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Armenian Apostolic Church of America  
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## ՎԱՂԸ ՏԵՄԵՆԼ ԿԱՅՈՐՈՒԱՆ ՀԱՅԵԼԻԻՆ ՄԵՋ

Ամերիկայի Արևելյան Շրջանի և Քամատայի Քեմական Ընդհանուր Ժողովը յաջողությամբ ունեցաւ իր աւարտը Մայիս 12-ին, գոհունակութեան յուսալից մթնոլորտի մը մէջ:

Ընդհանուր Ժողովներու դրոյսապատճառը և նպատակը շատ յստակ է. Մէկտեղել Քեմի բոլոր գաղութներու ներկայացուցիչները, անոնց ներկայացնել ամբողջ տարածան մը գործունէութեան իրագործումները և մանաւանդ ստեղծել հաւաքական մտածողութիւն, հետաքրքրութիւն, և մտահոգութիւն և յանգիլ բոլորը շահագրգռող և բարիսրտ օգտակար ընդհանրական լուծումներու:

Այս յաջողութեան և ժողովակաւորութեան հոգիին մէջ մեր հաւատացեալներուն տիրութիւն ընելու առաքելութեան մէջ մեծ դեր ունեցաւ Ընդհ. Ժողովին կեդրոնական մտահոգութիւնը - Մեր ՊԱՏԱՆԻ սերունդը:

Զխօսեցանք պատանիներուն մասին, որովհետեւ իրենք խօսեցան: Զներկայացուցիչներ պատանիներու մտահոգութիւններն ու ակնկալութիւնները մեր եկեղեցիէն, որովհետեւ իրենք առանձնապէս ճիշտ էին հարցերը և ժողովին ներկայացուցին: Այլ խօսեալ, վաղուան շէնքին քարերը չզրկեցինք տաշուած և հարթուած տեսնել մեր վաղուան սերունդին ձեռքով: Եւ այս իրականացնելու համար անհրաժեշտ է նկատի ունենալ երեք հանգրուաններ:

1.- Մեր պատանիները *ներքաշել* մեր ազգային-եկեղեցական կեանքին մէջ: Այս նպատակով պէտք է ստեղծուին հաւաքատարած ծրագրերը և մանաւանդ ուշադիր ըլլալ որ անոնք գոհացնեն մեր պատանիներուն ակնկալութիւնները հիմնուած առողջ և շինիչ սկզբունքներու վրայ:

2.- *Պատրաստել* մեր պատանիները: Ուշադիր, իմաստուն և պլանային ցուցմունքներով կարելի է պատրաստել և դաստիարակել մեր վաղուան սերունդը: Ուսուցումը և ուղղութիւնները ցոյց տալու ընթացքին նկատի պէտք է ունենալ գալիք ժամանակը և այդ ժամանակին մէջ պատանիներու ներգործող և հետեւողական մասնակցութիւնը:

3.- *Անսով* մեր պատանիները: Զի բաւեր սարկիլը, չի բաւեր տեսութիւններ ամբարիլը, անհրաժեշտ է գանձնի գործի վերածելը: Մեր մտահոգութիւնները կ'արժեւորուին և իմաստ կը զգնան, երբ մեր պատանիները կը նետուին ազգին ու եկեղեցիին գործին մէջ: Համեստ պաշտօններէ սկսելով անհրաժեշտ է իրենց վստահիլ առաւել պատասխանատուութիւն ներառող պաշտօններ, որպէսզի 1700 տարիներ անընդմէջ գործող և արդիւնատուող հայ եկեղեցւոյ ոսկի շրջան բնաւ չընդհատուի:

Հետատես և խորատես ըլլանք, երբ նայինք պարտուան հայելիին մէջ:

## PRELACY'S NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES SUCCESSFULLY IN TORONTO

Representative Assembly of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, Eastern United States and Canada, met in Toronto, May 10 through 12, 2000. The delegates were welcomed by the Very Rev. Fr. Shahe Panossian, pastor of the host parish of Saint Mary Armenian Apostolic Church and by Mr. Raffi Der Boghossian, on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

anointment of the Martyr's Altar at St. Illuminator's Church in New York, including the interred bones of several of the victims of the Genocide, which took place over the recent April 24th weekend.

