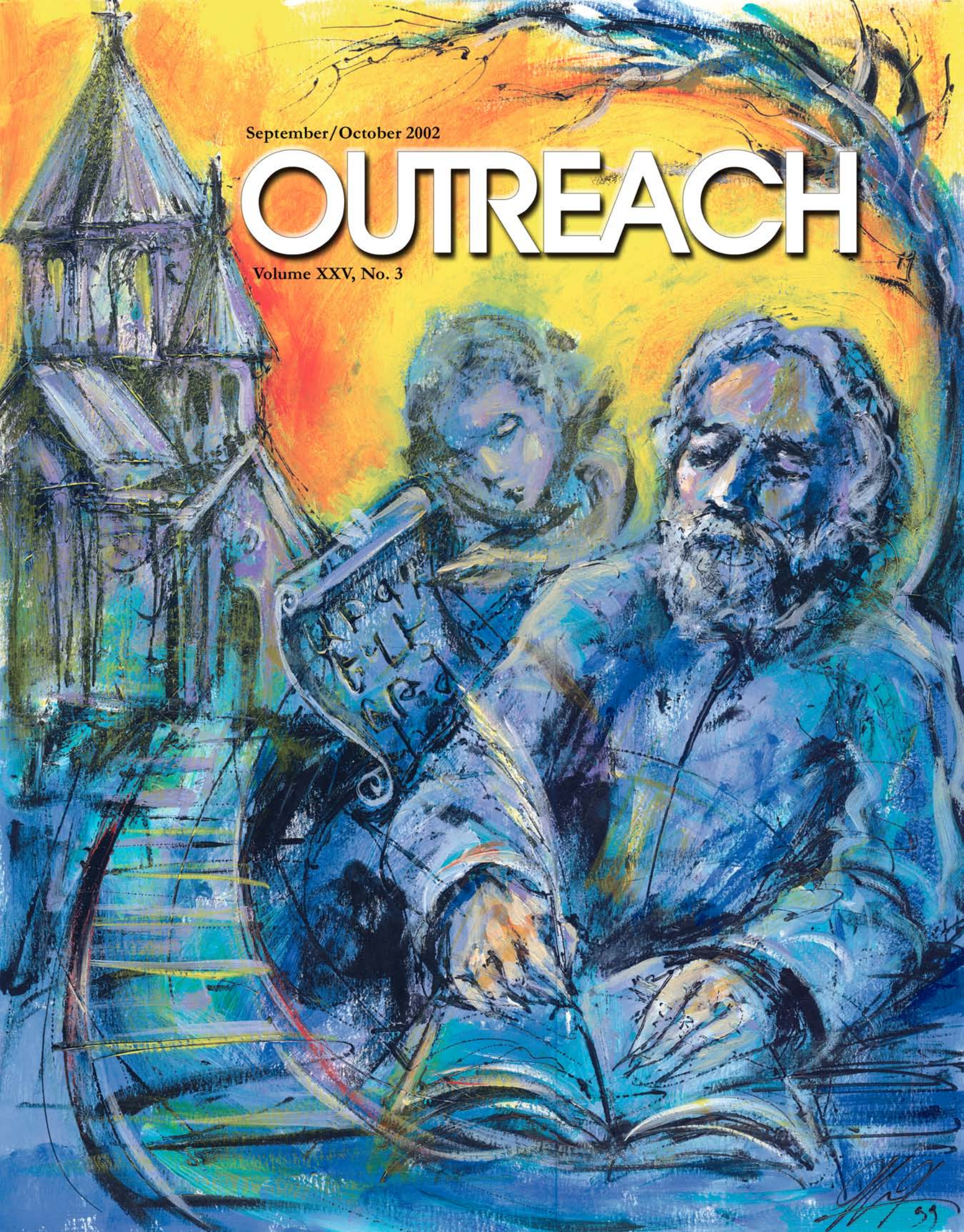


September/October 2002

OUTREACH

Volume XXV, No. 3



From the Editor:

Thank You for Great Response

The response to the “new” *Outreach* has been extraordinary and I want to thank many of you who took the time to call, write (email and snail-mail) and, mostly, through your direct communication when our paths crossed. Most of your comments have used the words “interesting,” “informative,” and “educational,” which have made me very happy. I have been involved, one way or another, with *Outreach* since its very first issue of May 1978, initiated by the then newly installed Prelate, Bishop Mesrob Ashjian. The old tabloid format served our purposes well at the time, but as many of you observed, “The time for change was long overdue.”

In our first “new” issue, Dr. George Dermksian had an article about St. Illuminator’s Cathedral which one reader described as “wonderful and very touching.” Dr. Dermksian himself wrote a thoughtful letter with words of congratulations for *Outreach* and added a very interesting addendum to his article and the historical sidebar accompanying his article. George wrote,

I would also like to thank you for your editor’s insert following my article based upon the late author Aram Haigaz’s article.... Of particular interest to me was the information that Arsbag Fetvajian was “entrusted” with the “task of rebuilding” the Cathedral and “painting the Madonna and Child.” For the information of your readers of the younger age group, Arsbag Fetvajian was not only a noted artist, but was most accomplished with over “2,000 oils and watercolors.” He trained in the Ottoman Imperial Academy of Art and the San Luca Art Academy of Rome. He worked in Rome, Venice (with Father Ghevond Alishan of the Mekhitarist Monastery), St. Petersburg, Vienna, Tiflis and Yerevan. The Armenian Republic of 1918 chose Fetvajian to “design and supervise the production of Armenia’s first issue of paper currency and stamps,” an honor that attests to his skills as an artist, and especially as a portrait artist. He was in Paris directing the printing of these items when the Republic fell to the “Bolshevik Revolutionary Committee” and so the stamps and notes “did not reach Armenia.” The artist immigrated to the United States and continued to paint—producing the portrait of the Madonna and Child for St. Illuminator’s Cathedral and probably other institutions and individuals. In 1947, prior to his demise, “he bequeathed his entire collection of paintings to the State Historical Museum in Yerevan.” This information regarding Arsbag Fetvajian is extracted from page 59 of my good friend Dr. Zareh Hovanesian’s monumental work, “The Philatelic History of Armenia.”

Remembering Minas Minassian

On the back cover of this issue is one of Minas Minassian’s many creations utilizing the Armenian alphabet. For many decades the Armenian American community enjoyed Minas’ unique talent. Indeed, many of his creations are still in use by newspapers and magazines. Minas worked tirelessly, eagerly and generously for the Eastern Prelacy. He was always ready at a moment’s notice to create a needed piece of art for a publication. Archbishop Oshagan fondly remembers that he learned a lot about graphic art from Minas and he also recalls a day when Minas

(continued inside back cover)



Minas Minassian

Front Cover: *Khorburd Khorin* by contemporary artist, Kevork Mourad.

Back Cover: Alphabet art by Minas Minassian

OUTREACH

is a publication of the
Eastern Prelacy of the
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OUTREACH (USPS 426-490) is published bimonthly by the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, 138 E. 39th Street, New York, NY 10016. Printed in Canada. Periodical rate postage paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to OUTREACH, c/o Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, 138 E. 39th Street, New York, NY 10016.

ISSN: 1064-3087



Prelate's Message

October. Month of Culture.

October was designated the month of culture because the first saints of that month designated it thus, bequeathing to us the supernatural and miraculous endeavor of our great saints—the Holy Translator Fathers.

The first result of that miracle was the distribution of God's word—His bread—to our people. The Holy Bible was translated into Armenian. God communicated with us in Armenian, and our intimacy and love toward Christ intensified, increased and turned into sound and hymn, word and prayer, faith, sacrifice and witness.

