



Հրատարակութիւն Ամերիկահայոց Արեւելեան Թեմի Ազգային Առաջնորդարանի
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“Home to Home” Campaign for Talish Gets Community Support

The Prelacy's "Home to Home" campaign to rebuild homes and villages in Artsakh is bringing in support from all over the United States and Canada. Early in the campaign a major donation of \$50,000 by Karl and Emma Sogioian of Michigan was announced by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian. As reported previously the Sogioian donation will be utilized for rebuilding and refurbishing the grade school in the village of Talish which serves 400 students.

"We are receiving large and small donations by individuals who have been challenged by the concept of rebuilding a whole village," said Archbishop Ashjian. "Specifically, the village of Talish in Artsakh is going to be rebuilt including its 630 homes, a kindergarten for 120 students, a grade school for 400 students, a 35-bed hospital, the village church, and a historic monastery.

Both the reconstruction of the village of Talish and the Prelacy's on-going projects in Armenia have been receiving wide community support. For example, the family of the late Khazar Aramian has donated \$10,000 for the Prelacy's sponsorship of orphans and retirees. Currently the Prelacy is supporting nearly 900 orphans and 2,600 retirees.

Dr. and Mrs. Raffy Hovanessian from Indiana have donated \$12,000 to the "Home to Home" for the reconstruction of the Horekavank near Talish.

Three couples from Providence, Rhode Island, Vartkes and Shoushan Markarian, Ralph and Lucy Rapahelian, and Gregory and Anahid Raphaelian-Demetrakas, joined forces with a donation of \$8,000 for the reconstruction of the village church.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold and Josephine Gulamerian of New York, who have been regular supporters of projects in Armenia and Artsakh have donated an additional \$8,000. Dr. and Mrs. Aram Semerjian from Indiana have donated \$6,000 to be utilized for the on-going projects in Armenia and Artsakh.

Ms. Araxie Bakalian of New York has donated \$5,000 toward the Armenia projects. Mrs. Suzanne Hagopian of New York has donated \$6,300 for the reconstruction of 20 homes in Talish, and Mr. George Mesrobian of Providence, Rhode Island, has donated \$3,100 to be distributed toward several different projects in Talish.

In support of the "Home to Home" campaign donations of \$3000 each have been received from Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carolan from California and Mrs. Yearanig Aysseh from Connecticut.

The parish churches have also been involved in all of the projects. A \$3,000 donation from the pastor and board of trustees of St. Sarkis Church in Dearborn, Michigan and a \$2,000 donation for the board of trustees of Sts. Vartanantz Church in Providence, Rhode Island, were recently received. In addition to the parishes, the Sunday Schools and Armenian Schools (both day and Saturday) are taking on projects of their own to help raise funds.

"Individuals can truly be an impetus," said Archbishop Ashjian, "for example, in

(Continued on page 4)

ՄԻԱՍՆԱԿԱՆ ԿՈՉ ԱՊՐԻԼԵԱՆ ԵՂԵՌՆԻ 80-ԱՄԵԱԿԻՆ ԱՌԻԹՈՎ

Ահա կը բացուի 1995 թիով նշուելիք տարին: Աշխարհի ժողովուրդները տարբեր-տարբեր հայեացքներով, ձգտումներով եւ հեռանկարներով կը նային այսպէս կոչուած՝ «Նոր Տարի»ին, ժամանակի «նոր» միաւորի մը, զայն արժեցնելու համար իրենց պատմութեան մէջ:

Մենք՝ հայ ժողովուրդի գաւակներս՝ մեր մօտաւոր անցեալէն ունինք այնպիսի դրուագ մը պատմական կեանքի, որ լուսարձակի պէս կը բացուի մեր բոլորի գիտակցութեան մէջ: Արդարեւ, Ապրիլեան Եղեռնին, մեր ազգին դէմ թուրքիոյ կողմէ գործուած ցեղասպանութեան զոհ գացած աւելի քան մէկուկէ միլիոն նահատակներու քրիստոնէական եւ հայկական վկայութեան 80-ամեակն է այս տարին: Կոչուած ենք համագայնօրէն դիմաւորելու եւ բարձրագոյն աստիճանի կարեւորութեամբ արժեւորելու զայն մեր այսօրուան կեանքին մէջ, մեր վաղուան կեանքին սիրոյն:

Ահա այդ զգացումով, գիտակցութեամբ եւ նախանձախնդրութեամբ առաջնորդուած՝ Մենք՝ Հոգեւոր Պետերս Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ Կաթողիկոսութեան, Հայ Կաթողիկէ Եկեղեցւոյ եւ Մերձաւոր Արեւելքի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու Միութեան՝ որոշեցինք միասնաբար եւ եղբայրաբար ուղղել ձեզի՝ հայ ժողովուրդի մեր բոլոր գաւակներուն անխտիր, Մեր միակամ խօսքը--