Mr. Mardoian also stated that, although there have been a number of important accomplishments within the Prelacy community, there is still a need to make a stronger commitment to address

directly was an area of priority identified by Archbishop Oshagan in his initial address upon his arrival in our Prelacy as Prelate in June, 1998. See a separate presentation of this topic on the next page.

### Election Results

In addition to the focus on youth involvement in our parishes, the Assembly also adopted resolutions approving the largest single year budget



Over 100 delegates representing 28 parishes attended a very positive and active three day meeting. Also in attendance was Mr. John Amboian, Vice-Chairman of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, as an observer. The meetings convened Wednesday afternoon, under the auspices of Archbishop Oshagan, the Prelate. Following the report of the Credentials Committee, the executive of the Assembly was elected, consisting of Mr. Jack Papazian and Dr. Vasken Der Kaloustian, as co-chairmen, Very Rev. Fr. Navassart Mardoian as Armenian language secretary and Mr. Ara Surenian, as English language secretary.

### Chairman's Opening Address:

The report of the Executive Council and address of the Council were presented by Mr. Jack Mardoian, as Chairman of the Executive Council. Mr. Mardoian spoke of the many positive accomplishments of the Prelacy during the past year. Among the accomplishments mentioned were the upgrading of the telephone system, database software, and computer hardware as well as the implementation of a regular program of training for Prelacy staff. Also mentioned was the

the serious work which still needs to occur. In this regard he stated that all of our parishes must make a commitment to work together and to do so as a family. Mr. Mardoian identified three areas that are critical to the Prelacy's continued mission in North America; the first being the need for more clergy and the continued professional training of those clergy who already serve our Prelacy; the second being the need to continue with the development of the financial management and sources of revenues of the Prelacy and of the various parishes; the third in the area of education for our parishioners at all levels. The delegates to the Assembly unanimously voted to adopt a resolution commending Archbishop Oshagan, the Religious and Executive Councils for their outstanding performance during the past year.

### Youth Made a Priority

The primary focus of activity at this year's NRA was on the topic of youth within our parishes, what the youth expect of the church and what we, as a church, can do to engage the youth. The topic of how the church can serve the youth and what programs the church can develop to address the needs of youth

ever presented to the NRA, resolutions expressing the consent of the delegates to have the Executive Council adopt a more stream lined agenda for the Assembly in coming years, and elected representatives to the both the Religious and Executive Councils as well as delegates to the next World Assembly to be held in Antelias in the latter part of the year 2001. In a strong vote of approval of the prior year's council activity, all four members of the Executive Council, namely Mr. Vahé Amirian, Dr. Jean Arakelian, Ms. Karen Jehanian, and Mr. Jack Mardoian were re-elected while Very Rev. Fr. Anoushavan Tanielian was re-elected to the Religious Council. Also elected as delegates from our Prelacy to the upcoming World Assembly were Dr. Jean Arakelian, Dr. Jirayr Basmajian, Mr. Haroutiun Chitilian, Dr. Vasken Der Kaloustian, Mr. Hagop Der Khatchaturian, Dr. Vagharsh Ebrahimian, Mr. Zaven Sarkissian, Mr. Varoujan Seropian, Mr. Vahram Danielian, Mr. Sarkis Gharibian, Dr. Varant Hagopian, Mr. Shant Haroutunian, Dr. Haigaz Gregorian, Mr. Onnic Marahsian, Mr. Zohrab Tazian, Judge Sarkis Teshoian, Mr. Artin Dermenjian, Mr. Grigor Grigorian, Mr. Michael Hagopian, and Jack Mardoian, Esq.