With the invention of the alphabet, St. Mesrob Mashtotz built the foundation for the first school. He became the first teacher of Armenian. Armed with its own alphabet, the Armenian language radiated, created, translated and, above all, prepared that generation of students whose love for their God and people, and whose faith and dedication to literature created the Golden Age of our culture—the Golden Age of our existence.

All of this is history, but it is not fiction. It is past but not forgotten. Today the Holy Translators speak to us in the same way, perhaps even stronger, and with greater expectations and demands because the

pillars that formed the foundation of our existence are in danger. Our faith takes on different colors and hues; prayers fall silent in our souls. The Holy Bible remains closed in our homes, not to mention that in many homes it does not exist at all. Our language does not flow from the lips of our children and the Armenian song, amidst vulgarity, loses its purity.

The month of October—the month of culture—must signal a return to the richness of our culture, in order to strengthen the weakened pillars, must give breath to our language and the Holy Bible to rekindle the fire of our faith in our souls. When we rediscover our purity and the treasures of our culture, when we welcome the Holy Translators into our homes with joy, then we are conscious of and appreciative of the benefit that our culture and schools have brought to us and will continue to bring to us: the sacrifice of our teachers and educators; the service of our press, and the miracle that our language and faith creates in our individual and collective lives.

The legacy of the Translators and the celebration of Cultural Month become meaningful not through remembrance alone, but by embracing their teachings as a part of our existence today, thus truly celebrating the Feast of the Holy Translators.

St. Gregory of Datev Institute: “Not Just Some Bible Camp”

Every summer, one week in July, the St. Gregory of Datev Institute Summer Christian Studies Program takes place in Elverson, Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC). The Institute is in its 16th year and its primary target audience is youth ages 13-18. Its objectives are to create a wholesome and nurturing environment for our youth for religious education, worship and fellowship. Here are some comments by recent attendees. One common sentiment expressed by almost everyone was that “one week is not enough.”

Being encircled by spirituality with other Armenian youth has made me both a better Armenian and a better Christian. Every summer I leave Datev with a very important lesson in mind, whether it is a lesson taught by one of the many instructors at the Institute, or a lesson learned from spending time with fellow Datevatzis. . . . I have heard some people describe Datev as just a religious experience, or one to

Datev is a religious institution that is directed by Very Rev. Fr. Anoushavan Tanielian and Deacon Shant Kazanjian. I am very honored to be part of the Datev Institute since the age of 13. During the years I spent at Datev I gained more knowledge of the important foundations of Armenian Christianity through the Worship



2002 Datevatzis gather together.



A time to pray.

help strengthen your spirituality, but I believe otherwise. While it is true that my spirituality is heightened each year, I believe the true meaning of Datev is to become a better person. . . .

Niherie Miller (2nd year)

St. Gregory Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Services, reading of the Bible as well as discussing contemporary moral and ethical issues. I am very proud to be a Datevatzis. I am looking forward to attending Datev this next summer again. I would like to thank Hayr Anoushavan, Deacon Shant, the clergy, and guest speakers who make Datev a great learning experience.

Marie-Noel Giveleghian (post graduate)

St. Sarkis Church, Douglaston, New York

Datev is a great and rewarding experience. . . . The interesting part about Datev is that you learn about God in interesting and simpler ways. The daily activities consisted of church services, lessons, social time, swimming, sports and outings. I am definitely going back next year. I can't wait!

Talene Yermian (1st year)

St. Gregory Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

This small retreat center in rural Pennsylvania is home to years of Datevatzis, who return year after year to reunite with friends, expand their knowledge of the

Armenian Church, and reconnect with God. Hopefully, Datev inspires its students to welcome God into their lives, as it has done to me. Far from ‘just some Bible camp,’ St. Gregory of Datev is a place I will never forget.

Krista Guzelian (2nd year)

St. Gregory Church, North Andover, Massachusetts

Datev this year has been an uplifting experience. I



A time for fellowship.

learned a lot about my faith as a Christian and will continue my education at Datev until I turn 64(!). Aside from the incredible educational experience, I also had a grand time being with my peers and having the opportunity and enable myself to form new friendships and meeting new people. Datev will never, in my mind, die or fade away, and will always be looked upon as a happy memory.

Mikhail Mekaelian, (post-graduate)

St. Paul Church, Waukegan, Illinois

The Datev seminar is a religious program that balances spiritual elements, stresses the importance of Armenian culture and promotes a social experience which gives individuals the opportunity to work as a community. The experience is enjoyable and has many benefits, however, at times the people who attend Datev are treated as if they are immature. I feel that by making a decision to leave one’s family for a week and stay in an alien environment requires a degree of maturity. Therefore, I feel that because the students attending Datev are making an individual choice they have the responsibility to be held accountable for their actions.

Lia Parisyan (1st year)

St. Sarkis Church, Douglaston, New York

I have been going to Datev for six years now and I don’t intend to stop. I look forward to one thing every summer—going to Datev. My friends ask me what Datev is. I tell them it is a religious retreat and they say, you’re going to a bible camp? I tell them, yes we have Bible studies, yes we have morning and evening service, yes we have priests who are our teachers, but it is more than a Bible camp. I go there to strengthen my faith in God, to be a better Armenian Christian, and to learn more about the Armenian Church, faith, culture, and traditions. We also have a lot of fun, too. As a community we laugh together, cry together, pray, sing and dance. At Datev we can talk to the clergy as if they are our best friends, not only father figures, but real friends. For me this is the only place where I can be myself and learn more about what I can be.

Ani Yaghmourian (post graduate)

Holy Trinity Church, Worcester, Massachusetts

When friends in school ask, “What did you do over the summer?” most of the Datevatzies would answer, “I attended a religious camp somewhere in the middle of Pennsylvania for a week.” To our friends, these words are meaningless. However, as a first year Datevatzi, I know that these words hint of what Datev is all about. But the



A time to play.

words “a religious camp” are an understatement. Datev is far beyond what many people think. It fulfills social, cultural and most importantly, religious purposes in one brief but well-organized week.

Before I enrolled at Datev, I thought one entire week of prayer would be suicidal. But after that week passed by, I realized that it was not only prayer that I had experienced. The great teaching by the staff kept my attention and my interest at an all time high, even when I was tired from the previous night’s Armenian dancing. The

teachers truly know what to teach. Datev provides us with Bible studies, church services, open-group discussions and other activities related to our faith. Attending Datev is like having a door opened within



A time to learn.

oneself.

One activity that I found very helpful was our open group discussions, when people from our community came to talk about a certain issue and the students were encouraged to give their own opinions.

Jacques Minoyan (1st year student)

*Sts. Vartanantz Church,
Ridgefield, New Jersey*

Last year was our first year at Datev. We thought we weren't going to enjoy it because we were told we were going to have classes and thought it was back to school during our vacation time, but by the end of the week we wanted to stay a little bit longer. . . We are definitely coming back. . . Are we going to go to Armenia next year? That would be wonderful!

Lianna Demirdjian and
Mary Demirdjian (1st year)

St. Sarkis Church, Douglaston, New York

The 2002 Datev Institute from a Student's Perspective...

One week of lectures, presentations, Bible Study and group discussions barely describes the Datevatzi program.

A typical day starts with morning services at 7:20 a.m., followed by breakfast. Students hop to their first class—Armenian language—as they embark on their adventures of learning the “ABG,” reading about famous Armenians such as Hovanness Toumanian, or for the more advanced, learning *Krapar* (Classical Armenian), the language of our Divine Liturgy. After Armenian language, students attend classes according to the number of years they have participated. I have attended Datev for five years, so along with the other Datev alumni, I participated in the post-graduate class. Classes run until lunchtime and resume after dinner.

