

# Programs

## FOR YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Religious, cultural, social and athletic activities and events come together making an exciting and action-filled schedule — There is something for everyone . . .

### \* Armenian Studies Programs:

**Program one - Educational Tour to Armenia** - has attracted hundreds of participants and consists of a month-long visit to Armenia as guests of the Catholicos. It includes instruction in language, music and dance, as well as tours throughout the historic homeland. Unquestionably a most fulfilling experience for any American Armenian.

**Program two - "Journey" to Armenia** is a shorter version of program one consisting of just two weeks in Armenia and concentrating on seeing as much of the country as possible in the time allowed.

**Program three - Jerusalem - "The Holy City"** has a different focus as the participants travel to the Holy Land as guests of the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem. Here, the ancient Holy City is experienced and the Armenian Patriarchate and community becomes the center of attention along with the Holy Sites of Christendom.

### \* Scholarship Program:

A program assisting deserving young Armenians participating in educational programs. The Sam Nersessian Scholarship is the initial of these and is awarded each year for the St. Nersess Summer Studies program.

### \* Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament:

Initiated by His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, this tournament is hosted each year by selected chapters from throughout the Diocese and provides an opportunity for both men's and women's competition. The weekend event is highlighted with the awarding of trophies to the champions and outstanding players of the tournament.

### \* Awards Program:

**Chapter "A" Award & Honorable Mention** - Award given to the ACYOA Chapter that best fulfills the requirements and standards set forth by the Organization. Honorable Mention is given to the second place chapter.

**Sam Nersessian Award** - Award given to the ACYOA Member who best exemplifies the character of a sincere Christian and servant of the Church.

**Archbishop's Essay Awards** - Awards given for best essays in the annual Essay Contest. Armenian and English categories, as well as first and second runners-up in each.

### \* Regional Retreats:

Headed by Armenian Clergymen, Retreats are held with varying formats at appropriate times of the year. Faith development and spirituality are the key issues as the wealth of Christian Tradition imbedded in the Armenian Church is explored.

### \* Leadership Seminar:

Seminar and Leadership Conference for all young people of the Church, annually held in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly. It features guest speakers, teaching/learning sessions in selected areas, and information and understanding of group dynamics, organizational techniques and administrative methods and procedures. The intention of the Seminar is to assist in equipping chapter officers to better fulfill their roles as leaders. The Seminar is open to all interested young people.

### \* Audio-Visual Educational Programs:

Programs, resources and materials designed to provide an opportunity for chapters to make presentations dealing with Armenian Church, culture and history. Programs are available to the general public in addition to all ACYOA Chapters and parishes of the Armenian Church.

### \* National ACYOA General Assembly:

Annual meeting of the Organization wherein business is convened dealing with policy, rules and regulations, programs, direction and goals. Held during Labor Day Weekend and presided over by the Primate, chapters participate through elected delegates.

### \* National Sports Weekend:

Annually held in conjunction with the General Assembly, and hosted by selected chapters from throughout the country. This event attracts hundreds of athletes and spectators as competition is offered in over 25 events and categories. Trophies are awarded at an elaborate Awards Banquet. Various social activities and affairs make this weekend a must for every ACYOA member.

### \* Anniversary Balls:

Annual event marking the anniversary of the Organization. Held on a regional basis and hosted by a selected chapter, Anniversary Balls are usually highlighted with special presentations to alumni of the Organization.

### \* Mission Program:

Primarily aimed at those parishes which are in need of programs, activities, spiritual and cultural up-lifting and rejuvenation in the form of organized and entertaining teaching/learning experiences. A team of young people, headed by an Armenian clergyman, spend one week in a parish presenting programs, meeting with youth and visiting the elderly and the sick. Various religious services and cultural presentations highlight the program.

### \* Martyr's Day Commemoration:

Held on a local basis, this annual commemoration of the Armenian martyr's of 1915 varies from chapter to chapter using suggested formats and guides. Focus is on the genocide of Armenians from a religious perspective with an accent on the future.

### \* ACYOA Day Celebrations:

Usually held on Palm Sunday by local chapters. This special day celebrates the meaning of the ACYOA in the parish and is many times marked with gala banquets, guest speakers and presentations.

### \* Publications:

Throughout the years the ACYOA has made available various publications and booklets dealing with Armenian religious and cultural aspects.

# ACYOA



# Today

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

Produced by the ACYOA Central Council

## The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

SERVING THE CHURCH — AND  
CONTINUING A 3,000 YEAR OLD HERITAGE

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America [ACYOA] is the national youth program of the Diocese of the Armenian Church. Members of the ACYOA are young people who are organized through parish-based chapters throughout the United States and Canada. These young people voluntarily share in the challenge of leadership and community involvement offered by the Organization. Through national, regional and local programs, chapters serve themselves as well as the Armenian Church. Religious and cultural aspects of the ACYOA blend together with social and athletic activities resulting in unique and fulfilling experiences for young people as they grow and develop under the inspiring dome of the Church.

## The Objectives

The objectives of the ACYOA are:

- \* To encourage its members to learn, practice, uphold and propagate the principles and teachings of Christian faith according to the doctrine, sacraments and canons of the Armenian Apostolic Church.
- \* To support and work for the strengthening of the Armenian Church and to promote the study and appreciation of Armenian culture and heritage.
- \* To strengthen spiritual and social bonds and to contribute towards the development of a healthy community life among Armenians.
- \* To enhance and strengthen among its members the spirit of human freedom, universal justice and brotherhood of men.

## Some Specifics

The ACYOA is an organization which allows young people of the Armenian Church a chance to grow and experience their faith and heritage, while developing lasting friendships with other Armenians — both in the parish and throughout the country.

Through individual parish-based chapters, opportunities to take on responsible positions and experience the work involved with church-related activities and programs abound, as well as the feelings of satisfaction and accomplishment.

The ACYOA provides young people the opportunity to express themselves, to develop talents, and to grow together with the guidance of the Church. Serving the Church and preparing the future leaders of the Church are important goals of the ACYOA.

Programs ranging from national to local levels allow young people to come together and exchange ideas, meet new friends, and share in the many activities and events designed to instill a sense of belonging. In this way, the many young people of the Church from all over the country may feel that they belong to the family of the Church.

## How the ACYOA Grows

Through the addition of new members in existing chapters, the development of new chapters in parishes and communities throughout the Diocese, and through creative activity and service to the Church.



## The ACYOA Chapter

The heart of the National Organization is the individual chapters themselves. Each chapter is organized under the auspices of the local parish and is guided and advised by the parish priest. The Membership elects officers to handle administrative operations, as well as delegates to the National General Assembly. All chapters are organized in accordance to the ACYOA constitution providing for national character, standards and purpose. Each chapter has great freedom in developing its own religious, cultural, fund-raising, social, athletic, and educational activities, as well as special projects.

Each chapter, through its own imagination, creativity and dedication to the Church and the National Organization, lends flavor and excitement to the entire Organization as it adapts the ideals and objectives of ACYOA to its parish and community.

## The National Organization

The ACYOA General Assembly convenes once a year to discuss the business of the Organization and decide policy and initiate programs and changes. All chapters are represented by elected delegates, who in turn elect members to the Central Council.

The Central Council is the body elected by the Assembly responsible for the operation of the Organization, the implementation of programs and the administration of funds.

The main concern of the National Organization is the smooth running of programs, the strengthening of existing chapters, and the establishment of new chapters.