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**Honorees:**

During the course of the Assembly, various awards and certificates of recognition were presented. One of the highlights of the Assembly was the presentation of The Spirit of Armenia Award to the Hon. David Collette, Minister of Transport for the Canadian federal government. Mr. Collette was introduced to the Assembly by Mr. Apkar Mirakian, a member of the Armenian National Committee of Canada and a person who traveled with Mr. Collette to Armenia last year. The Spirit of Armenia Award was presented to Mr. Collette by Archbishop Oshagan. During his acceptance speech, Mr. Collette spoke of his trip as the first Canadian minister to visit Armenia and of his close ties with the Armenian people and community in Toronto. Mr. Collette was impressed with the spirit and ambience of Armenia and how well old biblical artifacts have been maintained. He was saddened by how young children have suffered so much as a result of the war with Azerbaijan. As such, the Canadian government has made funds available for prosthetic limbs for these children. Mr. Collette expressed the fact that he was happy to receive the Spirit of Armenia Award and his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the NRA for bestowing this significant award on him. It is Mr. Collette's hope that he will be able to return to Armenia in the future.



During the NRA banquet, which was held on Friday evening after the conclusion of the business portion of the weekend, the Man of the Year Award was presented by Archbishop Oshagan to Dr. Raymond V. Damadian, the inventor of the Magnetic Resonance Machine, commonly known as the MRI. Dr. Damadian was thankful to receive this high honor which he placed among the highest awards presented to him, including his having previously been awarded the National Medal of Technology and with having his original machine prominently displayed at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

It was also announced during the banquet that His Holiness Catholicos Aram I of Cilicia had awarded the designation of Prince of Cilicia, the highest award presented by the Catholicosate to a lay person, to Mr. Nazareth Emlikian of Philadelphia, a past chairman of the Executive Council and a person who has been extremely active in the affairs of our Prelacy for a number of years. Mr. Emlikian was unable to attend the NRA due to health reasons. Certificates of Merit were also presented to Mrs. Aida Atikian, Miss Shoushig Boyadjian, Mr. Nizag Der Hovagimian, and Miss Eugene Shehirian.

The banquet was also privileged to hear from the Charge d'affaires of the Armenian Government in Canada, the Hon. Valery Mgrdomian, who was able to join us from Ottawa for the evening. The Charge d'affaires, in his warm remarks, spoke to the need of the Armenian Republic and the Diaspora to work together for our mutual benefit and to strengthen our Armenian homeland. In recognition of the important work being done by our Prelate and Vicar in Canada, Mr. Mgrdomian presented special awards to each of Archbishop Oshagan, as Prelate and Bishop Khajag, as the Prelacy's Vicar in Canada.

**Archbishop Oshagan's Remarks**

During the NRA banquet, Archbishop Oshagan stated that though turning our eyes toward Armenia is important, we must also keep our eyes turned to our communities in the Diaspora. Oshagan Surpazan stated that the strength of our communities is the strength of Armenia and that each must receive equal attention. Surpazan Hayr noted that we do not have to look further than our children's eyes to see the true purity and sincerity of the Armenian soul and as such reiterated his commitment to the youth and the plans that the NRA had adopted towards that end. Oshagan Surpazan thanked the Toronto community, meeting participants, and organizers for all the work that had been done to prepare for the NRA and especially noted that, during the past twenty-two years, the Toronto community had not only organized itself, but had grown into a community with an active school of over 450 students with a vibrant Community Center and beautiful church facility. Thanks and congratulations were given to the choir of St. Asdvadzadzin Church for the beautiful program of religious music they had presented on Thursday evening to the NRA delegates and Toronto community. Special thanks were given to the NRA organizers and to Hayr Shahe for their warm and heartfelt hospitality and for making each participant at the NRA feel as if this was their home. The banquet concluded with the singing of Cilicia.

**WHERE ARE THE YOUNG PEOPLE?**

This is a question we often hear whether at church on Sunday or at a special gathering for any number of occasions. While we may individually be asking this question for a variety of reasons, the question nonetheless needs to be answered.

Re-engaging our young people into the spiritual and communal life of the church is an area of priority identified by Archbishop Oshagan and will continue to be the topic for discussion among the Executive and Religious Council, The Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC), clergy, and parish leaders for the coming year.

To Executive Council set out to ask the young people directly during focus group discussions and then invite them to the NRA to discuss first hand their concerns and issues, as well as to participate in the problem solving exercise during the afternoon workshop sessions.



