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Armenian Apostolic Church of America
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Volume XIX, Number 10 — April 1997

Choir Being Formed For Visit of H.H. Aram I



Very Rev. Meghrig Parikian

The Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church recently announced the arrival of Very Rev. Meghrig Parikian, a member of the Cilician Brotherhood, to New York where he will continue his education.

His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, recognizing the special talents of this young clergyman, encouraged Hayr Meghrig to come to New York for advanced musical studies. Hayr Meghrig is the sacristan and choirmaster of the Mother Cathedral in Antelias and director of the Shnorhali Chorus.

Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, the Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy, welcomed Hayr Sourp noting the opportunities available in New York. "I am confident that Hayr Sourp will benefit greatly from studying here and at the same time he will be a great asset to our community. For example, one of his first tasks will be organizing a choir in the metropolitan area for the upcoming visit of Catholicos Aram," the Prelate said.

Very Rev. Parikian was born on January 3, 1968, in Bourj Hammoud, Lebanon, where he received his primary education at the Kasarjian and Karageuzian Schools. He was accepted into the Cilician See's Seminary in 1981 where after the five-year program he was ordained a deacon in May, 1985 by Archbishop Datev Sarkissian. In 1988 he was ordained and consecrated a celibate priest by Archbishop Zareh Aznavourian and named Meghrig in honor of the founder of the 11th century Terazarg Monastery, Kevork Meghrig Vartabed. Hayr Sourp's dissertation on this occasion was on "The Personal Letters of Nerses Shnorhali."

His teaching duties at the Seminary included classes in composition, liturgical music, Armenian history and geography, and classical Armenian. From 1986 to 1995 he continued his music studies at the Hamazkain's Parsegh Ganatchian Conservatory and at Lebanon's Conservatory of Music.

Hayr Meghrig has composed many works including oratorios and cantatas and has written numerous articles on Armenian music.

For information about the choir being formed please contact Hayr Sourp at the Prelacy, 212-689-7810. ❖

17th Centenary Advisory Committee On Exhibitions Meets in Paris



His Holiness Karekin I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, with members of the Exhibitions Committee which recently met in Paris to discuss and plan a schedule of international exhibits during the next five years.

The advisory committee on exhibitions for the 17th Centenary of Christian Armenia met in Paris in February, bringing together committee members as well as guests and specialists in order to plan and discuss the schedule of exhibits for the next five years.

The two-day intensive meeting, which took place in the reception hall of the Cathédrale Arménienne Saint Jean-Baptiste, was presided over by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, the Executive Director of the Steering Committee and Mrs. Shoghag Hovanesian, chairwoman of the Exhibitions Committee.

The first order of business was to review the list of projected exhibits during the five year period, 1997-2001, in various cities around the world. The committee has a list of 25 exhibits, six of which will take place in Armenia. Ten of the 25 are still tentative and will be discussed and pursued at a later date, while the remainder are in various stages of planning, some being fully funded and others partially funded.

Major exhibits planned at this time include, "Treasures of Etchmiadzin," Moscow and St. Petersburg; "Armenian Miniature Paintings of Cilicia," J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; "One Thousand Years of Ani," Palais de Chaillot in Paris; "Armenian Architecture," Rome; "Armenian Artists of the 19th and 20th centuries," Greece; "Treasures of the See of Cilicia," Antelias; "The Vatican and the Armenians," The Vatican; "The Armenian Church and the Arts," British Museum, London.

Other projected exhibitions include, "The Art of Miniatures," Chicago; "The School of Miniature Paintings of Vaspouragan and Arshile Gorky," Lisbon; "H. Aivozovsky," Florence; "Early Christian Art and the Golden Age," Brussels; "Early Armenian Printed

Books and Armenian Phylacteries," Buenos Aires [Phylacteries are prayers on pocket-size scrolls which were carried by merchants and travellers as protection from harm]; and a photographic exhibition that would travel from place to place.

One of the main concerns in the organizing of these exhibitions has been selecting cities that have museums already displaying Armenian cultural works, such as in Jerusalem, Isfahan, Venice, Vienna, Antelias, Detroit, Istanbul, thus producing a comprehensive exhibit with the addition of some additional pieces. A second concern discussed was the completion of collections with works from Armenia in selected cities, such as London, Washington, D.C., Florence, Lisbon, and St. Petersburg. A third discussion focused upon exhibitions composed entirely of pieces brought from Armenia, specifically "Ani, One Thousand Years" at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris and "Armenian Miniature Paintings of Cilicia," at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

The second day was spent discussing matters of finances and security and developing a list of names of those individuals primarily responsible for each exhibit. A master blueprint of all of the activities and events of the Exhibitions Committee was developed and the importance of precise planning and organizing was once again stressed.

