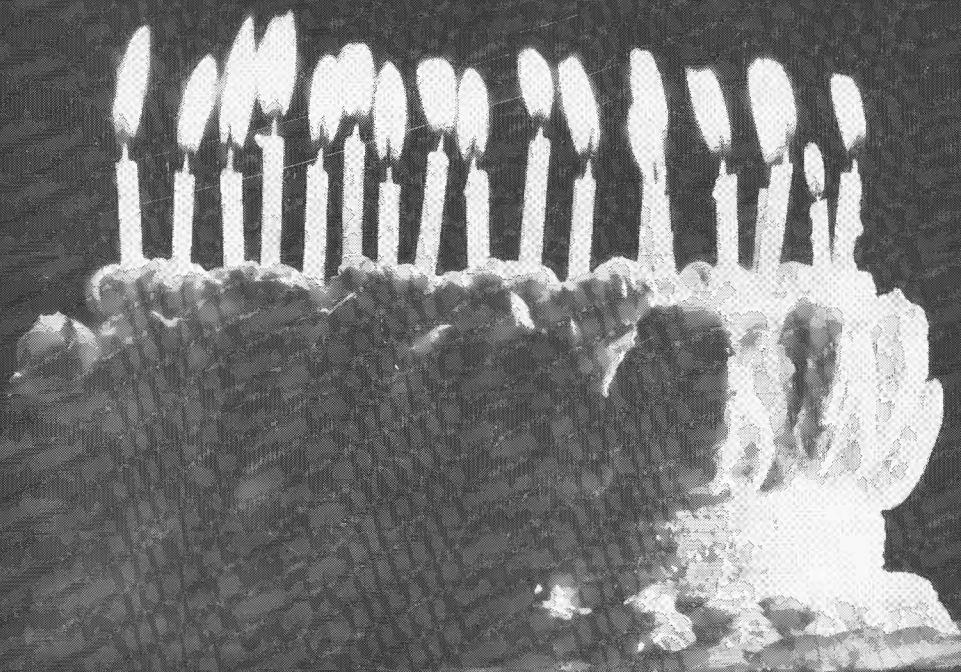


# 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BALL OF THE ACYOA



ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

## 18TH ANNIVERSARY BALL REGIONS

### Dates & Sites

#### NEW ENGLAND — Carouso's Diplomat, Saugus, Mass.

January 11, 1964

Boston	Lowell
Haverhill	Providence
Raverhill	Watertown
Worcester	

#### SYRACUSE - TROY — Masonic Temple, Troy, N. Y. January 11, 1964

Syracuse	Troy
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#### ILLINOIS - WISCONSIN — Clayton House, Racine, Wisconsin

January 18, 1964

Chicago	Milwaukee County
Evanston	Racine

#### PHILADELPHIA — Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.

January 25, 1964

North Philadelphia

#### SPRINGFIELD - NEW BRITAIN — Lebanese American Club, Springfield, Mass. — January 25, 1964

Springfield	New Britain
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#### DETROIT - CLEVELAND — Shaker House, Cleveland, Ohio

Detroit	Cleveland
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#### NIAGARA FALLS - TORONTO - ST. CATHERINES — Armenian Holy

Trinity Hall — February 1, 1965

Niagara Falls	Toronto	St. Catharines
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#### NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY — Hudson Manor, Union City, N. J.

February 1, 1964

Holy Cross	Long Island	Bergen County
St. Gregory	Newark	Bridgeport

#### EAST ST. LOUIS — Holy Shoghagat Hall — February 1, 1964

East St. Louis

#### RICHMOND - WASHINGTON — Hotel John Marshall — February 8, 1964

Richmond, Va.

ACYOA Motto  
"Faithful to the Apostolic  
Faith of our Fathers"

### THE PRAYER OF A. C. Y. O. A.

O Lord our Savior, Jesus Christ, Who art the Way, the Truth, and the Life, give us, the youth of the Church of Armenia, we beseech Thee, the wisdom to know, to love, and to serve Thee in our personal lives severally, and in the corporate life of our Organization.

Thou that ledest men in the way, lead us, thy children, that we may be able to serve the Church through our people, with courage and vision, and in the faith of our illustrious forefathers. Inspire us, O Lord, and open our eyes to thy light, that we may cherish and profit by the heritage which our forefathers have left to us, and that we may be aware of our responsibilities as citizens of our beloved country, the United States of America.

