



from the office of the

**Diocese of the Armenian Church of America**

630 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016, tel: (212) 686-0710

# news:

Contact: John R. McBride  
(212) 686-0710

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ACYOA CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP WEEKEND FOCUSES ON DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

The ACYOA Seniors' recent Christian Leadership Weekend at Cousins Retreat Center, Milwaukee, Wis., focused on the development of basic leadership skills for young adults who are aspiring to establish themselves as influential voices in their respective communities and in their future career pursuits. The seminar was organized by Dawn Maksud and other members of the ACYOA Chapter of St. John the Baptist Armenian Church, Greenfield, Wis.

The Reverend Father Vartan Kasparian, pastor of St. Mary Armenian Church, Yettum, Calif. since 1974, was one of the principal speakers. Father Kasparian discussed the priesthood in the Armenian Church and the position of the clergy in sharing the authority of Christ and making the Lord's work known in the world. He also discussed the functions of a priest -- performing the sacraments, counselling, maintaining community relations, and caring for the faithful.

Touching on specific Church problems, Father Kasparian said, "We all know what is needed, but the tendency is to 'let someone else do it.'" There is also an obvious shortage of clergy, he said, and many families do not encourage their young men to become priests and pursue God's calling. He suggested that the reason for this is that "they are too busy with peripheral things and material motivations rather than the real issues of life, the forgiveness of sin and providing love and comfort for others."

Arthur Mardigian discussed the importance of lay involvement in Church affairs. Mr. Mardigian, a native of Detroit, Mich., is a manufacturing engineer with a major auto firm. He is a graduate of the University of Detroit with a degree in philosophy. He has been

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a Parish Council member of St. John's for 12 years, and has served as a member of the Diocesan Council and as a Diocesan delegate. At present, he is the Treasurer of the Diocesan Council.

Mr. Mardigian discussed the structure of the Armenian Church of America and the lay community's role therein. "The advantages," he said, "are that everyone has a voice in the Church and is encouraged to participate." He emphasized that there are numerous social activities and excellent religious and cultural programs to help reinforce the Armenian Christian identity.

Noting his own involvement in the ACYOA at a very early age, Mr. Mardigian said this activity helped him develop leadership skills and personal relationships.

"Young people should not give up in their attempts to get involved in the Church," he said. Mr. Mardigian, using some of his own personal obstacles as an example, pointed out that over the years he had lost elections to the Parish Council and the Diocesan Council, but this did not dissuade him from running again and winning election to various posts. "If you believe in what you are doing, stick with it," he said. "Stick with the issues, not personalities."

Among the attitudes prevalent at the present time which need to be changed, he said, are those that (1) it is not desirable to become a priest; (2) it is expected that young people should remain silent and passive; and (3) there is no need for financial stewardship.

In the closing session, Father Abdalian and Dean Shahinian led discussions on some of the other important issues facing the Church in America. These included the ways in which talented people can contribute to the community; the reasons why so many young people are not involved in the Church and what can be done to increase such involvement; and how can one achieve spiritual fulfillment through Church service.

Douglas Tashjian, ACYOA Executive Secretary, and the participants also pursued discussions on the ACYOA as being truly representative of a Christian youth organization, and the ways in which its operations and activities can be enhanced to further serve the Armenian community.

Participants came from Midwest parishes in Greenfield, Racine, Evanston and Detroit, and as far away as Watertown, Tenaflly and Washington, D.C. On Sunday, the group attended Holy Badarak at St. John the Baptist Armenian Church and were welcomed by parishioners who prepared an enjoyable brunch and made everyone feel like part of the parish.

This weekend program was the first of six educational programs being planned throughout the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America over the next several months.

11/11/88

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from the office of the

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# news!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Nina Marson

December 14, 1987

New York, NY

ACYOA RAFFLE PROFITS USED TO IMPLEMENT RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL  
AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

"The ACYOA Central Council's National Finance Committee created this raffle to raise funds for religious, cultural and educational programs," reported Doug Tashjian, Executive Secretary of the ACYOA. "With the \$22,000 in profits, we have already started planning a few of the programs which will take place early in 1988. There will be more to follow."