His Holiness, Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians, attended the final session and offered his recognition and appreciation of the important work accomplished thus far. The meeting concluded with His Holiness's prayers and blessings.

Attending the meeting were Archbishop Kude Nakkashian, Primate of Paris and the Pontifical Legate of

Clergy Gather in Washington for Feast Of St. Ghevontiank

As in previous years, clergymen serving the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, came together to celebrate the Feast of St. Ghevontiank. This year the gathering took place at Holy Cross Church in Bethesda, Maryland, near Washington, DC.

Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, the Prelate, and the clergymen serving the Eastern Prelacy arrived Monday evening, February 3, and were hosted to a dinner by Rev. and Mrs. Khoren Habeshian.

The Conference began next morning with opening prayers offered by Archbishop Ashjian followed by words of welcome by the pastor of the host church, Rev. Khoren Habeshian. Elected to serve as chairman and secretary, respectively, were Rev. Dr. Mesrob Tashjian, pastor of Sts. Vartanantz Church in Providence and Rev. Khatchador Boghossian, pastor of St. Asdvadzadzin Church in Whitinsville.

Archbishop Ashjian, who is Executive Director of the 1700th Centenary Committee, presented a report on the activities planned through to 2001 in Armenia and the diaspora including exhibits, cultural events, symposiums, audio-visual presentations, publication, pilgrimages, and the renovation of historic churches and monasteries.

The quality and importance of the three lectures about faith, presented by Very Rev. Khajag Hagopian, Very Rev. Anoushavan Tanielian, and Very Rev. Nareg Alemезian, were so impressive and helpful that it was suggested that they be published in booklet form for the benefit of the faithful.

Archbishop Ashjian presented an update about the upcoming visit of His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, to the Eastern United States and Canada. He also spoke of his impressions about the Vatican visits by Catholicos Aram I, and His Holiness Karekin I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Rev. Dr. Tashjian read the text of the telegram which was sent to Catholicos Aram on behalf of the clergy at the Ghevontiank gathering. Rev. Archpriest Moushegh Der Kaloustian, speaking on behalf of all of the clergymen, congratulated Rev. Archpriest Asoghig Keledjian, on the 40th anniversary of his ordination. Der Hayr Asoghig expressed his deep thanks to his brothers and with deep emotion expressed his commitment to the Armenian church.

Archbishop Ashjian encouraged the clergymen to continue in their dedicated service in the spirit of Ghevont Yeret and then closed the conference with the benediction and the collective singing of "Disciple of Christ."

The Divine Liturgy which followed the conference was attended by many of the faithful in the area, was

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on page 2)

From the editor...

This month we begin our new series, "Profiles on our Parishes," with our focus on St. Sarkis Church in Dearborn, Michigan. We will continue the series—not necessarily in every issue—until every one of our parishes has been featured. Whenever possible we will combine it with an important anniversary or event in the life of the parish, as we have this month with the 40th anniversary of the ordination of the parish's priest, Rev. Dr. Gorun Shrikian. The next in this series will appear in the summer issue featuring the St. Gregory Church community of Philadelphia which recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of their church on Ridge Avenue and the 10th anniversary of the ordination of their pastor, Rev. Nerses Manoogian.

The summer issue of Outreach will also have extensive information about the upcoming visit of His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, to the Prelacy parishes in the United States and Canada. The pontifical visit will begin October 1 and continue through to November 10. Aram Vehapar's schedule is set up in such a way that everyone of our parishes will have the opportunity to meet and greet him.