Fill us, O Christ our God, with thy Holy Spirit, that we may be the obedient and unselfish servants of the Will of our Heavenly Father, to whom together with Thee and the Holy Spirit, is befitting Glory, Dominion and Honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



### PLEDGE

I solemnly promise and declare upon my honor, that as a member of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, I shall, to the best of my ability, be a faithful son of the Armenian Church; shall be a devoted upholder of the Armenian cultural heritage; shall be a loyal citizen of the United States; and I shall diligently abide by the objects, policies, and decisions of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America. I shall not strive for personal recognition and pleasure, but will serve our Church, our Community, and our Country, for the greater glory of God.

ACYOA Theme — 1963 - 64  
"Entrusted with the Message  
of Christian Brotherhood"

## WORDS TO LIVE BY



*An English translation of His Holiness' Message to The ACYOA*

June 1st, 1960

With great joy I greet you all, dear young people, who have come here today to hear the message of the Catholicos of All Armenians, directed to you. My attention was drawn to Deacon Ardashes' one sentence, or rather a request addressed to me: "Open our eyes to your light," he said.

Truly, your eyes must be opened toward that light, before that light which radiates from our holy faith, our Holy Church, and Holy Etchmiadzin, and is spread throughout the entire world where Armenian souls live. That light exists, and will exist eternally; only, the children of our people, especially the youth, must know how to turn their look toward that light and to open their eyes before that light, so that they may accept that light and be worthy to receive its graces. Of course, this is not such an easy task. Because in this case, the subject is not about a spiritual light, the apprehensible light, as the religious explanation puts it. And I am sure that any Armenian youth, after opening his eyes well and receiving that spiritual light, will not only become a devout believer and a good Armenian, but will also become a good and noble person, a noble soul. The light of our faith which radiates from the lamp of Holy Etchmiadzin, from the lamp of

the Illuminator, truly ennobles our souls and we become men of quality, transfigured men, bearing cultural values.

I understand you very well, you know; because I, too, was in your situation 30-35 years ago when I was your age — 15-18-20 years old — in Rumania, which similarly, is a country far away from Armenia. I was born and grew up there, in a foreign surrounding, and from my very early years until a certain age, I knew Rumanian better than Armenian; and today I know Rumanian as fluently as my mother tongue. Perhaps in our circles we spoke Rumanian often, as you speak English. I went to foreign, non-Armenian, schools, graduated from college, the same as you here, who do not have Armenian secondary schools or universities. I was in the same situation with many others. And thus we grew up.

But our generation was able to open its eyes to that light about which Deacon Ardashes spoke. Especially two realities had a strong effect upon me, personally, and opened my eyes before that light. First, the light of our Christian faith which we received from our parents, our Armenian teachers, and clergymen, from our Primate, the late Archbishop Hiosik Zohrabian, to whom we stayed close in order to receive that spiritual light. And we received it, it seems. We began to love the Armenian Church, we began to love Armenian Church history which comes from centuries of old, and we were proud of being such an ancient Christian people.

Holy Etchmiadzin today lives in the rebirth of its internal organization, in the ardor of faith among the great mass of its people, and in reconstruction. Our old churches, which are great monuments of architecture, expressions of Armenian genius for centuries of old, these holy temples are being renovated today, and foreigners come to humble themselves before their mystical warmth and before their architectural style.

Armenian culture also continues to grow and flourish, as well as Armenian language, science, music, art, and sculpture, which constitute the pillars of today's living. In the same way as you feel proud of our faith and our Armenian Church, so you can be proud of our old and new cultural values. They make up our glorious name. We are a small people; indeed, very small numerically, but with our cultural values we can be compared with any large group of people. And you must not take this as self-praise, but it is true. Today, in the international sense, we can remember the names of our Armenian scholars of today among the greatest learned men of the world.

You, as youth, along with your holy faith, must open your eyes and hearts before Armenian cultural values.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIMATE



On the occasion of the Eighteenth Anniversary of the ACYOA, we extend greetings to our young people and wish them renewed enthusiasm and inspiration.

The ACYOA can retain its usefulness and vitality only when its members fully comprehend the high ideals of the organization and dedicate themselves whole heartedly towards their realization. Every ACYOA member should ask himself whether he has been loyal to the ideals of his organization and whether he can sincerely say that he has done his share to make them effective in his life.