Youth representatives with Ms. Karen Jehanian, Member of Executive Council, and Deacon Shant Kazanjian, Director of AREC. Left to right: Tamar Palandjian, (Providence), Hagop Mksyartinian (Toronto), Deacon Shant, Ms. Jehanian, Bedros Yeremian (Philadelphia) and Tamar Stambouljian (Montreal)

**Focus Groups Held in Five Parishes**

In preparation for the NRA discussions, focus groups were conducted in five major cities to get a sense of the issues and concerns of our young parishioners. Philadelphia, Providence, Detroit, Montreal, and Toronto were the first five parishes to participate. These four questions were posed to the teens in each group:

- What is the role of the Church, if any, in your life?
- What keeps some youth involved in the life of the Church? What keeps others away from the life of the Church?
- Does the Armenian Church influence your daily life? If so, how? If not, why?
- What do you expect from the Church? Consider the following aspects: spiritual/religious, personal identity, educational, cultural, and communal. These are important and insightful questions for a young person to answer.

**Focus Group Comments**

Responses to the four questions are presented below to provide a flavor of the thinking of our young parishioners.

*What is the role of the Church, if any, in your life?*

Responses to this question ranged from not involved to very involved. It was clear that those who were involved were first encouraged to do so by their parents. Later they continued the practice and their involvement increase.

"The church doesn't have a big impact on me. I can't understand the mass. I only understand English, so I'm lost. The language barrier prevents me from participating the way I should."



Tamar Stambouljian (Montreal)



Bedros Yeremian (Philadelphia)

**What keeps some youth involved in the life of the Church? What keeps others away from the life of the Church?**

With so many outside influences on our daily lives, the church can be either a comfort zone and vibrant activity center or just another institution, as shown in these responses. A number of teens felt that there was clear spiritual value to church attendance and active participation and seek to become more involved.

"Family and friends are the greatest influences on coming or not coming to church as well as programs and activities. But, there are not enough programs to attract kids on their own."

"I know so many Armenian or half-Armenian kids at school who don't come to church (some don't even know they are Armenian). They don't know anyone at church so they stay away. You want to be in comfortable surroundings."

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(Continued from page 2) *Where are the Young People*

**Does the Armenian Church influence your daily life? If so, how? If not, why?**

"The church affects my decisions, my choices about things in life on a daily basis. I always am aware of my background and the church. I think my attitude reflects back on the church, and I stop and think, "What would God think about my actions?" "It is an essential part of my life."

"Everything I do revolves around the church. It's an on-going daily influence."

**What do you expect from the Church? Consider the following aspects: spiritual/religious, personal identity, educational, cultural, and communal.**

Young people expect the church to provide them with more than a place for spiritual worship. Many responses reflected the need for the church to provide regular activities for the young people to engage them in the life of the church. Still others are seeking moral and emotional support and a renewal of their faith.

"The young people in general would like a better understanding of the liturgy, etiquette, language and history, all of which they would like to be taught in Sunday School at both a greater and interesting level."

"I expect the church to do things that will keep people motivated in coming. I expect them to make an effort to join the community together, like Armenians born overseas and American-born Armenians."

**Discussions at the NRA**

The NRA was privileged to meet four intelligent, thoughtful, and gracious young people who represented their respective communities and reported on the focus group discussions as well as gave their insight for the betterment of our Armenian Church and people. The four young people were: Hagop Mkysartinian (Toronto), Tamar Palandjian (Providence), Tamar Stamboulian (Montreal), and Bedros Yeremian (Philadelphia). Each spoke on behalf of their community and then participated in the workshop panels to assist in formulating the resolutions.

The discussions during the workshop sessions followed up on the topics presented in the focus group reports. Spirited discussions were held involving the young people and challenging all participants to identify solutions/programs to re-engage the young people of our parishes and excite them to actively participate in the life of the church. There were many good suggestions that resulted in resolutions to be implemented at the Prelacy, parish, and clergy level. Some of these included creating a web site addressing interests of the youth, educational material for parents, parish-level programs, and clergy training. The Executive and Religious Council and the AREC will take an active role in the implementation of the resolutions.