Armenian Cultural Weekend will take place at Diocesan headquarters and offer crash courses throughout the weekend in Armenian language, history, church history, dance instruction, and an in-depth study of the badarak. Prominent educators will lead intensive study groups with limited enrollment to ensure a quality learning experience.

ACYOA Leadership Seminar will be hosted by the Hartford, Connecticut chapter on March 11, 12, and 13, 1988. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Barry Zorthian who most recently was the

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Executive Chairman of the National Committee of the Eastern Diocese for the Pontifical Visit of His Holiness Vasken I. Mr. Zorthian, a former Vice President of Government Affairs for Time, Inc., will discuss leadership qualities and how they can be developed. Christian leadership will be the topic discussed at the Seminar following Mr. Zorthian's lecture.

Florida Spring Break / Christian Studies will combine spiritual development and Christian studies with fellowship and vacation time in St. Petersburg, Florida. Classes and seminars will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m, each day with afternoons open for leisure time at the beach, a trip to Disney-world or any of the other planned activities. For the benefit of its participants, this program is very limited in its enrollment.

The Chapter A Award, given each year to the most outstanding chapter in the Eastern Diocese, will have an added dimension in 1988. In addition to winning the award, the five members of the outstanding chapter's Executive Committee will spend a weekend with a developing or struggling chapter, sharing their expertise, ideas and fellowship.

"These programs are sure to generate a great deal of excitement and interest among ACYOA members," commented Doug Tashjian. "We are grateful to all of those people who supported us by purchasing raffle tickets. Without them, we could not have afforded to institute such high quality-programs."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EDWARD MARDIGIAN DONATES \$50,000 TO ACYOA: CITES IMPORTANCE OF PROGRAMS TO EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR ARMENIAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE; ACYOA INTENSIFIES ACTIVITIES**

A donation of \$50,000 has been made to the Armenian Church Youth Organization (ACYOA) by Edward Mardigian, the noted Armenian industrialist, community leader, and Church benefactor.

Mr. Mardigian made the donation to the ACYOA through the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, noting that "educational programs for young people in the Church are crucial, as our youth must be instilled with a commitment to their Armenian religious and cultural heritage."

News of the donation came at the same time that the ACYOA Central Council announced intensification of its activities, reaching out with new programs and services to young people throughout the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

Over the years, Edward Mardigian and his wife, Helen, have contributed more than \$7 million to Armenian religious programs, civic projects and charities. Programs for Armenian youth have been one of their primary concerns. Devoutly religious, the Mardigians are immensely proud of their Armenian roots. In the words of His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese: "The Mardigians are outstanding members of the Armenian Church. Their contributions in time, energy and financial support for the Church and Armenian youth and cultural activities are legendary."

Mr. Mardigian is a "Godfather" of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York City, and the Helen and Edward Mardigian Religious Institute has been permanently endowed by them to ensure the future growth and advancement of the Church.

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In making this donation to the ACYOA, Mr. Mardigian reiterated his concern for the future of the Armenian Church and he pledged his continued leadership and financial support for what he termed "this vitally important undertaking." He challenged the ACYOA leaders and membership to "double the total number of members within a year."

Douglas Tashjian, Executive Secretary of ACYOA, said that the organization initiated an intensified membership drive recently and is now expanding this effort. In 1987, through a special raffle, the ACYOA raised \$22,000 for its numerous programs.

To generate greater youth response in the parishes, Tashjian and ACYOA Central Council member Gregory Saraydarian recently completed a mission tour to Florida which brought them to Orlando and St. Petersburg as well as to Miami to visit the Church of St. John the Baptist. They, and other members of Central Council, expect to undertake similar visits to parishes in other areas this year.

Among other ACYOA activities, there is the Armenian Cultural Weekend in New York City, February 12 to 15, where the focus will be on learning Armenian language, culture, history and the significance of the Divine Liturgy (Badarak). A Christian Leadership Weekend in Hartford, Conn., March 11 to 13, sponsored by the ACYOA Chapter of St. George Armenian Church, will concentrate on acquiring the "basics of Christian leadership." Later in the year, a weekend will be devoted to Armenian/Christian Studies for College Students. This will bring Armenian college students together at a yet-to-be-announced location for an intensive program dealing with the Armenian religious and cultural heritage.

