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HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH



20th Anniversary Of Consecration

1966 - 1986

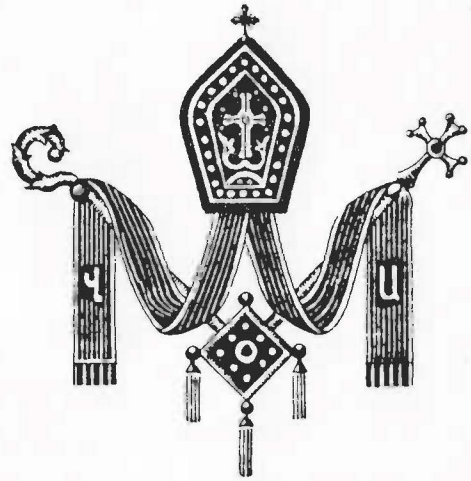
Ս. ԵՐՐՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅԵ ԱՌԱՔԵՂԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH



**20th Anniversary of Consecration
1966-1986**

November 22-23, 1986



*His Holiness, Lord Lord Vazken I
Supreme Patriarch — Catholicos of
All Armenians*





**ԱԳՅԱՆ ԱՊՈՍՏՈՒՆԻ ԿԱԿՈՎՈՒՄ ՔԱՄԱՔ ԴՅՈՒՎԱԾԻ ԱԿՈՒՆՑՈՒՄ
ԵՒ ԿՈՆՍԵՔՐԱՏՈՒՄ ԵՒ ՀԵՏԵՐՈՐԱԿՈՒՄ ԿԱՄԱՔ ԴՅՈՒՎԱԾՆԵՐ
ԳՈՐԾԵՐ ԿԱՄԱՔ ԴՅՈՒՎԱԾՈՒ ԱՄՈՆԱՑ ԱՄՈՒՍՏՅԱՆ ԱՄՈՍ-
ԱՅՈՒՆ ԵՍԻՎ ԵՍԻՎՅԱՆ ԱՄՈՆ ԵՏԻՄԱԿԱՆ ԻՏԻՆՅՈՒՄ**

Որովհետև Տ. ՎԱԶԿԵՆԱՆ ՎԱՐՈՒՄԵՍ ՀՊԵՆՈՒՄԵՐԱՆ
Ս ԵՐՈՐՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԵՍԵՐՆԵԻՆՑ ԵՐԱՄԱՆ ԽՈՊՈՒՄՈՒ ԱՆՈՒՍ
ՎՈՌՈՒՄ ԵՐԴՐԱԿՆԵԾԵՍՈՒ ՓՈՂՈՒՂՈՒԹՅԱՆ
ՎԱՐՈՒՄ ԱՌՆՈՒՄ ՄԵՏ ԿԱՌՈՒՄՆ ՍՈՑԻԱԼԻՍՏ
ԱՌՃՈՒՄ ԿԱՅՐԱԿԱՆ ԵՒ ՕՐԿԱՆՈՒՄ ԿԱՅՐԱՍԵՆԿԱՆ
ԵՍԵՐՈՒՄ ԱՐԻՊՈՒՄԵՆ
Այսօրվաներևը Արարածի անխափան, լսասան ահա քան
բարեբեր ժեղքնամի Ա. Երրորդին Դայաստեանյ եկեղե-
ցու կառուցան և անան:

Քրիստոսից Ամբիոնը հեղինակ ևս լին Երբ քանդա-
յանց առ Գեղեցիկ եկեղեցին, Երբանա շահ էնան ալիքան
քան բարեբեր ի վեր ասրը Ամբիոնակ լսաստ շնորհե-
լը առարոթն ի բաշի Թեւէ բաշիդ, ի Դիվիսիոնիան
ձեր և Գրեթիան և ի Ղեթիան ձեր կրեակուն և Բաթ-
թայի Կանթի, պահպանանը ձեր նախկեց քրիստոսի-
կան ասրը առարոթիաներան:

Սու խղայանիկ առիթով Սուրբ Էջմիածնին արար
արար ինքնասցեիք թեմիդ բարեխոն առաջնորդ Գե-
ղաշորհ Տ. Թարգման արքեպիսկոսոս Մանուկեանի միջ-
նորդաթեան և ձերի անեւոյ ին յոլեք ևս Երբայե-
բան և Տեր արեւաթեան և անխափանգրի Եր-
թանքները, ու բարեաց Պարգեւարան միջր անասան
ու լսաստար պահի ձեր աղթիքի Տանը և անար
ասրը Սեղանին և Գեղեցին բարեբեր առարոթն
բաշիայի Թեւէ բաշիդ, ձեր պահեկնան և Գեղե-
ցեպահեկնան, ի վասա Դայաստեանյ Արքե-
պիսան Սուրբ Եկեղեցայ:

