

TO :
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SEP. 20. 2000 11:41PM P 2
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Proposed 1700 Program

The Komitas Chamber Choir of Armenia, under the direction of Hovhannes Mirzoyan, will be the main performing group in the celebration-concert. In addition, the program will feature a solo organist and include a newly commissioned work for flute as well as liturgical chants by well-known soloists.

Frame the concert between variants of the Lord's Prayer as is the practice in any religious service in the Armenian Church; I propose to include at least three settings in the beginning and three in the end of the program. Here are possible selections:

Yekmalian
Komitas (version for mixed choir)
Manas
Apcar
Bianchini
Atmadjian
Mekanechian
Aydinian
Chilingirian
Bartevian

Choral works by Hovhannes (four Jashou sharagan; Amen, yev unt vokvuyt kum).
Komitas (Psalm 137, in German), Yekmalian (a 10-12 minute continuous portion with a sargavak participating), Harutunian (Kta der), Arzruni (Zarachnorts yev zvartabeds; Kahanayk and I verinn)

Sharakans by a solo bass with choral accompaniment.

Chants by Mesrob Mashdets by solo soprano (e.g. Bayrakdarian) with instrumental accompaniment.

Instrumental interludes (for organ, by Richard Yardumian; for flute, by Eve Beglarian)

Draft

*George needs
to discuss the
letter with you.*

September 27, 2000

Dear -----,

Subject: 1700 Anniversary Celebration Concerts

Next year promises to be an amazing one, as we celebrate 1700 years of walking in the light of the Lord.

As part of the extensive program of actions and events that we are putting together, the Diocese will spearhead a series of Armenian musical concerts in New York and the key cities with large Armenian populations. This letter is to propose that you host one of these concerts.

The 1700 Anniversary Celebration Committee is in the process of inviting The Komidas Chamber Choir of Armenia, under the direction of Hovhannes Mirzoyan for the period of October and November of 2001. The rich program will also feature a solo organist and include a newly commissioned work for the flute and liturgical chants by renowned soloists. Possible selections by the choir will include: Yekmalian, Komitas (version for mixed choirs), Manas, Apcar, Bianchini, Atmadjian, Mekanechian, Aydinian, Chilingirian, and Barteveian. Choral works are expected to include works by Hovhannes (four Jashou sharagan; Amen, yev unt vokvuyt kum), Komitas (Psalm 137, in German), Yekmalian (a 10-12 minute continuous portion with sargavak participating), Harutunian (Kta Der), Arzuni (Zarachnorts yev zvaratabeds; Kahanayk and I veinn). A solo bass with choral accompaniment will sing the Sharagans. A solo soprano, such as Isabel Bayrakdarian, with instrumental accompaniment will sing chants by Mesrob Mashdots. Eve Beglerian will provide instrumental interludes for organ by Richard Yardumian, and for flute by Ms. Beglerian.

The tentative schedule for these concerts is as follows:

October 20	Washington, D.C.
October 21	Philadelphia, PA
October 23	Albany, NY
October 24	Worcester, MA
October 26	Providence, RI
October 27	Boston, MA
October 28	New York, NY
October 31	Boca Raton, FL
November 2	Chicago, IL
November 3	Detroit, MI
November 4	Cleveland, OH

August 16, 2000

Tentative Schedule for Concerts in 2001

October

- 20: Washington D. C
- 21: Philadelphia
- 23: Albany
- 24: Wooster
- 26: Providence
- 27: Boston
- 28: NYC
- 31: Boca Raton

November

- 2: Chicago
- 3: Detroit
- 4: Cleveland
- 7: Dallas

Main Activities for the Memorial Week-end 2001

I. Walkathon

11:00AM – 1:30PM

- The activities of the weekend are expected to kick off with a 3K walkathon that would start in the late morning.
- We expect 500 to 800 athletes, who will be in New York for the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) Annual Sports Weekend.
- We estimate 400 to 500 supporters participating in the Sports Weekend to also take part in the walkathon.
- The Armenian community in the tri-state area will be invited to participate.
- We expect 1000 to 2000 people of this group to take part in the walkathon, bringing the estimated total between 2000 and 3300.

II. Service

1:45PM – 2:30PM

- It is envisioned that the weekend will be followed, at its conclusion in the early afternoon, with some kind of religious service, presided over by His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, who will be in New York specifically for that weekend.
- For this service, we would need a platform/stage, sound system, and seating for a minimum of 2000 people.
- The service will last approximately an hour.

III. Social/Cultural Events

3:00PM – 6:30PM

- At the conclusion of the service, the young people participating in the ACYOA sports weekend will return to their games in lower Manhattan. The rest of the community will stay behind for social/cultural events (still in the planning stages).
- We expect some form of music/dance event, which will use the same stage, sound system and chairs put in place for the service that precedes this portion of the program.

IV. Beverage and Food Sales

- We expect to have beverages and food available for sale to those participating in the afternoon activities.
- This may include preparation of foods, which require cooking/BBQ. Drinks will be limited to water and soft drinks.

