Notes from the Pastor's Desk

September and the opening of schools is just around the corner. It is time for us to gear up for another season of learning and experiencing our faith and fellowship. The vital elements in our spiritual journey are the schools where we do most of our learning and the church where we experience the Lord's presence through each other and in the worship we offer to our Creator. We have not found substitutes for either one of the above. Therefore let us make them work for our benefit.

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For years we have complained about the deficiencies of our Sunday School materiel. We needed textbooks that would truly portray the Armenian Church in its full spiritual dimensions as well as its ethnic, cultural coloring. The textbooks were non-existent. Now they exist - they are here and will be in the hands of your children this September - WOW! From the first grade to the graduating class your children will be coming home (assuming that they made the first registration (Sunday, September 13th) with the new books in their hands. PARENTS - grab the books from their hands - they are very dangerous! Soon they will learn from those books more than you could ever learn from books you have read, acquired from here and there. You read them first - don't give them the upper hand! Better yet, study and discuss the books with your children. There are a lot of challenges in those pages.

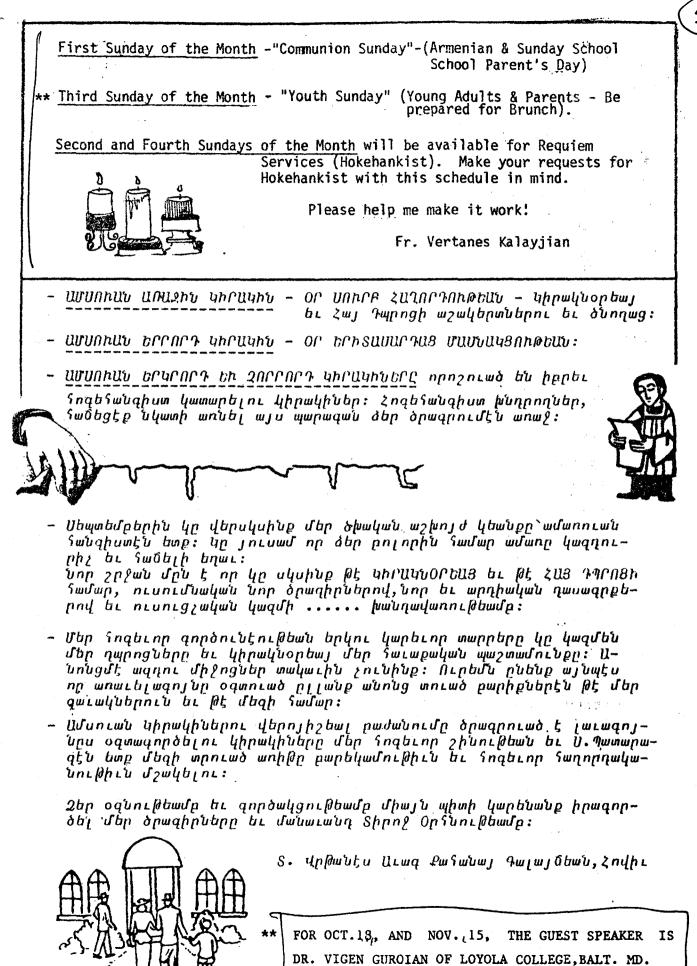
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We have set aside the 3rd Sunday of each month as "Youth Sunday," (for lack of a better term). It is in fact a day for young adults - that group which, for a variety of reasons has found it more comfortable to stay at home on Sundays instead of attending church. I do hope that this new schedule will help us all because:

- 1. The Pastor/Preacher (quite often that's me) will prepare a sermon that will interest the youth.
- 2. The young adults will predictably know that there is a good chance of meeting and worshiping with other young adults.
- 3. Guest speakers will (either add to or replace the Sermon) offer topics of contemporary import.
- 4. Last, but not least, adults (we grownups) will have the satisfaction and indeed happiness of having our young adults at our side during worship. What a heart-warming thought!

The monthly schedule will be as follows:

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