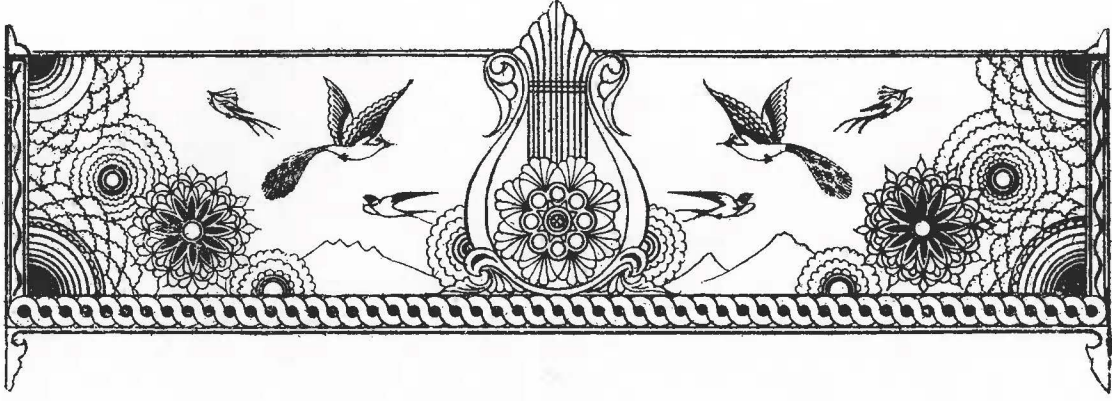
Քրիստոսից երկուսոյ, լեկելելի քո անջարդ
պահե և լեկելիցադ առանար քան պահեա
ի խղարարեան և անի:

Վազկեն Ի
ՎԱԿՈՒՄԻՍ ԱՐՄԱՆՑ ՎԱՅՈԻ

Տասն կռնիկ ի 5 Սեպտեմբր
1986 Փոկեակն ամի,
Եւ ի վաստի Դայայ ԵՍԵՆ
ի կայրանա Սրբայ Էջմիածնի:



ՀԿ-145



**THE ENCYCLICAL OF THE CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS
COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSECRATION OF
HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
OF CHELTENHAM, PENNSYLVANIA**

VAZKEN, SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST, BY THE MERCY OF GOD AND THE WILL OF OUR NATION, CHIEF BISHOP AND CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS, SUPREME PATRIARCH OF THE PRE-EMINENT SEE OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC MOTHER CHURCH, THE MOST HOLY ETCHMIADZIN.

THE VERY REVEREND HAIGAZOUN VARTABED MELKONIAN, PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND FAITHFUL PARISHIONERS, TRUE CHILDREN OF THE MOTHER SEE HOLY ETCHMIADZIN, PATERNAL GREETINGS AND PONTIFICAL BLESSINGS:

By the grace of the almighty Lord twenty years have passed since the erection and consecration of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Cheltenham, Pennsylvania.

Upon the God-fearing and hospitable shores of the United States of America you have erected your beautiful Church, which like an eternal lamp has abundantly shed upon you all the light and graces of Christ's Holy Gospel.

Therefore with gladdened heart from Holy Etchmiadzin and through the good offices of His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and by his recommendation, We convey our patriarchal blessings and warmest greetings; that the Granter of all goodness keep your House of Prayer illuminate and unshaken and that the spiritually edifying graces that emanate from its Holy Altar be upon you, your children and to the generations of progeny for the glorification of the Armenian Apostolic Holy Church.

"Heavenly king, preserve Thy Church unshaken and keep the worshippers of Thy name in peace." Amen.

VAZKEN I
Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians



ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ

DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

PRIMATE'S MESSAGE

It was a personal joy for us that twenty years ago, through the grace of God, we, as Primate of the Armenian Diocese of America, consecrated the Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania. We use the word "personal" because the Holy Trinity parish in North Philadelphia was our first pastorate in the United States in 1946.

The Holy Trinity parish has been a steadfast example of the ever-renewing faith and determination of our people. It was a sad event when the old structure was destroyed by fire. The parish, with vision and purpose, rebuilt the beautiful structure that we have today in Cheltenham.

For twenty years, Holy Trinity has gathered its flock, leading them in spiritual and cultural life. The present pastor, the Very Reverend Father Haigazoun Melkonian, with his youthful vigor has carried out his duties ever mindful of the importance of the Church in the life of every Christian Armenian. The parish council through the years has been the wise steward in directing the Church's welfare and future. Churches are not built for the present.