V. Kiosks

- We expect to have a number of booths.
- Information booths, booths to distribution printed materials, especially for children and we may have such activities like storytellers and educational games.

The Armenian Church in the 21st Century

Modernization and the need to revive the faith of St. Vartan

Conference
(Saturday, March 31, 2001)

Panel I - (10:00 am to 12:30 pm)

Chairman – Prof. Dennis Papazian

An overview of the pre-modern spiritual world of the Armenians

Lecturer: Prof. Kevork Bardakjian (30 min.)

The process of modernization of Armenian society and waning of faith

Lecturer: Prof. Hagop Nersoyan (30 min.)

Modernization and the administrative structure of the Church in the East

Lecturer: Prof. George Bournoutian (30 min.)

Modernization and the administrative structure of the Church in the West

Lecturer: Prof. Vartan Artinian (30 min.)

Discussion (30 minutes)

Lunch break (12:30 pm to 2:00 pm)

Panel II (2:00 pm to 3:00 pm)

Chairman - Fr. Karekin Kasparian

The contemporary spiritual state of the Church:

a) Piety and ritual

Lecturer: Fr. Garabed Kochakian (20 min.)

b) Monasticism and education

Lecturer: Abraham Terian (20 min.)

The Church and the state in the post-modern (1990-2000) period (20 min)

Lecturer: Simon Balian (30 min.)

Fifteen Minute Break

Panel III (4:15pm – 5:15 pm)

Chairman – Benon Sevan to be contacted

Facing contemporary issues

- a) *Moral issues*
Lecturer: Fr. Dajad Davidian (20 min.)
- b) *The Church and the Community*
Lecturer: Michael Haratunian (20 min.)
- c) *family issues*
Tentative lecturer: Rita Balian (20 min.)
- d) *Christian Living*
Prof. C. Calian (20 min.)

End of Conference – sandwiches will be served

***A Dialogue with the People* (6:00 pm to 9:00 pm)**

Presentation of the Intent of the Diocese-- "To make the Armenian Church significant in the life of every Armenian family"—and the five focus areas—"Worship, Leadership, Youth, Contribution, Communication"— by His Eminence Abp. Khajag Barsamian, the Primate of the Diocese, and Mr. Haig Dadourian, the Chairman of the Diocesan Council.

Discussion about the focus areas:

*Worship
Leadership
Youth
Contribution
Communication.*

The Conference will take place at the Haig and Alice Kavoukjian Auditorium within the headquarters of the Diocese.

Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

**In the Footsteps of St. Gregory the Enlightener
From Caesarea to Etchmiadzin
June 3 to June 19, 2001**

On the occasion of the 1700 Anniversary Celebration of the adoption of Christianity as the religion of the state, and at the invitation of His Beatitude Archbishop Mesrob Mutafyan, Armenian Patriarch of Istanbul, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America plans to organize a pilgrimage in June, 2001.

This pilgrimage, entitled "In the Footsteps of St. Gregory the Enlightener: From Caesarea to Etchmiadzin" will take the participants on the journey of St. Gregory from his ~~birthplace~~ in Cappadocea to Etchmiadzin where he became the first Catholicos of All Armenians.

It is scheduled to take place from June 3 to June 19, 2001 per attached itinerary. These dates are basically fixed as they involve participation in the celebration of the 1700th anniversary of Christianity in Armenia which takes place on June 17, 2001 in Etchmiadzin, which is also the day of remembrance of St. Gregory.

The plan is for 600 to 1,000 persons to participate, all doing this trip in unison (breaking the pilgrimage into smaller groups that come one after the other is *not* an option).

Following the visit to Kayseri (Caesarea), the group will divide into 4 subgroups, each to visit that part of the country from which their ancestors came, as follows:

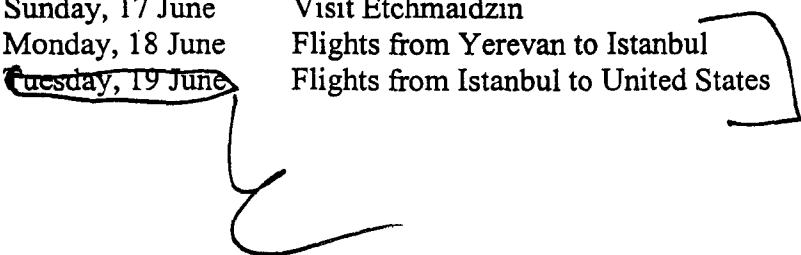
- A. Adana, Tarsus, Mersin, Iskanderun, & Sis.
- B. Aintab, Marash, Kilis, Zeitun & Urfa
- C. Sebastia, Yozgat, Tokat, & Amasia.
- D. Malatia, Kharput, Arabgir, Diarbekir, Mush & Van

Some of the details as to the towns to be visited by each group is subject to adjustment.

To be successful, the tour operator must have a strong presence and proven track record of the highest level in Turkey, Armenia and the United States. Given this requirement, tour operators with complimentary strengths may choose to bid jointly. Tour operator must have bank surety, preferably through USTA.

