weaken paganism, either by depriving the people from attending these festivals or replacing them with Christian festivals. We know from the Armenian church history that St. Gregory the Illuminator replaced the Feast of Navasart with the Feast of Transfiguration. However, the Armenian church held fast to the ancient tradition and did not change feast days for mere practical compliments and reasoning.

As to the meaning of those festivals, the Armenian church promulgates their religious connotations without excluding their social aspects. In the Armenian tradition, the social festivities, the gift exchanging, and the house and tree decorations are connected with the New Year rather than Christmas. Santa Claus comes on New Year's Eve, descending from the chimneys to visit Armenian children.

On Christmas Eve, a solemn Mass is celebrated preceded by scroll readings taken from the different books of the Bible which cite the birth or the coming of the Messiah. The third chapter from the book of Daniel is also read by a deacon and three young men standing on the altar, representing Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, the youths who sustained their faith in God, inspite of the tortures imposed on them (see Daniel, Chapter 3). This service is called a Candlelight Service since the parishioners would return home carrying lighted candles to announce the birth of Christ who

(Continued on page 6)

On December 23, 1979, an encyclical, dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Armenian Church Sunday School organization, from Catholicoi Khoren I and Karekin II of the Great House of Cilicia, will be read in all parish churches. A special plate collection will be held and all proceeds will be sent to the UNICEF Cambodian Relief Fund. Come and make your contribution towards universal human rights.

ԲԵԹՂԵՀԷՄԻ ԱՍՏՂԸ



Photo by Varoujan Setian

ՊԱՏԳԱՄ

ԱՄԱՆՈՐԻ ԵՒ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԾՆՆԴԵԱՆ ՏՕՆԵՐՈՒ ԱՌԹԻՒ

Սիրելի հաւատացեալներ, Ահա նոր տարի մըն ալ կը բացուի մեր կեանքի գրքին մէջ:

Նոր Տարին վերականգնումի օր է եւ վերընծայումի առիթ: Բնական է ուրեմն, որ նոր Տարուան առաւօտին, լեցունք նոր յոյսերով, մշակենք նոր ծրագիրներ, վերանանք նոր տեսիլքներով, եւ բնութեան ու Աստուծոյ կողմէ մեզի շնորհուած այս հանգրուանին, մղուինք քննելու ժամանակի եւ կեանքի խորհուրդը:

Բայց ի՞նչ է ժամանակը եւ ատոր յարաբերաբար, մեր կեանքը: Սաղմոսը յատակ կերպով կը յայտնէ մեր կեանքի չափը. «Եւ Թիւ ԱՒՈՒՐՅ ԱՄԱՅ ՄԵՐՈՑ Ի ՆՈՍԱ ԵՕԹԱՆԱՍՈՒՆ ԱՄ. ԱՊԱ Թ՛Է ԱՌԱՒԵԼ ԵՒՍ ՈՒԹՍՈՒՆ ԱՄ» (ՁԹ. 10): Այլ խօսքով, ժամանակի եւ միջոցի անհունութեան մէջ ակնթարթ մըն է մեր կեանքը, մինչ ժամանակը, ինք, յաւիտենական է: Կայ՝ մեզմէ անկախ, մեզմէ առաջ ու մեզմէ յետոյ: Մենք միայն անոր պարունակ ունինք եւ անոր մէկ հատուածին մէջ կը դնենք մեր սեփական կեանքի պատմութիւնը, մեր կենսագրութիւնը:

Ժամանակը մեզի կը տրուի միաժամանակ եւ նոյն քանակութեամբ - վաղը կեանք, ժամ, օր ու տարի՝ հաւասարապէս մերն են: Մեզի կը մնայ այդ ժամանակը հիւսել աստուածահաճոյ դործերով, եւ զայն ուժականացնել, իմաստաւորել, առաւելագոյն շահարկել: Այս է առաքեալին խրատը, երբ Եփեսոսի ժողովուրդին կը թելադրէ «ՏԵՍՉԻՔ, ՈՐՊԷՍ ԸՇՄԱՐՏԻԻ ԳՆԱՅՑԷՔ, ՄԻ ԻՐԲԵՒ ԱՆԻՄԱՍՏՔ, ԱՅԼ ԻՐԲԵՒ ԻՄԱՍՏՈՒՆՔ, ԳՆԵՑԷՔ ԶԺԱՄԱՆԱԿՍ»: (Եփես. Ե. 13-15):

Ափսոս, սակայն, որ մինչեւ այսօր ալ, մենք չենք կրցած իմաստութեամբ տեսնել մեզի բաժին ինկած ժամանակը: Արժէքը չենք գիտցած, յուսկէսու վատնած ենք ու կորուստէն յետոյ անդրադարձած մեր դժբախտութեան: Աւելին, մենք չենք յաջողած մեր ժամանակը - կեանքը պիտի ուզէի ըսել - իմաստաւորել, խորհուրդ դնել, պարունակ դնել անոր մէջ: Մեզմէ քանինք իրենք գիրենք պիտի տեսնեն Այգէոս Գամբի «Ժամատարը» վէպին հերոսներէն մէկուն մէջ, անոր՝ որ իր կեանքի ամբողջ ընթացքին չոր ոսկ կը փոխադրէր մէկ ամանէն միւր: Այդ մարդը իր ժամանակը կը սպաննէր, աւելի ճիշտ պիտի ըլլար ըսել՝ իր կեանքը կը սպաննէր, որովհետեւ իրեն տրուած ժամանակը ի գործ կը վատնէր, եւ ինչ որ աւելի դժբախտ կ'ընծայէ պարագան, չէր յաջողած զԱստուած դնել իր կեանքին մէջ, որպէսզի իր կեանքը ըլլար լեցուն, բարի, օգտակար, զեղեցիկ կեանք մը: Հաւանաբար այդ մարդը չէր իմացած որ ժամանակի եւ կեանքի տէրը «Ի լրումն ժամանակաց» այլարհ եկաւ «ընդ մեզ» եղաւ, որպէսզի մենք «կեանք ունենանք, եւ առաւել եւս ունենանք» (Յովհ. Ժ. 10):

Ահա թէ ինչու ժամանակ եւ կեանք, Աստուած եւ մարդ պիտի հանդիպին իրարու:

Աստուածաբանական բացատրութեամբ այս հանդիպումը կը կոչուի մարդեղութիւն: Աստուծոյ մարդանալը, մեզի պէս ըլլալը: Երբութեան խորհուրդէն աւելի անհաւատալի, տրամաբանութեան համար անընդունելի այս խորհուրդը, ըստ որում, երկար դարերու սպասումէ եւ պատրաստութենէ մը յետոյ, անմեկնելին եւ անտեսանելին Աստուած յայտնուեցաւ աշխարհին եւ մենք կրցանք ըսել «Որ էրն ի սկզբանէ, զորմէ լուսքն, որում ականատեսն իսկ եղեաք, ընդ որ հայեցաքն, եւ ձեռք մեր շօշափեցին ի վերայ բանին կենաց» (Ա. Յովհ. Ա. 1): Եւ ինչպէս կարելի է բացատրել Քրիստոսի մարդեղութիւնը եթէ ոչ իր բարի բնութեամբ, իր մարդասիրութեամբ: Աստուած խոնարհեցաւ, բայց այդ խոնարհութիւնը նուաստացումի հանգամանք չունէր, ընդհակառակն, այդ խոնարհութեան մէջէն կը յայտնուէր իր անմատչելի բարձրութիւնը, սիրոյ եւ բարութեան պատուանդանին վրայ:

Սորհուրդ մեծ եւ սքանչելի, որ յայսմ աւուր յայտնեցաւ:

Մնաւ նոր արքայ ի Բեթղեհեմ քաղաքի: Կանգնած սքանչելի եւ մեծ խորհուրդին դիմաց, սրբազան քերթողը Մովսէս Սորենացին կ'երգէ պատ-

ԲԵԹՂԵՀԷՄԻ ԱՍՏՂԸ

Բերթեհեմի աստղը պայծառ Ալ չի շողար Երկինքն ի վար՝ Սուրբ Մատրին վրայ խոնարհ:

Բերթեհեմի աստղին տեղ հին Ամէն ժամ ևնր Արիւնածոր Աստղեր կու գան ու կը մարին...

Բերթեհեմի աստղը սակայն Միշտ կը մնայ Հոգեհրմայ Միակ ժպիտն աստուածութեան:

Բերթեհեմի աստղը պայծառ՝ Աչքը մարդուն Քուն թէ արթուն Դեռ կ'որոնէ ցնորահար...

Բերթեհեմի աստղը վառող Ո՛վ անհուն Լոյս, Ուղեկորոյս, Մարդոց դարձեալ տո՛ւր յոյսի շող:

Բերթեհեմի աստղը թաքուն Կախէ՛ ևնրէն Մեր երկինքէն Եւ տո՛ւր յերկիր խաղաղութիւն...