Ութսուն տարիները անցան սեւ օրուան վրայէն, որ հայոց տարեգրութեանց մէջ արձանագրուեցաւ «24 Ապրիլ 1915» թուանշաններով եւ տառերով: Անցնող տարիներուն, որպէս մէկ ազգ, անընդմէջ հաւատարմութեամբ, անոնց յիշատակը պայծառ պահեցինք: Անոնց նուիրական կտակին՝ հայ ժողովուրդի արդար իրաւունքներուն ճանաչման եւ հատուցման համար անխոնջ աշխատանք կատարեցինք: Ահա հասած ենք 80-ամեակին: Բնականաբար, կարելի չէ յատկապէս նախատեսել թէ երբ իրականութեան կը վերածուի մեր երազը: Բայց այնքան ատեն որ արդարութիւն չէ եղած մեր ազգին հանդէպ՝ Մենք, յանուն Աստուծոյ, որ աղբիւրն է արդարութեան, եւ յանուն մարդկային արժանապատուութեան եւ ազգային իրաւունքներուն, պիտի շարունակենք Մեր նուիրական պարտաւորութիւնը, որովհետեւ անժամանցելի է նահատակներու կտակը: Նահատակները իրենք զոհ գացին. բայց իրենց իրաւունքը կտակ թողուցին մեզի:

Բնականօրէն կը հրճուինք մեր հայրենիքի վերանկախացումով եւ գերիշխան հայկական պետութեան վերստեղծումով: Զօրավիզ կը կանգնինք ի խնդիր անոր ամրացումին եւ զարգացումին: Փառք եւ գոհութիւն ընծայելով Աստուծոյ, ժողովուրդի արդար իրաւունքին ամբողջական վերականգնումը: Հայ ժողովուրդի իրաւունքներու դատը կը սնայ մեր բոլորի նուիրական պարտաւորութիւնը:

Այդ նախանձախնդրութիւններէն մղուած՝ 80-ամեակին առիթով՝ Ա. կոչ կ'ուղղենք քրիստոնէական մեր հաւատակից եկեղեցիներուն, աշխարհի պետութիւններուն, Միացեալ Ազգերու Կազմակերպութեան, միջպետական, միջազգային բոլոր հաստատութիւններուն, մարդկային իրաւունքներու ճանաչման ծառայող բոլոր կազմակերպութիւններուն, միջ-եկեղեցական միութիւններուն եւ կառոյցներուն, որ զօրավիզ կանգնին հայ ժողովուրդին եւ կատարեն իրենց պարտքը, որպէսզի ցեղասպանութիւնը միջազգայնօրէն ճանաչուի եւ արդարութիւնը իր տեղը գտնէ մեր ժողովուրդի իրաւունքներու ճանաչումով եւ յարգումով:

Բ. կոչ կ'ուղղենք մեր բոլոր թեմերու եկեղեցիներուն, անոնց առաջնորդներուն, հովիտներուն, թեմական վարչական կազմակերպութիւններուն, որպէսզի ոչ մէկ ջանք խնայեն եղբայրական սերտ միասնութեամբ եւ մեր համայնքներուն մէջ գործող ազգային-քաղաքական կազմակերպութեանց եւ միութեանց ու հաստատութեանց հետ գործակցութեամբ նշելու հայկական Մեծ Եղեռնի 80-ամեակը եկեղեցական եւ աշխարհական ազգու հաւաքական ձեռնարկներով: Մեր բոլոր ընելիքները պէտք է զգայանակուին համահայր-կական ոգիի եւ տարողութեան գաղափարով ու չափանիշերով, որպէսզի անոնց մէջէն զգացուի միութիւնը հայ ժողովուրդին, հայրենի պետութեամբ եւ արտերկրի հայութեամբ, անքակտելիօրէն շաղախուած իրարու, եւ միութեան մէջէն ձեռք բերուի հարկ եղած գործիւնը մեր իրաւունքներու արդար պահանջին: Սուրբ Պօղոս Առաքեալի պատուէրը այսօր կ'ուղղենք յատկապէս ձեզի. «զնոյն խորհիջիք, զնոյն սէր յանձին ունիջիք, համաշունչք եւ համախորհուրդք» (Փիլիպ. Բ. 2):

Թող Աստուած խաղաղութեան եւ արդարութեան առաջնորդէ ձեզ բոլորը ձեր հաւատարիմ ծառայութեան մէջ իր փառքին, մարդկութեան եւ մեր ազգի արդարութեան եւ բարօրութեան համար:

ՅՈՎՀ.-ՊԵՏՐՈՍ ԺԸ. ԳԱՍՊԱՐԵԱՆ
Կաթ. Պատրիարք Կաթողիկէ Հայոց

ԳԱՐԵԳԻՆ Բ.
Կաթողիկոս Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ

ՎԵՐ. ՅՈՎՀ. ԳԱՐՄԵԱՆ
Նախագահ Մերձ. Արեւելքի
Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու Միութեան

New Pastoral Assignments

The following pastoral changes were recently announced by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian and the Religious and Executive Councils:

1. After many years of dedicated service, the pastor of St. Stephen's Church of Greater Boston, Rev. Archpriest Torkom Hagopian, retired from his pastoral duties, after celebrating his official Divine Liturgy of retirement on January 5, 1995.