We congratulate you, the pastor, the parish council and all its auxiliary bodies for the twenty years of loyal service to God and our people.

Prayerfully,

Abp. Torkom Manoogian

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

August 1986



**His Eminence Archbishop Torkom
Manoogian, Primate**



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

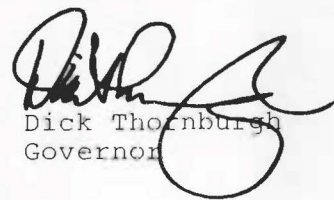
TO: HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

It is a pleasure to send best wishes on behalf of all residents of this Commonwealth on this occasion observing the 20th Anniversary of your church during 1986.

The history of your church is intertwined with the rich heritage of this Commonwealth. The achievement of this milestone marks a commitment by the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church to the religious and spiritual ideals of brotherhood and goodwill.

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I offer the hope that the future may bring continued fellowship and great joy to the congregation of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church.




Dick Thornburgh
Governor



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

W. WILSON GOODE
MAYOR

November 22, 1986

To the Congregation of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church:

It is indeed a pleasure to congratulate the Holy Trinity Armenian Church for 20 years of service to the American-Armenian community of the City of Philadelphia and the Greater Philadelphia area.

Philadelphia is a City with a deeply rooted religious history. It was founded on the belief that religious worship, of any religion, was an inalienable right. Because of this religious tolerance, the Holy Trinity Armenian Church has prospered, contributing to the diverse ethnic religious history of the region.

Good luck and God bless you as you join other members of Philadelphia's religious community in enjoying the right to assemble and worship in the first City of the New World to guarantee such entitlement.

Sincerely,



W. Wilson Goode



Phone (215) 663-1600

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

101 Ashmead Road, Cheltenham, Pa. 19012

Very Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian
Pastor

Dear Parishioners:

The precious words of our forefathers; *"Have mercy upon those who built the Church, those who have given their labor and service to it, and those who rest under the shadow of the Holy Church,"* today resound not only in our ears but in our hearts.

This anniversary not only commemorates the 20th year of the Consecration of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Cheltenham, but the 70th anniversary of the Armenian community in Philadelphia. This city which has been the home of 'liberty and freedom' for all Americans likewise has become our home as Armenian Americans to enjoy the same liberties and freedoms and has granted us the freedom to express ourselves as American Armenians, worshipping as Christians and maintaining the traditions and customs of our ancient culture.

The Christian virtues of faith, hope, love and sacrifice twenty years ago made it possible to erect this beautiful edifice to the glory of the Lord. Those same virtues are evident today throughout our parish. We draw spiritual strength from the love and dedication of our Altar Servers, Church Choir, Parish Council and Auxiliary organizations, Church School and all the faithful who fill our pews and bring forth their offerings of love.

We are grateful to those who have endeavored to mark this milestone in a special way. To our faithful parishioners who brought forth their labor and financial support working together in Christian harmony, for the edification of the Holy Church and the Glory of God.

Like our fathers before us we shall join the psalmist and say, *"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"* (Psalm 122)

