

File: Armenian Clergy
REV. DIRAN PAPA ZIAN

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue, N. Y. C. 10016

The Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian's baptismal name was Garabed. He was born on February 12, 1920, in Istanbul of parents from Izmit, Turkey.

In 1930, as a consequence of the early loss of his parents, he was admitted into the Karageuzian orphanage in Shishli, Istanbul. From this intermediate school he was graduated in 1934. The same year, in the fall of 1934, he was admitted into the St. James' Seminary of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem from where he was graduated in 1940. During the years of 1940-48, he lived in Haifa, Palestine where he engaged in teaching and different types of work, both as an employee and in private enterprises.

In the latter part of 1948, during the Arab-Jewish War, following the British withdrawal from Palestine, he moved to the neighboring country of Lebanon. In Beirut, Lebanon for three years from 1949-51, he was again for awhile engaged in the teaching profession in various Armenian national schools. In the scholastic year of 1949-50, he was admitted to the Antelias Seminary of the Catholicate of Cilicia as a special student to take philosophical and theological courses.

In the fall of 1951, he came to the U.S.A. through the efforts of the then Primate, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan who secured as his sponsor and benefactor, Mr. and Mrs. Dikran Missirlian of Manhasset, Long Island.

He was admitted first to the Philadelphia Divinity School (P.D.S.) as a special student and was the first Armenian student enrolled in this school. From P.D.S. he transferred to Episcopal Theological School (E.T.S.) Cambridge, Massachusetts from where he graduated in 1955, receiving his Bachelor degree in Theology (B.D.) Divinity. He received his degree of Masters in Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) from Harvard University in 1956.

On February 23, 1958, he was ordained into the Sacred Priesthood in St. John's Episcopal Church of Detroit by the hands of Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, the then Primate of the Diocese. Soon after his ordination as priest Fr. Diran was called to active duty in the metropolitan parish of St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit and has since served the church faithfully as pastor.

In 1966, upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Primate The Most Rev. Sion Manoogian, Fr. Diran was given the religious distinction to wear pectoral cross in recognition of his faithful and devoted service with a special Pontifical Encyclical, dated 12 January 1966, from His Holiness L. L. Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians. Archbishop Sion, as a further recognition with an official letter, gave to Fr. Diran the honor to wear philon embossed with floral pattern.

Fr. Diran married Rosalie Papazian in Detroit in 1957. They have two children, a son Garo, eleven years old and a daughter Elise, seven years old.

O. K.

1-7-70

Fr. Diran Papazian

JANUARY 1970