Editorial. . .

Determination of Self

*Whether asleep or awake, my days passed by like dreams,
Day-dreams and dream-like days, short-lived as beacon-beams.
Dreams and longings all faded, none reached, none achieved,
Lost is my life like a bet, beaten like gamblers' schemes.*

—by Hovhannes Toumanian
translated by Dorian Rottenberg and Brian Bean

The close of this year brings not only the start of a new one, but also the challenge of a new decade. As historians and sociologists reflect on the '70s, they may concur that it was an era bearing little, if any, changes of significance. Rather, it was a period marked by heightened individual narcissism as reflected under the spotlights of the disco dance floor and by such hot consumer items as ego praising T-shirts and ads asserting, "I'm No. 1."

The '70s were a time when man went to extremes to find his individual soul. Whether he sought the way by sacrificing all and joining a religious cult as in Jonestown, or by adopting the patented image of marketed individuality, he overpassed his purpose, clouding his existence in a void of unrealistic creeds or materialistic decadence. Yet, this obvious road to destruction may become mankind's one ray of hope.

"Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it." (St. Luke 17:33). By desperately groping in excess, man seeks meaning in his life but is faced with an insatiable emptiness. His life is being lost, yet as the Gospel says, it is at *this moment* that it can be found and saved. For at this point, there is *no-thing* left but self.

1980 may be the dawn of a new era, an era when the self is realized and fulfilled in a truer, deeper sense. The crises of the '70s, whether inflation, energy, or ego, stripped the tinted glory of man's fantasies and dreams. Man can no longer neatly pat his problems under the rug. He has reached the end of the rope. Not only the meaning but the mere survival of his future existence is at stake.

Progress and worldly abundance have outstepped the inner development of man's soul. Now, he is forced to take, what appears to be, a step backwards, back to basics — to save the dollar, to save fuel, to save himself. While the '70s dulled and shocked man's senses, the '80s can afford the chance for escape. Facing his reality, man, awake, can now pass his days, reach his longings, and achieve his dreams, not losing his life like a "bet beaten by gamblers' schemes" but risking all odds to determine self.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Having read Mr. Hovig Etian's letter in the October issue referring to the "Human Rights" article by Pierre Papazian, I immediately searched out my August issue and re-read the article. I just wonder how the great majority of Armenians in Haiastan would receive Mr. Etian's comments. Surely, the next time Mr. Etian visits Soviet Armenia, the "red" carpet will be rolled out for him, but not by the patriotic "charlatans" of whom he speaks.

The unquenchable thirst of a subjugated people for basic human rights transcends race, religion, and nationality. There is no question that it is correct, proper, and *necessary* to speak out against injustice regardless of how far away we are. The Armenians of Haiastan expect and pray that those of us in the free world would shout the message of self-determination from the highest mountains. We can do it; they can't. We won't be sent to Siberia; they may be.

The two tangible enemies of the Armenian nation are Turkey and the Communist regime; let us never forget this. But I do believe that someday that will change. Despots and murderers do not endure. We and other peoples in similar circumstances will not tolerate the status quo. As Mr. Papazian pointed out, human rights are God-given and universal, and cannot be denied. Let's have the "guts" to repeat that over and over from the pulpit, from the podium, from the soap-box, from every corner of the earth.

Jack Garbooshian
Redford, Michigan

OUTREACH

Editor Hasmig Mergian
Editorial Consultant Iris Papazian

OUTREACH (USPS 426-490) is published monthly by the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, 138 East 39th Street, New York, New York 10016, (212) 689-7810. Unsolicited manuscripts will be considered for publication; please include a stamped, self-addressed return envelope. We reserve the right to edit articles in order to conform to space limitations. Signed articles do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America. Send all correspondence to the above address to the attention of the Editor. Printed in the United States of America. Second class postage paid at New York, New York 10016.

KIDS! OUTREACH is for YOU

The April 1980 issue of OUTREACH will be dedicated to children. Children throughout the United States and Canada are invited to contribute articles. So, start thinking now. Write about anything and everything. Write about your experiences, problems, desires, dreams, friends, surroundings. Write to us about things that make you laugh, draw funny pictures, but above all REACH OUT and JOIN US in preparing a special OUTREACH issue for you.

Prelacy Ladies' Guild Calendar of Activities

January 4, 1980: Prelate's Christmas Party at the Prelacy, 8:00 p.m.

January 5, 1979: Prelate's Children's Party, celebrating the International Year of the Child, at Sts. Vartanantz Church, Ridgefield, N.J. at 10:00 a.m.

January 25, 1980: Cultural evening at the Prelacy, dedicated to the life and work of Barouyr Sevag, 8 p.m.

February 2, 1980: Feast of Light celebration, at The Plaza, Baroque Room, New York City. Cocktail hour begins 7:30 p.m.

February 17, 1980: Jullian Byzantine Guitar Recital at Carnegie Recital Hall, 8:30 p.m.

February 20, 1980: Lenten lecture at the Prelacy.

March 5, 1980: String Quartet, Armenian Church Music, at the Prelacy.

March 14, 1980: Art Auction, Women's Club of Teaneck, Beverly Rd., Teaneck, N.J., 8:00 p.m.

March 19, 1980: Lenten lecture at the Prelacy.

April 5, 1980: College Student Night at the Prelacy.

April 19, 1980: Ladies' Auxiliary Seminar. All day activity at the Prelacy, with the participation of all the Ladies' Auxiliary of our Churches.

May 1, 1980: Mothers' Day Luncheon, Hotel Plaza, New York City.



International Year of the Child 1979

International Year of the Child Activities

December, 1979

A film related to the Year of the Child will be shown in all parish churches. Representatives of each parish will soon receive a list of available films from the IYC Committee.

January 5, 1980

Children's Christmas Party at Sts. Vartanantz Church of Ridgefield, N.J.

February 10, 1980

Children's Day in the Parishes.

International Year of the Child 1980 Calendar

The International Year of the Child Committee of the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church is issuing a 1980 Calendar for the Year of the Child. Illustrations used in the Calendar have been chosen from 600 pieces of artwork by Armenian children. The Calendar will be ready by December 10, 1979. Calendars are thoughtful gifts. They are used and appreciated twelve months of the year. If you would like to have one or give one to a friend, please enclose your tax deductible donation in the amount of \$5.00 per calendar and mail to the Prelacy, 138 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016, or place your order by calling the Prelacy office, (212) 689-7810.

Have a Good Year!

Please send IYC Calendar to:

Name _____

Street _____

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Also send calendar to:

Name _____

Street _____

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

The following article appeared on the op-ed page of the November 5, 1979, issue of the New York Times. ©1979 by The New York Times Co. Reprinted by permission.

To Hear Stateless Nations

By Pierre Papazian

DUMONT, N.J. — Andrew Young made many moot statements in his public career, but one point, to me, deserved special attention. He said that the Palestinians were a force in the world and that regardless of one's views, that force could not be ignored. There must be communication, and some means to allow the Palestinians to express themselves other than through acts of terrorism, he said.

This same idea, of course, applies to many other nationalist movements that do not have a legal forum and, consequently, turn to illegal and violent means to promote their respective causes.

The Kurds, for example, have long been engaged in battle with the Iranians and the Iraqis for a measure of autonomy. The Spanish Government has been the target of the Basque nationalist struggle. In the Soviet Union last January, three young Armenians were executed, ostensibly for setting off a bomb in the Moscow subway, but their real crime was "anti-Soviet agitation" and "nationalistic tendencies." The list of nationalist activists, agitators, terrorists — call them what we may — seems almost endless: the Irish, the Croatians, the Lithuanians, Welsh, Catalans, Serbians, and on and on.

The action of the United Nations General Assembly on Oct. 14, 1974, to allow the Palestine Liberation Organization "to participate in the deliberations . . . on the Question of Palestine" could have been a breakthrough for all stateless nations, by allowing them a forum where they could express their opinions regarding their right to self-determination. In inviting the P.L.O. to the General Assembly, the United Nations violated its own Charter, which states: "The General Assembly may discuss any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security brought before it by a Member of the United Nations, or by the Security Council, or by a state which is not a Member of the United Nations . . ." if it is a party to a dispute.

Neither the P.L.O. nor the Palestinian people is a member or a nonmember state. Yasir Arafat's speech to the General Assembly and the P.L.O.'s participation in the deliberations did not set a precedent for other nationalist movements. But if the General Assembly could break its own rule and recognize one stateless nation, why not recognize all of them and thus provide a forum for their grievances?