The Prelacy's Web Page is accessible and being kept up-to-date with information about activities along with historical information. Computer buffs can visit the site at:

www.armprelacy.org

Ghevontiank Gathering

(Continued from page 1)

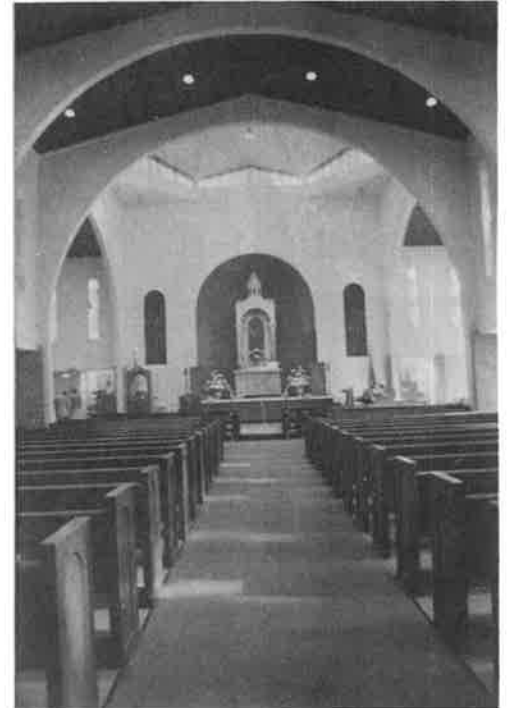
under the auspices of His Eminence with Rev. Zareh Sahagian as the celebrant. Rev. Dr. Tashjian delivered the sermon. The Gomidas Mass was sung by the clergymen and the choir of the Sourp Khatch Church.

The dinner, hosted by the Board of Trustees, Ladies Guild, and the local A.R.S. chapter, following the service, included a short program dedicated to the saints of Ghevontiank and the martyrs of Vartanantz.

Each year this gathering serves as a time of fellowship and renewal for the clergymen and provides them the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas as well as share problems and solutions which they encounter in their service to the faithful of the Armenian Church. ❖

Profile on our Parishes: The first in a series

St. Sarkis Church, Dearborn, Michigan



**St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church
Dearborn, Michigan**

St. Sarkis Church in Dearborn, Michigan is one of the largest and most dynamic parishes within the Prelacy.

With 460 dues paying members and a mailing list of over 1000 families, St. Stephen's has 108 students enrolled in its Sunday school and 78 students in the Armenian school. The church also has a very active Ladies' Guild and Mr. and Mrs. Club.

The current church complex was built in 1962 and consists of the church, offices, classrooms, Fellowship Hall and a kitchen. Also on the church grounds is the Armenian Community Center which was built in 1976 and the St. Sarkis Tower, a senior citizen apartment complex, which was built in 1980.

Rev. Dr. Gorun Shrikian has been serving the St. Sarkis community since 1965. The community recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of Der Hayr's ordination, an event which is featured on the opposite page. A prolific writer, Rev. Shrikian has written fourteen books and many articles which appear regularly in the Armenian press as well as in the pages of OUTREACH. ❖

1700th Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Western Europe; Archbishop David Sahagian, Chief Sacristan of the Armenian Patriarchy of Jerusalem; the Very Reverend Baret Yerezian, pastor of St. John Church in Detroit; Very Reverend Haroutiun Bezdigian, representative of the Mkhitarist Order of Venice and Vienna; Ms. Louise Bakar, representing the Armenian Patriarchy of Istanbul; Mr. Armen Moutafian, artistic advisor; Mr. Gaghiq Baghdassarian, Ambassador to Rome from the Republic of Armenia; and Edig Ghazarian, general secretary of the Armenian government's commission on the 17th Centenary.

Specialists attending from Armenia: Shahen Khatchadrian, Iveda Mgrditchian, Siranoush Manoupa, Lilit Zakarian, and Charles Khatchadourian. From France: Kegham Torossian, Haroutioun Kevorkian, Sona Attamian, and Alice Aslanian. From the United States: Alice Taylor, Peter Cowe, Savey Tufenkian, Hermine Janoyan, Neery Melkonian, and Krikor Markarian. ❖

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Profile on our Parishes

St. Sarkis Church Celebrates 40th Anniversary of Ordination of Rev. Dr. Gorun Shrikian

by Mitch Kehetian

In describing the heroism of the Armenian resistance at Musa Dagh, author Franz Werfel was able to relive and portray the courage and self-discipline it took for a band of ill-equipped Armenians to survive for 40 days the unmerciless onslaught of attacking Turkish troops.

And for the Armenian people, discipline was the key tenet at their ability to escape the Turkish plan of genocide of 1915, and to start anew in foreign, and sometimes hostile lands.

Even then, these forgotten people of the Valley of Ararat, driven off their historic lands, set out to build new churches and community centers to rally the people and the Armenian nation.

