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Armenian Apostolic Church of America
138 East 39th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016

Volume XXIII No. 7 — March 2001

Easter Message

Christ: Resurrection and Life

On the occasion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's miraculous resurrection we extend our heartfelt joy and good wishes to our devout people, with prayers that God will grant all of you good health and success.

Both before and after Christianity the concept of resurrection has been one of the central ideas in religious and philosophical understanding. Christianity, as a divine religion, did not have the need to become entwined in these questions in order to analyze the concept of resurrection because His resurrection showed that, "In Christ all shall be made alive," (I Cor. 15:22). In other words, for the true Christian the resurrection remains the foundation and anchor of faith, without a glimmer of doubt.

I am the resurrection and the life.
(John 11:25)

Christ made this declaration after the death of Lazarus but before his resurrection. He proclaimed and showed in a practical way that He is the resurrection. As an example, a prototype of resurrection, and the conclusion of a journey. With that resurrection our earthly life received meaning; with that resurrection earthly life has purpose. The Apostle Paul in a very exact way described life with Christ. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21). It is exactly for this reason that every faithful is called to gain that life. And we gain that life when we make our earthly life purposeful. How?

I am the way. (John 14:6)

There is only one way and that is Christ, since He is the leader on the road of life. That road was pictured in front of all humankind through the incarnation of God. In order to follow that road our Lord himself admonished us to keep his commandments, but especially to implement them. The beauty of Christianity and the victory of a Christian are based on the fact that the commandments of Christ are not, and cannot be, just words and teachings but must be work and witness.

By Christ's own confirmation whoever remained on this road found true life and through resurrection joined Christ's life. This faith became the Christian's strength and the hope to triumph over life and death, like Christ. And not only as an individual but as a nation through centuries so that the

(Continued on page 4)

ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍ՝ ՅԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ ԵՒ ԿԵԱՆՔԸ

*"Yet a little while, and the world
will see me no more, but you will
see me; because I live, you will live also."*

John 14:19

Մեր Փրկչին Յիսուս Քրիստոսի հրաշափառ Յարութեան տօնին առիթով, մեր սրտագին խնդակցութիւններն ու բարեմաղթութիւնները կ'առաջնենք մեր բարեպաշտ ժողովուրդին, աղօթելով որ Աստուած բոլորիդ պարգևէ առողջութիւն եւ յաջողութիւն:

Թէ՛ նախաքրիստոնէական շրջանին եւ թէ՛ Քրիստոսէ ետք յարութեան գաղափարը եղած է կրօնական եւ իմաստասիրական հասկացողութեան կեդրոնական մտածումներէն մէկը: Քրիստոնէութիւնը որպէս աստուածային կրօնք պէտք չունեցաւ մտածումներու ոլորտներու մէջ մնալու՝ քննարկելու համար յարութեան գաղափարը, քանի նոյնիման Քրիստոս, մարդացեալ եւ մարմնացեալ Աստուածը, իր յարութեամբ ցոյց տուաւ թէ «Քրիստոսէ ծնածները բոլորն ալ պիտի կենդանանան» (Ա. կրթ. 15.22) Այլ խօսելով, նշմարիտ քրիստոնէական համար յարութիւնը կը մնայ հիմն ու խարխալք իր հաւատքին, կասկածի ոչ մէկ նշոյլ ունենալով իր հոգիին մէջ:

«Ես եմ յարութիւնը եւ կեանքը» (Յովհ. 11.25)

Քրիստոս Ղազարոսի մահուանէն ետք եւ անոր յարութենէն առաջ յայտարարեց այս խօսքերը: Յայտարարեց եւ գործնապէս ցոյց տուաւ թէ ի՛նք է յարութիւնը: Որպէս յարութեան տիպար, նախօրինակ եւ որպէս վախճանակէտ: Այդ յարութեամբ մեր երկրաւոր կեանքը ԻՄԱՍՍ կը ստանայ, այդ յարութեամբ մեր երկրաւոր կեանքը ՆՊԱՍՍՎ կ'ունենայ: Պօղոս Առաքեալ շատ նշգրիտ կերպով կը քննարկէ Քրիստոսով կեանք ունենալը: «Որովհետեւ ինձի համար կեանքը Քրիստոս է, եւ ուստի մեռնիլ՝ այդ կեանքը շահիլ կը նշանակէ» (Փիլ. 1.21): Հիշող այս պատմառով է, որ իւրաքանչիւր հաւատացեալ կոչուած է այդ կեանքը շահելու: Եւ այդ կեանքին կը հասնի, երբ իր երկրաւոր կեանքը կ'իմաստաւորէ: Ինչպէ՞ս:

«Ես եմ մարմանը»: (Յովհ. 14.6)

Մէկ ձեւ ու միջոց կայ եւ ատիկա Քրիստոս ի՛նք է, քանի կեանքին առաջնորդող մարման ինք է: Այդ մարման աշխարհի ամբողջ մարդկութեան առջեւ գծագրուեցաւ Աստուծոյ մարդկութեամբ, այդ մարման ճանաչողութեամբ, այդ մարման ճանաչողութեամբ, այդ մարման ճանաչողութեամբ:

NAZARETH JOHN EMLIKIAN (1922-2001)



Nazareth John Emlikian, formerly of Huntingdon Valley, PA, died of cancer on Monday, February 26, 2001 at the Manor Care Nursing Home in Montgomeryville, PA. He was 79. A national funeral service which took place on March 3 was officiated by the Prelate, Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan.

A retired comptroller for the U.S. Navy, Mr. Emlikian worked at the Philadelphia Naval Base for over 30 years before retiring in 1986.

He was born in Philadelphia on February 23, 1922 and graduated from Overbrook High School in 1939. He attended Drexel University, from which he received an Associate degree. Later, he attended the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, receiving a degree in Business Administration in 1960.

Mr. Emlikian was a veteran of World War II. He served for three years in the Army Air Corp in Air Traffic Control. He participated in the Normandy Invasion.

Upon returning from the war, he married Nartouhi Derderian, a very happy union for 52 years, until her death in September of 1999.

Mr. Emlikian was a tireless, devoted servant of the Armenian Church and the Armenian American community. He was a lifelong member, along with his beloved wife, of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church of Philadelphia. He served on many committees, including Building and Fund raising and the Board of Trustees. He was elected to the Executive Council of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Church of North America and became treasurer and chairman, serving for many years. He was awarded many honors, not only from his Philadelphia parish, but also received the Medal of the Order of "Prince of Cilicia" from the Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

(continued on page 3)

**ՀՈՂՈՐՀՆԷՔԻ ԱՐԱՐՈՂՈՒԹԻՒՆ
ՀԱՐԱՒԱՅԻՆ ՖԼՈՐԻՏԱՅԻ ՄԷՁ**



Հարապին Ֆլորիտայի հայ համայնքին համար պատմական օր մըն էր Կիրակի, 11 Մարտ 2001 թուականը:

Արդարև վերջին ֆանամակին Միջին Արևելեան երկիրներէն թէ Ամերիկայի ու Քանադայի գանազան ֆաղաֆներէն Ֆլորիտա հաստատուած հայեր տարիներ շարունակ ծրագրած, փորձած եւ երազած էին տեսնել իրենց սեփականութիւնը եղող Հայ Եկեղեցւոյ եւ Կեդրոնի մը ֆիզիքական մարմնառումը, որ պիտի ըլլար նաեւ հոգեւոր կեանքի մկրտարան՝ սնուցիչը եւ դաստիարակիչը հայոց առաջնական հաւատքին, մշակոյթին եւ ազգային դարաւոր ժառանգութեանց եւ տոհմիկ ասանդութեանց:

Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Արևելեան Շրջանի եւ Քանադայի Թեմի Բարեջան Առաջնորդ՝ Բարձրաշնորհ Տէր Օշական Արեւիկա Չօլոյանի հոգեւոր խնամքին յանձնուած Հարապին Ֆլորիտայի Ս. Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ եկեղեցւոյ ծուխը հակառակ երկուեակէտ արտավար տարածքով սեփական հողաշերտ մը ունենալուն, մինչեւ այսօր իր կիրակնօրեայ պատարագներն ու եկեղեցական արարողութիւնները ըստ թոյլատրեալ յարմարութիւններու կը կատարէր օտար եկեղեցիներէ ներս: Այդ իսկ պատճառաւ աննախնայ էր ծուխիս խնամարարութիւնը երբ Առաջնորդ Սրբազան Հայրը ձեռնարկեց մօտիկ ապագային կառուցուելիք եկեղեցւոյ եւ հայ կեդրոնի Հողօրհնէքի արարողութեան, որ տեղի ունեցաւ Կիրակի, 11 Մարտ 2001-ի առաւօտեան ժամը 11:30-ին, Boynton Beach-ի կալուածին վրայ:

Յատուկ այս արարողութեան Առաջնորդ Սրբազան Հօր կ'ընկերակցէին Հոգեւոր Հովիւ Գերայ. Տ. Միլոն Ծ' Վրդ. Ազնիկեան, Ազգային Վարչութեան, ներկայացուցիչ Պրն. Վահէ Ամիրեան, Հոգաբարձութեան, յարակից մարմիններու ներկայացուցիչներ եւ հաւատացեալներ: «Անդաստան»-ի եւ Հողօրհնէքի արարողութեան հոգիները Սրբազան Հայրը ֆայտերեց ներկաները որ Հայաստանի մէջ ֆրիստունտութեան պետական կրօնք հոչակման 1700ամեակին առիթով կառուցուելիք եկեղեցին եւ կեդրոնը դառնան հոգեւոր եւ մտաւոր լոյս մեր ժողովուրդի գաւակներուն համար:

Հողօրհնէքի արարողութեան հոգիները տեղի ունեցաւ նաեւ այսինքն Հոգաբարձութեան ատենապետ Պրն. Յարութիւն Գոյումճեան, Հայ Կեդրոնի անունով Տիար Հայկազ Ալպայանեան եւ Պրն. Վահրամ Դանիելեան, ինչպէս նաեւ Հոգեւոր Հովիւ Գերայ. Տ. Միլոն Ծ' Վարդապետ, որոնք անդրադարձան եկեղեցւոյ եւ կեդրոնի անհրաժեշտութեան եւ հրաւիրեցին ներկաները նուիրուելու եկեղեցւոյն եւ ազգաշէն այս ծրագրին: Գործադրուեցաւ նաեւ գեղարուեստական յայտագիր:

Առաջնորդ Սրբազան Հայրը իր փակման խօսքին մէջ նման ծրագրի իրագործման համար շնորհ կարեւորութիւնը հաւատքին, նուիրումին եւ յարասնութեան:

«Կիլիկիա» երգով եւ «Պահպանիչ» աղօթքով վերջ գտաւ հանդիսութիւնը:

Armenian Teachers Honored



Armenian language teachers who have served for ten or more years in Saturday or Day Schools were honored on March 4 at a reception sponsored by the New York Hamazkayin. Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan delivered the invocation and spoke of the dedication of the Armenian teacher. The keynote speaker was Mrs. Zarmine Boghosian, retired principal of Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School in Bayside, New York. The four teachers honored, some of whom could not attend because of the inclement weather, are: Haigouhi Yepremian, Arshalous Kazanjian, Nayri Balanian and Ovsanna Sajonian.

**COMMEMORATION
OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

under the auspices of
Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan
Prelate, Eastern United States and Canada

Monday, April 23, 2001
7:00 p.m.

Cooper Union, the Great Hall
7 East 7th Street, New York City

Keynote Speaker
Professor Vahakn Dadrian

Music by
Djivan Gasparian

Live Illustration by
Kevork Mourad

HUMANITARIAN AID PROGRAM CONTINUES

The latest container for the Eastern Prelacy's Humanitarian Aid program arrived in Yerevan at the end of February, with an estimated value of \$81,727.51 of donated goods.

The contents of the container included dental floss, diapers, blankets, infant formula, vinyl gloves, toothbrushes, shampoo, and bath towels.

The distribution of the items is being coordinated by the Prelacy's St. Nerses the Great Charitable Organization which is overseen by the Prelate, His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan. Most of the dental products in this shipment will be distributed to the Karageuzian Dental Clinics in Armenia and Artsakh.

The contents of this container were donated by AmeriCares, who contacted various corporations on behalf of the Prelacy and requested product donations. Once the donations were secured, the United Armenian Fund provided transportation from a designated point in the United States to Yerevan. As in previous shipments, the effort in the United States was coordinated by Martha Kouyoumdjian Mekaelian who worked in conjunction with the Prelacy office.

"Once again," said Archbishop Oshagan, "we extend our thanks to Mrs. Mekaelian who has worked so diligently for more than a decade to secure needed items for Armenia and Artsakh. I am also grateful to our staff in Armenia for the professional and excellent execution of their duties."

The Prelate also extended thanks to AmeriCares and United Armenian Fund without whose cooperation it would not be possible to ship goods to Armenia. "This is truly a united effort," said the Prelate.

Monetary contributions for the Prelacy's humanitarian efforts, which includes the sponsorship of more than 700 orphans, can be sent to the Eastern Prelacy, 138 E. 39th Street, New York, NY 10016. For information, 212-689-7810.