**Proposed Itinerary for the Pilgrimage
In the Footsteps of St. Gregory the Enlightener:
From Caesarea to Etchmiadzin
3 to 19 June 2001**

Sunday, 3 June	Departure from the United States to Istanbul
Monday, 4 June	Arrival in Istanbul; afternoon free time
Tuesday, 5 June	Visits and tours of the Armenian Patriarchate & Istanbul
Wednesday, 6 June	Flights to Caesarea
Thursday, 7 June	Worship service and tour of Caesarea & Capadocea
Friday, 8 June	Group splits into 4, one each traveling by bus to Adana, Aintab, Sebastia and Malatia
Saturday, 9 June	Each group spends two full days making daylong visits to the major cities and towns around, and one full day free for shopping and independent travel
Tuesday, 12 June	Groups reconvene in Erzeroum, Kars and Sarighamish arriving there by plane from Adana and Aintab, and by bus from Malatia and Sebastia.
Wednesday, 13 June	Visit and service at Ani, and surrounding areas
Thursday, 14 June	Crossing to Armenia by land either through Igdir or Ardahan
Friday, 15 June	Visit to Khor Virab and back to Yerevan
Saturday, 16 June	Visit to Oshagan and back to Yerevan
Sunday, 17 June	Visit Etchmaidzin
Monday, 18 June	Flights from Yerevan to Istanbul
Tuesday, 19 June	Flights from Istanbul to United States



Notes

1. **International Flight Carriers:** Only International IATA carriers are acceptable. All flights must be non-stop from point of international U.S. departure to Istanbul. All prices to be quoted for tourist class travel, with option to upgrade travel to business and first class. Surcharge for each must be defined in the contract.
2. **Connecting Flights:** The travel agent is expected as part of the tour operation to provide direct connecting flights from the point of departure of the traveler in the U.S. to the international gateway departure point; it is understood that the cost of this addition will be charged to the traveler.
3. **Bookings:** the tour operator will provide all bookings and travel related services as part of the basic cost.
4. **Group Leaders:** The plan is recruitment of participants through the parishes and Armenian institutions in the U.S. These same parishes and institutions will provide respective group leaders. Proposals should foresee one free group leader for every 19 full paying travelers.
5. **Local Flights:** All travelers have to be flown on Wednesday June 6 from Istanbul to Caesarea by plane. The groups going to Adana and Aintab will need to be flown from there to Erzroum on Tuesday June 12. Finally, all travelers will need to fly from Yerevan to Istanbul on Monday, June 18.
6. **Hotel Accommodations:** Istanbul and Caesarea (Capadocea) – 4 stars; all other accommodation 3 star and subject to each room having independent inbuilt bathroom with hot water. Costing to be done on the basis of double occupancy, with option for single rooms. Tour operator must specify in contract the surcharge for single room. *Important:* All hotel accommodations must be secured for the travelers until the time of departure of the buses to the airports with no surcharge to the traveler.
7. **Food and Beverages:** package must include breakfast and one full meal at the hotel. Additionally the tour organizer has to make arrangements for the mid-day meal at an appropriate restaurant, and the cost of this meal, including soft drink, must not exceed \$10 per person.
8. **Buses:** All buses should have air conditioning, lavatory, and provision for long haul travel. The buses are expected to accompany the group throughout their journey up to their departure from Yerevan.
9. **Travel Guides:** The Patriarchate of Istanbul will provide one representative per bus. This guide must be provided with free accommodation and meals, and travel. Additionally, the tour operator will provide a professional guide for each bus, fully fluent in English at no cost.
10. **Border Crossing:** All efforts will be undertaken to arrange for the exceptional opening of the border point at Igdir border checkpoint. If that fails, the group

may have to travel via the Ardahan border checkpoint to Georgia and on to Armenia. The operator must be ready to provide transport whichever way the permission is given.

11. **Visas:** Travel agent must secure entry visas prior to departure from the U.S. for each traveler to enter Turkey and Armenia and if needed, for transit through Georgia. Visa costs should be included in the price of the package.
12. **Program:** The program committee is working on finalizing the itinerary. In all cases, it will involve the daily use of buses, which must be available for the activities of each day.
13. **Extensions:** This trip is a religious pilgrimage in which minimal provision is made for tourist activities. Tour operator should include in proposal the following options as add-ons for a specified extra fee: 3 and 7 day extension in Turkey and 3 and 7 day extension in Armenia, and provide specifics of the itinerary for each; tour operator should keep in mind that the participants have visited the Armenian religious sites already.
14. **Promotion:** The tour operator is expected to design and provide for the printing of 2000 posters 16x24 inches (4 colors), and 100,000 brochures outlining the itinerary, details and conditions, and including registration form. The Diocese will be responsible for 2 mailings to its 40,000+ database. The Diocese will further design and arrange for placement of advertisements of this tour in relevant Armenian media at no cost to the tour operator.
15. **Package specifications:** the cost per traveler must include all airport fees and taxes, all entry fees to sites, all visa costs and any other mandatory expenses. The only expense per traveler will be that of the mid-day meal and travel insurance, which would be optional.
16. **Reports:** the tour operator must provide monthly updated reports on the those who have signed up, including full names and mailing addresses, and details of what each has signed up for.