If the United Nations considers the nonrecognition of stateless nations as a cardinal and inviolable rule of international law, then it would do well to consider the creation of another chamber of the United Nations, a Forum of Nationalities, with membership open to all stateless nations that have grievances against established states.

This is possible under Article 22 of the Charter, which states, "The General Assembly may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions." While such a forum would no doubt prove embarrassing to some members of the United Nations, it could also contribute to the peace and security of the world by reducing the acts of violence by various nationalist movements.

If a Forum of Nationalities existed, the Palestinians and other peoples would have been able to present their cases to the world officially and without using violence and terror to do so.

When nations feel there is no hope, they turn to desperate measures.

An official forum open to all stateless nations under the auspices of the United Nations would in some measure replace desperation with hope.

Pierre Papazian, a graphic designer, holds a master's degree in international affairs.



Hourig Papazian Sahagian

We take pleasure in announcing the appointment of Mrs. Hourig Papazian Sahagian to the position of Executive Coordinator of the Armenian National Education Committee. The appointment was made at the September 1, 1979, meeting of A.N.E.C. Mrs. Sahagian is replacing Mr. Hagop Barsoumian, the former Executive Coordinator, who has accepted a position abroad.

We would like to refer Mrs. Sahagian's appointment to the attention of all Saturday and day school principals, teachers, boards of education, parish priests, trustees of the Armenian Relief Society, boards of chapters of churches, and affiliated organizations within the jurisdiction of the Eastern Prelacy, and of the Armenian community at large.

We hereby recommend that the local boards of education and principals of Armenian schools contact the Executive Coordinator on all school related matters at the headquarters of the Armenian National Education Committee: 138 E. 39th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Bishop Mesrob Ashjian
Prelate and President
Armenian National Education Committee

ՊԱՇՏՈՆԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՂՈՐԴԱԳՐՈՒԹԻՒՆ

Այսու կը ծանուցանենք Ամերիկահայ Արեւելեան մեր թեմի ամենօրեայ եւ Շաբաթօրեայ դպրոցներու տնօրէնութեանց, ուսուցիչներուն, կրթական խորհուրդներուն, քահանայ հայրերուն, Հայ Օգնութեան Միութեան մասնաճիւղերուն, եկեղեցիներու հոգաբարձութեանց թէ ալ ժողովուրդին մարմիններուն, ինչպէս նաեւ մեր ժողովուրդին, որ Ազգային Ուսումնական Խորհուրդը, իր 1 Սեպտեմբեր 1979-ի նիստին, զուտարուած մեր նախագահութեամբ, որոշեց կրթական գործերու ընդհանուր կեդրամբան համար պաշտօնի կոչել Տիկ. Հուրիկ Փափազեան-Սահակեանը, որպէս վարիչ-քարտուղար:

Վստահ ենք որ Տիկ. Սահակեանի ղեկավարութեամբ եւ պատկան դպրոցներու եւ մարմիններու համագործակցութեամբ հայեցի դաստիարակութեան ճիւղերը մեր դպրոցներէն ներս պիտի առաւել զօրանան եւ արդիւնաւորուին:

Այսու զօրով կը յանձնարարենք ամենօրեայ թէ Շաբաթօրեայ Վարժարաններու տնօրէններուն եւ կրթական մարմիններուն ուսումնական թէ դպրոցական ալ հարցերու համար կապ հաստատել վարիչ-քարտուղարին հետեւեալ հասցէով:— Hourig P. Sahagian, Executive Coordinator, Armenian National Education Committee, 138 E. 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016.

Մերոպ Եպիսկ. Աշճեան
Առաջնորդ Ամերիկահայոց
Արեւելեան Թեմին եւ Նախագահ
Ազգ. Ուսումնական Խորհուրդի

NOVEMBER WRAP-UP

November 9-18: Keghan Tazian, artist/teacher of Birmingham, Michigan, exhibited 45 of his paintings and sculptures in the Prelacy. Born in Beirut in 1938, Tazian has lived in the United States since 1960. It was evident that the artist draws much inspiration from his Armenian cultural/religious heritage and also the daily joys in his family relationships.

November 11: Prelate visited the Boston community. He preached and celebrated the Divine Liturgy in St. Stephen's Church.

November 16: Prelate gave a lecture entitled, "Church Unity: History and Perspectives," to the Men's Club of Sts. Vartanantz in New Jersey. The Bishop was declared an "honorary member" of the Men's Club.

November 17: Prelate visited the Soorp Khatch community in Washington, D.C. After Saturday evening Vespers, His Grace administered orders of *acolyste* to *Tebir* Ardavastz Dabbaghian. Sunday morning after the Liturgy, he also ordained three young members of the choir as deacons. They are Karnig Dinkjian, George Zabounian, and Ardavastz Dabbaghian. In the afternoon, the Prelate attended a Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by the A.R.S. Washington, D.C. chapter.

November 23: The Ladies Guild hosted a Christmas Boutique in the Prelacy. Such novelty items as cocktail napkins or guest towels inscribed with *parev yegak*, tri-colored neckties, table cloths inscribed with the Hayr Mer, crosses, and *parev* stationery were all big favorites. Although the turnout was small, those who came enjoyed a wonderful shopping spree.

Prelate attended the Homenetmen N.Y. Chapter's celebration of the organization's 61st anniversary. His Grace spoke about the significance and meaning of the Homenetmen.

November 24-25: Prelate visited the Waukegan, Illinois community where he celebrated the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning in St. Paul's Armenian Apostolic Church. In the afternoon, there was a banquet commemorating the 12th anniversary of the founding of St. Paul's Church.

Miracle of Faith Restored on Christmas

by Tom Vartabedian

*"God rest ye, merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day."*



He stood under the street light outside a darkened church, a short distance from a gay crowd of partygoers. He was not a part of it, not a part of anything, especially Christmas.

He was a sad-faced little guy, gray with years. . .his collar turned up against a sharp breeze that gusted along the street. The eyes he depicted to question my approach were dull behind his glasses. I was looking for a story. . .something he depicted the essence of the holiday.

As we chatted, I observed something peculiar about this man. His whole outlook on Christmas was one of guilt and remorse.

"My heart just isn't in it," he said. "I don't get a kick out of Christmas anymore. . .the singing, the trees, or the store windows. It's not like it used to be.

"Oh, no. I don't actually have anything against the day itself," he continued. "It beautifies the city and brings cheer to lots of folks. You've got to admit, though, it also makes a lot of people sad, like parents who can't buy anything for their children. . .and the youngsters who know it. Christmas gets me down in the dumps if you really want to know.

"Wait a minute," the man said, as I was about to leave. "Please don't walk away like that. Hold on a bit. Here's a light for your pipe. It's not just one of the usual reasons. Maybe I could talk about it a little because I've never discussed it with anyone. You understand? Maybe if I told a stranger, it would ease my mind.

"Okay, so I've lost my faith," he continued. "That's the reason I gave up my religion. I lost God somewhere or He misled me. I don't know which. It happened, anyway. So, I've got no God and, naturally, I've got no Christ and no Christmas. It's as simple as that. I've never told anyone before.

"An atheist? Well, I guess you can call me that. But the thing is, darn it, I don't want to be an atheist. You can't make yourself believe what your heart doesn't believe, can you?

"Oh, sure, I know why. She died. She died and she shouldn't have died. She was too young. She was quite a bit younger than I am. But if she had to die, she shouldn't have been made to suffer so much and so long. . .just wasting away. . .that agony of cancer. . .turning like she should have been her for months," he said, with a lump in his throat.

"Finally she died and that left the boy and me alone. At first, it was almost all right, but I guess when you're a teenager and your old man is really getting along in years, it's easy to lose that father-son relationship.

"He was 17 and I couldn't get through to him then, any more than I can get through to God now, if there should happen to be one.

"During the months after his mother died, he and I just drifted further apart. Within a year, he was dead, too, wrapped around a tree in a car he and some companions had stolen. That's the way it happened. That's when I decided there was no God and the story of Jesus was a myth.

"That was three years ago. I'm not bitter anymore, but I've never been to church and I've never said a prayer since. I've tried to get my faith back. . .to force myself back to faith. . .but it doesn't work out. If you really want to know, mister, the loneliness has really haunted me.

"So, when you came along, I was just standing there debating whether to give it one last try. This isn't my church nor even my religion, but I was turning it over in my mind.

"Should I go inside, get down on my knees and say a prayer like I used to? Something may just happen. I don't think it will, but I don't suppose you can ever know without trying.

"If I do, I'll be praying for the biggest miracle of all. . .the miracle of faith restored. I'll be shooting for the moon, but I don't know whether I will or not."

The man turned away. I knew he was waiting for me to leave and regretted having said so much.