OUTREACH

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Armenia Fund USA Raises Funds for Health Center



Armenia fund USA (AFUSA) hosted a fund raising banquet on March 4, in New York City, for the benefit of the building of the Karabagh Health Care Center. Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan delivered the invocation. The featured speaker for the evening was Baroness Caroline Cox who has made more than 50 humanitarian trips to Karabagh in the past decade. More than \$850,000 was raised for the Health Center which when completed will have the capacity to provide health care for 70% of the population. In the photo above, His Eminence is seen with Ambassador Movses Abelian, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, congratulating Baroness Cox following her presentation.



His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia (right), with Pope Shenouda, head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, and Patriarch Zakka Ewaz of the Assyrian Orthodox Church.

The fourth meeting of the leaders of the Oriental Orthodox Churches in the Middle East took place in Cairo, Egypt, on March 15 to 17, 2001.

Attending the meeting were Pope Shenouda II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark of the Coptic Orthodox Church; Patriarch Ignatius Zakka I, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East of the Syrian Orthodox Church; and Catholicos Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia of the Armenian Orthodox Church. Also attending were members of the standing committee which included H.E. Metropolitan Bishoy, H.G. Bishop Moussa, H.E. Metropolitan Theophilus George Saliba, H.G. Bishop Sebouh Sarkissian, and Archimandrite Nareg Alemezian. The meeting took place at the St. Mark Center of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Cairo.

Topics which were studied and discussed included: The 1700th anniversary celebration of the proclamation of Christianity as a state religion in Armenia; Theological Dialogues; World Council of Churches and Orthodox participation; and the Middle East Council of Churches.

Also discussed were the work of the various sub-committees, the exchange of resources and information, and peace in the Middle East.

On the topic of the 1700th anniversary of Christian Armenia, Pope Shenouda III and Patriarch Ignatius Zakka I welcomed the invitation of Catholicos Aram I to attend the celebrations of the Armenian Church in the Catholicate of the Great House of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon, May 25 to 27, 2001. In the Common Declaration issued at the conclusion of the meetings it was noted, "...Christianity was preached in Armenia by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew. Christian faith was a living reality in the life of the Armenian people in the following centuries. It was in 301 that Christianity became the state religion of Armenia, the Armenian nation is the first nation to accept Christianity as a state religion. Pope Shenouda III and Patriarch Ignatius Zakka I consider the 1700th anniversary celebrations an excellent opportunity to share the joy of their sister Armenian Church, to pray for its prosperity and to re-affirm the unity that exists between Armenian, Coptic, and Syrian Orthodox Churches."

**NEW MEMBERS OF
ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED**

Better Community Outreach, More Grass Roots Involvement Cited

The Prelacy announced that four new members have been elected to its Endowment Committee. Comprising a dedicated pool of endowment specialists and community activists, the Committee reflects the Prelacy's ongoing effort to bolster community-based programs.

Newly elected members are: Noubar Afeyan, Ken Hachikian, Kenneth Asbedian and Antranig Boudakian. Continuing members are: Dr. Varant Hagopian, Zohrab Tazian, Antranig Sarkissian, Robert Setrakian, Onnic Marashian, Dr. Jean Arakelian, John O. Vartan, Richard Sarajian, Esq. and Jack Mardoian, Esq. (ex-officio).

The chief goal of the Endowment Committee is to build an Endowment Fund supporting community outreach. "This is our way of creating opportunities for donors and philanthropists to assume a leadership role, by getting involved in worthy projects that make a significant difference in Armenian-American life," said Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate.

In order to better address the spiritual, social and cultural needs of the burgeoning Armenian-American community, the Prelacy is poised to strengthen core institutional programs while planning to launch a number of groundbreaking initiatives. "The Endowment Fund has been growing through the generosity of many individuals who have donated to the general fund, proceeds of which benefit the Prelacy's overall programs. In addition to contributing to the general fund, the Endowment Fund provides the opportunity for individuals and families to put their names behind specific philanthropic interests in perpetuity," commented Dr. Varant Hagopian, Chairman of the Endowment Committee. "By establishing individualized endowments, donors will be contributing directly to causes that are close to their hearts and principles, while enjoying the profound appreciation of generations of Armenian-Americans." Dr. Hagopian added that endowments may be created through a variety of legal instruments, both during and after a donor's lifetime.

The Prelacy's upcoming programs will be spearheaded by its newly created Development Office. Led by Sona Hamalian, the Development Office is currently planning a number of initiatives designed to strengthen community outreach, recruit and train clergy, develop youth leadership programs, promote the arts, and advocate grass roots solidarity.