1700th Jubilee Calendar

The following feasts/events must be celebrated with additional importance and cultural-spiritual-educational activities.

JANUARY 6, 2001

Opening ceremony of the 1700th Jubilee at the Diocese.

During the Armenian Christmas Badarak celebrated at St. Vartan Cathedral (NYC), the Primate will pass the torch brought from Khor Virab, Armenia to the representatives of our parishes. The representatives are preferred to be young adults, symbolizing the young generation. Each will carry the torch in a lantern to his/her parish to pass it to the parishioners.

JANUARY 13, 2001

1700th Jubilee Primate's Christmas Party for our children.

- Worship Service at St. Vartan Cathedral, 10:30 a.m.
- Lunch and Christmas program for the children.
- Visit by "Gaghant Baba" (Santa Claus).

JANUARY 14, 2001

Opening Ceremony of the 1700th Jubilee in all our parishes.

The torch brought from Khor Virab, Armenia (where St. Gregory the Enlightener spent 13 years) by the Primate should be passed to all parishioners with a special Jubilee logo candle made by the Diocese. These candles could be ordered through St. Vartan Bookstore.

Passing the light symbolizes the passing of St. Gregory's faith, vision, and commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ, as well as to the present and future generations of the Armenian nation.

You may want to sing a hymn dedicated to St. Gregory (select one from this resource booklet), while the congregation come to receive the light from the priest at the end of the Badarak.

FEBRUARY 4, 2001

Feast of the Sons and Grandsons of St. Gregory the Enlightener (actual feast is on February 3). After the Badarak in the church hall read about this feast and on conversion of Armenia to Christianity.

Have a quiz show (enclosed in this booklet) for your school's children. You may also open the quiz to parishioners. In advance a committee should be formed to organize this. You may want to give this responsibility to your school's principal. The winner will receive a prize.

Think about sending the winner to Armenia with the Diocesan Pilgrimage in June 2001.

MARCH 17, 2001

Women Saints Day throughout the Diocese.

This year Sts. Ashkhen and Khosrovitookhd will be honored. DRE (Department of Religious Education) is preparing a special booklet on these saints which will be published in time.

APRIL 1, 2001

St. Gregory the Enlightener's commitment to the pit [Moutn i Wirap] (actual feast day is March 31).

After the Badarak, in church hall have a uplifting afternoon.

Have a bread and water lunch; charge \$5.00 or \$10.00 per person, and donate all the proceeds for the maintenance of Khor Virab Church, or for the renovation of any church in Armenia. You may also give the money to "Sister Parish" projects.

During lunch turn off the lights, use only candles. Remember, St. Gregory passed 13 years with bread and water alone, and a candle light. For 13 minutes meditate on the theme of sacrifice, and pray. The priest, or someone else, should be the facilitator. Then break into groups to discuss each and everyone's commitment to your local church. The pastor should assign 3-4 group leaders in advance. Prepare a big poster for the parishioners to write their commitment on it and hang the poster on a wall in your church hall throughout the year, so that others may see and add on it. It also will be a reminder for all about their commitment.

Learn and sing one of the enclosed hymns dedicated to St. Gregory. In advance the priest can choose some poems both in English and in Armenian to be recited by school children and/or adult parishioners.

MAY 26-27, 2001

Memorial Day weekend 1700th Jubilee celebrations in NYC with His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians.

ACYOA will also have their Annual Assembly and sports weekend in NYC on May 24-28 Memorial Day weekend.

Details will be forwarded to you soon.

JUNE 4-18, 2001

Pilgrimage to Armenia, in the footsteps of St. Gregory.

Details coming soon.

JUNE 17, 2001

Feast of the Catholic Church of Holy Etchmiadzin.

Include in celebrations feasts of Sts. Hripsimé and Gayané, St. Gregory's deliverance from the pit, Holy Shoghagat, and Sis. Drtad and Ashkhen.

At the conclusion of the Badarak «Էջմիածնի Մաղթանք» (Entreaty of Etchmiadzin) could be performed in the church.

In the hall have a lunch and let the school children perform ALLARC's opera and DRE's play, especially composed and written on the occasion of the 1700th Jubilee.

(For information, contact ALLARC and DRE.)

OCTOBER 14, 2001

Feast of the Holy Translators (actual feast is on the 13th).

At the end of the Badarak let the entire congregation read the Jubilee pledge and sing "Vork Zartaretsan" (Those who were adorned) hymn.

In the hall, during the fellowship, show the video of June 2001 pilgrimage "In the Footsteps of St. Gregory."

Also on that day announce the winners of the essay contest. This essay contest could be either on one, or two levels: adults (18 and up) 10 pages; youth (ages 12-17) 3-5 pages. Topic: "How the Armenian Church Has Influenced My Life." Deadline: September 1, 2001.

Give prizes to the winners of each level.