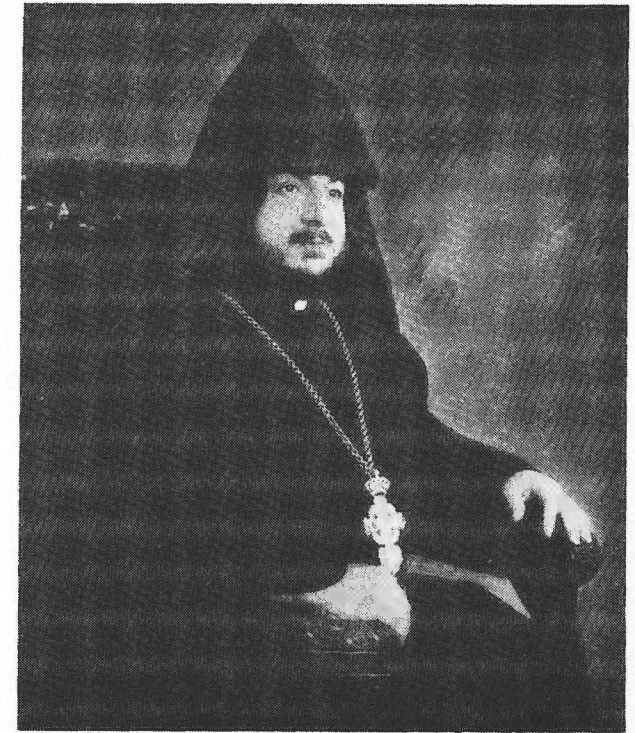
Prayerfully yours,

Very Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian
Pastor

Biographical Sketch

of the

Very Reverend Haigazoun Melkonian, Pastor



The Very Reverend Father Haigazoun Melkonian was born in Detroit, Michigan on August 22, 1949. He is the son of Byron and Virginia Melkonian, brother of Jacqueline, Patricia and Michael, and grandson of Mrs. Zvart Abrabigian Mardigian, the late John Arabigian, and the late Zenas and Alice Melkonian.

Fr. Haigazoun graduated from St. John's Church School where he later served as teacher, worship director and acolyte training program instructor and coordinator. He also taught Armenian language and folk dancing at the St. John's Calouste Gulbenkian Armenian School. He was an active member of the A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors and Seniors, and has held various positions in the Junior and Senior chapters, both locally and on the national level in the A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors.

He also served as a teacher and counselor at the A.G.B.U. Camp Ararat. Fr. Haigazoun earned his Bachelors of Education and Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Wayne State University, and taught in the Detroit Public School System at the high school level for two years.

Before entering St. James' Seminary in Jerusalem in 1974, Fr. Haigazoun studied at the Seminary of Holy Etchmiadzin for one year. While studying for the priesthood in Jerusalem, he was a teacher of English and Geography, for which he prepared a bi-lingual text, at the Seminary.

On June 13, 1976 on the Feast of Pentecost, he was ordained to the sacred priesthood of the Armenian Apostolic Church. He is a member of the St. James' Brotherhood of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

In the spring of 1978 Fr. Haigazoun was elevated to the rank of Vartabed, Doctor of the Church.

Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian became a member of the clergy of the Diocese of the Armenian Church in America in October of 1978, at which time he assumed his responsibilities as pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church of Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Fr. Haigazoun has also written THE ACOLYTE TRAINING PROGRAM Of The ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, which is printed under the auspices of our Diocese. He was asked and has corrected for publication the A.C.Y.O.A. booklet, SACRAMENTS AND PRAYERS and a DICTIONARY OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH. He has translated SAINTS AND FEASTS OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH which is presently in the hands of the Department for Religious Education, and is working on for future publication the complete Lectionary for Sunday readings.

In January of 1984, the Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manougian appointed Fr. Haigazoun as pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church.

Ս. Երրորդութիւն Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցի

A Brief History of the Armenian Church

The Church of Armenia acknowledges as its original founders two of the twelve apostles of Christ, Thaddeus and Bartholomew, who are referred to as the "first enlighteners of Armenia" to distinguish them from the second enlightener, St. Gregory. According to tradition the two apostles were put to death in Armenia. The generally accepted chronology gives a period of eight years to the mission of St. Thaddeus (35-43 A.D.) and sixteen years to that of St. Bartholomew (44-60 A.D.).

Since there existed no Armenian alphabet until the first part of the fourth century, we have very little information concerning the progress of Christianity in Armenia before the official conversion. But there are strong indications that Christianity had taken root in the country at a much earlier time. Recently discovered fragmentary documents refer to certain bishops as successors to the two apostles. History records religious persecutions by at least three kings of Armenia during the years 110, 238, and 280. Moreover, the Armenian Church commemorates many Armenian martyrs of the apostolic era. Eusebius, the church historian, mentions a letter by Dionysius, Patriarch of Alexandria, written to Mehroujan, Bishop of Armenia. It thus follows that Christianity had not only made inroads in Armenia, but had taken more or less organized form with bishops who were well known outside of Armenia.

CONVERSION TO THE NEW FAITH

In the year 301 (some historians place the date 10-15 years earlier) there happened a most important event not only in the history of Armenia, but in the annals of the Christian Church. The faith which from the beginning had been relentlessly persecuted throughout the world, was proclaimed as the national religion of Armenia. It was no small thing to adopt a religion which the most powerful empires, those of Rome and of Persia, denounced and persecuted.

The man who began the conversion of the land of Armenia was St. Gregory, called the "Enlightener" or "Illuminator" of Armenia. Gregory was of noble family, educated in Caesarea, then a Christian center. He entered the service of King Tiridates of Armenia and after much persecution and suffering succeeded in converting the King, who in turn helped him to convert the whole country to Christianity. In some regions the change took place with relatively little difficulty; in others evangelization met great resistance. With the help of the King, Gregory destroyed the pagan sanctuaries and crushed the armed opposition of the pagan priests. Paganism, nevertheless, lingered especially in the remote parts of the country. Gregory strengthened and reorganized the triumphant Church in Armenia. He was formally elected as the supreme head of the Church. Therefore, he was sent, with a large retinue, to Caesarea to be ordained a bishop.