Between lunch and dinner free time is provided for students to participate in sports, games, swimming, or just to relax. There were a few special trips during free time to a water park and we also went boating. In the evening the students gather and take part in a group discussion on a topic chosen by the instructors' panel. During these discussions, students are free to ask the instructors anything about life.

Mr. Haroutune Misserlian, the guest speaker on Wednesday evening, led a discussion on a new book, *A Summer Without Dawn*. The book is set during the years of the Armenian Genocide and reflects on the innocent Armenians who experienced this tragic event. He took a few points from the book that challenged the characters' lives in the book. At the end of his lecture, the room was filled with many thoughtful questions and comments, followed by Bible Study, organized according to age groups.

Each year on the Fourth of July, everyone is invited to a picnic hosted by Datev. The Datevatzi's were honored this year with a visit from His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan.

On Friday evening, the Datevatzis entertain their instructors, guests and participants with a talent show.

The Datevatzi program is evaluated on Saturday, and each year the participants always ask, “Can Datev be two weeks instead of one?” This question attests to the success of the Datev Institute. The program ends on Sunday with Divine Liturgy and graduation ceremony for fourth year students.

Garine Palandjian (post-graduate)

Sts. Vartanantz Church, Providence, Rhode Island

Instructors at this year's Institute included, Very Rev. Fr. Anoushavan Tanielian (Director), Very Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Manjikian, Very Rev. Fr. Muron Aznikian, Rev. Fr. Dr. Mesrob Tashjian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Habeshian, Rev. Fr. Antranig Baljian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Manoogian, Rev. Fr. Gomidas Baghsarian, Rev. Fr. Dr. Khatchadour Boghossian, and Dn. Shant Kazanjian.

Parish Profile: Concert, Liturgy, and Fellowship Celebrate 40th Anniversary of St. Sarkis Church in Dearborn

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of Parish Profiles. In October, St. Sarkis Church in Dearborn, Michigan, celebrated the 40th anniversary at its current location. The 40th anniversary committee, chaired by Khachig Kafajian, successfully presented a weekend of activities that combined religious, cultural, and social events. Of course, the history of this parish spans longer than 40 years. See Sidebar for historical data.

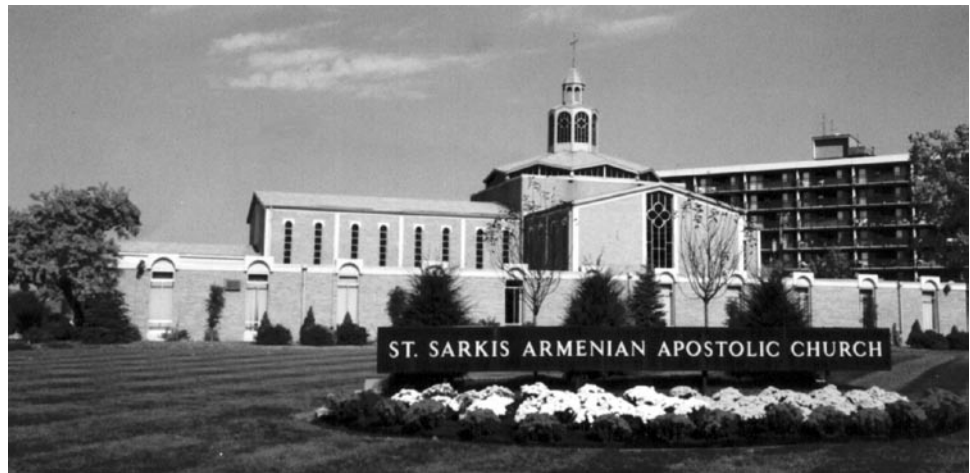
The weekend of October 5 and 6, had a special meaning for Armenians in the Greater Detroit area as they gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the consecration of the St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church in Dearborn. The scope of the weekend achieved its goal, which was to uplift and inspire, to renew and re-dedicate, to look back on a proud yesterday, giving thanks for a successful present and looking forward to many bright tomorrows.

40th Anniversary Celebration Concert

On Saturday evening, the 40th Anniversary Celebration Concert featured the world premiere performance of a piece for string quartet composed especially for this anniversary by Eric V. Hachikian, titled *St. Sarkis Suite*.

The capacity audience was hushed in anticipation of the evening's program and listened as Master of Ceremonies Narses Gedigian vividly spoke about the early days of the St. Sarkis community during the first part of the twentieth century. He traced its roots from the various temporary homes the parish occupied in the Detroit area through the construction and consecration of a permanent church edifice on Dearborn's Ford Road in October 1962. In the decades that followed, the parish enjoyed spectacular growth and the community succeeded in adding the Armenian Community Center and the Armenian Senior Citizens' Tower on the grounds of the church complex, an unprecedented accomplishment for an Armenian community at that time. During the past fifteen years the parish has enhanced the church grounds and building with many improvements, including the installa-

tion of new bronze doors and stained glass windows for the main entrance to the church. More recently, a major addition to the church building was the construction of the south wing to provide added classroom space for the large enrollments of Sunday School students.



Soprano Annette Mamassian, accompanied by Mrs. Margaret Benian, presented a program of sacred and secular songs. She set the tone for the entire evening with a very stirring *Der Voghormya* (Lord have Mercy), followed by the majestic *The Heavens are Praising the Lord of Creation*, next was *Khungee Dzaree Numan Es*, *Ave Maria* and two Italian songs, concluding her program with *Psalm 100* by Rene Clausen.

To introduce the second part of the concert program, Mr. Michael Hagopian spoke about the composer whose work for string quartet, *St. Sarkis Suite*, was to be premiered. Eric Hachikian is currently an honor student at the University of Michigan School of Music and with this composition he fulfilled his desire to write music based on Armenian melodies.

St. Sarkis Suite opened with a yearning melody on the cello, transporting the audience to a different time and place. Each instrument, in turn and together, conveyed a wide range of emotion, flowing smoothly from one movement to the next. The piece moved through eight movements that melded the Armenian liturgical and folk melodies and succeeded in taking the listener on a journey spanning many centuries and many moods.

Divine Liturgy and Ordination of Acolytes

Sunday, October 6, the faithful gathered to witness an Episcopal Divine Liturgy celebrated by the Prelate, Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, assisted by the Pastor, Rev. Fr. Daron Stepanian, and Archpriest Dr. Gorun Shrikian, Pastor Emeritus, and the ordination of eight young men to the rank of acolyte (*Tbir*). The young boys, Mark Evarian, Matthew Goulet, Levon Kafafian, Armen Mardigian, Alexander Daron Noroyan, Casey Garabed Noroyan, Justin Aram Noroyan and Bobby Tacoma, dressed in the traditional robes of altar servers, ascended the altar with their sponsor (*Khardavilag*), Rev. Fr. Daron Stepanian. Kneeling on the *bema* they listened as the hymns and prayers of the ordination ceremony were chanted and sung. His Eminence presented each a broom “to sweep the house of the Lord,” a key to “open and close the doors of the church,” Apostolic books and the Book of Psalms “to instruct yourselves and others,” a *Mashtots*, the book of ritual prayers which contain the prayers of exorcism read at baptisms, a lighted candle and an empty cruet so that they may “light the candles in the Church and prepare the wine for the Liturgy.” At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Prelate exhorted them to be good servants of the church and to live an exemplary life. His Eminence also blessed the new veils of the female choir members and the veils to be used by the faithful.