2. As of September 18, 1994, Rev. Antranig Baljian, the former pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Indian Orchard, has assumed his new pastoral responsibilities at St. Stephen's Church in Greater Boston.

3. Rev. Daron Stepanian, who was ordained on October 2, 1994, was assigned to the pastorate of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Indian Orchard. He assumed pastoral duties, following his first Divine Liturgy, celebrated in November, 1994.

4. Very Rev. Khajag Hagopian, who was the dedicated pastor of St. Asdvadzadzin Church of Toronto since 1983, resigned from his office and relocated to California to serve under the Western Prelacy.

5. Very Rev. Shahé Panossian, pastor of All Saints Church of Chicago, was assigned to the St. Asdvadzadzin Church of Toronto. He assumed his new pastoral duties on Sunday, December 11, 1994.

6. Rev. Zareh Sahagian, pastor of St. Asdvadzadzin Church of Whitinsville, was assigned to the All Saints Church of Chicago, Illinois. He assumed his new pastoral duties on Sunday, December 11, 1994.

7. Rev. Grigoris Keshishian, pastor of Sourp Hagop Church of Racine, was assigned to St. Stephen's Church in New Britain, Connecticut. He assumed his new pastoral duties on December 4, 1994. The pastoral needs of Sourp Hagop Church of Racine will temporarily be met by visiting clergy.

8. Rev. Hrant Yeretzian, pastor of Sourp Hagop Church of Cambridge, Ontario, was assigned to the newly formed community of St. Kevork Church of Laval, Quebec. However, he will serve both the Cambridge and Laval communities until the newly appointed pastor of Sourp Hagop Church of Cambridge, Rev. Varant Bedrossian, arrives.

We thank our retiring clergy and welcome the newly ordained and assigned pastors. We wish them all the best in their dedicated service to God and His people. We ask our faithful to pray for the success and fruitful service of our new pastors.

Secretariat
Eastern Prelacy

Inside...

Catching Up with
Parish and
Prelacy News



CROSSROADS

A Review of Prelacy and Parish Activities



Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian Visits Mid-West Parishes

Church communities in the Mid-West were visited by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, from November 19 to 27, during which time the Prelate met with the faithful, performed church services, attended commemorative banquets, and met with local dignitaries.

All Saints Armenian Church

On Saturday, November 19, His Eminence attended the 51st Anniversary banquet of All Saints Armenian Church in Glenview, Illinois. The anniversary was marked with a special banquet at Shahnazarian Hall, with the chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Vartan Hagopian, serving as the Master of Ceremonies.

Mr. Zohrab Tazian, a well-known member of the community, conducted the Fund Raising which netted \$35,000 for the church.

On Sunday, November 20, the Archbishop celebrated the Divine Liturgy during which time he ordained two Archdeacons, Thomas Ohanian and Armen Papazian, and Stolebearer, Nishan Mekdjian.

Special medals were presented to Dr. and Mrs. Edward Megerdichian, the honorary chairpersons of the banquet, and to Very Rev. Shahé Panossian, pastor of All Saints Church for many years, and newly assigned to serve the Toronto community. His Eminence expressed his deep thanks to the entire community for their untiring efforts on behalf of the church.

A hospitality table followed the church services during which time the Archbishop had the opportunity to greet and talk with the parishioners.

Fort Wayne, Indiana

On Monday, November 21, Archbishop Ashjian visited the community of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the Patriarch of that community, Mr. Zohrab Tazian, who with his wife Naomi have been able to create a warm Armenian atmosphere.

On Tuesday, November 22, the Archbishop, with Mr. Tazian, visited with the mayor of Fort Wayne, Mr. Paul Helmke, at which time they had an informative discussion about the town and its future development. That same evening the Tazians hosted a dinner for about sixty people in their residence with the attendance of local clergy, Mayor and Mrs. Paul and Debbie Helmke, Congressman elect Mark Sauder and his wife Diana, as well as bankers, businessmen, and leaders of the Fort Wayne community.

Thanksgiving Dinner

On Thanksgiving day, His Eminence, along with about 90 others, had a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Pearl Markarian, at the InterContinental Hotel in Chicago. A long, single banquet table, reminiscent of the Cilician Kingdom's banquet table, accommodated the guests. The Markarians hosted this party in honor of the wedding party for their daughter, Susan, whose marriage to Krikor Chamichian of Beirut, took place the following evening, with the blessings of the Archbishop, and in the attendance of many

friends from the United States and the Middle East.