Anniversaries are occasions for auditing our moral and spiritual assets and liabilities, just as it is customary for people to audit their books at the end of each year to see the extent of their profit or loss. An organization likewise must subject its past record to close scrutiny in order to see how successful it has been in serving its members and the community.

Our Church needs young men and women with education and zeal who are willing to serve, and to sacrifice. We pray that ACYOA members will come forward to meet this need.

We bless all the members of the ACYOA and wish them success in the performance of their church-loving deeds.

With paternal blessings,  
SION ARCHBISHOP  
Primate of the Diocese of  
the Armenian Church in America

January 12, 1964

*Dear Members and Friends of ACYOA:*

As the ACYOA celebrates its 18th anniversary throughout its eleven Anniversary Ball regions in the United States and Canada, we benefit much from the accomplishments of our ACYOA predecessors. There is however much work still to be done for our Armenian Church. Rather than rely on the past work of our ACYOA alumni, we must now use our national organization's motto, "Faithful to the Apostolic Faith of our Fathers," as a motivating force, and in so doing continue to build further on the foundations set for us.

We look forward to seeing our members and friends engaged in the varied activities of ACYOA in the coming year. Our activities are educational, religious, social, athletic, and administrative; whatever your background there is something that will occupy your interest, and in turn aid our church through your service.

We consider ACYOA as an organization open to all those interested in the work of the Armenian Church. Be it at lectures, meetings, and work sessions, or at Leadership Training Conferences, Regional Conferences, and Retreats, or at ACYOA Day's Sports Jamborees, and socials such as the Anniversary Balls, there is much that will be derived from your participation, support, and guidance. We appreciate the interest that is shown in our organization, and assure you that we are always glad in having you aboard!

Sincerely,

ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

MISAK APRAHAMIAN

Chairman

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

*Dear ACYOA'ers and friends:*

Eighteen years ago the Armenian Church Youth Organization was born in Providence, Rhode Island. It was created to meet a need. Our Church needed the creative energy and spirit of youth, and our youth, after years of war and turmoil, sought purpose and meaning in life. Thus, on January 12, and 13, 1946, the ACYOA came into being.

These past eighteen years have seen the ACYOA grow into a strong and vigorous organization. Many young men and women have passed from its ranks into positions of responsibility and leadership in their communities. Moreover, the ACYOA has been the place where many young men and women are introduced to the glory and beauty of our cultural and spiritual heritage.

ACYOA, with the enthusiasm and optimism of youth, has actively promoted certain projects which would prove beneficial to the strengthening of our Church. Through theological school and college scholarships, religious conferences and retreats, publications of various church teaching materials and the Armenian Guardian Monthly, through donations to parishes and national funds, and the many hours spent to repair, clean, and participate in community projects in our local parishes, the ACYOA has proved itself to be a useful arm throughout the Diocese. No other Armenian American youth organization has contributed as much to our Armenian community in America.

The ACYOA theme for this year, "Entrusted with the Message of Christian Brotherhood," shows the concern of our young people in the ecumenical movement. Such a theme has widespread implications which can effect us on several levels. The relations of Armenian youth with other Christian groups has been limited. It is time that the ACYOA break away from its parochial outlook and participate in interchurch youth programs more extensively.

At the last Assembly in Montreal, a permanent motto was adopted for the ACYOA, which is, "Faithful to the Apostolic Faith of our Fathers." This motto enunciates the faith of our young people. Let those who will follow such a standard come forward with faith and dedication.

Faithfully yours,

DEACON MEGERDITCH MOURADIAN

## FROM THE ANNIVERSARY BALL NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

On the occasion of the eighteenth birthday of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, it gives me great pleasure to send my warmest greetings to all ACYOA Members, and friends who have supported this important national project.

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America has proven that it is an integral part of the Armenian Diocese in North America and of the Armenian-American communities throughout the United States and Canada. ACYOA asks for continued support and confidence in order to further implement its religious, cultural, and civic objectives as outlined in its Constitution.

I, on behalf of the entire Central Council of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America wish you the best for the coming new year and thank you for your continued support throughout the year which will serve to strengthen our Organization.

Again wishing you a Happy Birthday and a Happy New Year, I remain

Very truly yours,

ACYOA Central Council

(Miss) AURORA MELIKIAN

National Chairman for the

18th Annual Anniversary Balls

## A RULE OF LIFE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ACYOA

1. To say private prayers every morning and evening.
2. To make a daily self-examination and to pray for forgiveness for all failures and shortcomings.
3. To read daily a short passage in the Bible.
4. To say daily a brief prayer for the strengthening of the Armenian Church.
5. To be present at the celebration of the Holy Badarak on every Sunday as the chief duty of the day.
6. To receive Holy Communion during the Holy Badarak at least once a month and on Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Transfiguration, Assumption and Exaltation.
7. To make one's Communion only after careful preparation, including fasting.