Following the Divine Liturgy, the choir, altar servers, deacons and clergy led the congregation from the church to the Memorial Monument in front of the church. There the Archbishop said a prayer for the one and one-half million martyrs of

the Armenian Genocide and blessed the newly constructed “Walk of Remembrance and Honor” and the newly placed relics of the martyrs, brought from Der-el-Zor, in a glass chamber on the steps of the monument. Prior to the dismissal prayer, the congregation joined together in the singing of *Giligia*.



Archbishop Oshagan officiates during ordination of acolytes.



Archbishop Oshagan presents award to David Karapetian.



A special service at the Memorial Monument.

40th Anniversary Dinner and program

Close to 300 parishioners and friends gathered at the Fairlane Club in Dearborn for the 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner, presided over by Archbishop Oshagan.

An Encyclical issued by His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, congratulated the parish on its 40th Anniversary and offered words of praise for the parish’s many achievements over the years.

State Senator Thaddeus McCotter presented an executive declaration issued by Michigan Governor John Engler and Lieutenant-Governor Dick Posthumus in which they congratulated St. Sarkis on its 40th Anniversary in Dearborn. A proclamation issued by the Mayor of Dearborn, the Honorable Michael A. Guido, was presented naming October 6, 2002, St. Sarkis Day.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mark Evarian, recognized the many people who had served the church over the years in various capacities as delegates, board members, deacons, choir members, altar servers and members of auxiliary bodies. “It is important to remember that the parish did not begin only forty years ago. We arrived at our present

location because prior generations had the foresight and vision to bring us this far.”

Michael Hagopian, Vice Chairman of the Prelacy Executive Council and St. Sarkis member spoke about the work being done by the Prelacy and urged everyone to support the Prelacy's efforts.

Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Gorun Shrikian addressed the gathering and noted that he had spent more than one-half of his entire life as pastor of St. Sarkis, beginning when the church edifice was only three years old until his retirement in 1998. He paid tribute to all the people who had served the church, including the various auxiliary bodies. Rev. Shrikian made special mention of the enormous and record-breaking generosity of the St. Sarkis community towards aid to Armenia in the aftermath of the 1988 earthquake and later in the 1990s, when the Armenians of Karabagh were fighting for their very existence, and throughout the formative years of the new Republic of Armenia. He expressed his pride in having served such a great community.

Certificates of Merit, issued by the Prelacy, were presented to parishioners in recognition of their service to St. Sarkis. Recognized on this occasion were Helen Movsesian and David Karapetian. A Family Award was presented to the Darakdjian Family, Garabed, Victoria, Gregory, Patricia and Roseann, in recognition of their services to St. Sarkis over the years.

Following the presentation of awards, the audience listened as the pastor of St. Sarkis, Rev. Fr. Daron Stepanian, expressed his joy and pride on this occasion. He remembered the visionary parishioners who had built the church forty years ago. In honoring their memory, he promised "that the torch that was passed to us, like the eternal flame of St. Gregory, will be passed to future generations." Rev. Fr. Stepanian announced two very generous gifts to the church by the Benian and Sogoian Families for the acquisition of a new organ for the church.

Archbishop Oshagan Pays Tribute to Early Generations

In his remarks, Archbishop Oshagan stressed, "church building is a continuous effort." He paid tribute to the generation of Armenians who built the foundation of the present parish many years before the church in Dearborn was erected. "The ancestors of the present congregation came to the United States with faith and little else of material value," he said, "survived through difficult times, flourished and remained true sons and daughters of the Armenian Church." He also recalled the roles played by the first pastors during the parish's early years, Rev. Fr. Bedros Mampreian and Archpriest Souren Papakhian. He emphasized that the gathering today was not just a celebration of the past, but of the present and the future. He urged the parish to "work together with each other and for each other" to insure a bright future.

St. Sarkis Church: A History of Growth and Dedication

According to historical records, the Armenian community in the Detroit area goes back more than a century. Old timers remember that in 1906 there were about 45 Armenians in the area. This number grew to more than 3,000 by 1915, and continued to grow primarily because of the employment opportunities offered by Henry Ford and the automotive industry.

The community was varied in background with Armenians from Turkey, Iran, the Caucasus, and Russia, with Turkish Armenians being the largest in number. Many who came in the early part of the twentieth century did so with the intention of "making money and returning to the Homeland." As we know, the desire to return home was destroyed along with the very fabric of a nation with the 1915 Turkish massacres.

During the period between 1913 and 1933, the Armenian community grew in number. Many immigrants, especially those who had volunteered in the Armenian Legion in 1916, returned and established families. By the end of World War II, the Armenians in Detroit numbered about 25,000. It was a progressive, educated and forward-looking community with great economic potential.

The community established two Apostolic Churches: St. Sarkis and St. John. The Armenian Catholics and Protestants also established churches.

On May 24, 1942, St. Sarkis Church was consecrated and rapidly became one of the outstanding Armenian churches in America. Throughout the following years, the community cherished the hope of someday building a new church of its own. A building fund committee was organized in 1956 and on November 10, 1957, \$170,000 was raised in a single night—an unprecedented amount for those days! Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new St. Sarkis Church took place on July 23, 1961, with Bishop Hrant Khatchadourian *locum tenens* and later Prelate, officiating with the assistance of Rev. Fr. Souren Papakhian and Rev. Fr. Moushegh Der Kalousdian. The new church was consecrated in October 1962. In the years that followed the vibrant St. Sarkis community was able to build the Community Center and Senior Citizens' Tower on the grounds of the church complex.

Pastors serving St. Sarkis since 1962 are: Archpriest Souren Papakhian, Rev. Dr. Gorun Shrikian, V. Rev. Fr. Navasart Mardoyan, and the current pastor, Rev. Fr. Daron Stepanian.

Bayrakdarian Gives Impressive Performance at Lincoln Center

Story by Florence Avakian

Photos by JK Hovhanness

“Music is well said to be the speech of angels,” Carlyle has written. Certainly, a host of angels must have been present on Sunday afternoon, October 13, when acclaimed soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian with the Prometheus Chamber Orchestra, performed at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall. The much-awaited and well attended concert was sponsored by the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America.

There was electricity in the air as the Prometheus Chamber Orchestra under the baton of the renowned Canadian conductor Mario Bernardi, began the program with the universally loved Armenian chant, Hayr Mer (The Lord’s Prayer) by Ekmalian, which is sung in Armenian churches throughout the world. Alan Hovhanness’ Tzaikerk (Evening Song), for Chamber Orchestra, Op. 53, a meditative, lyrical composition with both darkly mysterious, and delicate musical nuances, was played by the orchestra with thoughtful spirituality.

Mozart’s Exultate, jubilate for Soprano, Orchestra, and Organ, K.165/158a has been a favorite for most coloratura sopranos and audiences, especially its joyous Alleluja finale. Ms. Bayrakdarian, glowing in a stunning brillante-studded black silk gown, was exultant in her interpretation, presenting a bravura performance of this ever-popular work.

Following intermission was the highlight of the program, the world premiere of Light from the Cross for Soprano and Chamber Orchestra, by the award-winning

Canadian-Greek composer Christos Hatzis. Based on the timeless Armenian liturgical chants of Holy Week, it was commissioned by the Armenian Prelacy, for Isabel Bayrakdarian.



Composer Christos Hatzis (left) with Isabel and Mario Bernardi following the successful concert.



Prometheus Chamber Orchestra, composed of young talented musicians, accompany Ms. Bayrakdarian

breath control was mesmerizing, as was her impressive, self-confident and commanding presence.