St. Gregory Church, Granite City

On Saturday, November 26, His Eminence went to the St. Gregory Church community in Granite City, Illinois, to help celebrate the church's 40th anniversary.

Nestled between Chicago and St. Louis this small city in southern Illinois, with a population of only 36,000, has an active Armenian community.

The weekend of November 26-27, under the auspices of Archbishop Ashjian, was truly a memorable occasion in the life of St. Gregory as the entire parish and community celebrated the 40th anniversary of the founding and consecration of the church.

More than 250 parishioners and friends attended the banquet and dance which took place Saturday evening. Religious dignitaries attending included Rev. Fr. Kyrill Antonoff of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, who was recognized for his valuable service to the Armenian community; Father Bohdan Piorowski of St. Mary's Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church; and Father and Mrs. Andrew Moulton of Sts. Cyril and Methody Eastern Orthodox Church in Granite City. Political dignitaries included Mayor and Mrs. Ron Selph of Granite City; Mayor and Mrs. John Bellcoff of Madison; Alderman & Mrs. Edward Asadorian of Granite City; and Alderwoman Janet Heroian & Michael Heroian of Edwardsville.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Arthur Asadorian who guided the program expertly. Rev. Fr. Vartan Kassabian, Pastor of St. Gregory, spoke to the gathering and Certificates of Merit were presented by Archbishop Ashjian to the following: Isabelle Vartan, Vartkes Asadorian, Antranig Hagopian, Vasken Haroian, Mary Haroian, and Nazareth Donjoian. His Eminence thanked the honorees for their continued service to the church and asked all to follow their example. He stressed the importance of the mission of the church and the need for our young people to become involved in the spiritual life of the church. He also spoke of the necessity of assisting our brothers and sisters in Armenia and Artsakh.

Sunday morning, His Eminence celebrated the Divine Liturgy giving thanks for the 40 fruitful years of this community and spoke about the ecumenical character of the church. A reception in honor of Archbishop Ashjian followed at the Community Center at which time during a short program the choir and deacons of St. Gregory were honored for their dedication to the church. Each honoree was presented with icons of St. Gregory.

The Mid-West trip concluded and His Eminence returned to New York rejuvenated with the enthusiasm and dedication he witnessed. "Some of these smaller communities must work much harder than our larger communities to maintain their church and community, yet they do so with great dedication and deep faith. I am thankful to them for greeting me with so much love."

Mr. & Mrs. Chirinian Host Christmas Reception to Benefit Prelacy



Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian with Mr. & Mrs. René and Linda Chirinian.

Sorbonne Exhibit Video Available at Bookstore

An English version of a video entitled, "The Last Kings of Armenia," of the exhibition on the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia which took place at the Sorbonne in Paris in 1993 is now available at the Armenian Prelacy Bookstore.

Claude-Armen Moutafian, who was the organizer of the extensive exhibition and the symposium in Poitiers, expertly guides the viewer through this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition giving detailed explanations as he goes through the various exhibits.

At the end of the eleventh century, Armenia was occupied by the Turks, but further south, on the shores of the Mediterranean, opposite the island of Cyprus, a new Armenian state was soon to be reborn. By skillfully conducting their diplomatic relations among Greek, Frankish, Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian neighbors, and taking advantage of the Crusades of the twelfth century and of the Mongol invasions of the thirteenth century, the Cilician Armenian monarchs over a period of two centuries provided a remarkable impetus to commerce and the arts while consolidating their independence.

Marco Polo, familiar with the commerce of the Italian city-states, left an admiring testimony about the activity of the Cilician seaports. The impressive Armenian fortresses of the Taurus Mountains exemplify the best quality of military architecture, and the illuminations of Toros Roslin and Sarkis Bidzag are second to none including contemporary Frankish or Persian miniatures.

The exhibition provides details about the birth of the Cilician Kingdom, the Vahka and Lampron fortresses, Toros I, who was both a vassal of Byzantium and founder of the Armenian Kingdom, the Crusaders, Nerses Shnorhali, Nerses of Lampron, the sacking of Jerusalem by Saladin, the coming of the Lusignan Dynasty, and the reign of Levon II.

Mr. Moutafian shows, with obvious pleasure, the seal of King Levon, signed in Armenian in red ink. Covered also: the era of the Hetoums, Catholicos Krikor V Pahlavouni, the Catholicate of Hromkla. The video concludes with the legacy of the Cilician Kingdom including Sissian Mashdotz, Gospel Books of Konstantin Parsertbertzi from Antelias, the reliquary of Skevra from the Hermitage, and the works of Toros Roslin and Sarkis Bidzag.