Another important ACYOA program is the "Outstanding Chapter A Award." This annual citation is given to an ACYOA Chapter for exceptional action and involvement in its parish. This year, for the first time, the Executive Committee of the winning Chapter will visit one of the developing ACYOA chapters to help in organizing programs, or assist in the implementation of leadership, communications and management projects.

Mr. Mardigian lauds all of these programs and urges that even more be done to further the aims of the ACYOA and the Church.

"In order to achieve ultimate success, all of ACYOA's programs must have the support and involvement of the entire Armenian community," he said. "If we overlook our youth, we overlook the future. Let us remember that the welfare of coming generations is at stake, as well as the survival of our Armenian religious and cultural heritage. We must do everything possible to bring more and more young people into our Church youth programs, for their spiritual and material benefit and to assure the perpetuity of the Armenian religious and cultural identity in America."

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(With Photo)

## JULIA H. TASHJIAN RECEIVES PRIMATE'S ANNUAL ACYOA ALUMNI AWARD

Julia H. Tashjian, Secretary of State of Connecticut, was the recipient of the Primate's Annual ACYOA Alumni Award at the National Sports Weekend in Providence, R.I. The event followed the ACYOA General Assembly at the same location.

The award was presented to Mrs. Tashjian by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, on Sunday evening, September 4, at the Awards Banquet at the Rocky Point Paladium, Warwick, R.I. (The Archbishop also presented awards to the winners of the various ACYOA sports competitions. This story will be reported on separately.) Sitting at the head table, in addition to the Primate and Mrs. Tashjian, were the Very Reverend Father Baret Yeretjian, Pastor of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church; Edward Mardigian, the noted benefactor; Scott Najarian, Chairman of the ACYOA Central Council; Douglas Tashjian, ACYOA Executive Secretary; Linda Minassian, Executive Chairperson; Stephanie Masoian, Chapter Chairperson; Judge John K. Najarian; and the program M.C., Dr. Dennis Papazian, Director of Armenian Studies at the University of Michigan.

In presenting the Alumni Award, the Archbishop made the following comments:

"We have established this award to recognize our alumni who have remained faithful to their Christian Armenian spirit, and have become useful and valuable citizens in our society, and prominent in their selected professions.

"Such an Armenian, who has never forgotten her Armenian roots, is the choice for the 1988 Award. Indeed, she personifies those qualities which best demonstrate the character of ACYOA leaders through the years. Her life, professionally and personally, is a credit to Armenians everywhere."

Recounting the history of the awards, the Archbishop said, "In the past three years, prominent ACYOA alumni have been selected, representing various fields of endeavor. Each was - and is - a source of pride for the Armenian community.

"Judge John K. Najarian, from Providence, was the first recipient," he continued. "For decades he has served in his parish and our Diocese as a leader, Diocesan delegate, Diocesan Council Chairman and Diocesan Assembly Chairman. He is now the Chairman of the Diocesan Unity Committee. He holds the position of Family Court Judge, appointed by the Governor of Rhode Island."

The Primate also cited two other previous award winners: Marilyn Varbedian, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mardigian, who is the Mayor of Bloomfield Hills, Mich. and is again running for office; and Armen Shakarian, from Detroit, one of the first members of ACYOA in 1946, who became a prominent medical doctor.

"This year's selection is no less prominent and no less distinguished," he said. "It is no over-estimate to say that Julia Tashjian is a remarkable woman and a remarkable Armenian-American.

"It is said that her interest in politics began as a hobby over 25 years ago. That hobby has grown into one of the most important jobs in the nation. She is the 69th person to hold the third highest office in Connecticut. As Secretary of State, Julia Tashjian heads a staff of more than 100 that is responsible for keeping all public documents. She is also in charge of all State elections, as well as the publication of the State Register and Manual. She is the President-elect of the National Association of Secretaries of State.