The composer has written, “The inspiration for Light from the Cross came from various sources: first and foremost from the hymns themselves, beautiful and timeless and they are; then from Ms. Bayrakdarian’s ever-

The composer rendered unique, and at times modernistic orchestral arrangements to fit the sacred melodies. Though some concert-goers commented that the original hymns with their purity, deep spirituality, and Armenian inflections should not be touched, and certainly not improved upon, this presentation was an innovative and modernistic approach to hymns preserved throughout time. The original chants were never betrayed or lost. It became a melting of the ancient and the new, an orchestral rendering of Armenian religious music in a concert setting.

It was evident from Ms. Bayrakdarian’s evocative and fluid presentation, that these hymns had been part of her upbringing. She sang with obvious ease, taking her time, traversing the intricate rhythms and demanding intonations found in Armenian liturgical hymns, and performing with the reverence the music deserves. Her lush, warm, velvety voice and awesome

present voice during the composition process. But the greatest inspiration was the subject matter itself: Christ's self-sacrifice and what it means for the present and future of our world, a subject that has become prominent in my thinking and is increasingly having an all-consuming effect."

The hymns, performed without interruption, included the joyful "Oorakh Ler" (Rejoice, O holy church), the mournful and meditative "Pats mez Der" (Open for us, Lord), the plaintiff "Seerd eem sasane" (My heart trembles), the dark and dissonant "Ardzatseeroutiamp molyal" (Seized by the love of money), the soul-searing "Oor ess, Mayr eem? (Where are you, Mother?) partly sung acappella, the reverent "Soorp Asdvadz" (Trisagion) employing plucked strings and bells, the mournful "Barkevadoon" (Bestower of gifts), and the majestic "Kovya Yerousaghem Uzder" (Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem) of Komitas.

As the composition ended, the appreciative audience jumped to its feet in a thunderous ovation lasting several minutes, as Mr. Hatzis joined Ms. Bayrakdarian and Mr. Bernardi on stage. The artists, who came back for several curtain calls, were each presented with a huge floral bouquet.

Canadian-Armenian Isabel Bayrakdarian, already has become an impressive presence on the international operatic and concert stages, since winning the Metropolitan Opera Competition in 1997. She recently won first prize in the prestigious Placido Domingo "Operalia" Competition in 2000, and also was honored with the "Artist of the Year" award from the Canadian Opera Company. She will make her debut at the world-famous Metropolitan Opera in early December, as Catherine in *A View from the Bridge*.

Born in Lebanon of Armenian parents, she moved

with her family to Canada at fifteen years of age. She majored in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Toronto, while taking voice lessons, and singing regularly in the Armenian Church. In her senior year, she took two weeks off to enter the Metropolitan Opera auditions, winning this prestigious competition. She returned to her studies, and graduated with honors.



Isabel's emotional rendition of the Holy Week hymns is conducted by Mario Bernardi.

Since then, this gifted and much-in-demand artist has performed on operatic stages throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe, and has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Canada Council Grant, the Sullivan Foundation Grant, the 2000 Leonie Rysanek Award, and the Metropolitan Opera National Council Award. She has also performed extensively in concerts and recitals throughout North America. Her debut compact disc, *Joyous Light*, released in March 2002 on the CBC label jumped to No.1 in the classical charts, and at HMV stores throughout Canada. Her second recording will be released this fall.



A joyful Isabel Bayrakdarian accepts a bouquet of flowers as she and Mario Bernardi, Christos Hatzis, and the orchestra acknowledge the standing ovation of an appreciative audience.

Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy, was joined by a host of guests and concertgoers in the Green Room to congratulate the exuberant artists. Special guests at the concert included Bishop Demetrios (Greek Orthodox Church); Bishop Manuel Batakian (Armenian Catholic Church); H. E. Ambassador and Mrs. Movses Abelian, Mr. and Mrs. Benon Sevan (United Nations), Mr. and Mrs. Berge Setrakian

(AGBU), Mr. and Mrs. Hagop Kouyoumdjian (Armenia Fund USA); Ms. Maro Minassian, (ARS); Dr. and Mrs. Vartan Gregorian (Carnegie Corporation).

"I am thankful to so many people who made this concert possible," said the Archbishop, "starting from the three principal artists, sponsors, guests, and committee members who worked with love and dedication."

“Part of my heart, in my mind, is Armenian.”

There is a time when you face the moment of truth, when you thought you knew something, but you didn't. I have many friends. It is my job to have many friends. I'm a journalist and I write about New York and New York art happenings.

A couple of weeks ago, my friend, Richard Keoseian, called me. “Vlad, do you want to go to a concert in Lincoln Center?” What concert, I asked? “It's about Armenians,” said Richard.

On Sunday, October 13, Richard and I went to Alice Tully Hall to see a performance by soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, with a chamber orchestra. The concert was a moment of truth for me. It will stay in my memory for a long, long time.

I could write about Isabel Bayrakdarian. What a great talent! I could write about Christos Hatzis and his excellent musical opus, “Light from the Cross.” Or about Mario Bernardi, the superb conductor. I will write about them in Russian for my Russian readers.

Now, I just want to say that before I went to this concert, I was 100% Russian living in New York. After the concert, I am no longer only Russian. Part of my heart, in my mind, is Armenian.

Before this concert, I've read some things about the history and culture of Armenians. Now, I will study it. I shall. I must. It is in my heart and soul.

Vladimir Luzgin

Editor's Note: The writer is a New York-based reporter and columnist for several Russian language newspapers in the United States.

New York Music Critic Gives Isabel Bayrakdarian Glowing Review

Music from Armenia was highlighted in an Alice Tully Hall concert on October 13 featuring soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian and the Prometheus Chamber Orchestra, led by Mario Bernardi. The biggest work was a world premiere—the 50-minute song cycle “Light From the Cross” by Greek-Canadian composer Christos Hatzis. (Well, Armenians and Greeks both make shish kebab.) Depicting the Passion of Christ, “Light From the Cross” is a gamut-running, frequently moving work of great variety and fascination, full of pleasing melismatic writing for singer and instruments, plus some startling doses of klezmer modes and microtonality. It made a strong impression, as did the Armenian Canadian soprano, with her lovely tone, technically immaculate vocalism and disarmingly direct interpretative values. The players, likewise, relished the colorfully transparent orchestration.

Bayrakdarian also proved her mettle in more familiar fare—Mozart's motet “Exultate Jubilate” was delivered with rare purity of line and golden-age trills. She has also recorded some best-selling CDs on the CBC label, and she'll make her Met Opera debut later this year in William Bulcom's “A View From the Bridge.”

Bill Zakariasen

Editor's Note: Bill Zakariasen is a noted music critic, formerly the long-time music critic of the New York Daily News. The above review was part of his column in the October 24-30 issue of “The Westsider.”

Arpi Nardone Exhibit at Prelacy

An exhibit of the exquisite Shadow Tole Art by Arpi Nardone took place at the Prelacy offices in New York City. The opening champagne reception on September 27 was attended by an overflow gathering of friends and art collectors. The exquisite and unique art created by Arpi brings to life a 17th century English art form known as shadow tole. The successful exhibit remained open to the public for one week.



Educators Share Knowledge and Experience at ANEC Seminar

“Our civilization has endured because we have introduced something distinctly unique. If you have nothing that is exclusively yours to contribute you cannot persevere,” said Dr. Herand Markarian, the keynote speaker at the national seminar sponsored by the Armenian National Education Committee (ANEC). The seminar took place in August at Sts. Vartanantz Church hall in New Jersey.

The multi-talented scientist, playwright, director, actor, and lecturer was referring specifically to the genius of St. Mesrob Mashtots for providing the foundation and essence of our culture. Dr. Markarian excellent presentation, “The Armenian alphabet: Art, Strength and Culture,” centered on the Armenian alphabet as a cultural phenomenon.