The video serves also as a tribute to Claude Moutafian who undertook the organization of the exhibition at the Sorbonne and managed to bring to the exhibit the major surviving works of art that pertain to that era. The opening of the exhibit was a major event in the Parisian art world and

A Christmas reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. René and Linda Chirinian on Sunday, December 11, to benefit the Prelacy's Building Fund was attended by many friends and supporters.

The Prelacy building in Manhattan underwent extensive renovation in 1987. Since then, there has been in place a plan to enlarge the Vahagn and Hasmig Hovnanian reception hall by enclosing the adjacent garden. These plans, however, were put on hold following the earth-shattering and historic events in Armenia since 1988.

Now those plans have been revived because with the increase in activity, the current reception hall is not sufficient to accommodate the various events which take place at the Prelacy.

In order to complete the expansion plans, the Prelacy Ladies Guild has decided to concentrate its efforts for the coming months to raise the sum of \$105,000 needed to complete the plans. The first fundraising event, which raised \$25,000, was hosted by the Chirinian's in their beautiful home in Connecticut. The Chirinian home was festively decorated for Christmas and guests enjoyed a lavish buffet table laden with delicious dishes prepared by the hostess who is a well-known author of cookbooks.

"We are very grateful to Linda and René for their very kind and generous hospitality," said Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian. In his remarks he blessed and thanked the Prelacy Ladies Guild who "are the heart and soul of the Prelacy and who for the past 20 years have responded to every need and who do so with love and dedication. Their sponsorship of concerts, art exhibits, conferences, receptions, has become well-known and appreciated in the community, and now in true Prelacy Ladies Guild fashion, they are lightening the load on the shoulders of the Executive Council by undertaking the fundraising for this project."

was attended by the President of France, François Mitterand; the President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrosyan; and the Catholicos of Cilicia, Karekin II.

During the duration of the exhibit many thousands of people attended. Now, through this video, many more can enjoy and learn about the Kingdom of Cilicia which left an imprint on western civilization.

The video was produced by Mr. Moutafian and Pierre Samson with English translation by Ian Noble. The narration is by Ian Noble and Joann Withington.

The 50-minute, VHS videocassette is available through the Armenian Prelacy Bookstore, 138 E. 39th St., New York, NY 10016, for \$25. plus \$3. for shipping and handling. For information: 212-689-7810.

OUTREACH

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CROSSROADS

A Review of Prelacy and Parish Activities



Gregory Avedikian Receives Knight of Cilicia Insignia



Congratulating Gregory Avedikian, the newest Knight of Cilicia, are individuals from the Greater Boston area who have been previously honored with the Knight or Prince of Cilicia and/or the Mesrob Mashdats Literary Award. From left to right: Astor Guzelian, Dr. John Manuelian, Dr. James H. Tashjian, Peter Felegian, Jack Der Avedissian, Dr. Varant Hagopian, and Judge Sarkis Teshoian.

On the evening of December 3, 1994, a unique celebration took place at St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston. Almost 200 individuals, including several area Princes and Knights of Cilicia, and recipients of the Cilician Catholicate's Mesrob Mashdats Literary Medal, gathered to witness the induction of Gregory Avedikian of Needham, Massachusetts, into this august company. Mr. Avedikian, a well-known educator and long-time servant of the Armenian Church on local and national levels, was awarded the Knight of Cilicia medal by His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

Organized under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian and the Executive Council of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Eastern United States and Canada, the evening was hosted by the Pastors, Boards of Trustees, and Ladies' Guild of St. Stephen's Church. After cocktails, the formal induction took place beginning with Archbishop Ashjian's invocation. Mr. Aram Minassian, chairman of the Board of Trustees, served as Master of Ceremonies. He welcomed the assembled Princes and Knights of Cilicia and recipients of the Mesrob Mashdats medal and their spouses as well as all the assembled guests representing all the various organizations of St. Stephen's and family and friends of the honoree.

Rev. Fr. Antranig Baljian, Pastor of St. Stephen's, spoke about his personal acquaintance with the honoree and especially of Mr. Avedikian's involvement with the Prelacy's Armenian Religious Education Council of which Fr. Baljian is chairman and Mr. Avedikian a founding member. Archpriest Torkom Hagopian, St. Stephen's Pastor Emeritus, spoke of his 30-odd year relationship with Gregory "Krikor" Avedikian. Fr. Hagopian drew parallel between the dedication and commitment of Mr. Avedikian as well as the older Cilician medal holders, and that of the first enlighteners of Armenia, Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew whose feast day fell this year on December 3.

A musical interlude featured the lovely voice of Anahid Changelian who, accompanied on the piano by Araxie Khajian, sang two personal favorites, *Ges Kisher Er*, *Barz Kisher Er*, and *Ov Tou Keghetsig*.