### *Recommendations*

1. To try always to be helping and praying for at least one person to do right, and to come nearer to our Lord through His Church.
2. To use private confession before a priest as frequently as possible.

### *Duties of All Members*

1. To say daily the following prayer:  
"O Blessed Lord and Master, be near at hand to those who are united with me in the ACYOA, dwell in *Thy servants in the fullness of Thy strength*, in the perfection of Thy ways, in the holiness of Thy Spirit, and help us all to be true to Thee this day and evermore with the might of Thy Holy Spirit and to the glory of Thy Father. Amen."
2. To say this prayer for all ACYOA members once a week at the Holy Badarak.
3. To pray for the ACYOA at the Holy Badarak once each week.

## THE FUTURE

(Editorial reprinted from *Guardian*, April 1959)

The ACYOA is organized on a national scale to make our work for the Church and our community more effective.

ACYOA policies and activities are designed by our annual General Assembly and administered during the year by the Central Council. The General Assembly is the highest secular authority in our organization and is its primary legislative body.

Even though the ACYOA is structured on the Diocesan level, we must never forget that our chief aim in the long run is to serve the local parish. The local parish is the backbone of the Diocese just as the family is the mainstay of the community. ACYOA chapters should always endeavor to work with their parish organizations to further the work of the Church. This means we should especially seek to work with our Parish Councils. We should also make it a habit to submit an annual activities and financial report to the parish's Annual Meeting through the Parish Council.

That is one way of keeping the parish informed of our activities and fostering more co-operation and good will between the youth and our elders. After all, by the very nature of our community, we must co-operate if we are to exist at all. Elders without youngsters to take their place will pass away and leave nothing but stone monuments. Youngsters without elders lose the continuity of culture and civilization that raises them up and makes life worth living.

As St. Paul points out the only monuments worth leaving are human personalities stamped with a truer image of God. The elders of the church must realize this. It is worthless to blame others or to sit around and complain about what ought to be. Our elders must take an active and helpful interest in the work of our organization in order to see that the work of the church will be carried on in the next generation.

We can see, therefore, that the task of strengthening and supporting the ACYOA must fall on the whole community. Training the youth in a significant constructive fashion is the obligation of every member of the church. It's a job that our priest, our youth of various ages, and our elders must meet together.

The ACYOA is the youth movement of the Armenian Church. The future is in its hands. To make these hands strong and skillful is the great issue that will decide the fate of the Armenian Church in America.

## ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS



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The history of Armenians in the Western Hemisphere originates several hundred years ago, but it wasn't until the first half of this century that they arrived on these shores in great numbers. During the early twenties and thirties the majority of Armenians took up residence in neighborhoods immediately adjacent to or very near the Armenian Church in that community. Youth activities in those early days was mostly centered around the Armenian Schools in which nearly all youngsters were enrolled. However as the years went by and the Armenians began to see better days, they like everyone else began their trek to the suburbs and consequently away from the vicinity of the Armenian Church.

It was immediately following World War II that the leaders of our Diocese began to show concern over the lack of organized youth groups in the parishes, and it was at that time plans were drawn up for the establishment of a national church youth organization. It was felt that our church needed the creative energy and spirit of youth to become a lasting institution on these shores. Plans of this type had stemmed back to the Primacy of Archbishop Gareguin Hovsepian (1939-1944) however it wasn't until the mid-forties that definite steps were taken in this direction. At the invitation of Archbishop Tiran



1961 ACYOA Assembly, Richmond, Va.

Nersoyan a general planning session was held in Troy, New York with many young men and women from various parishes attending to give their views on the subjects. Then the following year, 1946, during the January 12-13 weekend the constitutional assembly was convened in Providence, Rhode Island. Thus the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America was born. The delegates who attended that historic meeting formulated a constitution which listed the following as the objects of the newly formed organization.

1. To cause, help and encourage its members to learn, practice, uphold, and propagate the moral, dogmatic, and spiritual principles and teachings of the Christian religion according to the doctrine, sacraments, rites, forms of worship, canons, rules, discipline, and customs of the Armenian Church.