Mrs. Jeanette Ahwal and Onnig Bombalagian, Esq., co-principals of the Washington, D.C. Hamasdegh School, receive awards on behalf of Mr. Hovsep Melkonian, the 2002 ANEC Principal-of-the-Year. Looking on are Rev. Father Khatchadour Boghossian and Ms. Gilda B. Kupelian.



The speakers with the participants of the ANEC Educators Seminar.

Speaking about the “most supreme vartabed,” Dr. Markarian described Mashtots as an unequaled giant. “His contribution is the condensed sum-total of 2000 years. You cannot photograph Mount Ararat and you cannot confine Mashtots within boundaries,” said Dr. Markarian. He brought his presentation to the current day, discussing important literary and historical events and figures and how best to convey their contributions to



Dr. Herand Markarian addressing the participants.

students. He expressed the dedication of unsung heroes of Armenian culture and expressed appreciation to women for their contributions in the teaching profession.

The common sentiment expressed by the attendees was, “It was one of the best lectures we have ever heart.”

Also on the program was a presentation on core knowledge and the basic proficiency expected of graduates of Armenian schools, conducted by Gilda B. Kupelian, ANEC Executive Director. The educators shared effective teaching methods and experiences. Discussed were how to teach with limited resources, what constitutes being Armenian, and ways to attract Armenian youth to language learning.

Rev. Fr. Serop Azarian, of Indian Orchard’s St. Illuminator Church School, spoke about the tripod of church, family and school, upon which being Armenian rests. He also suggested that visiting Armenia would strengthen identity.

Principal of the Year

The “Principal of the Year” award was bestowed on Mr. Hovsep Melkonian of the Hamasdegh School in Washington, DC. Mr. Melkonian has been a driving force of Armenian education

in the DC area and has contributed academically, culturally, and morally to the advancement of the school. A playwright, producer, author of a prayerbook for students, Mr. Melkonian has encouraged continuing education for Armenian teachers and participation of graduates in academic endeavors. He has served as principal for ten years and only recently retired.



Mr. Hovsep Melkonian

Mrs. Jeanette Ahwal and Mr. Onnig Dombalagian, Esq., both of whom attended the conference, will serve as co-principals.

Art for Artsakh

The Art for Artsakh student drawings, mounted and selected by artist Sona Kludjian, were exhibited during the seminar. This project, proposed by Ms. Lucine Kasbarian and Mr. Haroutune Misserlian, featured the artistic work by participating students from all ANEC schools. Students created the drawings after hearing a classroom presentation on Artsakh.

At the close of the seminar, Rev. Fr. Dr. Khatchadour



Ms. Sona Kludjian and Ms. Gilda B. Kupelian viewing the Art for Artsakh exhibit.

Boghossian, pastor of the host church, thanked the participants for their input and the nourishment it provided.

“It is with faith, hope and love that the mission of Armenian education, as it is for the church, can continue and flourish,” said Der Khatchadour.

Day schools represented included: Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School, Bayside, NY; Armenian Sisters Academy, Lexington, MA; Hovnanian School, New Milford, NJ. Teachers from the following one-day schools included: Hamasdegh School, Washington, DC; St. Gregory the Illuminator, Indian Orchard, MA; Kirikian Armenian School, Tenafly, NJ; Siamanto Academy, Woodside, NY;



A scene from the seminar.



Dr. Markarian autographs his book *Vartanank* to distribute to all the participants.

Sipan School, Paramus, NJ; Nareg School, Ridgefield, NJ; St. Stephen’s Armenian Saturday School, Watertown, MA; and St. Sarkis Suzanne and Hovsep Hagopian Saturday School, Douglaston, NY.

The Armenian National Education Committee (ANEC) is co-sponsored by the Eastern Prelacy and the Armenian Relief Society. ANEC can be reached at anec@armenianprelacy.org

Antranig Boudakian: Family, Church, Community

by Iris Papazian

“I first learned about obligations to our church and nation from my mother and my teachers. They put the passion in my heart towards our church, nation and culture” says Antranig Boudakian, a dedicated supporter of the Armenian church and community.

“Both of my parents were survivors of the Genocide. They were raising a family, struggling to make ends meet in Aleppo. My mother was determined that I should attend an Armenian school.” Although there was no money for tuition, Antranig’s mother registered him and later at the suggestion of a friend approached the Prelacy in Aleppo and the Armenian Relief Society for help. “They helped realize my mother’s dream,” Antranig says.

“I came to the United States in 1964. I had no friends

or relatives I could rely upon. I was staying at the YMCA. Where would someone first go in a strange new place? Of course, the answer for Armenians is the Armenian Church. I found the church on 27th street in Manhattan [St. Illuminator’s Cathedral]. That church was my salvation, and it became my second home. It was like a beacon of light showing me the way.”

“Later, I found St. Sarkis Church in Queens. Rev. Fr. Asoghig was a compassionate and caring clergyman. He saw me, a stranger in the congregation, and immediately greeted me and embraced me, making me feel important and a part of the community.”

Antranig married Marion Marashlian in 1965. They have two daughters, one son, and two grandchildren. “I

Some Ways You Can Help the Armenian Church

There are many different ways you can help the Armenian Church that will make a lasting impact on the mission of the Church. Here are just a few ways to be considered.

Make a donation for specific projects:

There are many different opportunities throughout the year where individuals can contribute toward specific projects, such as orphan sponsorship, educational projects organized by the Armenian Religious Education Council, the Armenian National Education Committee, publications.

Make a Bequest:

There are many ways you can remember the Prelacy in your Will. You can contact the Prelacy office for advice and you should also consult with your lawyer or financial advisor. Making a gift in this way in cash, stocks, property, etc., can be a tax benefit now or in the future.

Establish an “In Memoriam Fund”:

Your loved ones can be remembered through in lieu

of flowers donations or by the establishment of a separate fund within the Prelacy’s Endowment Fund. The income of the Fund will benefit Prelacy projects of your choosing and deceased family members will be remembered always. For example, the Endowment Fund currently has several such funds that benefit the orphans program, church construction, clergy training, and publications.

Regular Giving:

Many people choose to pledge a certain amount throughout the year. This can be designated for specific projects or for general operational expenses. For example, an individual in Illinois (we will write about him in a future issue of Outreach) sends five hundred dollars each month to the Prelacy. This is exactly the type of regular, grass-roots support that will best help the Prelacy.

Remember...

All donations to the Prelacy are tax-deductible. There are many more ways that you can help the Church. If you would like to speak to a trustee of the Prelacy Endowment Fund please contact the Executive Director at the Prelacy office, 212-689-7810.

consider myself very fortunate to have married Marion,” he says, “She is a wonderful wife and mother. When we married she did not know one word of Armenian, now she speaks Armenian better than I do. She is very supportive of everything I do.”

It was his father who steered him toward the jewelry business. A talented and successful jeweler, Antranig says he blesses the memory of his father each and every day for guiding him into that direction. “I would not be in the position I am today if I had not listened to my father’s advice. It was difficult at first, but thank God, we made it, we survived, and my church and nation were always with me. And, of course, God bless the United States for the freedom given us to reach our greatest potential.”

Now, Antranig says, it is time to give back. “I can never forget what the church did for me. Growing up in Aleppo it was the church that gave us hope. The prelate and prelacy undertook the work normally done by

a government. I truly believe that if we did not have the Armenian Church we would all be lost. Catholicos Sahag of the Great House of Cilicia is one of my heroes. After the massacres my parents were in Near East Relief orphanages in Lebanon. The American missionaries wanted to take all of the Armenian orphans to the United States, but Sahag Catholicos did not allow this. He knew that the orphans had to be raised with a strong Armenian background, otherwise all was lost. He was a strong and visionary leader during the darkest and most difficult days for Armenians.”