"Julia, the daughter of immigrant Armenian parents, has an active personal life as well. She and her husband, James, have four children, two boys and two girls, and one grandchild. She is very active in Armenian Church and community affairs.

"Julia exhibits the qualities which fully characterize our ACYOA members and Armenian community leaders," he continued. "When she was first told that she couldn't win the Secretary of State position because she had not held any previous political office, Julia was adamant. She persevered despite the obstacles and emerged triumphant. This, obviously, is not just being a good politician; it is also indicative of being a good Armenian."

In her acceptance remarks, Mrs. Tashjian expressed her gratitude for the award and her pride in her Armenian heritage. She noted that she was an active member of the ACYOA for many years, as was her husband, James, and that today her children are all members of the organization, which is, she said, "so vital to the future welfare of our young people throughout the nation." The audience of close to 700 responded with warm applause.

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9/27/88



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(WITH PHOTOS)

## 27 TEAMS PARTICIPATE IN ACYOA "ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT"; PRESENTED FOR FIRST TIME IN CONJUNCTION WITH DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

This year, the ACYOA "Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Tournament" had two new features. Not only were volleyball competitions added to the usual basketball matchups, but the tournament was held the weekend of May 13-15, in conjunction with the annual Diocesan Assembly, hosted by Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, Mass.

Under the direction of Holy Trinity ACYOA Chapter Chairman Edward Marootian, and Sports Chairman Robert Nahabedian, the Archbishop's Tournament was one of the most successful in its history, bringing together a record number of teams.

An unprecedented 27 ACYOA teams participated in three separate areas: Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, and Co-ed Volleyball. In hard-fought and well-played competitions, the following chapter teams came away as victors: Men's Basketball, Wisconsin ACYOA; Women's Basketball, NY/NJ ACYOA; and Co-ed Volleyball, Evanston, ACYOA. Athletes participated from 16 ACYOA Chapters: Bayside, N.Y.; Cambridge, Mass.; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; Evanston, Ill.; Greenfield, Wisc.; Hartford, Conn.; Lawrence, Mass.; Northern New Jersey; Providence, R.I.; Racine, Wisc.; Washington, D.C.; Wynnewood, Penn.; and Watertown, Watervliet, and Worcester, Mass.

On Saturday evening, May 14, ACYOA athletes and members were invited to attend the Diocesan Assembly Banquet, where His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, presented the winning team awards. At the

ACYOA COMPETITIONS ...Page 2

banquet, the Archbishop also presented the "Friend of the Armenians" Award to Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D.-Mass.), and the "Man of the Year" 1988 Award to Rep. George Keeverian, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

In presenting the Tournament awards, His Eminence noted the record number of teams that participated this year and he said he was "very pleased to see this kind of participation from so many Armenian young people." This bodes well for the future, he said, "because among the enthusiastic youth gathered here are the future leaders and delegates of the Church."

Over 400 ACYOA members attended the banquet and later danced the night away. On Sunday morning, the ACYOA members attended Church with the Diocesan delegates at Holy Trinity, and then enjoyed a delicious Armenian luncheon at the church hall.

As a result of the success of this year's ACYOA Archbishop's Tournament, the ACYOA Central Council and Executive Secretary Douglas Tashjian said they hope to hold all of the future tournament events in conjunction with the annual Diocesan Assembly.

Sara Andonian,  
Detroit, Michigan  
Member of ACYOA Central Chapter

# # # #

6/14/88



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# news!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nina Marson

February 25, 1988

New York, NY

ACYOA INTRODUCES NEW PROGRAM: CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

On March 11, 12, and 13, 1988, the ACYOA Christian Leadership Weekend will take place in Hartford, Connecticut. This is one in a series of new programs being introduced by the ACYOA in 1988.