"Look," I said, "I'm sure it will work. But this church is closed. The evening service was over an hour ago and they always lock up even during the Christmas season. Thieves and vandals don't take vacations. If you go down the street, you'll find another church open."

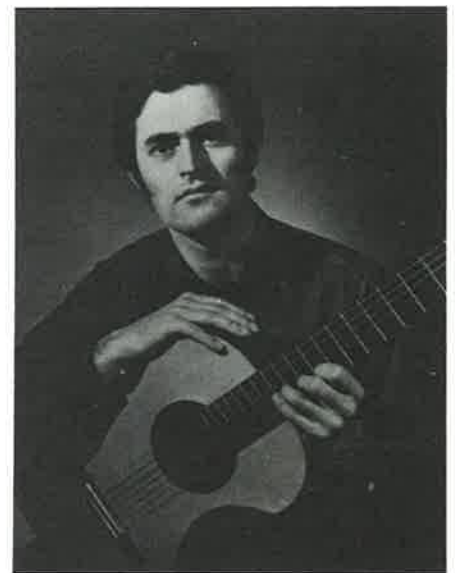
That seemed to decide for him. "Well, then, it's not only the moon I'll be shooting for. It's the stars, too," he said.

The man shrugged his thin shoulders, lifted his chin, and went up the stairs of the darkened church. As he reached for the knob on one of the large doors, it swung open. He passed through and the door closed behind him.

I waited a little while, but he didn't come out. I went up and tried the door.

Sure enough. It was locked!

**Classical Guitar Concert
Planned for February 17**



Julian Byzantine

Julian Byzantine, a concert guitarist, will perform in Carnegie Recital Hall on February 17, 1980, at 8:30 p.m. This concert, sponsored by the Prelacy's Ladies' Guild is one of many cultural activities planned by the Guild for 1980.

Julian Byzantine was born in London where he attended the Royal College of Music for four years. During this time he also studied with such world renowned masters as Julian Bream, Andreas Segovia, and Alirio Diaz.

After teaching at the Royal Academy of Music for two years, he went on to establish himself as an international artist giving recitals in concert halls and music festivals in England and throughout the world. He has also frequently performed concertos with symphony orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic, the Birmingham Symphony, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and the Philomusica.

Aside from his performances, Mr. Byzantine devotes much time and effort in researching the manuscripts of early guitarists and lutanists. This has led him to play the baroque guitar, a rarely heard instrument. His diverse repertoire consists of original and transcribed compositions ranging from music of the 16th century vihuela and baroque guitar to contemporary works.

ՄԱԳԱՐ ԵԳՄԱԼԻԱՆ

ԵՐԵՎԱՆԻ ՄԱՐԶԻ ՊՐԵԼԱԿԱՏԻ

Նորաստեղծված Գրքերի Կարգավիճակը
և Կարգավիճակը

MAGAR YEGMALIAN

DIVINE LITURGY

OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

1979

Makar Yegmalian

**DIVINE LITURGY OF THE
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

Editor: Very Rev. Oshagyan Choloyan

A Prelacy publication

Cloth, \$15.00 Paper, \$10.00

When shall all men's good be each man's rule. . .and universal peace be like a shaft of light across the land.

— Alfred Lord Tennyson

We wish all our readers a Holy Christmas and a healthy, content new year.



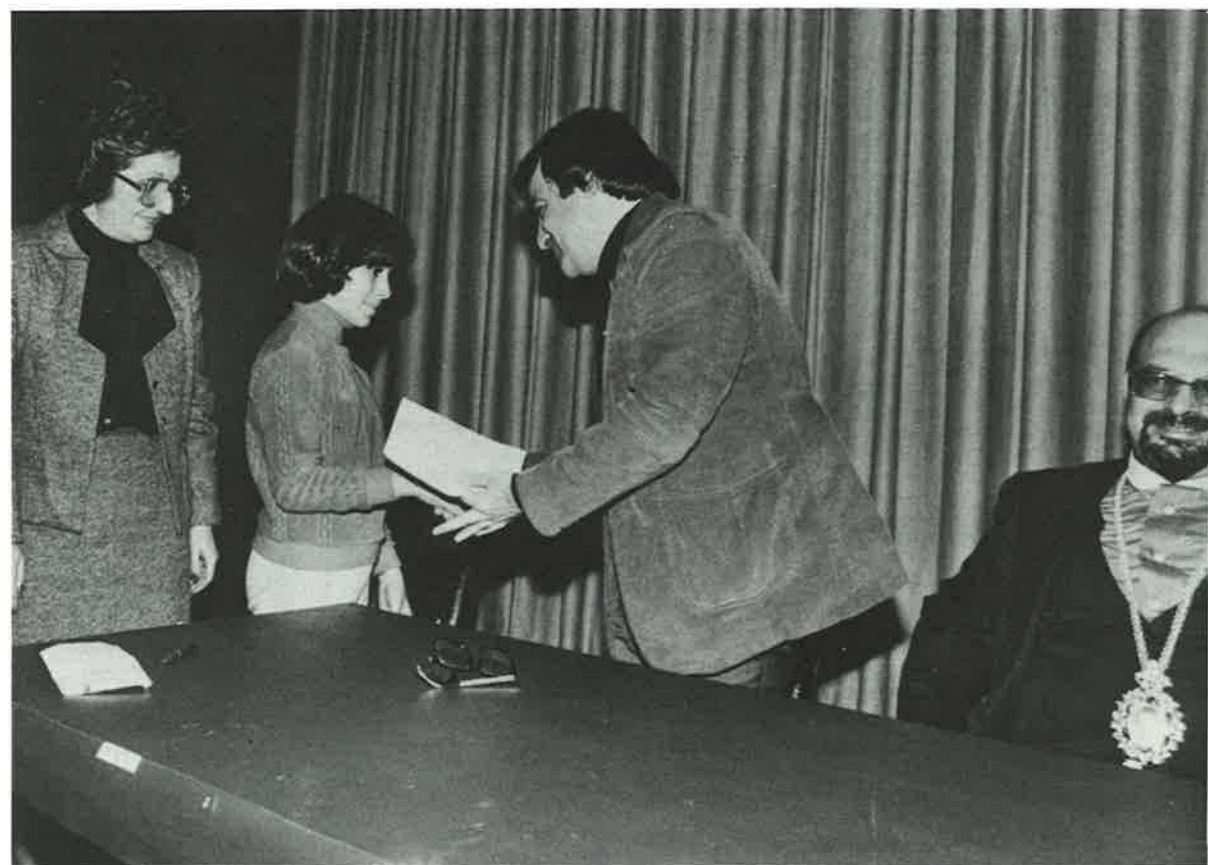
International Year of the Child 1979



Children share breakfast together in St. Illuminator's Cathedral in New York City, prior to their visit to the United Nations.



Bishop Ashjian addresses the children in the U.N. Library Auditorium. His Grace stressed the significance of childhood and prayed that love and peace would shelter children everywhere.



Anni Kandoyan presents Mr. Stephen Manchini, IYC co-ordinator of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, a check for the total sum of money collected by the children during their Halloween "trick or treat" outing. Mrs. Anni Nalbandian, the Prelacy's IYC Committee Chairwoman, and Bishop Ashjian look on.

One hundred and fifty Armenian children visited the United Nations on November 24 as one of the projects planned by the Prelacy's International Year of the Child Committee.

Children of all Armenian Day/Saturday/Sunday Schools participated in this important mission at which time monies raised through the children's "Trick or Treating" on Halloween Day were presented to UNICEF. A check in the amount of \$1,500, which will be used toward relief efforts for Cambodian children, was presented.

A large group of children from Worcester, Mass., joined the children from the Metropolitan New York area for a fellowship breakfast at St. Illuminator's Armenian Apostolic Church in New York City, after which they went to the United Nations. Twelve children from the Community Church of New York requested to join the Armenian children, showing their appreciation of children's solidarity toward children.

At the breakfast table, as the Armenian children were singing an Armenian Student's March, one of the children from the Community Church was asked if he like the march. "Yes," he replied, "I think I can even understand the words." That statement, perhaps, best projected the spirit of the day: Children can understand each other and share together even if they are from different nationalities and backgrounds.

After a short tour of the U.N., the children were greeted by Mr. Stephen Manchini, IYC co-ordinator of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF in the U.N. Library Auditorium.

Capturing the children's attention, Mr. Manchini described UNICEF, stressing that the sharing and caring of children themselves for needy children was most meaningful. He challenged the youngsters to stand up and say why they would want to help other children. There was a lingering silence. Each one of the children had something to say, but it was difficult for them to put their feelings into words. They understood. They felt. They wanted to help. Then, seven-year-old Ara Mesropian broke the silence. He spoke for all the children when he poignantly said, "If we weren't lucky enough to be here today, we would be out there with the needy children."