The essay contest may be publicized from January 1, 2001.

Those who wish to participate must inform the pastor or the assigned committee by April 1, 2001 when we all will celebrate the Feast of St. Gregory's Commitment to the Pit.

OCTOBER 2001

In the month of October have an Ecumenical Service in your region. Both suggestions and service are enclosed in this booklet. This Ecumenical Service could either be done in your church, or in a non-Armenian church, thus exposing this Jubilee to non-Armenians.

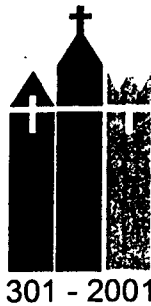
DECEMBER 9, 2001

Closing ceremony.

details will be sent to you in the near future.

Note: We suggest that you utilize as much as you can the enclosed resource materials: songs, poems, hymns, and description of the feasts.

1700th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTIANITY
IN ARMENIA AS THE STATE RELIGION



1700 ԱՄԵԼԿ
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Youth Pilgrimage July 2001

From Khor Virap to Etchmiadzin – In the Footsteps of St. Gregory the Illuminator

Armenian youth from around the world are called to gather in Etchmiadzin in July 2001 in honor of the 1700th Anniversary of the proclamation of Christianity as Armenia's state religion.

Following in the footsteps of St. Gregory the Illuminator, thousands of Armenian youth will make the spiritual journey to God. Starting at the Holy Church of Khor Virap, where St. Gregory was held captive for 17 years at the foot of Mt. Ararat on the Arax River, they will track the journey to the triumph of Christianity in Armenia at Etchmiadzin, where Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God descended, designating that sacred place as the Holy See of our Church. Youth will also have the opportunity to see Armenia's many ancient sites and enjoy its natural beauty and the hospitality of our people and homeland.

The youth pilgrimage will take place under the auspices and with the blessing of His Holiness Karekin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians. Pilgrimage is symbolic of our shared journey through this life as the congregation of the faithful. By joining in this journey, young Armenians from around the world will meet each other, make new friends, and confirm their commitment to the Armenian Church and to each other. The pilgrimage aims to restore and refresh our Church by creating new bonds among our youth, whom history has scattered around the globe. These new ties will bind our church and its faithful together for generations to come. The pilgrimage will be a source of spiritual strength and renewal. As pilgrims renew their faith, "the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles, will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Is. 40:13).

The youth mission begun during the pilgrimage will culminate in a new continuous youth ministry within our church worldwide to carry forward the vision of our Church's patron saint, St. Gregory, for coming generations.

The Youth Pilgrimage will be organized by the 1700th committee and overseen by a governing board and diocesan committees to be formed in July and August 2000. By the end of August 2000, guidelines for participate in the Youth Pilgrimage will be announced. Watch for registration information on the web-site and the "Question of the Day" program. Young people are encouraged to register for the "Question of the Day" program. Those who answer more than 80% of the questions correctly will be entered in a random drawing for scholarships to take part in the Youth Pilgrimage in July 2001.

Youth from around the world are encouraged to take part in this historic event. For further information, please contact the 1700th Celebration Committee at 1700@etchmiadzin.am or our diocesan office. We will put you on our mailing list and guide you toward a pilgrimage that will change your life.

1700th Anniversary of Christianization of Armenia

Symposium
(September 22, 2001)

Friday

Panel I (10:00 am to 12:00 pm): Pre-Gregorid Armenian Christianity

Chairman: Dr. Robert Mirak

lecture 1 – 10:00 am to 10:20 am

Prof. Peter Cowe – the Syriac influence

lecture 2 – 10:20 am to 10:40 am

Prof. Nina Garsoian – the Greek influence
[may change topic]

lecture 3 – 10:40 am to 11:00 am

Prof. James Russell – the Iranian influence

question and answer period – 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Panel II (2:00 pm to 4:00 pm): Early Armenian Christian

Weltanschauung

Chairman: Prof. Nishan Parlakian

lecture 1 – 2:00 pm to 2:20 pm

Dr. Levon Avdoyan – Early Armenian view of the
Secular World

lecture 2 – 2:20 pm to 2:40 pm

Dr. Hagop Nersoyan – Early Armenian Theology

lecture 3 – 2:40 pm to 3:00 pm

Dr. Abraham Terian – Early Armenian Philosophy

question and answer period – 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Panel III (4:30 pm to 7:00 pm): Revival and Development

Chairman: Prof. Ina McCabe Baghdiantz

lecture 1 – 4:30 pm to 4:50 pm

Prof. Robert Hewsen – Bagratid Revival

lecture 2 – 4:50 pm to 5:10 pm

Dr. Robert Bedrossian – Zakarid Revival

lecture 3 – 5:10 pm to 5:30 pm

Dr. Vazken Ghougassian – 17th Century Revival

lecture 4 – 5:30 pm to 6 pm

Dr. Kevork Bardakjian – 18th Century Revival

Question and answer period – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Urfunq...
S. Ziguille
9/16/2000