This seminar is an opportunity for Armenian young adults to learn the basics of leadership from those who lead. Mr. Barry Zorthian, the nationally-known public relations counselor, will speak on the qualities of leadership and the development of those qualities. A former President of Time-Life Broadcast, Inc., Mr. Zorthian also served as Time, Inc.'s Vice President for Government Affairs. Within the Armenian Community, Mr. Zorthian is a member of the AGBU Central Board of Directors, past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Assembly, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund. Most recently, he was the Executive Chairman of the National Committee for the Pontifical Visit of His Holiness Vasken I for the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

Father Paul Brant, S.J., Director of the Rose Hill Campus Ministry at Fordham University, will speak on developing leaders in the Christian community. Father Paul spent six years as pastor of an urban Chicago parish where he set up the Northside Chicago Catholic Young Adult Group. Since 1970, he has been at Fordham studying philosophy and ministering to young adults. He has specialized in organizing parishes and neighborhoods, molding them into Christian communities. He believes that "young adults have the capacity and mission to revitalize all Christian churches."

In addition to these two prominent speakers, Randy Dagley, Youth Director of the St. James Armenian Church of Watertown, will lead discussion groups in which the participants can exercise their new insights on leadership and problem-solving. They will discuss specifically how these leadership qualities can be used to serve God and the Armenian Church and community.

Executive Secretary of the ACYOA Seniors, Doug Tashjian, noted, "In our various ACYOA chapters, we have countless resources within our members. Many are highly-educated and extremely successful in their careers. The purpose of the ACYOA Christian Leadership Weekend is not only to encourage young people to become more active and involved in our church, but also to show them how their talents can be utilized."

For this reason, a panel of young Armenian leaders has been assembled to discuss the opportunities, obstacles, and challenges of serving the Armenian Church, particularly in the roles of leadership.

"Many of the ACYOA Seniors are achievors. They have accomplished their goals or are well on their way," Mr. Tashjian continued. "Yet, a number of them are not fulfilled and feel something is lacking in their lives. Serving God and the Armenian Church would give them a spiritual satisfaction they could not obtain in any other way. The purpose of this weekend is to show them how this relationship can be mutually beneficial."

Before the weekend seminar has even begun, the Hartford ACYOA chapter is already demonstrating signs of true leadership. Hotel arrangements, publicity, and general organizing have been graciously provided by the Reverend Father Yeprem Kelegian and Richard Mardirosian. The 50 participants will be lodged at the Hartford Hilton, and meals will be provided through the Hartford ACYOA chapter.

"We're very excited about this opportunity we are offering young people," Richard Mardirosian said. "In the many years I have been involved with the ACYOA, we have never had a program like this. The seminars are so significant and vital, I know they will be essential in the development of our church leaders, and I think more church leaders, as a result, will step forward."

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from the office of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

630 Second Avenue , NY, NY 10016

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# news!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Anthony Barsamian -  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA.

## ACYOA ANNOUNCES BIGGEST FUND-RAISER IN ITS 40 YEAR HISTORY

On February 15, 1987, the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) will kick off the biggest fund-raising campaign in its forty-year history.

The National ACYOA is sponsoring a raffle with five prizes totaling \$10,000.00. Tickets are \$100.00 dollars each. Approximately thirty members, representing ACYOA chapters throughout the East Coast and Mid-West are involved in this drive.

The Central Council Chairman, Scott Najarian, has assigned the coordination of the fund-raiser to the Acting Executive Secretary, Anthony Barsamian, who has appointed Lisa Manookian of the Wynnewood ACYOA, as Chairman of the fund-raiser.

Proceeds from this raffle will be used for cultural, religious, and educational programs for Armenian young adults. These programs include; a campus program for Armenian college student, regional Armenian cultural programs, regional Christian Education seminars, an ACYOA Public Relations and Information network, an ACYOA Alumni Foundation, and a new ACYOA Publication soon to be released. (S)

For more information on the raffle, contact Fund-raising Committee Chairman, Lisa Manookian at 215-875-4000 (work) or 215-649-8426 (home). For general information about ACYOA programs, contact the Acting Executive Secretary to the ACYOA, Anthony Barsamian, at the Diocese of the Armenian Church 212-686-0710.

(Future informantion to Follow)

Tony Barsamian - Acting Executive Secretary.