Gregory was also instrumental in the conversion of the neighboring countries of Georgia and Albania. He also built the first Christian cathedral in Vagharshapat, near Mount Ararat, then the capital of Armenia, as directed by our Lord in a vision, in memory of which it is known as Holy Etchmiadzin, that is, the place where the "Only Begotten Descended".

Having accomplished his mission, and advanced in age, Gregory relinquished the care of the Church to his second son, Aristakes, who already had been serving as his vicar general, and, in that capacity had attended as a delegate of the Armenian Church the famous Council of Nicea, in 325. He then retired from active life to live as a hermit until his death.

In time heathen gods gradually disappeared and profession of Christianity became general. The fundamentals of the internal organization of the Church and its discipline were established. Rituals and church services took definite form. Aside from its moral and spiritual benefits, the adoption of Christianity helped to unite the various racial elements and divisions in Armenia, and forged them into a people.

20 YEARS IN THE NEW CHURCH 1966-1986

- 1966** — September 18, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the Primate, consecrated our new church edifice.
- 1967** — February 5, Testimonial Banquet honoring Harry A. Kuljian.
- 1967** — April 13, His Eminence the Primate, consecrated the new Baptismal Font, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Baldadian.
- 1967** — May 2 & 3, Recital by Kohar Kasparian, famed soprano from Armenia took place in the Town Hall. A banquet was tendered in her honor in the church hall.
- 1967** — November 19, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian presided over church's First Anniversary Banquet.
- 1968** — April 21, our Church Choir celebrated the 40th Anniversary of its foundation.
- 1968** — May 8, the Armenian community of Philadelphia, and our church in particular, were blessed with the pastoral visit of His Holiness Vazken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.
- 1969** — April 13, Gomidas Centennial Commemoration with Gomidas Choral Group of New York hosted by Diocesan Auxiliary Ladies.
- 1969** — September 21, 3rd Anniversary of Consecration Banquet. Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan presides.
- 1970** — May 1 & 2, our parish hosted the Annual Diocesan Assembly, which elected His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian to a second term of office as Diocesan Primate.
- 1970** — December 12-13, the 4th Anniversary of the consecration of our church and the 30th Anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the Primate, were celebrated jointly in our church.
- 1970** — December 18-20, His Beatitude Archbishop Shnork Kaloustian, the Patriarch of Constantinople, paid a visit to our parish and the Armenian community of Philadelphia.
- 1971** — May 9, the 25th Anniversary of the ACYOA was celebrated by our Chapter with a banquet honoring the past Chapter chairmen.
- 1971** — July 9-11, ACYOA hosts 25th Anniversary and National Assembly of the ACYOA.
- 1971** — In September, the Very Reverend Zaven Arzoumanian, the pastor of our church since 1963, was assigned to Montreal, Canada as Vicar General, and the Reverend Father Michael Buttero assumed his responsibilities as the new pastor of our church.
- 1971** — October 17, the Centennial and the birth of His Holiness Garegin Hovsepiantz, the late Catholicos of the See of Cilicia and former Primate of our Diocese, was celebrated jointly by SS. Sahag-Mesrob and Holy Trinity.
- 1973** — March 18, His Eminence Torkom Abp. Manoogian, Diocesan Primate, paid a pastoral visit and bestowed the order of sub-deacon upon Garbis Kelyan, Albert Kapeghian, Sebouh Minassian, George Kashikjian and Albert Keshgegian.
- 1973** — August 31-September 3, the Senior Chapters of the ACYOA of SS. Sahag-Mesrob and Holy Trinity Church hosted the 4th Annual Sports Weekend.
- 1974** — January 13, in a Testimonial Banquet, the parish honored the past chairmen of the Parish Council.
- 1974** — In October, the Reverend Father Michael Buttero, our pastor since 1971 was transferred and the Very Reverend Arshen Aivazian was assigned to our parish.
- 1974** — November 7, His Beatitude Archbishop Shnork Kaloustian, Patriarch of Constantinople, visited our parish for the third time in a decade.
- 1975** — April 24, the 60th Anniversary of the Armenian Massacres was commemorated in our church with a solemn Divine Liturgy.