Mr. Astor Guzelian, a fellow Knight and Mr. Avedikian's best friend, was invited to introduce the honoree and speak about his life of service and dedication to both St. Stephen's parish and the Prelacy. Mr. Guzelian noted that Mr. Avedikian's long years of service to the church included 10 years as a Sunday School teacher, four years

as a member of the Board of Trustees (one of those years as chairman), eight years as a delegate from the parish to the National Representative Assembly, a charter member of the St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School Board of Directors, and along with his wife Isabel, a past member of the Couples Club. Isabel was also a past chairwoman of the Ladies' Guild. In addition, Mr. Avedikian has served for several years on both the Armenian National Education Committee (ANEC) and the Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC) of which he was a founding member.

Archbishop Ashjian praised the spirit of dedication that Mr. Avedikian has shown over the years and especially extolled his willingness to use his eloquence and literary talents on behalf of the Prelacy. His Eminence then asked Fathers Hagopian and Baljian to read in Armenian and English respectively, the Encyclical of His Holiness Karekin II awarding Mr. Avedikian the Knight of Cilicia medal. His Eminence then presented the medal to Mr. Avedikian and a jeweled brooch to Mrs. Avedikian. He ended by congratulating the couple's three children, Greg, Mark, and Tanya.

The program concluded with the honoree's expression of thanks and appreciation to all those who had worked to make this day a special one. A reception, hosted by the members of the Ladies' Guild, followed His Eminence's benediction.

The following greater Boston area Cilician Princes, Knights, and Mesrob Mashdats medal recipients and/or their spouses attended: Mr. & Mrs. Jack and Thelma Der Avedissian, Mr. & Mrs. Peter and Marion Felegian, Mrs. Yevkine Gharibian, Mr. & Mrs. Astor and Lucy Guzelian, Dr. & Mrs. Varant and Ruth Hagopian, Mrs. Alice Karapetian (Karapents), Dr. & Mrs. John and Lucille Manuelian, Mr. & Mrs. James and Virginia Tashjian. Also among the invited guests were the Honorable Sarkis Teshoian and wife Ardemis of Worcester, Massachusetts. Judge Teshoian, himself a Knight of Cilicia, is a past chairman of the Prelacy Executive Council and a former member of the Central Executive Committee of the Holy See of Cilicia.

In addition to those attending the induction ceremony, other greater Boston area Cilician medal honorees are: Mr. Kevork Donabedian, Mr. Aram Kaloosdian, Mr. John Mirak, Mr. Albert Papoyans, Mr. Minas Tololyan, and Mr. Puzant Yeghiayan.

Deceased recipients who were also remembered in the program include Mr. Jirair Gharibian, Maestro Rouben Gregorian, Mr. Mihran Guzelian, Mr. Hakob Karapents, and Mr. Vahan Terchoonian.

St. Gregory of Datev Reunion Seminar at St. Sarkis Church



Talks, lectures, fellowship, prayer, and worship were the focus of a two-day reunion of the St. Gregory of Datev Institute.

Sixty-five high school and college age students from Montreal, Toronto, Laval, Louisiana, Indian Orchard, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Troy and New York came to St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church in Douglaston, New York, for the first St. Gregory of Datev Reunion Seminar, November 26-27. Two days of talks, fellowship, prayer, and worship centered around the theme of "Thanksgiving." The seminar leaders were Very Rev. Anoushavan Tanielian, pastor of St. Sarkis Armenian Church (NY) and Director of St. Gregory of Datev Institute; and Deacon Shant Kazanjian, Director of Christian Education of the Prelacy.

Deacon Kazanjian conducted the first session, "Being Thankful: Understanding the Value of Thankfulness." The participants, in small groups, explored what the Bible says about being thankful and discussed their findings and insights with other groups. Then through various activities, they were given the opportunity to express their feelings of gratitude to God in words and symbol, and shared them with the entire group.

The second session, "Celebration of Thanksgiving," was led by Very Rev. Anoushavan Tanielian. By focusing the attention of the participants on hymns and prayers, Hayr Sourp eloquently explained how the Badarak is a sacrifice of thanksgiv-

ing; and how it is at the same time a celebration of thanksgiving for what God the Father has done and is doing for us in and through Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit. Hayr Sourp talked about always having Christ as our model, because by not comparing ourselves to anyone but Him, we will be aware of His abundant blessings.

Ample time was set aside for fellowship to foster friendships. In the late afternoon, the participants reminisced about the past St. Gregory of Datev Institute's Summer Program by viewing highlights of the week through Kevork Guldalian's video presentation. In the evening a Thanksgiving party was planned with two live bands: Fiddler's Elbow and "Datev." Members from the community joined the party and everyone enjoyed a lively evening of dancing.

