

DIOCESAN Assembly News

Mayor Proclaims May 1-4 As Armenian Week

On behalf of St. Mesrob Parish, Welcome to Racine! We hope you enjoy your stay as much as we enjoyed planning the weekend's activities.

In recognition of this year's Diocesan Assembly, Racine Mayor Stephen F. Olsen has declared the week of May 1-4 as "The Days of Commitment to the Future of the Armenian Church and People."

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION

- Whereas nearly 100 years ago the Armenian people brought to the shores of America their talents and abilities which have helped mold the American mosaic today and
- Whereas the Armenian Faith and Cultural Heritage by influence has enriched American society and has developed and continues to nurture the Armenians in the diaspora and
- Whereas the Armenian Church, founded by the Apostles, Saints Thaddeus and Bartholomew and then established in the year 301 A.D. as the first national church has remained the center of life for the Armenian communities throughout the world and
- Whereas the Christian faith has saved the Armenian people from near extinction throughout the ages and and most recently in 1915 and has imbued the people with a spirit of endurance and strong sense of perservance and
- Whereas the Armenian Church continues to provide in her Christian teachings the profound understanding of the sanctity of human life, liberty and justice and
- Whereas the delegates of the parishes of the Armenian Diocese in America, on the occasion of the 84th Diocesan Assembly have gathered in Racine, Wisconsin to rededicate their efforts, work and commitment to their people and to this blessed nation of America.
- Now, therefore, I, Stephen F. Olsen, Mayor of the City of Racine in recognition of all noble accomplishments and good examples set forth by the Armenian Church locally, nationally and internationally, do proclaim the week of May 1 through 4, 1986 as
"The Days of Commitment to the Future of the Armenian Church and People"

Proxmire and Aspin Receive "Friends of Armenians" Award

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wisc.), and Wisconsin Congressman Les Aspin will be presented with the prestigious "Friends of the Armenians" award at this years 84th Annual Diocesan Assembly Banquet.

Proxmire has represented Wisconsin in the Senate since 1957. He is Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.

For the past 19 years Proxmire has demonstrated his dedication to victims of genocide in his

successful fight for passage of the Genocide Treaty. He has also addressed the specific issue of the Armenians. In a February 6, 1985 speech to the Senate he stated, "There can be no justice for the slain Armenians, no redress of grievances, and no promised land after their one-way trip through Hell in the guise of the Turkish desert. But at least we can prevent the infliction of the final indignity by keeping alive the memory of their wretched fate."

Continued on page 3

Anniversaries Celebrated

Since last year's Diocesan Assembly, several members of our clergy have celebrated their anniversaries. Please join with us in congratulating them. They are:

35th Anniversary

Rev. Fr. Papken Maksoudian

25th Anniversary

V. Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian
Rev. Fr. Arsen Barsamian
Rev. Fr. Guregh Calfayan
Rev. Fr. Dajad Davidian
Rev. Fr. Verthanes Kaladjian

15th Anniversary

Rev. Fr. Paree Metjian

10th Anniversary

Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian
V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian

Workshops to Discuss Armenian Issues

On Saturday, May 3, a series of workshops will be offered from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church.

"Armenia-Armenians: On the Road to the 21st Century" will be the topic of the symposium organized by the Diocesan Armenian Language Lab and Resource Center. Dr. Abraham Terian and Professors Arpine Khatchadurian, Samuel Antossian and Kevork Kherlopian will be the guest speakers.

"The Armenian Church Today: Christian Life, Christian Decision" will be the topic of a series of panel presentations organized by the Department of Religious Education. Dr. Vigen Guroian, associate professor of theology and ethics at Loyola College in Baltimore, will give the opening presentation. Panel members include: Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian, Rev. Fr. Dajad Davidian, Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian, Dr. Vigen Guroian, Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, Very Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian, and Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian.

Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Trivia Test Can You Pass It?

Just how much do you know about the Armenian church? Test your expertise by answering the following trivia questions.