Where they succeeded, one could observe traditional values and self-discipline. That same value of our traditions in church, ancestral heritage and the embracing of self-discipline as a people and nation was keenly evident at the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Dr. Gorun Shrikian, pastor of St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Dearborn, Michigan.

For the February 9 dinner program honoring the spiritual leader of the St. Sarkis community, more than 400 appreciative members of the St. Sarkis parish gathered to express their love and devotion.

When Rev. Shrikian expressed his appreciation to the community, this man of the cloth, admired for firmness as a disciplined church leader and activist for Armenian rights—and born in the same Musa Dagh that author Werfel wrote about in his epoch novel, *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*—he was emphatic in that expression: "I am not ashamed of being a man of discipline. I've made some mistakes, and encountered some failures, but I never gave up and when I turned to my God, he helped me."

Those who know Rev. Shrikian would be accurate in describing the native of Musa Dagh as a principled man, with strong convictions that came with 40 years of service to the church and high ranking academic honors.

If you've read Werfel's stirring account about the heroic people of mountainous Musa Dagh, and how through self-discipline they found the will and spiritual fortitude to survive, you also saw it aglow in the character and fabric of life that has guided him—a milestone that dates back to his ordination on November 11, 1956, by the then Archbishop Khoren Paroyan, who would later become Catholicos Khoren I of the Cilician See.

It also explains why Lebanese Armenian church leaders joined the St. Sarkis community to pay tribute to Rev. Shrikian—and a celebration electrified when proclamations of spiritual tribute from His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians in Etchmiadzin, and Catholicos Aram I of the Holy See of Cilicia in Lebanon, were read.

For Rev. Shrikian, it was also a time to recall how he was "guided into the priesthood" by the former dean of the Theological Seminary of the Cilician See. That dean would later become Karekin II of Cilicia, and now revered as Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians.

Appropriately, the clergy present to bestow their personal respect included His Eminence Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy; the Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretzian, pastor of St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield, Michigan; Rev. Vahan Tootikian, pastor of the Armenian Congregational Church in Southfield, Michigan; Rev. Moushegh Der Kaloustian, pastor of St. Illuminator's Cathedral in New York City; and Rev. Khoren Habeshian, pastor of Sourp Khatch Church in Bethesda, Maryland.

As each speaker praised the life of Rev. Shrikian, the audience enthusiastically



Der Hayr and his family, grandchildren and relatives, pose for this family portrait in front of the St. Sarkis Church altar on the day he was honored for having served God and the Armenian community for 40 years.

Photos by Sandra Mooradian

When it comes to honoring the pastor of your church for 40 years of service to God and the Armenian community, it takes special planning and leadership. In planning to honor the Rev. Dr. Gorun Shrikian on marking 40 years of service to God, members of the St. Sarkis Board of Trustees met the challenge. As for selecting the site, Rev. Shrikian was adamant, "It might be inconvenient, and the tables might be too close to each other, but if we are to hold such a function it must be held in the church fellowship hall." Michael Hagopian, who served as the Master of Ceremonies, and the board members agreed and more than 400 parishioners crammed into the Fellowship Hall.

And as Der Hayr had predicted, no one complained because of the close quarters. In addition to the program schedule, Mr. Hagopian took every step necessary to recognize committee members and Der Hayr's "religious team" who help in each Sunday's Divine Liturgy.

Musical interludes were provided by Razmig Babigian, accompanied by Margaret Benian. Recitations were rendered by Mrs. Hermine Manoogian and Der Hayr's granddaughters, Tamar Shrikian and Ahrev Chinarian.

greeted the announcement that 40 trees would be planted in Armenia to pay honor and homage to the self-disciplined churchman from Musa Dagh.

When Archbishop Ashjian addressed the gathering, he praised Rev. Shrikian as a "great servant of the church, and truly a man for all seasons. He is a somber man, and whatever he does, it is done with committed passion. And yes, he is a tough man who for 40 long years has served with pride. And he is the most learned priest I know. His writings of books about the church always relate to our people."

In closing, the Archbishop turned to Der Hayr and said with love and friendship, "...all our people wish you the best of health as we look ahead to more fruitful years of dedicated service. You have been a priest, an administrator, a pastor of the community. Yes, my friend, you have been a man for all seasons."