"It's all about providing the Prelacy's full-fledged support to the foremost spiritual and cultural quests of the community," said Ms. Hamalian. "It's about helping affect positive, lasting change in the lives of Armenian individuals as well as in a larger, collective sense." According to Ms. Hamalian, a major objective of the Development Office is to establish a more dynamic link with constituents and the Armenian-American community as a whole, aiming to attract grass roots involvement in Prelacy programs and activities. "That aim will be best served by synergizing the efforts of the Development Office and the Endowment Committee," Hamalian said.

The Prelacy's Endowment Fund has the benefit of being built on a number of important endowments that were granted in the past. They are: Pierre Papazian Literary Fund; Zaven Andrikian Special Fund; Puzant Yeghiayan Higher Theological Scholarship Fund; E. Sadoian Education Fund; E. Sadoian Construction Fund; Suzanne and Hovsep Hagopian Fund; M. Sarkis Fund; Hripsime Haik Minassian & Edward Haik Minassian Fund; Boudakian Family Fund; Catholicos Karekin I Religious Education Fund; Pashalian Family Fund; Vartan Family Fund; and Sahack Y. Kework & Morrow M. Kework Memorial Fund.

For further information on the Endowment Fund and to find out more about the Development Office and its activities, please call Sona Hamalian at 212-689-7810.

Nazareth John Emlikian (continued from page 1)

Mr. Emlikian is survived by his daughter, Mary Lou Shores and son-in-law, Sonny Shores and granddaughter, Madeline; and a son, Robert and daughter-in-law, MaryAnne. He is also survived by her sister, Biazer Zagara, now of California, a brother-in-law, Joe; nephews, Joe Jr. and John and a niece, Marianne Zagara and their families, his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Jack & Alice Derderian and their son and daughter, Jack Jr. & Patti.



Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan led a delegation of visitors to the Old Age Home in Flushing, New York. The attending clergymen participated in a service for the residents, followed by a luncheon sponsored by the Philadelphia community.

Prelacy's Lenten Lecture Series Concludes



A scene from one of the Lenten Lectures at the Prelacy.

Being the 1700th anniversary of embracing Christianity as the state religion of Armenia, "Baptism into Christ as a Nation" was the theme of this year's six-week program during Great Lent, held at the Armenian Prelacy on Wednesday evenings. Co-sponsored by the Prelacy Ladies Guild (PLG) and the Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC), the program included the traditional *Husgoom Service* at 7:30 p.m., followed by a meditation and question/answer session.

Various aspects of the notion of "Baptism into Christ" were discussed and reflected upon, using biblical imageries and metaphors, liturgical texts, Armenian iconography pertaining to baptism, as well as the historical accounts of the conversion and evangelization of Armenia and finally her baptism into Christ as a nation.

The keynote address was presented by His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, who highlighted the religious, political and cultural ramifications of the historical event—then and now.

The Very Rev. Fr. Anoushavan Tanielian, Vicar General of the Prelacy, reflected upon the subject of "Conversion—Yesterday and Today;" Dr. Vigen Guroian, Professor of Theology and Ethics at Loyola College, Baltimore, Maryland, presented a meditation on "What Does It Mean to be Baptized in Christ," using slide presentation of Armenian iconography; Dn. Shant Kazanjian, Director of AREC, expounded on "Living Our Baptism;" Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Boghossian, Pastor of Sts. Vartanantz Church, Ridgefield, New Jersey, spoke about "St. Gregory the Illuminator—Great Confessor of Christ," and Rev. Fr. Aram Stepanian, Pastor of St. Asdvadzadzin Church, Whitinsville, Massachusetts, addressed the idea of "Faith Under Fire."

After the lectures, the participants enjoyed delicious Armenian Lenten delicacies graciously provided by members of the PLG, as well as a number of faithful members of the St. Illuminator's Armenian Apostolic Cathedral in New York City, which created a wonderful atmosphere for the participants for fellowship and to further discuss the topic that was presented.

This six-week Lenten program is just one of the many educational and spiritu-

al programs made available by the Prelacy to the community in the New York and New Jersey region. Those interested in such faith-based programs are encouraged to contact the Prelacy and the local parishes in the region.

Prelate's Easter Message

(Continued from page 1)

church and people worked on Christ's road and in spite of multiple and many Golgothas we always found the cross and the crucified in our souls and embraced resurrection.