*Signature of Tony Barsamian*



from the office of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

# news!

For Immediate Release  
March 12, 1987

## NEW ACYOA CHAPTERS ORGANIZE IN WATERVLIET, NEW YORK, AND FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

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*Date* →

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, ~~Central Council~~ is happy to announce the organization of two new chapters. *R* Greg Saraydarian, Central Council member from the Mid-Atlantic Region and Antranig Barsamian, Acting Executive Secretary welcomed the youth of St. Peter Armenian Church in Watervliet, NY, as members of the national ACYOA. Under the leadership of Chairman, Harry Tutunjian, the chapter is busy sponsoring youth related activities in the parish. Other newly-elected officers include; Arthur Mahserjian (Treasurer), Varty Derian (Recording Secretary), and Dawn Avakian (Corresponding Secretary).

On February 27th and 28th, Antranig Barsamian ~~also traveled to South Florida~~ and met with the newly-established Fort Lauderdale ACYOA. Also invited to the meeting were members of the Miami AGBU, accompanied by their youth director, Mrs. Janet Papelian. Plans were discussed to bring religious, cultural, and educational programs to South Florida. These programs would benefit all Armenian youth in this region. The ACYOA members joined some four hundred Armenians at the "Fun Night" Dance sponsored by the Armenian Church of South Florida. The new Executive Board for the South Florida ACYOA consists of Melanie Mekelian (Chairman), Elizabeth Rosvally (Vice Chairman), Rena Jebejian (Treasurer), and Tom Topalian (Secretary).



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# news!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WITH PHOTOGRAPHS      Contact: Nina Marson

March 21, 1988

New York, NY

SUCCESSFUL ACYOA ARMENIAN CULTURAL WEEKEND WILL BE INSTITUTED  
AS ANNUAL PROGRAM

Through the fundraising efforts of the Armenian Church Youth Organization (ACYOA Seniors), the first in a series of new educational programs was introduced: the ACYOA Armenian Cultural Weekend, held at Diocesan headquarters recently.

The 46 participants stayed at the Doral Park Avenue Hotel and enjoyed a weekend of instruction in the Armenian Language, the Divine Liturgy, the History of Etchmiadzin, the Issue of Church Unity, Feast Days and the Saints of the Armenian Church, the Armenian Self Image as Reflected in Armenian Literature, the Genius of Gomidas, and a Survey of Armenian History.

Most of the participants arrived Friday evening, some traveling from Detroit and Cleveland, others from the New England and New York areas. The classes began Saturday morning with the Armenian Language Crash Courses. For three hours, the students took advantage of intensive training in beginning, intermediate or advanced levels. The instructors



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# news:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NEED FOR VISION AND GOALS; APPLICATION OF GOSPEL TO EVERYDAY LIFE CITED AS MAJOR FACTORS IN DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**

The need to have clear vision and goals, and the application of the Gospel to everyday life, were among the major factors cited in developing leadership by two renowned authorities at the ACYOA Christian Leadership Weekend in Hartford, Conn., earlier this month.

The guest speakers, Barry Zorthian, nationally-known public relations counselor; and the Rev. Father Paul Brant, S.J., Director of Rose Hill Campus Ministry at Fordham University, gave their perspectives on leadership to the ACYOA Seniors attending the two-day seminar at St. George Armenian Church. General organization of the event was under the direction of ACYOA Chairman Richard Mardirosian and members of the ACYOA Hartford Chapter, with the guidance of the Rev. Father Yeprem Kelegian of St. George's Church.

Mr. Zorthian, former President of Time-Life Broadcast Inc. and a Vice President of Time-Life, Inc., discussed the basic factors in successful leadership. Among the qualities required, he said, were personal commitment; thorough knowledge of the groups or fields involved; responsible judgment; hard work; ability to articulate; boldness, or simply, "willingness to stick your neck out" or "to take a chance"; initiative; foresight; and personal integrity. He wryly noted that intelligence was an important ingredient, too.

Mr. Zorthian, who is also a prominent Armenian community leader, said one exercises leadership by setting a proper example, effective communications, and planned action.

"Very importantly, you must have vision and goals," he said. "And interrelated with all of these are one's enthusiasm and the energy to carry a project or concept forward."