- 1976** — April 30-May 2, the 74th Annual Diocesan Assembly was held in Philadelphia, hosted by SS. Sahag-Mesrob and Holy Trinity Churches.
- 1976** — September 19, the Tenth Anniversary of the consecration of our church is being celebrated with a solemn Divine Liturgy, followed by a banquet, presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the Diocesan Primate.
- 1978** — October 22, Holy Trinity burns its mortgage.
- 1979** — April 8, Golden Anniversary of Holy Trinity Church Choir.
- 1979** — October 28, Dedication of Memorial Stained Glass Windows, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian presides.
- 1982** — August 15, Holy Trinity bids farewell to pastor the Very Rev. Fr. Arshen Aivazian.
- 1982** — November 5-7, Holy Trinity Church Choir hosts 36th Annual Assembly of Armenian Church Choirs.
- 1983** — March 27, ACYOA and Parish Council sponsor luncheon welcoming the Very Rev. Nourhan Manougian (visiting pastor).
- 1983** — November 5, Holy Trinity Church Choir receives the Gomidas Award from the Association of Armenian Church Choirs.
- 1984** — January 14, 20th Anniversary celebration of Archbishop Torkom Manoogian's Episcopal Consecration, jointly celebrated with SS. Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Church. Garbis Kelyan and Albert Keshgegian are elevated to the rank of deacon, Garo Garibian, Krikor Mahserejian, Shahab Minassian and Karnig Torossian to Sub-deacon, the rank of Tbir and the blessing of veils also took place.
- 1984** — January 22, Very Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian assumes pastorate, Parish Council sponsors welcoming luncheon.
- 1984** — April 15, Parish Council sponsors welcoming Banquet in honor of the new pastor, Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian on Palm Sunday.
- 1984** — November 25, Establishment and celebration of Annual Avak's Banquet, honoring the elderly members of our church.
- 1985** — April 28, Establishment of Madagh and program in commemoration of the Armenian Martyrs of 1915.
- 1985** — May 29, Placement of Vigil Altars to Sts. Hripsime and James in memory of Hagoup and Mariam Mooradian.
- 1985** — December 1, Second Annual Avak's Banquet. Very Rev. Khajag Barsamian, Vicar General celebrant and guest speaker.
- 1986** — March 23, Palm Sunday, Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Ordination of our pastor, the Very Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian.
- 1986** — April 27, Annual Madagh and Program in honor of Armenian Martyrs. Ensemble de Musique Armenienne from Paris performs.
- 1986** — June 3, Embellishment of Church facade by Haig and Marie Vartanian in memory of Hratch and Araxie Vartanian.
- 1986** — October 11, SS. Sahag-Mesrob and Holy Trinity Joint Choirs sponsor Dinner Concert on the 40th Anniversary of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs.
- 1986** — November 22-23, 20th Anniversary Commemoration of Holy Trinity Armenian Church. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, presides. Krikor Mahserejian is ordained to the diaconate. Deacon Menas Maloumian and Aghavney Paroonagian receive the 'Saint Nerses Shnorhali' award and patriarchal encyclical from His Holiness Lord Lord Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians.



Church Choir and Altar Servers



Parish Council & Diocesan Delegates



Church School Teachers



20th Anniversary Committee



Church School Student Body



ACYOA Jr.'s



Women's Guild Executive Board



Men's Club Executive Board



DEACON MENAS MALOUMIAN

Menas Maloumian's name has been an integral part of the history of the Armenian Community in Philadelphia for over sixty years. Since 1928, Deacon Maloumian has served under seven different diocesan primates as Tbir, Choirmaster and Deacon.

Menas' involvement in the Armenian community has been a history of uninterrupted service and devotion to the church. During the most difficult times, times of war and of the political separation of the church, Menas was one of

those responsible for keeping the doors of the church open. For example, during the four years he lived in Cuba, Menas performed both weddings and funeral services for the Armenian faithful who were without the leadership of a pastor.

After arriving in Philadelphia in 1928, Menas chanced to visit the pastor of the then St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, who was without any assistance. Menas immediately offered his services as an aide and choirmaster. When Archbishop Ghevont Tourian, then Primate, paid his first visit to Philadelphia, Deacon Menas was able to prepare his choir to perform the special hymns appropriate to the Divine Liturgy as celebrated by a bishop. This display so impressed His Eminence that he invited Menas and his choir members to sing in Washington, D.C.

In 1941, while traveling to New York and Boston to organize church choirs, Menas presented, for the first time, the idea of a national organization of church choirs. The idea finally reached its fruition in 1946 under the primacy of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan.