The 1,700 years of Armenian Christian life gave witness to all of this. As a nation we personified, believed and lived, overcoming all types of evil, by preaching the Bible and truth and gaining eternal life. This faith became and remains our nutrition, our power and our strength.

May the Holy Resurrection of the year 2001 in our church's 1,700 year of apostolic mission and witness once again rejuvenate in our souls the presence of Christ as guarantor of our resurrection. The road to resurrection is Christ. When the aim of our existence is to gain Christ's life then the bright and eternal days of resurrection await us as Christ's promised posterity.

Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan
Prelate



Rev. Fr. Antranig Baljian delivering the keynote address during the conference for Christian educators.

Christian Educators Attend Conference Sponsored by AREC on Sacraments

Thirty-five Sunday School directors and teachers from nine Prelacy parishes gathered at the Hillcrest Conference Center in Sharon, Massachusetts, on the weekend of March 9-11, 2001, for the annual National Conference for Christian educators. Sponsored by the Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC) of the Prelacy, the conference focused on Baptism, Chrismation, and the Eucharist, the sacraments of Christian Initiation.

The success of a Sunday School program depends, in large part, on the effectiveness of Sunday School teachers, on the knowledge of and commitment to the Armenian Orthodox faith, as well as on the ability to communicate that faith to their students. In addition to these dual goals—content and method—the AREC conferences seek to create a forum for the Sunday School teachers and directors to network and exchange teaching ideas and resources. Deacon Shant Kazanjian, the Executive Director of AREC, underscored these objectives in his introductory remarks.

These objectives were fulfilled in varying degrees through lectures, workshops, and small group discussions. Over six hours of teaching were devoted to instructing the Sunday School teachers, four hours to teaching the teacher to teach, and two hours for networking.

Fr. Antranig Baljian, Pastor of St. Stephen's Church (Watertown, Massachusetts) gave the keynote address on *Christian Initiation—Yesterday and Today*, highlighting the various ages and stages of initiation in the Armenian Church, and discussed the role of the Sunday School ministry today relative to post baptismal instructions.

Since the Bible is the ultimate source and the most authoritative expression of the teaching about God and His will for us, three sessions, each an hour and a half, were devoted to the *Christian Initiation in the New Testament*. These sessions were presented by a prominent biblical scholar Fr. Paul Tarazi, Ph.D., professor of Biblical Studies at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (Crestwood, New York), and author of several scholarly volumes. In his presentation, Fr. Tarazi focused on the core teachings of the bible regarding Baptism, Chrismation and the Eucharist.

He emphasized the gift of God communicated to us in these sacraments and the obligations and responsibilities these sacraments impose on those who accept and endorse the Gospel of Christ.

Two workshops on *Teaching Sacraments in Sunday School* were conducted by Dr. Mary Shamsioian-Olson, Associate Principal for Curriculum and Assessment at Warren Township High School in Illinois, and member of the St. Hagop Armenian Apostolic Church (Racine, Wisconsin). After discussing basic instructional theories and different modes of learning based on current research, Dr. Olson guided the participants through various activities. In and through these activities, she highlighted a process for analyzing an existing curriculum/program and ways to develop it based on new learning. "The curriculum is just a guide...and it is never finished," she said. It is the task of the teachers to make the best use of the curriculum as a resource and develop it taking into account the students' interests and abilities. By the end of the workshops, the participants had drafted a detailed outline of a curriculum on the sacraments of initiation for three distinct age groups—elementary, middle and junior/senior high school students.

The 35 participants came from the following parishes: Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church, Ridgefield, New Jersey; St. Stephen's Armenian Church, Watertown, Massachusetts; Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church, Providence, Rhode Island; St. Gregory Armenian Church, Indian Orchard, Massachusetts; St. Gregory Armenian Church, North Andover, Massachusetts; St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; St. Asdvadzadzin Armenian Church, Whitinsville, Massachusetts; Sourp Hagop Armenian Church, Montreal, Quebec; St. Hagop Armenian Church, Racine, Wisconsin.

The next AREC annual conference will focus on the remainder of the Sacraments.

In addition to the annual weekend conference, AREC sponsors local Sunday School teachers' seminars and workshops. Parishes are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities by contacting the AREC office to arrange for a training program.



Workshops on teaching sacraments in Sunday Schools were conducted by Dr. Mary Shamsioian-Olson.



Fr. Paul Tarazi, one of the presenters at the AREC conference, focused on the teachings of the bible regarding Baptism, Chrismation, and the Eucharist.