Antranig continues to “give back” with active involvement with his time and resources. For the past three years he has been the chairman of the Prelacy’s annual raffle campaign, which provides the financial resources

for many of the Prelacy’s educational programs. The three years of his chairmanship have been the most successful ever. “I learned a lot by working on the Prelacy raffle campaign for the past three years,” he says. “It was inspiring because so many people were ready to help the Prelacy.”

“We must support our institutions and help as much as we can. If we don’t, who will? We must look around and learn from others on how to invest in our future.

We have to be a model for the next generation. Our children are from a different generation with different ideas, different needs. And that’s the way it should be. The church must pay an important role in meeting the needs of these young people. We have to make them feel at home in church, just as it was done for me years ago.

We need to make some changes. Our priests need to learn a lot about communicating with the people in a powerful way, a way that is relevant for



Mr. & Mrs. Antranig & Marion Boudakian

today, not yesterday.”

Antranig’s commitment to the church goes far beyond the raffle campaign. He is a generous supporter of all of the Prelacy’s programs and events and some years ago he and his brother, Krikor, created “The Boudakian Family Fund,” in the Prelacy’s Endowment Fund with a donation of appreciated stock.

He is reluctant to accept praise because he considers his actions to be a duty. Furthermore, he says, the real person to thank is his wife for her support. He reflects for a moment and then adds, “As a matter of fact, as a general rule, credit must be given to the ladies. I believe we do not give them the acknowledgement they truly deserve. They are the backbone of our church, community and our future.”

Putting the World Together

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his young daughter. Finally, he tore a page out of his magazine on which was printed the map of the world. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to his daughter and said, “Go into the other room and see if you can put the world together again.” After a few minutes, she returned with the map correctly fitted together. The father was amazed and asked how she had managed to finish so quickly. “Oh,” she said, “it was easy. The other side of the page is a picture of Jesus. I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, and the world came together.”



News from the Catholicosate of Cilicia

First Inter-Diocesan Conference of Priests Takes Place in Lebanon

The first inter-diocesan conference of married priests took place at the Catholicosate of Cilicia in September. The four-day conference brought together priests from Cilician dioceses around the world to discuss the unique role of priests in responding to the pastoral needs of Armenian believers everywhere.

His Holiness Aram I presided over the Opening Service in St. Mary Chapel, in Bikfaya, the mountain retreat not far from Antelias where the Seminary is located.

Archbishop Zareh Aznavorian, chairman of the Religious Council, opened the conference and welcomed the participants. He underlined the specific purpose of the conference, that is, to discuss the challenges faced by priests today related to their spiritual life, their preparation to the priesthood and their pastoral work.

In his keynote address, Catholicos Aram urged the clergy to study the Bible and the history and sacraments of the Armenian Church carefully, as well as those of other churches so that they may understand the churches better and relate to them more closely.

“We must not define our vocation as clergy in any other way. In the past, perhaps because of circumstances, we have given priority to national administrative and dioc-

esan concerns. This has come at the cost of our spiritual vocation. The priest is the spiritual provider and spiritual father of the people. Hence, it is important now to stress once more the mission of priests in the life of our people,” said the Catholicos.

At the conclusion of the four-day conference the participating clergy issued a report with a listing of twenty specific recommendations and observation. [Editor’s note: The clergy’s concluding report will be published in the next issue of Outreach].

Catholicos Aram I Chairs WCC International Conference

The World Council of Churches (WCC) hosted an international conference in October on “Christians and Muslims in Dialogue and Beyond.” The conference took place in Geneva, Switzerland. The event was co-chaired by the moderator of the WCC’s Central Committee, His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the See of Cilicia, who delivered the opening address, and Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Sharif, Secretary-



Some of the participants and lecturers at the clergy conference include, top row, left to right, Dn. Hampartsoum Nazarian, Archpriest Fr. Khoren Habeshian, Fr. Aram Stepanian, Fr. Khachadour Boghossian, Dn. Joseph Garabedian. Seated, left to right, Very Rev. Fr. Mashdots Chobanian, Archbishop Zareh Aznavorian, and Very Rev. Fr. Anoushavan Tanielian.

General of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Participants included: Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, President of the Vatican Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue; the Rev. Dr. Konrad Raiser, General Secretary of the WWC; Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference; H.E. Sayyid Mohammad Ali Abtahi, Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran; H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Sherif, General Secretary, Islamic Call Society, and H.E. Dr. Hamid Bin Ahmand Al-Rifaie, President, International Islamic Forum for Dialogue.

Faith and Order Marks 75th Anniversary; Aram I Addresses Gathering

The world Christian community celebrated the 75th anniversary of the creation of the Faith and Order movement in Lausanne, Switzerland. This landmark event in the modern history of the ecumenical movement included a series of functions and celebrations organized by Faith and Order and the churches in Lausanne.

His Holiness Aram I attended two major celebrations. In his opening remarks as Moderator of the World Council of Churches, His Holiness recalled how the Faith and Order movement made him interact with other ecclesial traditions and theological perceptions. “Faith and Order became a sort of school for me, where I came to learn through living dialogue and existential encounter about other traditions. Indeed, Faith and Order enlarged the scope of my theological reflections, deepened my knowledge about other churches, and gave me a vision of church that transcends the confines of my own church,”

Aram I Gives Support to Recognition of Armenian Genocide By National Assembly of Wales

Last May, a small group of Welshmen, working through a number of Christian churches in Wales, raised the Armenian Genocide as a matter of public concern. The following month, the National Assembly of Wales discussed the Armenian Genocide in one of its sessions. Since that time, a majority of Welsh Assembly members have acknowledged the Armenian Genocide and called on the British Parliament to do the same.

Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, sent a message to the National Assembly and clergy of Wales in anticipation of the Assembly’s official recognition of the Genocide. His Holiness wrote,

It gives me profound spiritual joy to greet you on this historic day in the modern history of Wales. Indeed, this is a day of remembering one and a half million Armenians who lost their lives as victims of a Genocide organized and executed by the Ottoman Turkish Empire in 1915 during the First World War.

This is also a day of re-affirming the historical truth and the

said His Holiness.

The first international gathering of Faith and Order was held in 1927 in Lausanne, having the unity of the church as its main goal. The Faith and Order movement has included theologians from almost all ecclesial traditions. In 1946, with the creation of the World Council of Churches, Faith and Order was integrated into the structures of the Council. Catholicos Aram has participated actively in Faith and Order for many years, first as a young theologian, and then as a member of the Plenary Commission and Standing Committee.

At the end of his opening remarks, His Holiness called upon the audience to remember in their meditations and prayers “all those who in the last 75 years have contributed to the work of Faith and Order.” The theological gathering, which was attended by many theologians from all parts of the world, was followed by an ecumenical service in the Cathedral of Lausanne.

call for justice.

In fact, the Armenian Genocide is an undeniable and unforgettable fact of history. The annals of history are full of hard proof and living testimonies that clearly point to the historicity of this sad page of human history.

Unpunished genocides will generate new genocides and continuing injustices will cause new injustices. Respect for human rights and dignity is the only way toward peace and reconciliation.

Hence, the recognition of the Armenian Genocide is not only the re-affirmation of the credibility and relevance of international law, it is also a challenge to Turkey to accept the crime committed against the Armenian people.

I warmly welcome and deeply appreciate your wisdom and courageous act of the National Assembly of Wales, which is, indeed, a clear expression of your strong commitment to human rights and justice.