At the time of the division of the Armenian Church in America, Deacon Menas remained a faithful servant of the Holy Mother See of Etchmiadzin. And when the Philadelphia Armenian Community was forced to leave St. Gregory and purchase another church, Menas worked towards its purchase and personally designed its Holy Altar in ancient Armenian motifs. It was there, in that same Holy Altar of the Holy Trinity Church of North Philadelphia, that Menas was ordained to the sacred diaconate by Archbishop Mampre Kalfayan.

When the church was destroyed at the hands of an arsonist in 1964, Menas stood firm at the side of the pastor while the Divine Liturgy was celebrated and the Church School was conducted in a local chapel.

In 1966, when the Holy Trinity parish proudly built its present home in Cheltenham, Menas was again among the first to contribute his time, energy, and finances.

In 1973, Deacon Menas was honored by the Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian with the St. Vartan Medal and award. The grateful parish dedicated its new altar in honor of Deacon Menas, and he serves in that altar to this day.

Deacon Maloumian has been blessed with a loving family, many friends and a very grateful community. On this occasion he will receive the 'St. Nerses the Graceful' medal and pontifical encyclical from His Holiness Lord Lord Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians.



THE ENCYCLICAL OF THE CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS ON THE PRESENTATION OF THE 'SAINT NERSES THE GRACEFUL' MEDAL TO MENAS MALOUMIAN

VAZKEN, SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST, BY THE MERCY OF GOD AND THE WILL OF OUR NATION, CHIEF BISHOP AND CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS, SUPREME PATRIARCH OF THE PRE-EMINENT SEE OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC MOTHER CHURCH, THE MOST HOLY ETCHMIADZIN.

DEACON MENAS MALOUMIAN, TRUE SON OF THE MOTHER SEE OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN, PATERNAL GREETINGS AND PATRIARCHAL BLESSINGS:

By the Lord's mercy, You have been called to serve in the Holy Orders for more than five decades. You have served our Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church and our faithful community as Choirmaster, Altar Server, Parish Council member and Diocesan Delegate.

We praise Your dedicated service of fifty years, and Bless You and Your spiritually edifying endeavors.

In appreciation of Your God-pleasing service, joyfully through the good offices of His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, by his recommendation and by means of this Encyclical, We convey our Patriarchal blessings and grant You the 'SAINT NERSES THE GRACEFUL' medal. We wish You long life, health and happiness.

"Prosper and become strengthen through the Holy Spirit, and be ever blessed by the Lord." Amen.

VAZKEN I
Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians



AGHAVNEY PAROONAGIAN

Aghavney was born in Arabkir, Armenia, the daughter of Manoog and Nekdar (nee Ejdaharian) Paroonagian. When Aghavney was still an infant, her father decided to leave Arabkir to find a more promising future for himself and his family in another country. After traveling through several countries he finally settled in America and sent for his family to join him in Philadelphia. But for Aghavney, the journey to America was not to be so easily accomplished.

Enroute to America, Aghavney was unexpectedly detained in England for treatment of an eye condition and, though her mother and brother were assured that she would soon follow them to Philadelphia, Aghavney remained in Liverpool for nearly four years in the care of her father's younger brother, Sooren, who arranged lodging and board with English families. There English became Aghavney's first language, and it was in England that she was first introduced to music in the form of songs, hymns, and lessons on the piano.

Her long-delayed voyage to America resumed when she sailed to Ellis Island. There she was again detained for a number of months for treatment, and finally surgery, for her eye condition. At long last she was discharged and able to rejoin her family in Philadelphia.

Aghavney's long stay in England left her fluent in English, but with very little knowledge of the language of her parents (She could say only "ayo" and "votch" in Armenian). In Philadelphia, though, she was able to study in Armenian school while attending classes in area schools. She attended various vocational schools, eventually attaining her certification from the Board of Education licensing her to teach Home Economics and Dressmaking on the high school level.

Aghavney's long association with the church choir began at the then-named St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church in 1925 when, through her work as a choirster, soloist, occasional organist, chairman of the choir, and appointment as Choirmaster succeeding Deacon Menas Maloumian, her love of music was given a voice.

Her association with the church and its organizations also included receiving a "Blessing of the Veil" and Certificate of Tbir from his Eminence, Bishop Ghevont Tourian, Primate, Charter Membership in the Armenian Church Youth Organization, and, from its inception in 1946, membership in the Association of Armenian Choirs of America. She attended many of the annual assemblies of both organizations and, with Acabe Boornazian as corresponding secretary, served a one-year term as chairman of the Choir Association.