One of the highlights of the weekend was to see the youth liturgically express their thanks and gratitude to God in prayer and worship. This was done through the Saturday Vespers Service and Sunday Badarak. After a brief luncheon at St. Sarkis Armenian Church on Sunday afternoon, everyone had to start their journeys home. They left with warmth in their hearts and the anticipation of June 1995 when they'd all meet again for the week-long St. Gregory of Datev Institute Summer Program.

Joint Prelacy-Diocese Seminar

The all-day Educators' Seminar, sponsored by the Armenian National Education Committee (ANEC) of the Prelacy and the Armenian Language Lab and Resource Center (ALLARC) of the Diocese took place at the Prelacy on November 12. In attendance were representatives of Armenian one-day and day schools from the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area, as well as from a few nearby regions.

Teachers and administrators were introduced by Hourig Papazian-Sahagian, Director of ANEC, and Sylva Der Stepanian, Director of ALLARC. Representatives of the Unity Committee's Collaborative Programs Committee were also present.

The theme of the day was "Armenian Education: A Life-Enhancing Experience." Lecturers included: Mr. Haroutune Misserlian who lectured on the teaching of Armenian history; Mrs. Miriam Attarian spoke about Armenian domestic and fine arts; Dr. Thomas Samuelian lectured on Armenian language proficiency levels; Maestro Khoren Meikhanedjian lectured on

the history of Armenian music. The presentations were followed by lively question and answer periods. These discussions often turned into exchanges of strong opinions and of brainstorming sessions.

The participants expressed their concerns regarding the future of Armenian education in the Diaspora and urged that parents assume greater responsibility for the children's education and for their schools.

During the day a special time was allocated to the representatives of day schools to share ideas and concerns. Single-day schools' representatives utilized that time to become better acquainted with one another in the spirit of unity. The first such joint seminar was held in 1992.

The host for the Educators' Seminar was Armenian National Education Committee (ANEC). Breakfast and lunch of traditional Armenian cuisine were served and at the end of the program a farewell reception was held to celebrate the success of the day's conference.

Two Deacons Ordained at St. Gregory Church



A prayer to the Holy Spirit to lead the candidates into His service... "O Divine and heavenly grace..."

The ordination of two faithful servants to the Holy Order of the Diaconate capped an anniversary celebration of St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church of Merrimack Valley.

His Eminence Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian bestowed the sacred rites on December 4 upon Avedis Garavanian and Arek Kalaydjian before a large gathering of family, friends, and parishioners.

The ritual marked a fitting tribute to two individuals who have shown loyalty and commitment to the church.

"This is a special occasion for all of us," said the Prelate. "It is not only the anniversary of your church but the Apostolic faith in general. The ordination of two members represents an added bonus. We must all share in this wonderful tribute."

His Eminence provided step-by-step account of the ordination, giving added insight to the congregation, many of whom

were Sunday School students.

Deacons Garavanian and Kalaydjian have been long time devotees to the altar, assisting the pastor, Rev. Gomidas Baghdarian.

"They have shown their faith, love, and commitment to our church," His Eminence said. "Hopefully, this ordination will serve as a source of inspiration for others to join and serve God."

The service was further augmented by the consecration of an oil painting donated by Francisca Boudakian. The artwork by Grigor Kevorkian portrays the Crucifixion of Christ by Velazquez and will be prominently displayed during the Lenten season and other occasions.

An anniversary dinner followed in Jaffarian Hall where the newly-ordained deacons were formally congratulated.

—Tom Vartabedian

"Home to Home"

(Continued from page 1)

Providence, the pastor, Rev. Dr. Mesrob Tashjian has waged a personal campaign to find sponsors for orphans. He has made a photo album of the children with their names and circumstances and has gone from family to family in Providence asking them to select the child they would like to sponsor. Der Hayr has been very successful in his mission and his help to our orphans program is beyond measure," said the Prelate.

Families in their time of bereavement have also remembered the needs of the people in the Artsakh. For example, the family of the late Verkine Papazian of Teaneck, New Jersey, requested that in-lieu-flowers donations be made to the Prelacy for the Artsakh projects. To date more than \$6,500 has been received.

His Eminence noted that he knows of several donations from individuals who have given beyond their means. "I know these people and I see the sacrifice they make in order to give more, and they do it lovingly and with a commitment that is very inspiring."

The average cost of renovating a home in Talish is \$300. Individuals may sponsor the entire cost of a house or may make smaller donations to be combined with other donations.

In addition to the "Home to Home" campaign, the Prelacy's mission in Armenia and Artsakh includes the care of orphans and the elderly, the planting of trees, food distribution, assistance to schools and orphanages, medical care, and sponsorship of publications. Donations for any of these projects can be sent to the Armenian Prelacy, 138 East 39th Street, New York, New York 10016.

