

TO BE RETURNED TO THE ԵՐԿՐԱՆԻՑ ԿԱՅՈՒՆՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

PUBLICITY FILE

HOLY CROSS ARMENIAN CHURCH

Diocese of the Armenian Church
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File: Armenian Clergy
Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor

Apr. 19, 70

Հայր Առաջն.

Տղայի մասին արձանագրությունները: Կրթական
և արհեստագործական կրթություն: Կրթական և արհեստագործական
կրթություն և արհեստագործական կրթություն: Դեպքեր 1965:

Father Vertanes Kalayjian. Was born in Aug. 12, 1939
in Aleppo, Syria. Attended Antelias and Jerusalem
Seminaries. Was ordained into priesthood in 1960.
Since then he has served as vicar in Amman, Jordan,
as teacher in Sts. Tarkmanchets and Guiligian
Secondary Schools, ^{and} was pastor of St. George Arm.
Church of Waukegan, Illinois (1965-1968) at the same
time attending Liberal Arts College there. Presently he is
the Pastor of Holy Cross Armenian Church of Union
City, New Jersey since April 1968.

Գրությունները և արձանագրությունները "Հայր Առաջն"
Գրությունները և արձանագրությունները: Կրթական և արհեստագործական
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Rev. Vertanes and Yerezgin Anahid Kalayjian

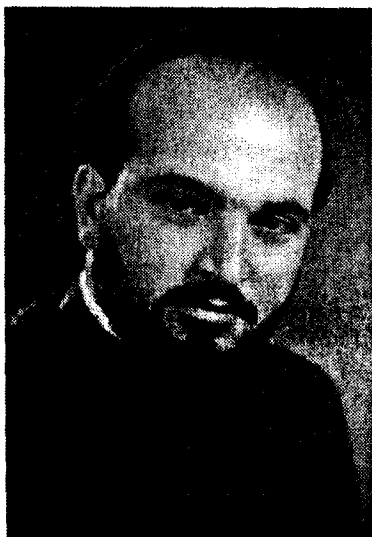
WASHINGTON, DC - The Washington-Baltimore Armenian community is preparing to celebrate double milestones on Sunday, October 1, 2000.

The first is the 40th anniversary of The Rev. Fr. Archpriest Vertanes Kalayjian's ordination into the priesthood and the second, the 25th anniversary of Der Hayr and Yerezgin Anahid Kalayjian's dedicated services to the Parish of St. Mary Armenian Church, Washington, DC. The Sunday Thanksgiving Celebration of Holy Badarak will be followed with a banquet at the Hyatt Regency of Bethesda, MD.

Fr. Kalayjian was born in Aleppo, Syria. He was admitted to the Seminary of Antelias in 1953. In 1958 he transferred to the St. James Seminary of Jerusalem Armenian Patriarchate where he was ordained as a celibate priest on February 7, 1960.

As a member of St. James Brotherhood he held several responsible offices. Simultaneously, he taught at St. Tarkmanchatz H.S. and at the Seminary. Later he was appointed as the Vicar General in Amman, the capital of Jordan. He supervised the Parochial School and, during his tenure, the present school building and the church edifice were inaugurated.

As the turbulence of the 50's



**The Rev. Fr. Archpriest
Vertanes Kalayjian**

in Antelias had forced him to go to Jerusalem, under similar circumstances he chose to leave Jerusalem to come to the United States, to continue his education and serve in the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

He arrived in the US in December 1964. The late Primate, Abp. Sion Manoogian of blessed memory, immediately assigned him to St. George Parish in Waukegan, IL. Parallel to his pastoral work, he did Christian Education, Biblical Studies and Public Administration at Lake Forest, and Carthage colleges and Southeastern University.

In 1967, the Primate, Abp. Torkom Manoogian, elevated him to the rank of Vartabed (religious equivalent of Doctor). He recalls fondly and with gratitude the prominent teachers he had, both in Antelias and Jerusalem, namely; Shahan Berberian, Vahe Vahian. Vahe Oshagan, Patriarch Tiran Nersoyan, Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian and Patriarch Torkom Manoogian. While in Waukegan, he greatly benefited from frequent encounters with Abp. Tiran while Serpazan was the Founding Dean of St. Nersess Seminary in Evanston, IL.