Participation in these organizations and in their seminars and assemblies afforded Aghavney both opportunities and an education into Armenian church and culture. She especially attributed the formation of the Torkomants Choir Group under the five-year pastorate of the Very Rev. Torkom Manoogian (now His Eminence Archbishop Torkom, Primate) with having allowed her an insight into the richness of the Armenian church—its rituals, canons, prayers, shara-gans, and the intricate structure of the Divine Liturgy—an insight which she, in turn, imparted to those she worked with in the choir and church school.

She was selected as one of twelve vocalists with orchestra to perform a program of Bach Chorale selections at the Wayne Presbyterian Church. In one performance in an annual Welsh Eisteddfod, her rendition of Saint-Saens' "Mon Coeur S'ouvre A Ta Voix" was judged as of "beautiful voice; and interpretation; and superlative French."

In 1958, at the request of Rev. Sarkis Kashikjian and Mr. Sarkis Manoogian, Chairman of the Parish Council, Aghavney became Superintendent of the Church School, first with Acabe Boornazian, then Harry Andonian, as Associate Superintendents. She continued her fine work in the Church School until, in 1968, her mother's need for constant attention due to a deteriorating cataract condition made it necessary for Aghavney to tender her resignation at the end of the school's annual closing exercises.

The grateful parish dedicated the church's chancel in appreciation to her service in the church and choir. On this occasion she will receive the 'St. Nerses The Graceful' medal and pontifical encyclical from His Holiness Lord Lord Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians.



THE ENCYCLICAL OF THE CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS ON THE PRESENTATION OF THE 'SAINT NERSES THE GRACEFUL' MEDAL TO AGHAVNEY PAROONAGIAN.

VAZKEN, SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST, BY THE MERCY OF GOD AND THE WILL OF OUR NATION, CHIEF BISHOP AND CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS, SUPREME PATRIARCH OF THE PRE-EMINENT SEE OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC MOTHER CHURCH THE MOST HOLY ETCHMIADZIN.

MISS AGHAVNEY PAROONAGIAN, TRUE DAUGHTER OF THE MOTHER SEE HOLY ETCHMIADZIN, PATERNAL GREETINGS AND PATRIARCHAL BLESSINGS:

By the Lord's mercy, our Holy Mother Church continues her mission for the spiritual edification of our children amongst our faithful people, be they in Armenia or in the diaspora.

We are greatly pleased that You have displayed great talent in God-pleasing endeavors, by serving your community for more than thirty years as Choirmaster and Church School superintendent.

We highly praise Your three decades of dedication and hard work and bless You and Your spiritually edifying endeavors.

Therefore, through the good offices of His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Eastern Dioceses of the Armenian Church of America, by his recommendation and by means of the Encyclical, We personally convey our Patriarchal blessing and grant you the 'SAINT NERSES THE GRACEFUL' medal. We wish You long life, health and happiness.

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with you all." (2 Thess. 3:16-17) Amen.

VAZKEN I
Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians



**WORD FROM OUR GODFATHER
AZAD ATTARIAN**

I sincerely give thanks to the many who worked devotedly for our church since its consecration to bring us to this happy anniversary day. Our church has been here for us to share prayer and hope. It has witnessed and blessed many occurrences that affected the lives of each of us during the past twenty years.

Our Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church enriches us and gives fuller meaning to our being. Its sacred purposes of leading us spiritually and of providing us and our children faithfully and perpetually with communion with the Lord are steadfast and constant. It will continue to witness our promises to live as good Christians, specifically—according to the Holy Will of God.

Godfather Of Our Church

Azad Attarian was born in Philadelphia in March 1919. His parents were John and Zevart Attarian. He married Luceen Temoyan in 1948. Their daughter, Lynne, and her husband, Archie Asadourian, reside in Holmdel, N.J., with their two young daughters—Michelle and Andrea.

Azad received his B.S. degree from Temple University in 1941. During World War II he served four years in the U.S. Army, over two years of them in the European Campaign. He is a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

After World War II, Azad was chairman of the ACYOA of our church. He has served on our Parish Council. He has been chairman of many of our function committees, including the "Project '78" committee which brought about changes to and the dedication of many parts of our building, including the beautiful stained glass windows. He is also a member of Armenian charitable organizations, including the Armenian General Benevolent Union. He was president of the Eastern District of the AGBU for several years.

During the past thirty years Azad has been with the city of Philadelphia as an administrator. He is the manager of one of the largest divisions in the city government. He is a member of the National Society for the Advancement of Management and the Municipal Finance Officers Association of the United States.

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To Bette Meserlian, Mary Kapeghian and the pastor, the Very Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian who are responsible for the preparation of this booklet.

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