May God bless you.

Shipment of \$172,000 in Humanitarian Aid Donated by AmeriCares to Arrive in Armenia before Thanksgiving

by Martha Kouyoumdjian Mekaelian

Editor's Note: Since the earthquake in Armenia, Martha Kouyoumdjian Mekaelian has been the single driving force in securing donated goods for humanitarian shipments to Armenia on behalf of the Eastern Prelacy. She has been totally dedicated to this project and her extraordinary achievements show how one single person can accomplish so much.

With the end of summer and the beginning of the holiday season, we also begin another year of serving our Homeland. This will mark the beginning of our 13th year of our mission and our ministry—to serve the young, the old, and the needy, wherever they are in Armenia.

When the humanitarian aid program began in 1990, it was assumed this would be a temporary disaster relief in response to the devastating earthquake of December 7, 1988. Instead, in a steady, continuous and abundant amount, regular shipments have been made with donations from all over the United States being offered to AmeriCares or International Aid, and subsequently offered to Armenia. Often, requests are received for toothbrushes from the Karageuzian Dental Clinic. They needed 20,000 pediatric toothbrushes to give to young patients during their dental visit. When we contacted AmeriCares to fulfill this request, they did not have any to offer. Consequently, they solicited dental supplies companies, and the “zoothbrushes” were donated by Zooth, Inc. This is a portion of the donation. If God wills, it is only the beginning, as there have been discussions of expanding the program, which will serve to benefit not only Armenia, but humanity as a whole.

The contents of the latest shipment, which began its journey late August and is expected to reach Yerevan late October or early November, are:

1. Clarithromysin Antibiotics donated by Abbott Laboratories.
2. Surgical examination gloves donated by Allegiance N.W.D.C.
3. Assorted new winter clothing donated by Gulf West, Inc., owned and operated by the Pidedjian Brothers of New York.
4. Assorted teas donated by Bigelow, Inc.
5. Shampoo donated by Ross Labs.
6. Toothbrushes donated by Zooth, Inc.
7. Toothpaste donated by Cypress Pharmaceuticals.
8. Razor blades and deodorant donated by Gillette Company.
9. Lubriderm lotion donated by Rand Display, International.

The total estimated wholesale value of the shipment is approximately \$172,000. Special acknowledgement and thanks go to the

United Armenian Fund for transportation of this container; to Ms. Leoni Gordon of AmeriCares for her meticulous effort in soliciting products and offering them for Armenia; to His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, for overseeing the entire operation of distribution; and to Dr. Vazken Ghougassian, Executive Director of the Prelacy of the Eastern United States, for his unparalleled advice and support.

All donations are received by St. Nerses the Great Charitable Fund in Yerevan. With such a timely and symbolic arrival date just before Thanksgiving, the heart of our mission beats with a pulse of thankfulness.



Martha Kouyoumdjian Mekaelian with her youngest assistant, Dzjadzan Datevig Mekaelian.

Special Pre-Publication Offer

ILLUMINATED ARMENIAN MANUSCRIPTS OF THE CATHOLICATE OF CILICIA

By Sylvia Agemian

(Translated from the French by Pierre Papazian)

262 pages

more than 300 photographs in color & black and white

**With a preface by His Holiness Karekin II
Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia**

**Preface to the English edition by
His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan**

Pre-publication price: \$40.00 (until December 10, 2002), including shipping and handling.

After December 10: \$50.00, plus shipping and handling.

Sylvia Agemian, a noted and respected art historian provides us insight on the Armenian manuscripts that comprise the collection of the Museum of the Catholicate of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon. This collection has never before been studied in depth as done by Dr. Agemian. Some of the manuscripts, like the famous Gospel of Bardzrberd and Book of Ordination, (which are considered to be the jewels of the Catholicate's collection), were among the rare treasures saved by the monks in 1915, transporting them from Sis to Aleppo and then to Antelias.

"...the miniatures of the Antelias collection still remained, from the scientific and artistic perspective, a closed world for the public. Only some rare miniatures, generally in black and white and seldom in color, had been the object of special study.... It is this gap that is now closed with the publication of this book which is the work of Sylvia Agemian, learned specialist and talented analyst of the Christian art of the Middle East..."

Karekin II

Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia

From the Preface to the French Edition, July 1991

.....

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From the Editor

(continued from inside front cover)

had come to the Prelacy at the behest of the then Prelate Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian who asked him to design a cover for a forthcoming book. When Minas asked when it was needed, Karekin Srpazan said, only half in jest, "Can't you do it right now!" The truth is that Minas always came through, well before any imposed deadline, especially the work he did for the Armenian American community for which he received only gratitude and love. A quiet, dapper man, always impeccably dressed, Minas graduated from New York City's Cooper Union where he majored in graphic arts. In 1979, just two years before his death, a collection of his many years of artistic creativity was reproduced in a large book which remains today as testimony to this talented and munificent man.

And Finally...

Many of you noticed that the donation envelope that was included in the last issue of *Outreach* was for the Eastern Diocese's FAR (Fund for Armenian Relief). When I received my advance copy and saw the mistake, (the Diocese and Prelacy share the same printer) I immediately contacted the printer to see if the issue could be stopped at the post office. It couldn't, as most of it had already been distributed to other post offices for local delivery. I was distressed at first, but the more I thought about it, the less concerned I became. After all, FAR does much good work in humanitarian aid to Armenia and Artsakh.

An envelope addressed to the Eastern Prelacy is included in this issue. Your donation, large or small, is appreciated and will be used according to your wishes.

I look forward to receiving more of your comments and suggestions. (IAP)

You can write us at the following address:

email@armenianprelacy.org

Our official website has a new address.
Visit us and download an electronic copy of
OUTREACH at:

www.armenianprelacy.org

Prelacy Calendar of Events:

Bible Study at the Armenian Prelacy, 138 E. 39th Street, New York, every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, from 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. led by Dn. Shant Kazanjian, Director of the Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC). Topic: Great Themes from the Gospel of St. Matthew. For information: arec@armenianprelacy.org

Siamanto Academy meets every Saturday at the Armenian Center, 69-23 47th Avenue, Woodside, New York, 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The college-accredited Academy offers Armenian language, history and Christian studies classes for high school students. For information contact Gilda B. Kupelian, Director of the Armenian National Education Committee: anec@armenianprelacy.org

Christmas in Connecticut, Saturday, December 7, 2002, by Prelacy Ladies Guild, hosted by Rene and Linda Chirinian, New Canaan, Connecticut, dedicated to the 35th anniversary of Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan's ordination. Donation, \$250 per guest.

Prelate's Annual Christmas Reception, Monday, January 6, 2003, at Prelacy, 138 E. 39th Street, New York City, 7 to 9 p.m.

Ghevontiank Annual Clergy Conference, February 24, 25, and 26, 2003, with the participation of clergy from Eastern, Western and Canadian Prelacies, at St. Illuminator's Cathedral, 221 E. 27th Street, New York City. The Conference will concentrate on the millennium anniversary of the Book of Lamentations by St. Gregory of Narek and the 40th anniversary of the death of Catholicos Zareh I.

National Conference for Christian Educators, March 21-23, 2003, at the Wonderland Conference and Retreat Center, Sharon, Massachusetts. Theme: The Sacraments of Healing—Anointing the Sick and Confession. For information: arec@armenianprelacy.org

ANEC Armenian Schools Festival, Sunday, March 23, 2003 (Northern New Jersey), with the participation of students from Armenian day and one-day schools from the Mid-Atlantic region. For information: anec@armenianprelacy.org



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