To the Armenian Language

Year by year you sweeten on my palate
turning to warm fresh bread, old wine,
my mother tongue, you are the keystone
of my foundation, the open furrow of our sacred soil.

I pronounce "soil" and suddenly smoke rises,
warm mists and ghosts of our ancestors pass.
I say "soil" and I feel scars and pain of losses
and of losing those who lost.

I pronounce "mother" and you soften
to tender whispers, trembling on the lips,
becoming timid prayer, humble pain
and the voice at dusk calling me home again.

I say "love" and its echo comes back "land."
Love turns gray haired kneeling on sacred ground
to give a pagan then a Christian kiss
to soil and to the dewy hand of dawn.

Speak "blood" and inside veins the flames
crackle in ancient purple fires
or an altar in the red field of Avarair.
"He is risen" the wild soul sings.

I say "wheat" and the word becomes translucent
glistening and beautiful with honest toil
ringing like a valley watermill,
fragrant with warm flour.

When I say "grapes" it is a blessing
spreading lush fragrance and soft glow
bringing solar heat and the taste of earth
bringing a creative spirit to speakers of the word.

I say "faith" and consonants bow
before Ararat, as if sounds had souls.
They kneel reverently and then
turn into lightning bolts.

I say "oath" and slowly my right arm
rises and rests upon my heart
as I pledge my fast breath, my faithful blood
to you, my spirit, land, fire, and bread.

Vahakn Davtian

translated by Diana Der Hovanesian

Color Notecards To Benefit Ecological Society



The Armenian Ecological Society, a registered international corporation with representatives in the United States, Europe, and South America, has published a set of six note cards, proceeds of which will help preserve Armenia's precious natural resources.

The beautiful 4 x 6 notecards, with reproductions of color photographs by Armen Hakhnazarian, are blank inside and can be used for any occasion. All of the scenes are from Armenia's Khosrof Andar, a preserve which, according to historian Moves Khorenatzi, was created by King Khosrov III in the fourth century. Located southeast of Yerevan on the southwestern slopes of the Gegam mountains, the preserve was declared a national park in 1958. The preserve extends over an area of 72,000 acres and is Armenia's most prized wilderness preserve. It is especially rich biologically and provides protection for many species of wild life.

Serving on the Board of the Foundation are Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, Mr. Philip Ketchian, Van Krikorian, Esq., John T. O'Connor, Zohrab Tazian, Judge Sarkis Teshoian, Kegham Kevonian, Armen Haghnazarian, Ara Kasparian, Lenna Kandarjian, and Jorge Vartbaronian.

The director of the preserve, Mr. S. Shaboyan, recently issued an appeal for help. Government funds for the preserve have been sharply curtailed because of the economic conditions in Armenia and he

noted that during the Soviet-era ecological and environmental issues were not top priority so they were already surviving with minimum resources.

According to Mr. Shaboyan there are currently 85 workers in the preserve receiving a salary of \$1.25 per month, who must be kept because without them the preserve would be vulnerable and the potential danger is incalculable. Besides the need for assistance in meeting the salary requirement, the preserve needs an internal telephone system, tents, laboratory materials, and funds for scientific expeditions and experiments, as well as for housing for those employees who live within the preserve.

The note cards have been produced in the United States at a minimal cost thanks to the generosity of the Aslanian Family, of Quality House of Graphics, who produced the four-color separations and Mr. and Mrs. Vasken Basmajian, of BBC Printing, who printed the cards. Therefore, nearly all of the proceeds will benefit the Armenian Ecological Society which, as an international body, will oversee the protection of Armenia's natural resources, including Khosrov Andar.

The set of six cards can be purchased for \$10 (including shipping and handling) from the Armenian Ecological Society, P.O. Box 3141, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Checks should be payable to "Armenian Ecological Society."

The Prelacy Ladies Guild
presents
14th Annual
Musical Armenia Concert

featuring
Christopher Sevadjian
Baritone
and
Catherine Manoukian

violinist
Saturday, March 4, 1995
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NOW AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH.

The Catholicoi of Etchmiadzin: An Overview of the Electoral Process by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian

The upcoming elections which will determine the next Catholicos of All Armenians has created interest in the electoral process. Originally published in the Armenian language, this volume by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian is now available in an English edition. Utilizing many sources, His Eminence has produced a single volume which provides extensive details about the electoral process of the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin. Included is appendix which lists all of the Catholicoi of Etchmiadzin starting from St. Gregory the Illuminator to Vasken I. Also included are photographs of past Catholicoses and other relevant photographs including the consecration ceremony of Khrimian Hairig.

Please send me _____ copies of *The Catholicoi of Etchmiadzin: An Overview of the Electoral Process*, by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian @ \$15.00 per copy, including postage.

Enclosed \$ _____ Mail to: Armenian Prelacy Bookstore
138 East 39th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10016

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