1700th Jubilee Optional Programs *

- Donate 17 books about the Armenian Church history and culture to your local schools, colleges, and town libraries.
- Adopt 17 orphans through CASP
- Offer 17 scholarships to your children/teens/Youth to go to St. Vartan Camp, Hye Camp, St. Nersess conference, ASP, Jerusalem, etc.
- Encourage 17 parishioners to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage in June 2001 to historic and present Armenia.
- Encourage 17 parishioners to go to Jerusalem as Pilgrims.
- Have 17 of your parish's children become pen pals with 17 children in Armenia
- Adopt a sister parish in Armenia. If you can't contribute \$3000 a year for this program, try to raise \$1700.
- Let your pastor visit St. Vartan Cathedral and meet the Primate with 17 or more parishioners, who have never been at the Diocese before. Advance appointment with the Canon Sacrist of St. Vartan Cathedral and the Primate is required.
- Let your Parish Council visit 17 new/non-active families.
- Have 17 ACYOA Junior age/member teens go to Christmas caroling to 17 families and nursing homes.
- Make a Bible available in every home.
- Bring 17 new or non-active families into the life of the parish.
- Increase your church's membership by 17 or more new dues-paid members.
- Encourage 17 or more parishioners to donate blood through the Red Cross.
- Bring joy to 17 needy and or sick children; visit them with toys and candies.
- Bring joy to 17 elderly, senior citizens, shut-ins, and lonely individuals; visit them, send them flowers or cards during major feast days (Christmas, Easter, etc.)
- Encourage your Armenian and Sunday Schools to send 17 school bags to children in Armenia.
- Increase membership within each of your organization (ACYOA Jr., ACYOA Sr., Choir, Women's Guild) by at least 17 new members.
- Increase the number of your Armenian and Sunday school by 17 additional students each.
- Have a vocation Sunday to emphasize to emphasize the importance of the Priesthood. The goal is to encourage young men to consider priesthood.
- Honor those who bear St. Gregory's name. (Give a lighted candle after church service on Sunday).
- Recruit 17 new altar servers, acolytes, and readers.
- Start a Junior Choir with 17 teenagers.
- Teach 17 new hymns (sharagans) to your choir and congregation.
- Select 17 prayers from Armenian Church's prayer books, services and recite either after Badarak or in the church hall prior to the blessing of the coffee hour table, on 17 different Sundays.
- Have an ecumenical service dedicated to the 1700th Jubilee. You may have this in a non-Armenian church, to expose the milestone to non-Armenians. (A uniform

ecumenical service prepared by Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan will be sent to you).

- Have a 17-hour parish retreat on St. Gregory's vision and commitment to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (Contact DRE)
- Start a "Parish Mission Program" within the Parish. (See the enclosed outline on page ?)
- Start 17-week Bible study sessions on five focus areas of the Diocesan Council (i.e. Worship, Youth, Stewardship, Communication, Leadership). (Contact DRE)
- Have a series of 17 lectures on Armenian Church history, faith and culture.
- Assist in any way you can a mission parish in our Diocese.
- Teach the Armenian Alphabet to 17 or more new teens/youth, who do not attend Armenian language classes of your parish.
- Have an essay contest for the youth (ages 12-17) on "How the Armenian Church influenced my life?"
- Assign 17 or more new/non-active parishioners in Sunday worship to xxxx the plate, give the Kiss of Peace, distribute candle, Mahs bread.

* We realize that parishes may have planned their own events in regard of the 1700th Jubilee. However, these are only additional ideas/suggestions put together for your benefit. You may want to select some of them or encourage your organizations to do in 2001 and beyond.

Whatever is suggested here is in direct line with the vision of St. Gregory the Enlightener, the mission of the Armenian Church and the intent of our Diocesan Council.

1700th Jubilee Pledge

- **Pray** – for peace, justice, for the poor, sick, elderly, disabled and neighbors and strangers.
- **Learn** – From the Holy Scripture and the teachings of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church.
- **Teach** – The Armenian Christian values.
- **Serve** – The community through the Armenian Church.
- **Commit** – To the Intent (make the Armenian Church significant in the life of every Armenian and his/her family) of the Diocesan Council and its five focus areas (Worship, Youth, Stewardship, Communication, Leadership), as well as to the faith of St. Gregory the Enlightener.

A. OPENING CEREMONIES

- I. AT HOLY ECHMIADZIN
December 31, 2000- January 1, 2001**
- II. AT ST. VARTAN CATHEDRAL
January 6, 2001**
- III. AT PARISHES
January 14, 2001**

**I. AT HOLY ECHMIADZIN
December 31, 2000-January 1, 2001**

His Holiness will be inviting the heads of the hierarchical sees of the Armenian Churches and all the Diocesan Primate asking them to bring with them two young people, one male and one female ages 18-28 to be in Holy Echmiadzin on December 29. On December 31st in the evening His Holiness and his entourage will go to Khorvirab and His Holiness will descend to the pit and light the candle and after ascending the pit he will the procession will bring the light to Holy Echmiadzin and at midnight of December 31st, with a special ceremony His Holiness will light a designated lantern which has been placed on the Altar of Descent and during the ceremony, each primate will lead his youth to receive the lantern from His Holiness, at which time the two young people will carry the light to New York City to St. Vartan Cathedral.