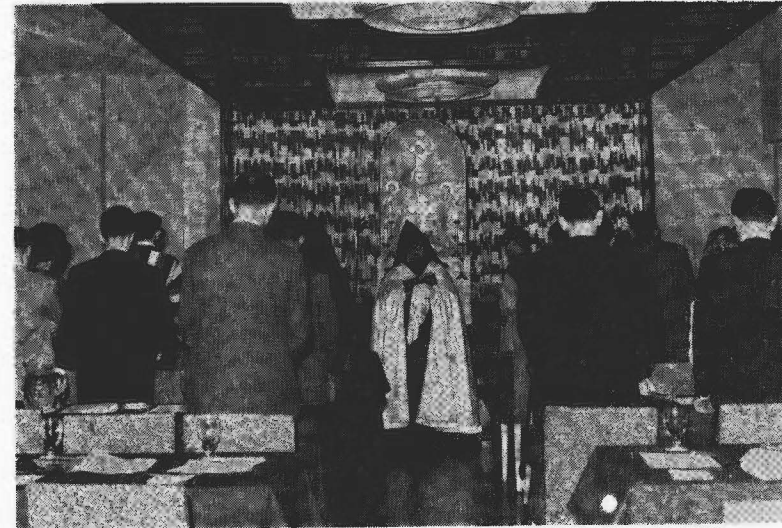
*ACYOA Junior Retreat, Detroit, Mich.*

2. To support and work for the strengthening of the Armenian Church: to promote, among its members and others, the study and appreciation of the Armenian culture and heritage.
3. To deepen and strengthen among its members the knowledge of, and loyalty to, the principles of the Constitution of the United States (or Canada); to uphold the spirit of human freedom, universal justice, brotherhood of men, and devotion to duty as good citizens, dedicated to the service of their God and country.
4. To strengthen the social and spiritual bond among its members, and establish mutual helpfulness, solidarity, and fellowship among them; and to contribute the development of a healthy communal life among Armenians.

Through the years ACYOA has grown into a strong and vigorous organization. Many dedicated young men and women have passed from its ranks into positions of responsibility and leadership in their

communities. If you were to travel through the various parishes in the Diocese today you would find many parish council members and diocesan delegates who were once or still are ACYOA members. Many members of the organization presently serve as deacons, altar servers, choirmasters, choir members, and Sunday school teachers.

Not only has ACYOA proved to be a gateway whereby many entered into the life and worship of our Church, but it was also the place where many were introduced to the glory and beauty of our meaningful spiritual heritage.



*Vesper Services at International Conference, Toronto, Canada, 1962.*

ACYOA, with the enthusiasm and optimism of youth, has actively promoted certain projects which would prove beneficial to the strengthening of our Church. An Armenian Theological School was one of the more cherished dreams of ACYOA, and today it has become a reality. Last Summer the ACYOA sponsored six members to attend the Summer Study Program which was held at St. Nersess Theological School. Furthermore the Montreal Assembly passed a proposal to establish an Annual Scholarship Program to encourage members attend this study program. Sunday School Teachers' conferences were organized and held by ACYOA, and out of these conferences was born the Council for Religious Education which now directs the Church Sunday Schools of the Diocese. Religious Retreats and Conferences have been sponsored by local ACYOA chapters, or



the Central Council, under the leadership of Armenian clergymen and lay leaders, as well as leaders of other Christian denominations.

Though the ACYOA is not a fund raising organization, it has always willingly assisted a number of national projects through their participation in ACYOA Day activities. ACYOA Day has given the chapters the opportunity of joining together once a year to raise funds for a specified mutual goal. This year the proceeds from this Day are earmarked for the Cathedral and Cultural Center Project. In past years sums of money have been raised for the benefit of Holy Etchmiadzin, Patriarchate of Jerusalem, etc. This year the proceeds from



*ACYOA Day, Washington, D. C. 1963*

the Lenten Offering Program will be donated to the fund for the restoration of Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Besides banding together for national projects, local ACYOA chapters have consistently lent assistance to their local parishes. The list of accomplishments is endless, whether a church roof was repaired in Troy, or an edifice was air-conditioned in Richmond, thousands upon thousands of dollars have been raised and donated to the parishes by the ACYOA groups. not to mention the many hours which have been spent by ACYOA members repairing, cleaning and participating in community projects in their local parishes.

