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October 27, 1974

FEAST OF "THE INVENTION of the
HOLY CROSS" (or Discovery)

SERMON: By Reverend Father Nerses Baboorian

Feasts of the Holy Cross-

1. INVENTION of the Holy Cross, 326 A.D.
2. APPARITION of the Holy Cross, 351 A.D.
3. EXALTATION of the Holy Cross, 628 A.D.
4. CROSS of Varak, 660 A.D.

HISTORY: See attached paper.

HYMN of the Day:

The tune is
First Mode
or
Aib-dza

ARMENIAN

Hrashagerd yev zoregh
payd khachy ko krisdos
KaVazan zoroottian ee hergry
yerevyal, yegaik djoghovoortk
yerkurba- kestsook.

ENGLISH

Your marvellous and mighty
wooden cross, the rod of
power, O Christ, was re-
vealed on the earth: Come
O People, let us bow down
to it.

GLOSSARY

1. Invention of the Holy Cross= Kewd Khach
2. Apparition of the Holy Cross= Yerevman Khach
3. Exaltation of the Holy Cross= Khach-Verats, Veratsman Khach
4. Cross of Varak= Varakah Khach
5. Feast= Don, Hantes, Gochoonk
6. Hymn= Sharagan, Meghety, Maghtank
7. Crucifixion= Khachelootune
8. Banner= Khachvar
9. To Cross Oneself= Khachagnkel Khach-hanel
10. Father, Son, Holy Spirit= Hayr, Vorty, Sourphogy

Let's Cross ourselves saying-
"In the name of the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit." Amen.

Reverend Father Nerses Baboorian

INVENTION OF HOLY CROSS

After the Crucifixion of Christ, in the year 29 A.D. (when Christ was 33 years old, having been born on 4 before the Christian Calendar) His cross together with the other 2 crosses was buried by the Jewish authorities, under the Jerusalem City dumpyard. It remained there until 326. At that time, there were two army men who wanted to reign the Roman Empire. Constantine (Flavius Valerius Constantinus, known afterwards as "Constantine the Great", 275-337) was proclaimed Caesar in Britain; and Maxentius Caesar in Rome. In the year 311, war broke out between these two Caesars. At that time Constantine was not a convert to Christianity. During the war he had a vision in the air with a Cross and a voice was heard saying:—"In this sign you will

conquer." Constantine was converted (but not baptised until shortly before in his death bed) and ordered all the military banners to carry the sign of the Cross and two Greek letters χ (XP= CH+R=XPISTOS=Christos). That banner is called LABARUM. And attacking Maxentius in Italy, on Milvian Bridge he defeated him on October 28, 312. And was proclaimed Emperor. With his brother-in-law he issued the Verdict of Milan (313) giving liberty to Christianity for complete freedom to worship and exercise their faith. But it was declared Roman Empire's State religion in the year 335, twenty-four (24) years after the Armenians declared Christianity state religion on 301. Seeing the freedom of Christian worship, Constantine's mother, Empress Helen, journeyed to Palestine and ordered a search for the Cross of Christ. A prominent historian Jew, called Judea, revealed the spot. Three Crosses were unveiled. But no one could specify them. Accidentally, a funeral procession was passing by. The Queen ordered the casket to be opened and laid on the Crosses. On touching the Third Cross, a young dead boy began moving and came to life. That was Christ's Cross. This historic event, which took place in the year 326 is called, "The Invention (or the Discovery) of the Holy Cross. This feast is observed in October, between 23 and 29 Sundays. What does Cross mean to us? It is our Power, by which we endure torment, misery and hardships; It is our Will, by which we walk fearlessly and bravely; It is our God's Grace, by which we are called Christians and have Wisdom; It is our Hope, by which we are confident of inheriting the eternal life; It is our Weapon, by which we fight the Sin, temptation and the devil. It is our Glory, by which we claim to be Sons of God. It is the Symbol and the Flag of Christianity. It is the Living Cross- Helper to the faithful: Once a sign of death and shame, it became the blessed wood, leading us to heaven. A piece of wood, it became the Key of Salvation. While the criminals were hung on it, it carried the Son of God crucified on it: It is the Speechless-intercessor.

It is the Glory of the Church..It is the Weapon of the Clergy, It is the Pride of the Clericks.. It is the Hope of the martyrs.. Here are the Uses of the Cross: We hang on the neck of the newly baptised children; We cross ourselves in all our actions and movements and during prayers; we fix on the top of the Church towers or Steeples and inside the Church articles and altars: We decorate the brave soldiers with Crosses: We make the sign of the Cross on our dough for bread. We carry during wars and processions. And finally we carve cross on our tomb stones as being victorious after many Sacrifices during our lifetime. And he that does not take his cross and follow me, is not worthy of me..Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross, and follow me.. For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

THE CROSS

By ARCHBISHOP ELISHE' TOURIAN

(Translated from the Armenian by The Rev. Fr. Nerses Baboorian).

If you have the zeal of worship,
A pair of wings will He give you:
So you may be able to spread,
His Power divine, upon the earth.

If you're able to have visions,
Revelations will He give you:
So you may be able to show,
His Will divine, upon the earth.

If you utter with Him on the mount,
Godly accent will He give you:
So you may be able to speak,
His Holy Word, upon the earth.

If exalted you look at Him,
A fiery tongue may He give you.
So you may be able to glide,
His forceful Spark upon the earth.

If you enter His shining clouds,
Heavenly Spark will He give you:
So you may be able to flash,
His full Glory, upon the earth.

If you go nearer His light,
A chandelier will He give you:
So you may be able to spark,
His full Glory, upon the earth.

If you fall upon His kindly breast,
A hearty Song will He give you:
So you may be able to chant,
His immense Grace, upon the earth.

If to His wounds you go to kiss,
A new life will He give to you:
So you're able to animate,
His lively Breath, upon the earth.

But if buried under His shadow,
A beam of ray will He give you:
Against nothing, to Hope unclosed,
The only ray, upon the earth.

And the Power, the Will and Word,
That Spark, Vengeance, Glory alone,
That Grace and Breath and entire Hope,
Is but the Cross given to you.