National Committee for the  
Visit of His Holiness  
Vasken I  
Catholicos of All Armenians



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEETING OF HIS HOLINESS VASKEN I WITH ARMENIAN  
AMERICAN YOUNG ADULTS "A MOVING,  
EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE"**

The meeting on October 24 of His Holiness Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, with hundreds of young Armenian American adults at the Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium proved to be "a moving, emotional experience," according to Douglas Tashjian, Executive Secretary of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA).

His Holiness was obviously deeply touched by the "Vannetzi Duleyaman," a traditional dance from Van performed by Christine Pahigian and Linda Tamesian of the Antranig Dance Ensemble. It depicts the struggles and sufferings of the Armenian people, emphasizing the strength and sacrifice of Armenian women.

With loving pride, His Holiness pointed out that his name, Vasken, is the same as that of a great Vannetzi hero murdered by the Turks while defending Van. Seeking vengeance on the young man's kin, the Ottoman's carried his body door-to-door in search of his family. In order to protect her other children from certain death, his mother denied that the dead body was that of her son.

"In anguish she turned away, forced to make this bitter, wounding sacrifice," His Holiness said. "We were told this story a few days before our ordination many years ago when we were give the name Vasken, and we were reminded of it only recently in Etchmiadzin by an Armenian lady from Van, who knew of Vasken, the hero. This has made us doubly proud of the name and it has given us an even greater sense and appreciation of the beloved and noble nature of the Armenian mother. As long as our nation

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news release

has such women, our culture, our heritage and our faith will endure."

The Catholicos urged the audience of young adults to study their Armenian history and to learn the Armenian language. "It is through our language that we Armenians live as a nation," he said, a message he has repeated numerous times during his 17-day visit to the Eastern Diocese.

Urging all Armenian young people to turn to the Church for moral guidance and faith development, His Holiness said:

"In this age of many challenges and varying lifestyles, the danger of nuclear holocaust, the breakdown of social mores and family life and values, it is imperative that we turn to the Gospel message and the truths inherent in our faith. These provide moral direction, spiritual comfort and hope. The ACYOA is a vital part of the Church. Through this organization, our young people will develop spiritually and as leaders."

Douglas Tashjian said that while many in the audience could not speak or understand fluent Armenian, "His Holiness' message transcended the language barrier. The eloquence and dignity with which the Vehapar spoke moved many of us to applaud even before Father Krikor Maksoudian could translate his words into English." It was a heartwarming experience, he said, and "one that none of us will ever forget."

In addition to Antranig, who performed three other Armenian folk dances, pianist Armen Donelian played two Armenian folk selections and an original composition entitled "Stargazer." Dr. Thomas Samuelian of St. Nersess Seminary and the University of Pennsylvania gave a short biographical sketch of the Vehapar and the historical significance of the Holy See at Etchmiadzin. He said that as a result of religious freedom in the U.S., young Armenian Americans have "a great opportunity to develop their Armenian faith and culture, probably the greatest opportunity in the history of our people."

Anoush Kachoyan of the Hartford, Conn. ACYOA chapter, addressed the Vehapar in the collective name of the young people in the audience. She said that they look to him for guidance and were proud to have his blessings and hear his message of love and faith.

The ACYOA Central Council had an active role in the proceedings, all contributing their efforts to make the program a success. They are: Scott Najarian, Chairman (Worcester, Mass.); Sara Andonian, Vice Chairperson (Detroit, Mich.); Melina Spinuzza, Treasurer (Evanston, Ill.); Greg Saraydarian, Corresponding Secretary (Bayside, N.Y.); and Lisa Manookian, Recording Secretary (Wynnewood, Penn).

Another feature of the varied program was an exhibition of art by young Armenian American artists. The contributors were: Sandra Parsekian, Nishan Akgulian, Hagop Antreassian, Lucine Baronian, Stephen Donelian, Janice Garjian, Peter Mahakian, Robin Poosikian and Laura Shahinian.

To close the program, the Catholicos's staff bearer, Father Navasart Guejoyan, sang "Giligia" in a rich, sonorous voice that electrified the audience, "a fitting finale," as Tashjian put it, "to a memorable and unforgettable evening. I know I speak for everyone present when I say that it will live in our hearts forever."

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