1. What is the largest diocese of the Armenian church?
2. What does the word "Etchmiadzin" mean?
3. What two apostles came to Armenia?
4. Where does the Supreme Catholicos of the Armenian church reside?
5. Who created the Armenian alphabet?
6. Who was the first Christian Armenian king?
7. Who was the first Armenian saint?
8. How many sacraments are there in the Armenian church? What are they?
9. When is Armenian Christmas celebrated?
10. How many Armenian dioceses are there in the North American continent?
11. What is celebrated on December 25 in the Armenian church?
12. Who was the first Armenian Archbishop in America?
13. In what year was the parish of St. Mesrob Armenian Church in Racine established?
14. How many Patriarchs are there in the Armenian church today and where are they located?
15. How many days was Christ in the tomb?
16. Who was the first among all saints of the church?
17. When and where was the first Armenian church of America established?
18. In what year did St. Vartan fight the Persians?
19. What was the first book ever translated into Armenian?
20. What was the name of the first Armenian church in America?
21. How do you say "Holy Bible" in Armenian?
22. In what year did Armenia convert to Christianity?
23. Who was the first Catholicos of Armenia?
24. How many letters are there in the Armenian alphabet?
25. Who was St. Mesrob's first priest?

(Answers on page 4)

Proxmire & Aspin (cont. from pg. 1)



Aspin



Proxmire

Since 1970, Les Aspin has served the First Congressional District of southeastern Wisconsin which includes Racine.

Since in Congress, Aspin has served on the Armed Services, Government Operations and Budget committees. In January of 1985 he was chosen over six more senior members to chair the Armed Services Committee.

Like Proxmire, Aspin has often spoken out on behalf of the Armenians. In a 1982 address to fellow Congressmen, Aspin said, "It is important that we never forget this bloodletting...The unspeakable horror unleashed upon the Armenian people must never be forgotten. The reports of this terrible massacre ought to be underscored in red in every history textbook in the country. We must never forget."

History of St. Mesrob Church of Racine

On October 12, 1924, the Armenians of Racine (numbering approximately 150), purchased a church on State Street. They repaired it, rennovated it, and changed the building to conform to the standards of the Diocese. They worked together to make it their own. One church member, Avak Akgulian fashioned and built the altar. Gulbank Akgulian painted the door paintings, and Sahag Jansouzian built the Holy Sepulcher. The church's Godfather, Krikor Keishian, asked that the church be named after the founder of the Armenian alphabet -- St. Mesrob. On December 25, 1925, St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church was consecrated by Archbishop Tirayre Hovanessian.

For over 40 years the St. Mesrob Armenian Church community worshipped and prayed in this building on State Street. But in 1964 members felt that the State Street facilities were not adequate enough. There weren't enough rooms for Sunday School classes, and the hall was too small. So they established a planning committee to study the feasibility of building a new church. The original committee included

May 2-4
Celebrate...
Racine!

This weekend you can join in the festivities and "Celebrate Racine." Anyone interested in venturing off on their own can take part in a city wide celebration.

Over 60 local organizations are coordinating the festivities which include tours, exhibits, entertainment, contests, and more.

Saturday, May 3, start off the day with a stack of pancakes at Kiwanis Pancake Day at Memorial Hall, located in downtown Racine. After breakfast, head a few blocks north to Fifth & Main, where you can stroll through the Lakefront Artists Fair. Over 84 artists from 5 states will exhibit their art, pottery, jewelery, and crafts. Each item will be under \$75.

And if art work isn't enough, there will be boat rides on Lake Michigan, a bus tour of historic homes, hot air balloon rides, tours of Racine's Lighthouse, a Mime show at the Theatre Guild and a 2 or 5 mile walk-run at 11th & Lake sponsored by St. Luke's Hospital.

the Reverend Dajad Davidian - President, Paul Minasian - Chairman, Mikael Garoukian - Vice-Chairman, Sue Esayian - Secretary, and members John Esayian, Sam Akgulian, Mike Janikian, George Gulbankian, Harry Cherkinian, Mark Akgulian and George Stevoff. This committee, later known as the Building Committee, increased and implemented the pledge system which eventually went for the payment of the Erie Street property. Building plans were made, bids were submitted, and on November 17, 1971 the firm of Johnson & Henrickson, Inc. was chosen as the general contractor. The efforts of the Racine Armenians were again rewarded when the new church and cultural center at 4605 Erie Street was consecrated on January 21, 1973.

Since that time the St. Mesrob Armenian Church community has worshipped in this church. Today the church has over 240 members and is led in prayer by its parish priest Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian. The St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church is, and has always been, held together by its faith.