On a national level ACYOA has been responsible for the production of numerous publications and educational slides for the enlightenment of young people. The ACYOA Monthly publication, "The Armenian Guardian," has reached into many homes with articles of educational and inspirational value. Realizing the need for more religious and historical material in the English language, the

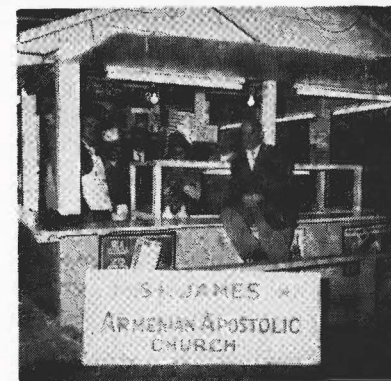
ACYOA has published several publications, a list of which can be found on the back cover. Plans are being made constantly for new publications and reprints. Additional series of slides on Holy Etchmiadzin and Jerusalem are being prepared.

The mission of ACYOA is to create among the younger generation a greater spiritual culture and tradition, and to instill into its members a true spirit of civic mindedness as they discharge their obligations as citizens on these shores. Principally however, the organization is essentially religious, other interest being incidental to and dependent on the religious aspect of the organization. Our goal is to bring young people within the fold of the church, train them until they become mature enough to assume higher positions of responsibility in the parish and diocese. ACYOA wants and needs the continued support and confidence of the community.

It is apparent that ACYOA membership, during the last ten years, while not decreasing, has not increased as it should have been. Consequently the need of qualified professional assistance in the form of field workers is felt. The growth of our organization depends on strong and active groups in each parish. The trend in membership in the last two years indicates an increase in junior membership and maintenance of the number of seniors at a constant level. It is an encouraging sign to witness the return to active status of several chapters into the ACYOA fold. Also in the last two years new junior groups have been formed along with the senior groups, and this new development gives us hope for the future.

Thanks to the generous subsidization of the Diocese, the ACYOA has been fortunate to have the services of a full time Executive Secretary.

New programs are being initiated in the ACYOA to keep the



*ACYOA booth at the Virginia State Fair, Richmond, Va.*



*A lecture is being delivered at International Regional Conference, Toronto, Canada, 1962*

organization alive and abreast with the times. This fall leadership training conferences were held in four different regions in order to help the chairmen and the executive committees in their local programs. Also, at the Detroit Assembly an Annual College Scholarship Program was established to encourage ACYOA members in their academic pursuits. The scholarship is a free grant and is given on the basis of service to the Armenian Church, scholastic attainment, and need. Another new program of the ACYOA initiated recently has been sending of ACYOA publications free of charge to all ACYOA members, thus getting into their hands materials which will help them to understand our Church better. Along the lines of sports and athletics, plans are being made to hold annual sports weekends on regional basis. This surely is a much needed program and it will prove to be beneficial in creating new interest in the ACYOA.

In order to help our chapters and the Central Council in their future plannings, the ACYOA is presently engaged in preparing manuals for chapters and Central Council use. These manuals will prove to be very helpful in aiding the chapters to plan and execute their annual programs. To meet the increasing need of Juniors within the ACYOA, the Central Council has been sending monthly educational outlines to Junior Groups. This being a new program, we await for its results at the end of this ACYOA year. The ACYOA sponsored a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 1956, and many young Armenian Americans took part in this tour. At the last Assembly in Montreal, the

delegates voted to sponsor in 1965 a pilgrimage to Holy Etchmiadzin at the tenth anniversary of the enthronement of our Catholicos His Holiness Vasken I. We are confident that many will join us again in this tour, and benefit from the many experiences that await us.

The future of the ACYOA can be a glorious one. A strong youth group will assure a strong parish. Strong parishes will mean well governed diocese. With God's blessings ACYOA can achieve unprecedented heights. This must be our constant aim.

As the years go by the ACYOA will need more dedicated young people to come forward and join their abilities to those who are presently doing their share. The task of this organization can never be the work of a few, but that of the entire young people.

ACYOA has not been in existence too long and the community must be patient for results. This organization looks towards our elders for guidance, encouragement and understanding. Just as the seed of today is the harvest of tomorrow, so it will be that the future of our church in this hemisphere will rest upon the shoulders of the members of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America. The permanent motto of the ACYOA adopted at the Montreal Assembly was, "Faithful to the Apostolic Faith of our Fathers." This shows a standard of dedication. Let those who will follow such a standard come forward with faith and dedication.

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*On It's Eighteenth Anniversary*

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