Mrs. Anni Nalbandian, Chairwoman of the IYC Committee, then invited Anni Kondoyan of Worcester to present the children's collections to Mr. Manchini. The check, amounting to \$1,500 was appropriated for aid to Cambodian children.

The group was honored to have the participation of Bishop Mesrob Ashjian and members of the Executive Committee of the Prelacy. In his address, His Grace stressed the significance of childhood. "A bright future is not possible for the world," he said, "as long as children are neglected." He challenged all adults to abide by the rights of the child, to prepare the future man. He ended his message by saying, "Let the smile of love and peace dawn and shelter all the children of the world. Let us all rejoice with the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of all humanity."

This was a victorious mission in a true sense. Armenian children, descendants of once "starving Armenians," were at the center of the world's nations, bringing their contribution to the needy of the world.

Our children should be doubly applauded, for they have been saving their pennies over the past few years to help their brothers and sisters in Lebanon. And now, they were ready to reach out to help the needy children of Cambodia.

Our thanks to all those who, recognizing the importance of this visit, joined us.



Children, Srparan, and parish priests gather on steps of U.N. Plaza.

CONCLUSION OF DONATIONS TO LEBANESE FUND

TO OUR DONORS

The Armenian Committee for Aid to Lebanon, through OUTREACH, has printed the names of donors to the fund drive. However, we would like to clarify the fact that individual donations which were made during Solidarity Day activities within the various communities were submitted to the Committee as one total check from each respective parish. Thus, despite repeated requests some parishes have failed to submit their list of individual names. We hope those whose names have not appeared in OUTREACH will be understanding and realize that our deep appreciation and thanks is all inclusive.

ՅԱՐԳԵԼԻ ՆՈՒԻՐԱՏՈՒՆԵՐՈՒ ՈՒՇԱԴՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ

Լիբանանի Օժանդակութեան Կեդրոնական Յանձնախումբը Առաջնորդարանի թերթով պարբերաբար հրատարակեց հանգանակութեան մասնակցած նուիրատուներու անուանացանկը: Լուսարանելու համար որոշ նուիրատուները, կ'ուզենք յայտնել որ «Միասնականութեան Օր»ուան կատարուած հաւաքական հանգանակութեան արդիւնքները երբեմն մեզի հասան տեղական եկեղեցւոյ մէկ Ջէթով, ուր տրուած էր մէկ գումար եւ ուր նուիրատուներուն անունները առանձնաբար չէին յիշուած: Հակառակ մեր հետապնդումներուն կարգ մը եկեղեցիներ մեզի չուղարկեցին իրենց նուիրատուներուն անուանացանկը: Հետեւաբար, ներողամիտ թող գտնուին այն նուիրատուները, որոնց անունները վերեւ տրուած պատճառով մեր հրատարակած անուանացանկէն դուրս մնացած են: Անգամ մը եւս շնորհակալութիւն բոլոր նուիրատուներուն անխոր:

OKLAHOMA

- \$700**
Arpenik Chamras (Agakhanian)
- \$200**
Barkev Bakamjian
- \$101**
Armenian Cultural House
- \$50**
Aram Sandjian
- \$25**
Armen Sarkissian
Chris Khodigian
Eileen K. Philips
- \$20**
Carol G. Wick
H. Hurst
R. Alojosi
- \$15**
G. O. Bayless
Herbert N. Arst
L. B. Jackson
V. Nichols Howard

- \$10**
B. Pasla
John Bingman
Mitch Adwan
Noble F. Smith
Mr. Joseph Eskandari
Mr. Vrej Sarkissian

OREGON

- \$25**
George Serkoian
- \$20**
Aram & Angele Mahshigian

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

- \$2000**
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Bagian
Mr. Alex Azarian
- \$1500**
Deirmenjian Brothers
- \$1117**
St. Gregory Church members
- \$1000**
Mr. & Mrs. Avedis Kazazian & Children
Dr. & Mrs. Hrayr A. Kabakian & Mr. & Mrs. Nikola Markarian
Mr. & Mrs. Diran Apelian & Mr. & Mrs. Jack Apelian
Mr. & Mrs. Karekin Serounian
Mr. & Mrs. Varoujan Gureghian
Mr. Vartan Ounanian
- \$500**
Mr. George Sookasian
Mr. & Mrs. Jirair Hovnanian
Martin Pontiac Buick
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Boyajian
Mr. Viken Sassouni
Mr. Vram Yeghparian
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Kurkian
- \$300**
Armenian Education Union of Arabkir
Mrs. Armenouhi Maloomian
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Zartkian
Mr. & Mrs. Garabed Kerdikian - Missakian
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kendikjian
Mr. Theodore H. Sookasian
Mr. & Mrs. Souren Topjian
Mr. & Mrs. Yevrad Selverian.
- \$250**
ARS - North Branch
ARS - West Branch
Mr. & Mrs. Gosdan Bozajian
Mr. & Mrs. John Tatarian
Mr. & Mrs. Yervant Terzian

PHILADELPHIA

- \$227**
Mrs. Zabel Jebejian & Azniv Jebejian
- \$200**
Dr. & Mrs. Albert Sarkessian
Mr. & Mrs. Antranik Bedrossian
Mr. & Mrs. Arshag Azadian
Educational Association of Malatia
Mr. Frank Haronian
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Nalbantian, M.D.
Mr. Nazareth Nazarian
Mr. & Mrs. V. F. Arpajian
Mr. & Mrs. Zaven Khatchdourian
- \$150**
Ms. Amalia Der Avedisian
Mr. Ardavazt Kharardian
Merdjanian Family
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Jizmajian
Mr. & Mrs. John Emlikian
Mr. Ohannes Gharibian
Mr. & Mrs. Nazareth Emlikian
Mr. & Mrs. Simon Sarkissian
- \$125**
EM-GEE Cleaners & Tailors
Mr. & Mrs. Mesrob Avedissian
- \$100**
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Miamidian
Mr. & Mrs. Alexan Kulhandjian
Mr. Andre Merdjanian
Mr. Anton Kazanjian
Mr. & Mrs. Antranig Tumaian
Dr. & Mrs. Ara Setrakian
Mr. & Mrs. Arakel Shamlian & Miss Maritza Shamlian
Armenian Youth Federation
Sebouh Chapter
Rev. & Mrs. Arsen Hagopian
Mr. David B. Shakarian
Mr. & Mrs. Dicran Keshgegian
Mr. & Mrs. Garabed Morookian
Mr. Gary Garabedian
Mr. & Mrs. George Kamajian
Mr. & Mrs. George Shamlian
George & Victoria Paslian
Mr. & Mrs. Ghazaros Shahinian
Mr. & Mrs. Harootun Keosayan & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Dombalagian
Mr. & Mrs. Hrant Baltaian
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Papazian
Mr. Jacques Merian
Mr. & Mrs. Jimshut Nazarian
Mr. & Mrs. John Hodian
Mr. John Varjabedian
Mr. & Mrs. Kevork Arpajian
Miss Kim Kulhandjian
Mr. & Mrs. Kohran Hovsepian
Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Ishkhanian & Hagop Ishkhanian
Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Ishkhanian
Miss Margaret Keshgegian
Mr. & Mrs. Megerditch Bedrossian
Mr. & Mrs. Mihran Elanjian
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Endrigian
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Frounjanian
Mr. & Mrs. Puzant Ajderian
Mr. Robert N. Armen
Mrs. Sirvart Kaloustian
- \$75**
Mrs. Aghavni Elanjian
Dr. Hagop Levon Der Krikorian
- \$50**
A. Papazian
Mr. & Mrs. Alexan Atrasian
Ms. Alice Anmahian
Mr. Apraham Soukiassian & Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Arakel Gureghian
Armenian Delight Inc.
Rev. & Mrs. Arshavir Sevdalian
Ms. Asdghig Kazanjian
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ghazarian
Mr. Charles P. George
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kurkian
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Darian
Mr. & Mrs. Garbis Ayanian
Miss Garineh Narzakian
Mr. Gary L. Nalbandian
Mr. & Mrs. George Garabedian
Mr. & Mrs. George Gullayian
Mr. Harootun Hamalian
Mr. Harroton Hamalian
Mr. & Mrs. Ferohetun Harootunian
Mr. Harry Herashetian
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Morjigian
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Sarajian
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Selverian & Mrs. Maran Selverian