**Next Steps**

We realize that there is much work to be done to implement the resolutions and look forward to working closely with each of our parishes to accomplish the goals of our Prelacy. The Executive Council is preparing an action plan for implementation that will be reported in the next issue of Outreach.

We encourage individuals who are interested in assisting in this endeavor to contact Deacon Shant Kazanjian at 212.689.4481/arec1@mndspring.com or Ms. Karen Jehanian at 610.896.173, kmjehanian@yahoo.com.

**FROM THE PRELATE'S CALENDAR**



Cardinal O'Connor with H. H. Catholicos Aram I

- May 8 Archbishop Oshagan attended the Funeral Mass for the late John Cardinal O'Connor at St. Patrick's Cathedral, N.Y.
- May 18 Accompanied by his vicar, V. Rev. Fr. Anoushavan Tanielian, the Prelate attended a symposium at the United Nations, marking the 80th birthday of His Holiness Pope John Paul II.
- May 20-23 For the interment of General Dro's remains to Armenia, the Archbishop celebrated Divine Liturgy and presided over memorial ceremonies at St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church in Watertown, M.A.
- May 24 Oshagan Serpazan accompanied by Fr. Anoushavan paid a courtesy visit to Archbishop Dimitrios, the newly elected Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of U.S.A.
- May 28 On the 10th Anniversary of St. Sarkis Church of Douglaston, N.Y., the Archbishop celebrated Divine Liturgy and presided over the Thanksgiving service for the Republic of Armenia.

**PRELACY LADIES GUILD MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION  
A PHENOMENAL SUCCESS**



His Eminence presents the "Mother of the Year" award to Mrs. Nouritza Boudakian, surrounded by Mrs. Mary Ann Boudakian, Mr. Antranig Boudakian and Mrs. Zabel Hatem

The Mother's Day Luncheon sponsored by the Prelacy Ladies Guild was a sold out event. Held under the auspices and in presence of His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Eastern America and Canada, the annual function was a befitting commemoration of Motherhood at the elegant New York City landmark the St. Regis Hotel. Also present at the luncheon was Very Rev. Fr. Anoushavan Tanielian, Pastor of St. Sarkis Church and Vicar General of the Prelacy.

Guests from the tri-state area, including an impressive group from Philadelphia, as well as guests from overseas, dressed in designer outfits, could have very well paraded on the fashion runway!

His Eminence delivered the invocation and expressed sentiments of appreciation and gratitude towards all mothers. He pointed out that all significant things in our life were preceded with the word mother, such as: Church, tongue and homeland. His Eminence also underscored the role, responsibility and unconditional devotion of mothers to their children. Gilda B. Kupelian, the master of ceremonies, devoted the attendees in laudatory terms directed to mothers in her opening address on behalf of the Prelacy Ladies Guild.

His Eminence introduced genocide survivor, Mrs. Nouritza Boudakian, as this year's recipient, of the Mother of the Year award. Amidst thunderous applause by the guests in attendance, His Eminence bestowed upon Mrs. Boudakian a certificate in the presence of her son, daughter and daughter-in-law, who were visibly moved by the auspicious recognition.

Mr. Antranig Boudakian, the son of the honoree, gave a heartfelt address to all mothers and expressed his thanks to the Prelacy Ladies Guild for the special occasion.

In honor of his mother, Mr. and Mrs. Antranig Boudakian donated \$10,000 to the Prelacy and \$5,000 to the Prelacy Ladies Guild.

A fashion show for the millennium presented by William S. Dugan (former Halston designer), won everyone's approval. The models presented exquisite designs ushering in the new era.

A surprise guest, renowned singer Hovig Krikorian from Los Angeles, entertained all the guests with two beautiful songs dedicated to mothers.

Lucille Sahagian efficiently conducted a raffle drawing of exquisite gifts. Charming favors courtesy of Mrs. Mary Ann Boudakian were distributed to all the ladies present.

A delectable menu following a relaxed cocktail hour and a cozy atmosphere throughout the luncheon allowed the ladies to enjoy an afternoon of leisure and good-fellowship in elegant surroundings.

