

Father Garabold sent this to me.  
- Nina

**St. Mesrob Church to dedicate new windows 8A**



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# the Journal Time

RACINE, WISCONSIN

SATURDAY, APRIL

**Fans warm, Brewers cold**

By Gary Schneeberger  
Journal Times

MILWAUKEE — The beer wasn't all that was ice cold, and the guys on the field weren't the only ones wearing gloves, but Opening Day at County Stadium was still a hit, even if the weather,



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NAPLES, Italy (AP) — said Friday they believe a terrorist accused of attack ern embassies around t

## Windows illuminate story of Armenian Church

By Karen B. Tancill  
Journal Times

The stained glass windows at St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church will be dedicated Sunday — windows that show how the Armenian Christian Church is intertwined with the world Christian church.

The dedication will be done by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian who is making a pastoral visit to the congregation this weekend.

The 24 windows have been in place for more than a year. His Eminence had hoped to dedicate them last fall, said Rev. Garabed Kochakian, but his schedule — and that of Kochakian's — was filled by the visit to this country of the head of all the Armenian churches in the world, His Holiness Lord Vasken I. Kochakian planned the meetings. His Holiness had with leaders of other denominations.

### Made by state firm

The windows were made by Esser-Oak Brook, a stained glass firm in Oconomowoc that specializes in liturgical work. Johan Minten was the primary artist; his assistant was Joseph Klotz.

The two have been invited to the dedicatory service, Kochakian said. Minten and Klotz used illuminated manuscripts from the 9th to 14th centuries as the basis for their designs.

The illuminated manuscripts were the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The books contained written text which was augmented with illustration of what was in the text, said Kochakian.

The illuminated manuscripts were used to tell the precepts of the church to an illiterate flock.

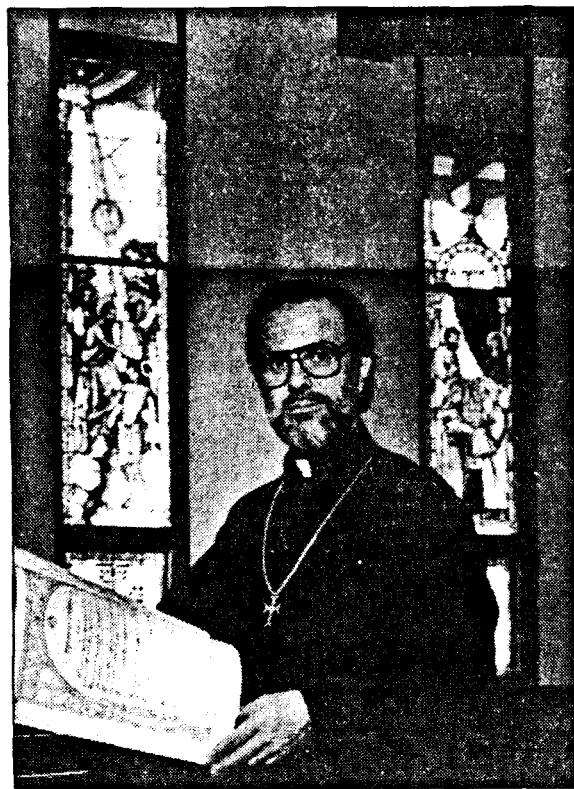
Kochakian studied the illuminated manuscripts in order to write his Master of Divinity thesis on religious art in Armenian theology.

The windows on the south side of the church are arranged in the sequence of the liturgical year, from Christ's birth to his resurrection. The north windows depict significant events in the early history of the Armenian Church, beginning with the apostles St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew who came to evangelize between 62 and 66 A.D.

### Drawings came first

Minten and Klotz spent nine to 10 months making the drawings from which the windows were made in glass, said Kochakian.

Some of the drawings had to be revised to make them theologically accurate.



Chuck D'Acquisto/Journal Times

### Father Garabed Kochakian helped design windows.

For example, the initial drawing of St. Stephen had the first deacon of the church in the gown of a Western Christian churchman.

Kochakian, who once planned to become a professional artist, designed an Eastern-style gown for the saint, and in the tradition of the Eastern church, put an incenser in his hand.

For the window showing the Assumption of Mary, Kochakian had the artists add the Father's hands to receive her.

For the window depicting St. Drtad, his wife and sister, the artists had no prototype. They had to work from the story Kochakian told them.

St. Drtad was the king of Armenia at the time of the country's conversion to Christianity.

The king been a pagan and, be-

fore his conversion by St. Gregory, had persecuted Christians, becoming the lowliest of animals — a pig.

At the base of the panel there is a boar. "His stomping on the pig in the window shows the victory of his transformation from that type of character," said Kochakian.

### Historic design

The windows have the same border design. It's a copy of the bas relief design on the 12th century Armenian cathedral in the ancient capital of Ani.

The bottom panels of the windows all have crosses. They are replicas of the Armenian crosses carved on

gravestones, said Kochakian. Traditionally in Armenia, churches have no stained glass decoration. The interior decoration consists of fresco painting and icons, said Kochakian.

With its windows, St. Mesrob has taken an Eastern Orthodox form and translated it into a Western art form.

"Painted iconography on walls has now become illuminated iconography in stained glass," said Kochakian.

The windows, however, are not like those in churches of other Western church denominations.

## Archbishop returning to Racine

By Karen B. Tancill  
Journal Times

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the head of the Eastern Diocese in the United States of the Armenian Apostolic Church, is well known to the members of St. Mesrob Church.

He has made a number of visits to that church. The last time he was in Racine was 1986 when the diocesan assembly was held here.

During this visit two-day visit he will ordain a college student as a sub-deacon and 11 boys as acolytes tonight and preside at the dedication of the St. Mesrob's stained glass windows Sunday.

The headquarters of the diocese are in New York. The diocese covers all the United States, including about 400,000 Armenians.

The archbishop was born 69 years ago in the deserts near Bagdad, Iraq, where his parents had fled to escape the Turks' massacres of the Armenians.

He came to the United States in 1946. He was elected Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of America in 1962. Later that year, on a visit to Etchmiadzin, Armenia, the Holy See of the church, he was ordained bishop.

In 1966, he was elected Primate



### Archbishop Manoogian will dedicate the windows.

of the Eastern Diocese and in 1968 elevated to the rank of archbishop.

He sits on the governing board and the executive committee of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

The archbishop recently returned from a visit to Etchmiadzin. Etchmiadzin is in the U.S.S.R., and while he was there he saw some of the demonstrations Armenians were staging to get the region of

Karabagh reunited with Soviet Armenia. Most of the people in that region are Armenians.

The region has been under the control of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan, since 1923.

Azerbaijan is a Turkish state, and the Armenians resent being under their enemies' domination.

"It's like deja vu all over again," said the Rev. Garabed Kochakian, the pastor of St. Mesrob.

### Emphasis on fact

The windows in the other churches show that the artists have been given artistic freedom.

"Eastern Christian art is not busied with aesthetics — it's busied with facts," said Kochakian.

The congregation is publishing a

book on the windows, "Shining Images of Faith." The book, containing colored photographs, is expected to come out this summer.

"These windows have been copy-righted so no other church can copy them. They would have to do their research just as we did," said Kochakian.



Racine Bible Church

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