PHILADELPHIA

- \$50**
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kazanjian
Dr. Jacques Khoury & Mother
Mr. John Berberian
Mr. & Mrs. John Dolbashian
Dr. & Mrs. John Gostagian
Mr. & Mrs. Kaloust Karakelian
Mr. & Mrs. Kaspar Kasparian
Mr. & Mrs. Kevork Shirozian
Mr. Kirkor Bazajian
Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Pilbosian
Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Dervishian
Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Igidbashian
Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Mardikian
Ms. Kristina Bogovich Cheteyan
Mr. & Mrs. Assadour Papazian
Ms. Margaret Sosigian
Ms. Mary Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Mihran Khodanian
Mr. & Mrs. Movses Manoukian
Mr. & Mrs. Noubar Iskenian
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Chaghachbanian
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Selverian
Mrs. Rose Vosbikian
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Najarian
Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Giragosian
Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Hamalian
Ms. Seta Sarkissian
Ms. Siroun Gureghian
Mr. & Mrs. Souren Marookian
Mr. & Mrs. Stepan Aznavorian
Mr. & Mrs. Stepan Panossian
Mr. & Mrs. Vahe Hagopian
Dr. & Mrs. Vahe Oshagan
Mr. Vahik Golnazarian
Mr. & Mrs. Vartan Sarkissian
Mr. & Mrs. Vrej Bedrossian
Mr. & Mrs. Yeghishe Melikian
Mrs. Zakar Kasparian
Mrs. Zevart Tarpinian
- \$40**
Mr. Arshag Kaprielian
Mr. & Mrs. Haroot Aghajanian
Ms. Lucy George
Mrs. Zolenig Terzian
- \$35**
Mr. & Mrs. John Bagian
- \$30**
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Abrahamian
Miss Rose Giragosian
- \$25**
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kazanjian
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Soltanian
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Santerian
Ms. Almast Seropian
Mr. & Mrs. A. Papazian
Mr. & Mrs. Anna Tamgoukian
Mrs. Anthony J. Adelizzi
Mr. & Mrs. Aram Kuredjian
Mr. & Mrs. Bagrad Avedissian
Mr. & Mrs. Bearg Jehanian
Mr. & Mrs. Budd Chavooshian
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bandazian
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Torosian
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Terhanian
Mr. David Shakarian
Mr. & Mrs. Dicran Makalian
Mr. & Mrs. E. Kaiserian
Mr. Edward H. Papazian
Mrs. Elizabeth Lazarian
Ms. Elsie Santerian
Mr. & Mrs. Garabed Mahtesian
Mr. & Mrs. George Karian
Mr. & Mrs. George Tashjian
Mr. Hagop Bedrossian
Mr. Hagop J. Zoololian
Mr. & Mrs. Hamazab Hatatian
Mr. & Mrs. Hratch Paneyan
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ayjian
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Pyne, III
Mr. & Mrs. John Maronian
Mr. & Mrs. John Terzian
Mr. Joseph M. Jacobs
Mr. Joseph Topalian Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Karnig Avedissian
Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Solakian
Mr. Leon Mahtesian
Ms. Lucin A. Terzian
Ms. Lucy Daniels
Ms. Maria Mezian
Mrs. Martha Ferris
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Sarajian
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Shelengian
Mr. Michael Sosigian
Mr. & Mrs. Nazaret Aredjian
Mr. & Mrs. Nishan Der Kaloustian
Mrs. Noemie Rustigian

PHILADELPHIA

- \$25**
Mr. & Mrs. Peter M. Terkhanian
Mr. & Mrs. Puzant Proodian
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Jehanian
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carolan
Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Kachbalian
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Der Mousheghian & Mother
Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Broderick
Mrs. Rosa Kahwadjian
Rosemary & Margaret Hovnanian
Mr. Sam Gochigian
Mr. & Mrs. Shimavon Jehanian
Mr. & Mrs. Sharmouh Karian
Mrs. Silvia Chakarian & Sons
Mrs. Siran Kuzigian
Mr. & Mrs. Stepan Nalbantian
Mr. & Mrs. Vahe Hachikian
Ms. Victoria Mukalian
Mr. & Mrs. Yervant Papazian
Mrs. Rose Zobian
- \$20**
Mrs. Aghavni Sherenian
Mr. & Mrs. Agop Karedjian
Mr. & Mrs. Antranik Komrokian
Mrs. Armenouhi Aydjian
Mr. Baron Hovsepian
Mr. & Mrs. David Kzirian
Diane & Garry Dolbashian
Mr. Haroutoun Babaian
Mr. Jack Haraburda
Mr. & Mrs. John Bahian
Mr. Karnig Kechedjian
Mr. Ken Basmajian
Mr. & Mrs. Kevork Proodian
Mr. Khachig Asdourian
Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Yilancioglu
Mrs. Mae Kalalian
Mrs. Maro Palouian
Mrs. Paran Jezmejian
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dermejian
Richard & Mary Yardumian
Rita Asdourian
Rosette A. Proodian
Roxanne Sakoian
Ms. Takouhi Yardemian
Mr. Zareh Karagouzian
- \$15**
Miss Carol Jerrahian
Mr. & Mrs. John Bedeian
Mrs. M. Davidian & Hagop Dedeyan
Mr. Melkon Sarajian
Mr. Minas Devejian
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Meshejian
Mrs. Rose G. Giragosian
- \$10**
Mrs. A. Arslanian
A Friend
Mr. Albert Bactaeff
Mr. & Mrs. Albert C. Chapjian
Mr. Albert Zartarian
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Santerian, Jr.
Miss Alice Saghatelian
Ms. Ani Abrahamian
Ms. Anna Garabedian
Mr. Aram J. Gabriel
Mr. Arlene Tatigian
Mr. Arthur H. Mouradian
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kesh
Dora Nersesian
Mr. Edward Emirzian
Mr. Garabed Tumaian
Mr. & Mrs. Gevork Kazandjian
Mr. & Mrs. H. Garabedian
Mr. Hagop Arzoumanian
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Manuelian
Mrs. Isabel Bagramian
Mrs. Shake Mukalian
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Nigon
Mrs. Kohan Meserlian
Mr. Levon Seropian
Ms. Margaret Arakelian
Mrs. Maritza Sinanian
Ms. Mary Garabedian
Ms. Maryann Schuman
Mr. Masy Komrokian
Mr. Maxy Kazandjian
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gureghian
Ms. Naomi D. Karakashian
Mrs. Nectar Derderian
Ms. Nora Humsey
Ms. Nora Nersesian
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Painter
R. Panosian
Mr. Raffi Maronian
Mr. Raffi Panosian
Mrs. Rose Karagosian
Ms. Ruth M. Bonelli
Mrs. Serpouhie Tchimeyan
Mrs. Shake Nashalian
Mr. & Mrs. Stepan Ezikian
Mr. Stepan Sakian
Ms. Suzanne Kazandjian
Mrs. Vehanoush Panosian & Friend
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Stronski
Mr. Walter N. Bagian
Mrs. Zarouhi Boghosian
Ms. Maria Mezian
- \$5**
Mrs. Alice Pavlian
Mrs. Alice Pavlian
Mr. Antranik Hacikian
Ms. Asdghig Keshgegian
Ms. Bettina Asdourian
George A. Mesigian
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Emlikian
Ms. Hera Markarian
Mr. Leon Zoolalian
Miss R. Harputian
Ms. Sarah Katakian
Ms. Takuhi Bedrossian
Mrs. Verghin Kazanjian
Mr. & Mrs. William Arthin

RHODE ISLAND PROVIDENCE

- \$1000**
A.R.S. Arax Chapter
Baghin Committee
George & Mrs. Sara Leylegian
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Rafaelian