The Prelacy Ladies Guild members, through their collaborative efforts, went to great lengths to ensure the success of the luncheon. The Guild wishes to thank the guests present as well as all those who graciously donated gifts and donations in support of this annual event.



Left to right: Ovsanna Tatarian, Seta Andrikian, Gilda B. Kupelian, Rita Tatevossian, Mary Ann Boudakian, Lucille Sahagian, LINDA Chirinian, Anna Piligian, Sima Artinoff, Silva Zadourian, Gemma Vartanian, Diana Minassian, Seta Nalbandian

Photo credits: Kantzabed

## ST. GREGORY CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA CELEBRATES 33RD ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, May 14 was an important and very impressive day at St. Gregory's. On the occasion of the church's 33rd anniversary in its present location, Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan honored us with his presence and celebrated Badarak. He also ordained Ishkhan Bayrakdarian a sub-deacon, bestowed the right to bear the stole on Greg Vosbikian, and brought a message from the recent National Representative Assembly of the Prelacy.

May 14th was also Mothers' Day. All mothers received a carnation as they entered church. Divine Liturgy was followed by a sumptuous luncheon in Terhanian Hall in honor of all mothers and at which our Mother of the Year, Yeretgin Marie Hagopian, was feted.

An especially large choir sang, ably led by Maroush Nigon. She also sang one of the several solos performed by choir members, both male and female.

For the text of his homily, Archbishop Oshagan chose Matthew 19:13-14. "Then the children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people; but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

The Archbishop said: "Each of us is a child of God, and Jesus is saying, 'Come to me like a child, like an innocent child.'" Then he referred the ceremony that he had just conducted to the bible story. "With this ordination we are renewing our church. We as elders have done our job and it is time for the young to take over and renew our church."

Surpazan continued by discussing the National Representative Assembly from which he had just returned. "For the first time," he said, "the theme was Youth. We know that if our young people do not come in - are not present in our church and community - that our church will disappear. A church without youth is a church without a future." He praised St. Gregory's as a congregation whose youth not only come to church but who want to serve at the altar.

At the conclusion of Divine Liturgy, the congregation proceeded to Terhanian Hall which was beautifully arrayed for our 33rd anniversary, the celebration of Mother's Day, and Surpazan's visit.

The Master of Ceremonies, Glenn Papazian first introduced the Archbishop. He then commented that "a lot of work went into this occasion," and thanked everyone for their support. He singled out Noubar Megerian as Chairan of the Board of Trustees, Yeretgin Marie, as our honoree at the first Mothers' Day of the new millennium, and Brian Tavakalian, as chairman of the event.

Glenn spoke next about mothers, and how important they are to each of us. "We give them their greatest pain as well as their greatest joy," he said and went on to say that grandmothers were sacred and he honored mothers-in-law as well.

"Today we honor a very special mother, the mother of our church," he continued. He presented a certificate to Yeretgin Marie Hagopian from Der Nerses and the Board of Trustees. Then Glenn called on Nora Selverian.



Nora presented Yeretgin with a 14-karat gold medallion diamond necklace with chain, a special gift from the church. The jewelry was generously donated by the Khatchadrian Brothers. Next, Nora reviewed Yeretgin's life and honored her as our new millennium Mother of the Year. Two of Yeretgin's grandchildren, Matthew and Julie, read a very special tribute to her. They kissed their grandmother and then kissed the archbishop's ring.

Rev. Fr. Nerses Manougian greeted Serpazan and thanked him for his visit and for performing the ordinations. He then addressed our honored Mother of the Year, Yeretgin Marie. He emphasized that he was cognizant of the difficulties in the life of the wife of a priest. "I know and appreciate all the Yeretzgin's, including mine!"

Finally Der Hayr announced that there would be a surprise. He said that today we would be honoring someone who had worked very hard for our church and for our prelacy, and invited Jack Papazian, who made the following presentation.