Answers to Trivia Test (from pg. 2)

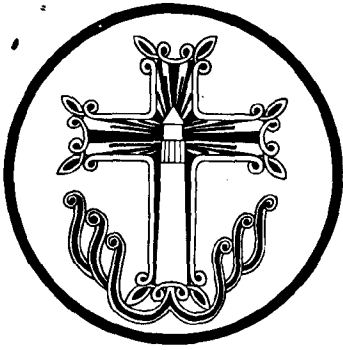
1. Eastern Diocese of America
2. Descent of the only begotten Son of God.
3. St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew
4. Holy Etchmiadzin
5. St. Mesrob
6. St. Drtad
7. St. Santookhd (for refusing to denounce the Christian faith)
8. Seven - Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Marriage, Ordination, Anointing
9. January 6
10. Three - Eastern, Western and Canadian
11. The Feast of St. Stephen
12. Bishop Hovsep Sarajian
13. 1924
14. Three - The Supreme Patriarch in Etchmiadzin, Istanbul, and Jerusalem
15. 3 days
16. St. Mary, mother of Christ
17. Worcester, Massachusetts
17. 451 A.D.
19. The Holy Bible
20. Holy Savior Armenian Church/Armenian Church of Our Savior
21. Asvadzashoonch, which means "the breath of God"
22. 301 A.D.
23. St. Gregory the Illuminator
24. 38
- 25 Reverend Vartan Tavidian



We would like to acknowledge our executive committee. They are:

President	Father Garabed Kochakian
Chairman	Mikael Garoukian
Vice Chairman	Rose Akgulian
Secretary	Hunaz Hazarian
Treasurer	Mary D. Akgulian
Resource and Parish Council Chairman	Sarkis Cherkinian

We would also like to thank all of our parishioners young, old and in between who have willingly donated their time and energies to make this years Assembly a success.



84th National Diocesan Assembly Delegate Schedule

Thursday, May 1:

Diocesan Delegate Registration
at St. Mesrob Church

- 2:00 p.m. Opening Diocesan Assembly Sessions,
church sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Wisconsin Night "Come To the Fair"
St. Mesrob Church Annex
\$10
Diocesan Delegates - complimentary
Dress casually and come and enjoy
the food, drink and entertainment
of our great state.

Friday, May 2:

Diocesan Delegate Registration
at St. Mesrob Church

- 9:00 a.m. Assembly Sessions, church sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch served in church annex - \$10
(Time may vary due to meeting
agenda)
- 1:00 p.m. Sessions resume
- 7:30 p.m. Armenian Night Dinner & Dance
St. Mesrob Church Annex - \$15.00
Delight in a delicious buffet of
Armenian foods and dancing with
music by Racine's own Mid East Beat.

Saturday, May 3:

- 9:00 a.m. Assembly sessions, church sanctuary
Workshops at Trinity United
Methodist Church
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch - \$10
(Time may vary due to meeting
agenda)
Lunch will also be available to
workshop participants at Trinity
United Methodist Church
- 1:00 p.m. Sessions resume
- 6:15 p.m. Gala Banquet
Sheraton Racine
Guests of Honor and recipients of
the "Friends of Armenians" award:
Congressman Les Aspin and Senator
William Proxmire
Cash Bar - 6:15 p.m.
Dinner - 7:00 p.m.
\$35

Sunday, May 4:

- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
St. Mesrob Church
Guest celebrant: Rev. Fr. Dajad
Davidian of Watertown, Mass.
- 12:15 p.m. Brunch (immediately following the
Divine Liturgy)
St. Mesrob Church Annex
\$5

Transportation to and from the Sheraton Racine
will be provided to delegates before and after
sessions (where time permits).

Sightseeing Schedule

Friday, May 2:

9:30 a.m. Bus leaves Sheraton Racine

10:00 a.m. Tour of Porter's Furniture Store known throughout the midwest for its floors of elegant furniture and famous Guild Gallery

11:45 a.m. Shopping in downtown Racine

1:30 p.m. Lunch at Gatsby's Restaurant

2:30 p.m. Tour of Wingspread

3:00 p.m. Tour of Racine and the famous Frank Lloyd Wright Johnson Tower

4:00 p.m. Arrive at hotel

Cost for day: Luncheon Expenses

Saturday, May 3

9:30 a.m. Bus leaves Sheraton Racine

10:00 a.m. Arrive at Milwaukee's award winning Domes

11:00 a.m. Shop at Downtown Milwaukee's Grand Avenue Mall (Restaurants available in Mall)

3:30 p.m. Arrive at hotel

Cost for day: \$1.50 Dome admission, cost of lunch.

Times may vary slightly depending on tour length.