In 1968 Fr. Vertanes was assigned as the pastor of Holy Cross, Union City, NJ.

The year 1968 was a memorable year. St. Vartan Cathedral was consecrated by His Holiness, the late Catholicos Vazken I of blessed memory. On that historic occasion, the discussions at the Annual Clergy Conference, presided over by His Holiness, paved the way and created a favorable atmosphere to offer constructive and far-reaching deliberations on the issue of reforms in clergy celibacy. As a result, Abp. Manoogian responded positively to the petition, presented by Fr. Vertanes, to be released from his vows of celibacy. On February 14, 1969 he was married to Yerezgin Anahid and



Yerezgin Anahid Kalayjian

continued to serve the parish as a married priest (kahana). They have been blessed with three sons: Dr. Zaven, an electronic engineer; Berj, sculptor; and Saro, candidate for priesthood.

SERVING VARIOUS COMMITTEES

Fr. Vertanes has served on several Diocesan Blue Ribbon Committees dealing with the Youth and Religious Education; he has represented the Diocese at the National Council of Churches and the Middle Eastern Mission. With a delegation of diocesan clergy, he took part in the "Poor Peoples' March" organized in Washington, DC by the late Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

In 1972 he was assigned to St. Mary's Church in Elberon, NJ (now St. Stepanos) to organize it into a "model" parish.

In the late sixties and early seventies, he led one of many groups in the Diocesan Internal Mission program as the Chaplain-Group

Leader revitalizing several parishes, on three occasions. As part of his activities with and for the youth, he led the ACYOA Summer Studies Program to Armenia in 1974 and with Yerezgin Anahid in 1984. He was the Director of AGBU Camp Nubar for three years, and the Director of the Diocesan St. Vartan Camp for four years. He was the Co-Founder and Vice-Chairman of HAVAD — the Diocesan Christian missionary program in Armenia. His efforts were directed towards the establishment of Christian educational camps in Armenia.

In 1976, he assumed the pastorate in Washington, where ever since then he has served the St. Mary's community, including nearby Baltimore city and the neighboring towns. In the nation's capital, his activities have frequently included representing the Diocese on the Hill (the Congress), the Departments of State and Justice, and the Brookings Institute. He has presented annual briefings at the Appeal of Conscience Conferences and the State Department's Foreign Service Institute on the status of the Armenian communities in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet republics. In 1985, on the 25th anniversary of his ordination, he was granted by His Holiness the late Catholicos Vazken the title of Avak Kahana (Archpriest) and the privilege to wear the pectoral cross (lanchakhatch).

Being in the nation's capital has frequently put Fr. Vertanes in

Continued on p. 15

Rep. Bonior's Statement to House Subcommittee on HR 398 - Continued from p. 13

Those who deny the Armenian genocide its proper recognition ignore the substantial body of evidence which exists in the United States and internationally. The facts are very clear

allowed to happen again.

As I mentioned, Representative Radanovich and I have introduced a resolution, H. Res. 398, sponsored by more than 130 Members of Congress, to

this resolution will alter our relationship with Turkey, and I agree — it will.

It might give the Turkish government an opportunity to join

Washington Community to Celebrate Dual Anniversaries of Rev. Vertanes and Yeretgin Anahid Kalayjian - Continued from p. 14

a position to give interviews to TV and newspapers. In the aftermath of the earthquake in Armenia, the community raised and donated sums and in-kind assistance worth close to a million dollars. For these efforts he received commendations from the then Soviet Embassy and the Governor of Maryland. Recently, together with Yeretgin Anahid, he was recognized by the Metropolitan Washington Chapter of the United Nations for his humanitarian/human rights activities.

Fr. Vertanes was one of the organizers of a Prayer Vigil on the steps of the Capitol with an organization called Christian Solidarity, with which Baroness Cox was affiliated when she began her championing of the Artsakh cause and the lifting of the Turkish-Azeri blockade. He organized another massive demonstration with a handful of activists in Washington and the clergy from the Mid-Atlantic parishes. The immediate practical outcome of this demonstration was the formation of ARAMAC (The Armenian-American Action Committee), a grass-roots anti-defamation organization, with Haig Ellian, Esq., Dr. John Balian, MD, and Mr. Gary Noubarian with NY/NJ and West Coast affiliates. ARAMAC has since become a grass-roots advocacy component of the Armenian Assembly of America.