**II. AT ST. VARTAN CATHEDRAL
January 6, 2001**

The Primate will be the celebrant of the Divine Liturgy on the occasion of the Armenian Christianity at St. Vartan Cathedral and two young people from each parish will be invited to come to St. Vartan Cathedral at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy there will be a special opening ceremony of the 1700th Anniversary of Christianization of Armenia. Each Primate will present a lantern brought from Armenia to each delegation from the parishes at which time the young people, ages 18-28, who brought the light will light their lantern.

III. AT PARISHES
January 14, 2001

At the end of Badarak in each parish, there will be a special opening ceremony where the Pastor with the two young people who brought the light in the lantern, from St. Vartan Cathedral, will invited everyone who attended Badarak to light their candles from that lantern. The lantern will remain lit in the church during the entire year of 2001.

The Diocese of the Armenian Church to be distributed to the parishes will present special candles.

a. How to select young people.

On November 12th in each parish there will be a collection of names of young people ages 18-28 which will be placed in two boxes (male and female). At the conclusion of Badarak these boxes will be brought in the chancel of Church where in front of the community the Pastor will select two Sunday school students to draw from each box and announce the selected names. These names will be submitted to the Primate on November 13th. These names will again be placed in two boxes one male and one female.

On November 19th the Primate at the conclusion of the celebration of Badarak will have two young people draw the names from the boxes. These two final youngsters will be invited by the Primate to go to Echmiadzin. The other youngsters will be invited to come to New York City on January 6th to receive the light.

**B. FEAST OF THE SONS AND GRANDSONS OF ST.
GREGORY THE ENLIGHTNER
February 4, 2001**

I. DIVINE LITURGY

**II. LUNCHEON PROGRAM AT THE CHURCH
HALL**

I. DIVINE LITURGY

- a. Sermon should be based on the Feast of the Sons and Grandsons of St. Gregory the Enlightner.
- b. At the conclusion of Divine Liturgy a special service will take place to commemorate the Feast of the Sons and Grandsons of St. Gregory the Enlightener.

II. LUNCHEON PROGRAM AT CHURCH HALL

- a. One of the parish organizers can be sponsor of this program by inviting a speaker, which could be chosen from the list sent to the parishes by ZIC. (You can find the list of speakers under the resource section).
- b. Organize a quiz show for children (this quiz show can be found under the resource section).
- c. See resources text of the Conversion of St. Gregory.

**C. WOMEN'S SAINT DAY (ST. ASHJEN AND
HOSROPI TUJT) March 17, 2001**

**In all our Diocesan Councils and Regions the
Women's Guild will organize regional or local
celebration.**

I. CHURCH SERVICE

II. LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM

I. CHURCH SERVICE

Have a speaker, spiritual message, choir, etc.

II. LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM

Invite main speaker, which can be chosen from the list of speakers under the resource section. DRE is preparing a special booklet on St. Ashen and Hosropi Tujt, which will be distributed to everyone.

D. CONFERENCE

March 31, 2001

To take place at the Diocese of the Armenian Church at
630 Second Ave., New York, Zohrab Information
Center (see enclosed).

**E. ST. GREGORY'S THE ENLIGHTNER
COMMITMENT AT THE PIT- April 1, 2001**

I. BADARAK

II. LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM

I. BADARAK

The theme of the sermon should deal with the importance of sacrifice, stewardship, participation, to honor St. Gregory's the Enlightener's commitment at the pit. At the conclusion a special ceremony should take place commemorating this Feast, which is being prepared.

III. LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM

Organized by one of the organizations of the parish. During the lunch turn off the lights, use only candles. Have a bread and water lunch, charge \$5.00-\$10.00 per person, and donate all the proceeds for the maintenance of Khor Virab Church, or for the renovation of any church in Armenia. You may also give the money to "Sister Parish" projects. Remember, St. Gregory passed 13 years with bread and water alone. For 13 minutes meditate on the theme of sacrifice, and pray. Break into groups to discuss each and everyone's commitment to your local church. Prepare a big poster for the parishioners to write their commitment on it and hang the poster on a wall in your church hall throughout the year, so that others may see and add on it. Learn and sing one of the enclosed hymns dedicated to St. Gregory. Invite a speaker based on the theme of St. Gregory. Name of speaker can be obtained from the resource section.

**F. MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
SPECIAL CELEBRATION IN NEW YORK
CITY. May 23-28, 2001.**

- I. May 23 – Hrashapar Service at the Cathedral – His Holiness Karekin II of all Armenians to preside.**
- II. May 24 – Meeting of Clergy with His Holiness Karekin II.**
- III. May 24 evening – ACYOA Assembly**
- IV. May 25 – ACYOA Assembly**
- V. May 26-27 ACYOA Sports weekend**
- VI. May 26 – Special Jubilee Celebrations in New York City**
- VII. May 27 – Divine Liturgy celebrated by H H. Catholicos of all Armenians**
- VIII. May 27 – Jubilee Banquet to be held at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria**
- IX. May 28 – Farewell party on the Plaza of St. Vartan Cathedral**

**I. HRASHAPAR SERVICE, May
23,2001**

On the occasion of the arrival of H. H. Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians to preside over the 1700th Anniversary Celebrations, Hrashapar Service will be held at St. Vartan Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.