From the opening remarks by Michael Hagopian, who served as master of ceremonies, we knew this would be more than a salute to a servant of God. It became a celebration that each person present could feel and grasp. Like when the MC called his father, Andrew Hagopian of Granite City, to speak about Rev. Shrikian's first church assignment in the United States—St. Gregory the Illuminator Church in Granite City where he served from 1959 until 1965.

Mr. Hagopian said, "The St. Gregory parish extends its deepest appreciation to Der Hayr for his 40 years of service, a long journey that started in Granite City. As we celebrate today, we celebrate a man of principles. God Bless you Der Hayr."

While in Granite City, Rev. Shrikian pursued his quest for higher education at Southern Illinois University and in 1964 was admitted to the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis for master's degree in the religion program.

Rev. Shrikian went further. It would



The Rev. Dr. Gorun Shrikian reaches out to embrace granddaughter Tamar Shrikian after she dedicated a recitation to "My Grandfather..."

take personal sacrifices on his part, and the support of his wife and three children. But he did it, and in 1977 Rev. Shrikian was awarded a doctoral degree.

When called to speak on behalf of the local Azadamart ARF, Dr. Haig Oshagan said, "Not only do we honor this day a spiritual man, but also a community leader. A man with a vision who never shied from speaking out for Armenian rights. History best remembers the names of people with visions for their people."

Rev. Shrikian's thesis that earned him the doctoral degree was titled, "The Armenians Under the Ottoman Empire and the American Mission's influence on their intellectual and Social Renaissance."

John Manoogian, chairman of the Board of Trustees, probably said it best and spoke for everyone when he said, "We're ever so thankful that 40 years ago Der Hayr Shrikian chose to serve God and



Der Hayr with Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian and Rev. Archpriest Moushegh Der Kaloustian, pastor of St. Illuminator's Cathedral, New York City.

our people."

Sharing Mr. Manoogian's sentiment, Mr. Albert Sarkissian, a longtime church trustee, said in his opening toast, "To my friend of 30 years."

In honoring his "Hayrig," Movses Shrikian, who serves as a deacon at St. Sarkis, shared a "This is Your Life" slide presentation of his father, from birth as the son of the late Rev. Movses Shrikian and Yeretzgeen Nectar, now living in California, to his marriage in 1954 to Yeretzgeen Arpine, and how this blessed event led to his birth and that of his sisters, Ani and Dirouhi.

Mrs. Alice Vartanian spoke on behalf of the Armenian Relief Society and Mrs. Hermine Manoogian on behalf of the local Hamazkayn.

The milestone event came to an end with Archpriest Shrikian's remarks of appreciation. In reevaluating his life he noted that he never gave up, because when he turned to God for help, God helped him. He told the more than 400 celebrants, "You too can overcome the mistakes of life and failure as I did. Just turn to God and He will help you." ❀

We are labourers together with God.
I Cor. 3:9



CROSSROADS

A Review of Prelacy and Parish Activities



Archbishop Ashjian Attends Opening of Byzantine Exhibit

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's "Glory of Byzantium" exhibition, which incorporates an Armenian section, had its official opening to the public on Tuesday, March 11. Prior to the public opening a series of special private previews took place.

On Monday, March 3, Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian attended a gala event organized by the Museum which included a guided tour of the exhibit and a sit-down Byzantine-style dinner in the magnificent setting of the museum's Great Hall.

On March 5, he attended another preview organized in conjunction with Citibank, one of the major funders of the exhibition. "I am proud to let our community know that Mr. Antranig Sarkissian, a Vice President at Citibank, was instrumental in securing Citibank's support," said Archbishop Ashjian. Mr. and Mrs. Sarkissian hosted a small group of Armenians, as well as specialists who worked on the exhibit, including Dr. Helen Evans, the co-curator of this Exhibit and the author of the chapter on Armenia in the catalog.

"Helen Evans is a good friend of the Armenians," said the Prelate, "and she has time and again demonstrated her extraordinary scholarship and knowledge about Armenia. She was a very valued member of the Prelacy's Cilician Symposium committee several years ago, as well as one of the participants. She was the guest curator of the unforgettable 'Treasures in Heaven—Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts' exhibit at the Morgan Library in 1994, and she is currently a member of the Exhibitions Committee for the 17th Centenary."

"Glory of Byzantium" will continue at the Metropolitan Museum through July 6, 1997. As noted above the six-hundred page catalog includes a chapter on the Armenians. ❀

AREC Sponsors Sunday School Seminars

The Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC) sponsored three local Sunday School teachers' seminars during the past months and is planning several more for the coming months.