### Nazareth Emlikian - Prince of Cilicia

"The highest award that can be bestowed upon a layperson in our church is the Prince of Cilicia award. The Central Executive Council in Cilicia must decree this award. It is reserved for those who serve our church with distinction - some receive the award for their philanthropy and others receive it for their valuable service. Today's recipient fits into the latter category. As I begin to recite the accomplishments and service of this worthy Prince, it should not take you long to discover who it is.

According to my research, this individual served St Gregory's for 15 years on the Board of Trustees, with 8 of those years as Chairman and several as Treasurer. He served 30 years as a delegate to the National Representative Assembly - our church convention. He served on the Fund Raising Committee of the building of this church as well as the original building committee. You see him every Sunday helping with collections and helping current board members with their duties. I can proudly say that I was responsible for making him an honorary member of our BOT in 1994.

On the national scale, he served on the Executive Council of our Prelacy for 24 years, serving in an executive capacity for 23 of those years; 22 as treasurer and rounding out his career as Chairman for 1 year. During this period, he served with three Archbishops - Apb. Hrant for 4 yrs, Apb. Karekin for 4 yrs., and Apb. Mesrob for 15

years. Much of his work on the national scale was done concurrently with his service here at St Gregory's. He also served on the Prelacy's Unity Committee for many years. This worthy servant of our church Nazareth Emlikian was also a world delegate for several terms attending international conferences in Antelias, Lebanon.



In spite of all these church related activities, Naz had time for a career with the federal government and, along with his departed (and dearly missed) wife Nartouhi raised two children Mary Lou and Robert. Mary Lou's family - Harry and daughter Madeline are with us today; as well as the Derderian and Beam families.

Naz was a child of immigrants, who like many of our parents or grandparents, planned to stay in this country a short time until independence was gained. Naz became a child of the Armenian Diaspora and has remained so through his adult years - becoming a true model of the Armenian - American who contributed so much to make this country so great and to advance the cause of his ancestral homeland. He has served his beloved Armenian Apostolic Church with distinction - his parish, St Gregory's; The Armenian Prelacy; the Cilician See; and the people - you and me.

After Jack's moving introduction, Archbishop Oshagan presented Nazareth Emlikian with the medal to which Naz made a most sincere and emotional response.

The Archbishop brought the program to a close by praising Naz's many accomplishments. He remarked that to be an Armenian mother is very difficult and affirmed that the Armenian family is the greatest in the world. After thanking the Sunday school children, the AYF, and the Haigazian school for their contributions to the day, he congratulated our parish by awarding us high marks.

Patty Papazian

### THE NALG SEMINAR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL

The National Association of Ladies' Guilds (NALG) held its annual spring Mid-Atlantic Seminar on April 15, 2000 under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan and hosted by the Prelacy Ladies Guild (PLG) at the Prelacy. Members of the NALG executive body and PLG member Ovsanna Tatarian welcomed the guests. Archbishop Oshagan addressed the audience by stressing the role of women as the backbone of their parishes. Over fifty-five representatives of various parishes filled the hall.

"Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - Yesterday and Today" was the title of an educational and informative lecture (accompanied by a video presentation) delivered by Dn. Shant Kazarjian, Executive Director of the Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC). He discussed the emergence of the tradition of pilgrimages to the Holy Land during the first centuries of the



Christian era and then highlighted the format and content of Armenian pilgrimages during the medieval period. Deacon Shant concluded with a theological reflection on Holy places.

The Executive Director of the Armenian National Education Committee (ANEC), Gilda Kupelian's presentation "Armenian Women: Family, Home and Beyond" touched on timely

issues. The speaker discussed the influential role of Armenian women, as daughters, wives and mothers through the ages from the perspective of females, as well as males. She also pointed out the physiological and psychological differences between the genders. Interspersed with anecdotes, historical and literary quotations, the lecture was well received by the attendees.

Mrs. Rita Tatevossian, NALG Chairperson thanked the participants and guests for a rewarding experience. Members of the NALG Executive Committee include Nora Selverian, Grace Keshgegian, Seta Bakalian and Nazely Avakian.

A survey regarding the involvement of Armenian women in the community was conducted. The PLG entertained everyone with Armenian delicacies catered by Azadouhie Vartanian.

### OUTREACH

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