PROVIDENCE

- \$717.50**
Aharonian Family
- \$500**
Mr. & Mrs. Benno Lebkuchner
Mr. Paul Sahagian
Providence A.R.F.
Mr. & Mrs. Vartkis Markarian
Mr. Wasken Melkonian
- \$300**
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Zorabedian
- \$250**
Mr. & Mrs. Artacky Berberian
- \$200**
Mrs. Aghavnie Rustigian
Mr. & Mrs. John Bargamian
Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church
Mrs. Vartouhie Markarian
- \$150**
Mr. & Mrs. Bedros Derderian
Mrs. Neavart Simmons & Mr. & Mrs. Paul Melikian Family
- \$100**
Armenian Arts Society
ARS Ani Chapter
Mr. & Mrs. Bolayan
Mr. Edward Aprahamian
Mr. George Mesrobian
Mr. & Mrs. Haig Barsamian
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Haroutunian
Mr. Hovag Hagopian
John & Anita Barsamian
Mr. & Mrs. John Arzoumanian
Mr. Markar Khimatian
Mrs. Naomi Kuzoian
Mrs. Neavart Aryanigian
Mr. & Mrs. Norayr Kazarian
Mr. Sarkis Soupan
Mr. & Mrs. Chouran Mouradjian
Ms. Vartouhi Der Mksian
- \$75**
Ara & Anahid Nalbandian
- \$65.55**
A. Y. F. Juniors
- \$50**
Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Arsen Kojian
Mr. & Mrs. Babig Babigian
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bagamian
Mr. & Mrs. Dickran Sahagian
Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Avakian
Mr. & Mrs. Haig Varadian
Mr. & Mrs. Harry M. Kushigian
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Parikian
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Nezamian
Mr. & Mrs. John Takian
Mr. & Mrs. Kachig Topalian
Mr. & Mrs. Karnick A. Ohanian
Mr. & Mrs. Kazar Aramian
Mr. Kenneth Balemian & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Garabedian & Family
Rev. Father Mesrob Tashjian
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Matigian
Mr. & Mrs. Nishan Mikaelian
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Koshmatian
Rustigian & Rosenfield
Mr. & Mrs. Sahag Dermanian
Mr. Sahag Mouradjian
Mr. Sahag Zaroogian
Mr. Sarkis Chokoian
Mr. Sarkis Yepremian
Mr. & Mrs. Setrag Tatioian
Mr. Stephen M. Demirjian
Mr. & Mrs. Vagarshag Melikian
Mr. & Mrs. Varadian
- \$40**
Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Hatzpanian
Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Alexanian
- \$35**
Armenian Youth Federation
- \$30**
Mr. & Mrs. Aram Toharmian
Ms. Margaret Stepanian
Dr. Sona Aronian
- \$25**
A. Dervartanian
Ms. Aghavni Tenkarian
Mrs. Aznive & son Larry Koloian
Ms. Anahid Nalbandian
Ms. Anne Papazian
Mr. Antaram Markarian & Markar Markarian
Mr. Antranig Avakian
Mr. & Mrs. Antranig Mesrobian
Ms. Araxie Zoragian
Ms. Armine Papazian
Mr. Arsene Chilian
Mr. & Mrs. Arshavir Harmaian
Mr. Charles Akalarian
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jamgochian
Mr. & Mrs. Charles K. Perethian
Denise & Armen Garabedian
Mr. & Mrs. Dertad Jermazian
Mr. & Mrs. Garabed Masadian
Mr. & Mrs. Garabed Garabedian
Mr. & Mrs. George Bargamian
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Garabedian
Mr. & Mrs. Harry V. Aharonian, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Markarian
Mr. & Mrs. John Basmajian
Mr. & Mrs. John Varadian
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph H. Leylegian
Mr. Kachadour Avedisian
Kayarians
Kasparians
Mr. Kenneth Baronian
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Bogosian
Mr. Kevork Azoian
Mr. & Mrs. Kevork Moukhtarian
Ms. Lucy Tavanian & Marion
Ms. Mary & Gladys Fermanian
Mrs. Marion Anderesian
Mr. & Mrs. Nigohos Markarian
Mr. & Mrs. Parseg Mooradian
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mikaelian



ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS

(Continued from page 1)

came as a light to the world. (See Matthew 4:16, 5:14; Luke 2:32; John 1:5, 8:12, 12:36; Acts 13:47; Romans 13:12, etc.)

Following the Christmas Eve church services, according to the Armenian tradition, the choir members go from house to house singing hymns dedicated to the Nativity and Epiphany of Jesus Christ. On Christmas day, January 6, following the regular services, a special service is performed dedicated to the Epiphany or the Baptism of Christ, which became a turning point in Christ's life. As we know from the Scriptures, at the end of His Baptism, a voice came from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17) [See also Mark 1:9; Luke 3:21]. This service, called Churorhnek or the Blessing of the Water, commemorates the Baptism and the manifestation (Epiphany) of Christ recognizing Him as the true Son from Heaven, who will now begin His ministry.

In ancient times this service was performed by a river, but later it was confined to the interior of the church. Today, a bowl of water is placed on the Bema of the church while the choir sings the hymn Looys ee Louyson. Then the priest reads the Gospel (Matthew 3:1-7) and adds water in the bowl in a cross-like manner. The choir sings the hymn Ov Zarmanalee and Aisor Tsainun Hairagan. The priest then immerses a hand cross in the water, which symbolizes Jesus Christ's Baptism, and blesses the water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. After the blessing he takes out the cross and gives it to a young man who stands as the Godfather of the Cross. Then the priest pours Holy Muron (consecrated oil) in the bowl invoking the Holy Spirit that may descend and proclaim the Sonship of Jesus Christ as it happened during His Baptism. At the end of the services the members of the congregation approach, kiss the cross held by the Godfather and depart in peace. Those who wish may drink from the blessed Water or take it home for the family members who were unable to attend. This service symbolizes the Baptism and the manifestation of the Epiphany of Christ. After the services are over, the faithful, filled with joy and gratitude toward God, thank Him that He sent His Only-Begotten Son for our salvation, greeting each other by saying, Kreesdos ee Mech Mer Haidnetsav. The reply will be Orhnal eh Haidnootioonun Kreesdosee. Translated to mean, "Christ was manifested amongst us" and "Be Blessed the Manifestation of Christ."

After the church services, it is customary for Armenian families to visit each others homes and share each others hospitality thus creating an atmosphere of common brotherhood and Christian love. Christmas is the time for Armenians to enjoy the good news of Christ's birth and Manifestation of the Son of God. It is an occasion to glorify God for the grace that He bestowed upon mankind sending His Only-Begotten Son for their salvation.

How Christmas is celebrated today is another story. But, the spirit of Christmas is still as relevant to us as it was to our forefathers. Therefore, let us celebrate the Birth and the Manifestation of Christ with true Christian Spirit; let us make Christmas a spiritual rebirth of our souls and minds.

շար. էջ 1-էն

մութեան մեծագոյն շէպերն հրաշքը: Նոր արբայ մը ծնաւ այսօր Բեթղեհեմի մէջ: Ով մարդիկ, օրհնութեան երգեր երգեցէք, որովհետեւ Ան մեզի համար մարմնացաւ:

Եկէք ուրեմն, սիրելիներ, ձայնակցինք մեր շարականագիր քերթողհօր եւ միասնաբար երթանք շէպի Բեթղեհեմ:

Եւ ի՞նչ կը տեսնենք այնտեղ:

Քաղաքը խճողուած է: Մարդահամար կայ ու Պաղեստինի բոլոր կողմերէն Դաւթի սերունդին զաւակները եկած են ու գրաւած Բեթղեհեմի բոլոր պանդոկները: Երջանիկ են ու հպարտ՝ իրենց ծագումով: Ծատ ալ զբաղած են, որպէսզի իմանան թէ պանդոկներէն զուրս ձգուած աղքատ զոյգ մըն ալ կար, եւ այդ գիշեր գոմի մը խոնարհութեան մէջ աշխարհ պիտի գար աշխարհի Արարիչը, Դաւթի Որդին, ժամանակի եւ կեանքի տէրը: Այդ գիշեր աստղերն աւելի ուշադիր են, հովիւները աւելի սրատես, մոզերը աւելի հաւատացեալ:

Մտենանք մտորին: Ծիփթահար Յովսէփի եւ մտածկոտ Տիրամօր աչքերուն դիմաց Աստուածորդին է, անպաշտպան, տկար, ազազուն մարմնով: Ոսք ու պատգամ չունի ան՝ իր կեանքը բերած է աշխարհին, փրկութեան ճանապարհը, կեանքի ճշմարտութիւնը: Մանուկ Յիսուս բացած է իր թեւերը մեզի, եւ կ'ուզէ որ զինք գրկենք մեր հոգիին մէջ: Կ'ուզէ որ մեր կեանքը իր տրամադրութեան ներքեւ դնենք, ապրելով եւ սիրելով զինք: Փորձած էք նորածին մանուկ մը գրկել: Որքան կը փոխուիք, կ'երջանկանաք, բարի կը դառնաք: Ազնիւ ու Աստուածասէր կ'ըլլաք:

«Եկայք, երթիցուք մինչեւ ցրեթղեհեմ, եւ տեսցուք զինչ է բանս այս որ եղեւ» (Ղուկ. Բ. 15):

Որոշեցին հովիւները եւ գտան Մանուկ Յիսուսը: Մենք եւս երթանք Բեթղեհեմ, տեսնենք Աստուծոյ գործը՝ խոնարհինք, հաւատանք եւ ապրինք: Մեզմով եւ մեր մէջ թող ապրի մանկացեալ փրկիչը, եւ մենք իրմով նայինք յաւիտեանական բարձունքներուն, երգելով. (Ղ. 2), մեր հոգիներուն փրկութեան, Աստուծոյ թագաւորութեան:

Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի եւ բարի Կաղանդ

Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ, Ձեզ եւ մեզ նոր աւետիս:

Սիրոյ ողջունիւ Աղօթարար

Մեսրոպ Եպիսկ. Աշճեան Առաջնորդ Ամերիկահայոց Արեւելեան Թեմին

PROVIDENCE

- \$25 R. Norigian Mr. & Mrs. Robert Portukalian Ms. Rose & Elizabeth Hagopian Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Diomisopoulos Mr. Suran Asadoorian Mr. & Mrs. Varad Varadian Mr. Varastad Azizian Mr. & Mrs. Vartkes Kaprielian Mr. & Mrs. William Rumburg Mr. Zaven Tenkarian

- \$20 Mr. Alexan Khrimian Ms. Alice Boyajian Mr. Edward Frankian Ms. Elmas Arzoomanian Mr. Garabed B. Koosherian Family H. Boyosian Mr. Kerop Jabagjorian Mrs. Margaret Kedonian Mrs. Margaret Yancheski Manuel Tavitian Family Mr. & Mrs. Mark Jabagjorian Mr. & Mrs. Michael Eghian Nazig & Aharon Tilerian Mr. & Mrs. Nishan Dolbashian Mr. & Mrs. Robert Conroy Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Chamalian Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Palandjian Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Tarpinian Mr. & Mrs. Setrak Atoyan Sts. Vartanantz Soccer Team Mr. & Mrs. William Ingelse Mrs. Zarouhie Cheteyan

- \$15 Mr. Antranik Khatchadourian Mrs. Baidzar Varadian Mrs. Ed. George Hajian Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Khatchadourian Mrs. Helen Fashjian & Family Ms. Manoushag Samuelian Mr. & Mrs. Nishan Elmasian Mr. Setrag Elmaian Mrs. Vartanoush Kaprielian

- \$10 Mr. Albert Malkasian Mr. Aris Dizjian Mr. Aroution Aktchian Mr. Arthur Yazjian Mr. Asadoor Avakian Mr. & Mrs. Avetis Oundjian Ms. Eliz Dedeian Ms. Elizabeth Bogossian Ms. Elizabeth Onanian Mr. & Mrs. Garabed Topalian Ms. Geneve Takian Mr. & Mrs. George Tomasian Mr. & Mrs. George Yaghoobian Hagop Baghtchedjian Family Mr. Haig M. Baligian Mr. & Mrs. Harootiun Loossigian Mr. & Mrs. John Dolbashian Mr. John V. Hagopian Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nezamian Mr. Kerop Jabagjorian Ms. Lousaper Kanchenian Mrs. M. Delisi Mrs. Margaret Zorabian Mr. & Mrs. Misak Alexanian Mr. Misak Asatrian Mr. Moreno Manual Mr. & Mrs. Nerses Goorigian Mr. Nubar Kandigian Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kanarian Mr. & Mrs. Peter Jamgochian Mr. Peter B. Tikoian Mr. Ronald V. Tomasian Miss Ruth Aharonian S. Arzoomanian Mr. Sarkis M. Najarian Ms. Shake Sahakian

- \$10 Ms. Sonia Lefian Ms. Sosik Arakelian Ms. Takouhi Minasian Tashjian Family Mr. & Mrs. Tate Chevian Mrs. Virginia Casparian Mr. & Mrs. Willis Rueb Mrs. Zabel Goorigian Mr. & Mrs. Zarkar Goshgarian

- \$5 Ms. Alma Tarpinian Mr. Andre Ajemian Ms. Arshalius Shirvanian Ms. Christine Onanian Mrs. Emily Takian Ms. Gayane Chakmakdjian Mrs. Gertrude Kaloustian Mr. Gregory Manugian Mr. & Mrs. Harry Avakian Mr. & Mrs. Harry V. Aharonian Mr. Jirair Kendrjian Mr. & Mrs. Kazar Aproian Ms. Louise K. Barkley Ms. Louisk Kozanian Ms. Margaret Melikian Mr. Mkrtich Dederian Pastry Sold R. D. Derderian Ms. Rose Mikaelian Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Bedrosian Mrs. Varvar Melikian

- \$3 H. Tokmakian \$2 Star Sarkissian

TENNESSEE

- \$500 Mrs. Shoushanig Aghavnian \$50 Memphis Armenian Community Org.

TEXAS

- \$100 V. Y. Rejebian \$30 Mr. Stephen G. Dardaganian \$5 T. Talverdian \$3 Mrs. D. P. O'Connell

WISCONSIN

- \$712.47 Mrs. Siranush Kalvonjian & daughter Ms. Araxie Kalvonjian \$150 Mr. Edward Shamshoian \$125 Mr. Chris Kalvonjian \$120 Ms. Nazaly Bagdassian \$100 ARF Racine Committee ARS "Sosse" Chapter Mr. Alexan Dartchinian Continental Bank & Trust Co. Mr. Hovhannes Vartanian Mr. & Mrs. Hovsep Bagdassian Ms. Julia Kaprelian Mr. Mergeros Boyadjian Mr. Peter Bagdassian Ms. Roselyn Mikaelian Mr. Seraph Kaprelian \$91.60 St. Hagop Church-Plate Collection \$75 Ms. Mary C. Buchaklian \$70 Mr. V. Krikorian

- \$60 Mr. John Buchaklian \$50 Mr. Carl Ammeian Mr. Daniel A. Mikaelian Mr. George Yogurtian Ms. Hripsime & Violet Kamalian Mr. James M. Martin Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Derderian Mr. Megerditch Zoroghlian Mr. Minas Hadjiminian Ms. Nancy Mahdassian Mr. Nishan Mahdasian & Mary Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mahdasian Rev. & Mrs. Sempad Der Mekisian Mr. Varujohn A. Mahdasian \$30 Mr. Albert Paragamian Mr. Frank S. Markarian Mr. & Mrs. Harutun Mikaelian \$25 Ms. Alice Mgrdichian Ms. Alicia Mikaelian Ms. Ann Cherkinian Ms. Arshalous Azarian Mrs. Barsam Kaloustian

WISCONSIN

- \$25 Mr. & Mrs. Eghia Kaiserlian Ms. Elizabeth Mikaelian Mr. & Mrs. George Zakian Mr. Harry A. Donoian Mr. Harry Nabedian Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kamalian Mr. & Mrs. Kevork Kaiserlian Dr. L. A. Saryan Mr. & Mrs. S. Apyan Mr. & Mrs. S. Soukiasian Mr. & Mrs. Sam Chambasian Ms. Sara Mikaelian Mr. & Mrs. Serop Mikaelian Ms. Sonia Buchaklian St. Hagop Church-Ladies Auxiliary \$20 Mr. Alex Bagdassian Mr. Artin Berberian Mr. & Mrs. Haroutun Mikaelian Mr. & Mrs. Haroutun Tanielian Mr. & Mrs. Hovhannes Samessian Ms. Julie Der Garabedian Mr. Kevork Doushounian Mr. & Mrs. Nazareth Balian Ms. Nouritza Nalbandian & Manam Zerourian Mr. Sahag Kaiserlian Ms. Tammy Toghourtjian Ms. Verkeen Torosian \$15 J. Kazarian Ms. Louise Keishian Meyer Jandegian Mr. Haig Kopoian \$10 A. Derderian Mr. & Mrs. Aram Malkasian Mr. & Mrs. Armen Magdasian Ms. Gulizar Asdigian Mr. & Mrs. Herman Buchaklian Mr. & Mrs. John Kigian Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Ohanessian Ms. Mary Arganian Oski Keshishian Mr. Robert W. Lansing Mr. Sam Paragamian \$5 Ms. Adele Artinian D. Bolles Ms. Haiganoush Ohanessian Mrs. M. Asadoorian \$3 Ms. Vartoug Munagian \$1 Jason Samuelian

Recently received donations:

Table with 2 columns: Donor Name and Amount. Includes Mr. & Mrs. Art Kholanian \$100, Mr. Harold K. Melkonian 5, K. Asadoorian Rugs, Inc. 1000, Mr. H. Russian 100, United Way Campaign 18.60, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bardizbanian 100, Mr. Nigoghos Avakian 50, Mr. Ashot P. Mnatzakanian 100, Ms. Aphelia A. Petrossian 100, Impressive Litho, Inc. 100, P.T.O. Armenian Holy Martyrs Day School, Bayside, N.Y. 50, A.R.S. of New Britain (Conn) 300, Charles Aznavour Benefit Concert 7500.



Դիւան Մեսրոպ Դ. Թաղիադեան ԱՆՏԻՊ ՕՐԱԳՐՈՒԹԻԻՆՆԵՐ ԵՐԿԵՐ ԵՒ ՔԵՐԹՈՒԱԾՆԵՐ ՎԱԻԵՐԱԳՐԵՐ ՆԱՄԱԿՆԵՐ

Խմբագիր Մեսրոպ Եպս. Աշճեան 654 էջ, 49 լուսանկար, 2 քարտէս Լաթակազմ \$17.50 Թղթակազմ \$15.00