"The Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell," was the theme of the seminar held at Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church in Ridgefield, New Jersey, in November; and "A Walk Through the Badarak—A Step by Step Explanation" was the focus of the seminars at St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Dearborn, Michigan in February and St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in March. The seminars were conducted by Deacon Shant Kazanjian, the Director of AREC.

Parishes wishing to host such a teachers' seminar (or a young adult seminar) should contact the AREC office, 212-689-4481. ❀

St. Stephen's Elementary School Raises Funds for Expansion



Major contributors to St. Stephen School with Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian and Rev. Antranig Baljian.

A fund-raising banquet, under the auspices of Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian helped raise additional funds for the St. Stephen's Elementary School in Watertown, Massachusetts. The expansion project is expected to cost approximately \$150,000 of which \$130,000 has already been raised. During the banquet Archbishop Ashjian announced a donation of \$10,000 from the Prelacy's Estelle Sadoyan fund. Prior to the candle lighting ceremony, Sr. Srpazan announced that Mr. and Mrs. Noubar Afeyan are donating an additional \$40,000 to their previous donation of \$10,000. Mr. and Mrs. Afeyan will become the Godparents of the new nursery building.

Rev. Antranig Baljian, the pastor of St. Stephen's Church, praised the administration and the teaching staff of the school. "I appreciated the full importance of the school when I started teaching Religion at the school," Rev. Baljian said, "and I envy the students who have an Armenian school to go to everyday."

Mrs. Houry Boyamian, the principal, spoke about the school's growth and achievements during the past 12 years. She noted that more and more of the parents are second and third generation Armenian Americans, who appreciate and value the benefits of an Armenian education.

Dr. Aram Chobanian, Dean of Boston University's Medical School, was a principal speaker. Dr. Chobanian spoke of the important role of education for the survival of the Armenian people and he encouraged the community to support the St. Stephen's Church.

Sunday School Teachers' Workshop at St. Sarkis Church



The Sunday School staff and parishioners of St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Dearborn, Michigan, were treated to an educational workshop on the Divine Liturgy conducted by Deacon Shant Kazanjian, Director of the Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC) of the Prelacy.

Prior to the workshop, Deacon Kazanjian spoke to the older Sunday School students about the meaning of Great Lent and how they could use the Lenten season as a time of inner reflection and personal insight in their journey of faith.

The workshop, held after church services, was well attended despite a severe snowstorm that day. Inside the classrooms, Deacon Kazanjian warmed the attendees with a passionate biblical and theological explanation of the Divine Liturgy. The half-day workshop was enlightening and the participants emerged with a renewed sense of passion and commitment in their mission to bear witness to the Lord.

Laurie L. Haroutunian
Director of St. Sarkis Sunday School

Christmas Mass Celebrated in Raleigh



The Armenian community of Raleigh and Durham, North Carolina, had a memorable day on January 11, when His Eminence Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, Prelate of the Prelacy of the Eastern United States and Canada, responding to an invitation from the leaders of the local Armenian community, paid a pastoral visit to the area. Accompanying His Eminence were Very Rev. Anoushavan Tanielian, Vicar General of the Prelacy and Rev. Nerses Manoogian, Pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church in Philadelphia. The visit received extensive coverage in the local press.

Sarkis Haroian, Sr. Honored in Waukegan



Sarkis Haroian, Sr.

St. Paul Armenian Apostolic Church of Waukegan, Illinois, recognized one of its most dedicated members, Mr. Sarkis Haroian, Sr., on January 3. Mr. Haroian was presented with the Prelacy's Certificate of Merit by Dr. Alta E. Mekaelian, chairman of the board of trustees, citing his many contributions to the church over the past 70 years.

His son, Sam Haroian, Jr., gave a touching tribute regarding the early Waukegan community where, in the late 1920s, services were held in a Finnish Church. By the 1940s, services were held at Christ Episcopal Church where Mr. Haroian would be responsible for choir robes, candleholders (which he made himself) and a censor to prepare for the Divine Liturgy on Sunday afternoons.

The commitment to the church spans three generations of the Haroian family extending to his son, Sam, Jr., a deacon; his grandchildren, Arda and Vasken, both attendees of the Datev Institute as well as choir member/substitute organist and altar server, respectively.

Whatever is in the heart
will come up to the tongue.

—Persian Proverb—