Fr. Vertanes has also been a member of the Diocesan Council; initiated and directed "Prayer Luncheons" at the Embassy of Armenia. He is the author of numerous articles of religious, ecclesiastical, social, moral and ethnic concerns published in the Armenian (ACYOA) Guardian, The Armenian Church and in various Armenian- and English-language papers and periodicals.

Fr. Kalayjian works tirelessly as a servant of God for the well being of the Armenians in his community and beyond. His devotion to his parishioners, whose number over the past 40 years has reached the thousands, is matched only by his dedication to the Mother Church which he fervently guards and conscientiously works to improve. If anyone can ever be faulted for caring too much, Fr. Kalayjian is guilty on all counts. He makes time for the smallest problems and is eager to tackle the largest projects. He serves the Lord with unwavering integrity, humility, and sincerity, making him an excellent Christian role model, one worthy of emulation.

A TRIBUTE TO YERETZGIN ANAHID KALAYJIAN

As for Yeretgin Anahid, she has remained at the center of attention of the parish, along with Der Hayr Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian.

For the last 31 years she has been a partner, colleague and a vital spiritual support to her husband's ministry. Twenty-five of these years have been an invaluable contribution to the growth and spiritual well being of St. Mary's Parish. In fact, her activities and contributions go well beyond the parish; namely, she has been a "surrogate mother," nurse, chaplain, Armenian cultural program director and advisor to successive camp directors and committees at AGBU Camp Nubar. Many of these activities have run simultaneously with each other. She has over the last 30 years been a member, and occasional director, of church choirs in several parishes.

On and off, for over twenty years she has served as a Supervisor of Sunday Schools, Armenian language schools and teacher in both,

sometimes simultaneously. She has led adult Armenian language classes and has taught the Armenian language at the Diplomatic Language Center.

As an actively contributing member of the Women's Guild, she has served as the chairman and, for six years, has been on the Central Council of the Diocesan Women's Guild.

For over fifteen years, at St. Mary's, she was an advisor to the youth groups and chairperson of the Three M Adult Fellowship, initiating and organizing numerous cultural and educational programs along with social activities. She brought the Richmond, VA and Washington youth together annually under "Hye Time in Washington" weekend programs.

On the Diocesan level she was a charter member of the HAVAD Committee, which became a missionary outreach in the aftermath of the 1988 Earthquake. For two summers she was sent as an instructor and seminar leader for training of Sunday School teachers in Armenia. The follow-up visits for five years included missionary and humanitarian activities in the remote regions of Armenia.

She is the first Yeretgin to be elected as Diocesan Delegate.

As a health professional, she was a member of the Executive Committee of the Armenian-American Health Association of Washington, D.C. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Armenian-American Cultural Association, the parent organization of the Mammography and Women's Wellness Center in Armenia.

Because of her love for Armenian songs, for over 35 years she has been a member of the KNARANI Choral Group under the direction of Maestro Arsen Sayan.

In recent years, since the estab-

lishment of the Armenian Embassy, she has been a leading force, helping the Embassy in a variety of projects.

Throughout her life, especially as a yeretzgin, she has put service to the church and community first, versus getting a job and making money. In her former professional life — before she married Fr. Kalayjian — she was a pediatric nurse, then a nursing supervisor for the 450-bed Christ Hospital in Jersey City, NJ, where she also taught at the Nursing School.

She has received several accolades from Armenian and non-Armenian organizations.

Yeretgin Anahid (nee Bozoyan) was born in Aleppo, Syria. After graduating from the American H.S. for Girls, she

moved to Beirut to continue her education in nursing at the American University of Beirut. She completed her nursing education at Christ Hospital in New Jersey, and continued her studies at Columbia University, earning her MA in Nursing Education.

Throughout her life she has been on the forefront of any and all endeavors that would help the vitality, the spirituality and the effectiveness of the church mission.

Additional information on the forthcoming tribute can be obtained by calling (202) 363-1923 or writing to: St. Mary's Celebration Committee, c/o Marguerite Satian, 3840 International Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906; FAX (202) 537-0229.

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