All clergy, ecumenical leaders and parishioners are to be invited.

**II. MEETING OF CLERGY WITH HIS
HOLINESS KAREKIN II- May 24,
2001**

All the clergy of our Diocese will spend a day of prayer and meditation with H. H. Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians in order to renew their commitment and be inspired.

**III. ACYOA ASSEMBLY May 24, 2001
(Evening)**

All the parishes of our Diocese are expected to send Delegates for this Jubilee Assembly of ACYOA, which will be presided by H. H. Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians.

IV. ACYOA ASSEMBLY May 25, 2001

All the parishes of our Diocese are expected to send Delegates for this Jubilee Assembly of ACYOA, which will be presided by H. H. Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians.

V. ACYOA SPORTS WEEKEND May 26-27, 2001

A special committee designated by the Central Council of ACYOA is preparing sports, religious, educational, social, etc., activities for the youth and the weekend agenda.

**VI. SPECIAL JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS
IN NEW YORK CITY May 26, 2001**

- a. Walkathon – Theme **“Walking Towards the Light”**
- b. Special ceremony for rededication to recommit ourselves to the Faith of St. Gregory with H. H. Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians to preside (most probably this ceremony will take place in one of the parks of New York City)
- c. Cultural Program 1700th Anniversary Celebration of the adoption of Christianity in Armenia through music, dance, recitation, focusing on the theme of light.

**VII. DIVINE LITURGY CELEBRATED BY
H. H. KAREKIN II CATHOLICOS OF
ALL ARMENIANS, May 27, 2001**

All the clergy, choirs, deacons and faithful parishioners through the Diocese are invited to be gathered and participate in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy presided by H.H. Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians.

This celebration will bring all the parishioners together to participate in the Badarak (we are trying to secure one of the Parks where this event would take place).

**VIII. JUBILEE BANQUET TO BE HELD AT THE
HOTEL WALDORF ASTORIA May 27, 2001**

Following Divine Liturgy a special Jubilee
Banquet Dinner will take place, as well as a
special program and message from H. H.
Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians.

**IX. FAREWELL PARTY ON THE PLAZA
OF ST. VARTAN CATHEDRAL May 28,
2001**

F. PILGRIMAGE
June 4-18, 2001

In the Footsteps of St. Gregory the Enlightener from
Caesarea to Echmiadzin

G. FEAST OF HOLY ECHMIADZIN June 17, 2001

I. BADARAK

II. LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM

I. BADARAK

Sermon's theme the important of Holy
Echmiadzin in the lives of all Armenians.

Special service, which will include the theme of
Holy Echmiadzin.

II. LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM

To be organized by the various organizations of the Parish

- a. Invite a main speaker
- b. School children to perform an opera or a play prepared by ALARC or DRE.
(For more information get in touch with ALARC or DRE).
- c. History of the Feast of Holy Echmiadzin is included.

**H. YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ARMENIA July 10-20,
2001**

From all over the world organized by the Mother Sea of Holy Echmiadzin everyone is invited to participate on the youth rally on the occasion of the 1700th Anniversary Celebration of Christianity in Armenia.

I. SYMPOSIUM September 22, 2001

1700th Anniversary of Christianization of Armenia
organized by the Zohrab Information Center of the
Diocese of the Armenian Church with the collaboration
of Columbia University (see attached).

**J. FEAST OF THE HOLY TRANSLATORS October
15, 2001**

I. BADARAK

II. LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM

I. BADARAK

Sermon should be concentrated on the importance of Holy Translators in the life of the Armenian Church. Following Badarak there should be a special service.

II. LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM

Organized by one of the organizations of the Parish, this should include a main speaker; show the video of the Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Gregory, which took place in June.

Announce an essay contest for the teen's ages 12-17 and youth ages 18-28 of the Parish. The topic should be "How the Armenian Church has influenced my Life". The essay should be three to five pages long and be submitted by June 17th. A special committee should be formed under the presence of the Pastor to review essays and select the winners.

That same day the winners will be announced who will receive a prize.

K. ECUMENICAL SERVICE

During the month of October organize an ecumenical service in your region. Enclosed is the service.

This service could take place in an Armenian or non-Armenian church the purpose being to reach and include all the clerical denominations.

L. CONCERT

During the months of October and November the Khomidas Choir of Armenia under the direction of Hovaness Mirzoyan will be presenting a special concert of sacred music dedicated to the Jubilee.

**M. SPECIAL CEREMONY OF KEEPING ALIVE
THE SPIRIT OF THE 1700th ANNIVERSARY OF
CHRISTIANITY IN ARMENIA, December 2001**